Competitions & Officials Education

Currently Derbyshire, as a county, like most counties in the country is suffering a shortage of suitably qualified Track & Field officials; this is beginning to have an adverse effect on our sport within the Clubs, the County and the Areas.

We have this season as a County, managed to run Mini-league with only 4 or 5 Track Judges, 2 Timekeepers and a very under strength team of Field Judges being helped by a few parents. We have now the added benefit of Photo-finish but only one Technician who doubles up to operate the system as well with one other person.

From our athletes point of view this is very unsatisfactory and from an officials’ point of view it is wholly unsatisfactory as we are not able to give our Athletes a 100% guaranteed service. In the not too distant future many events and indeed competitions will not be able to go ahead due to a lack of suitably qualified officials, likely within the next couple of seasons. Long throws (Hammer, Discus & Javelin) can only take place if the lead official is qualified to at least Level 2 and has successfully completed the Health & Safety module.

Part of my role as County Track & Field Officials Secretary is to ensure that the required courses are put on to educate new officials and to help existing officials to upgrade their skills, to enable them to rise through the levels within their chosen discipline and to encourage them to qualify in other disciplines. The qualification path is set out below;

Level 1: Must attend a Level 1 officials’ course which consists of the Health & Safety module, Safeguarding and Welfare module (both completed on-line), the Generic module and the Discipline specific module, i.e. Track Judging, Field Judging, Timekeeping, Photo Finish or Starter / Starters Assistant, plus 4 experiences of officiating recorded & evidenced in the Annual Record of Experience. (If you have already helped at 4 events prior to attending the course and providing you supply the 4 evidences in the Annual Record of Experience (ARE) you will have fulfilled the criteria to apply for a Level 1 Licence);

Level 2 - As a Level 1, and with a further 6 experiences recorded in the same ARE, receipt of a positive written report by a higher Level Official and answer correctly the questions on the Rules from the UKA website relating to Officiating Generally and your discipline (10 experiences in total) you can apply for a Level 2 Licence. Your answers to the Rules questions will be assessed by someone else;

Level 3 - As a L2 and with another additional 10 experiences (20 experiences in total) plus 1 other positive written report from an Area meeting (North or Midlands), in your discipline, from a L3 or L4 official you can apply for a Level 3 Licence;

**Level 4 -** See officials’ pathway at: http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/competitions/officials/education-and-training/track-field-officials-pathway/

Use the above link for any further information required or contact me.

Now I come to the bit about money, please don’t stop reading now; If you are a paid up member of a club your club may reimburse your fees otherwise you pay the appropriate course fee.

There is, of course, one further requirement before the issue of a UK officials License and that is a satisfactory DBS check, which UK Welfare must see the original before issuing the license. The information for this should be supplied in the course resource pack.

For a course near you go to

[Athletics Hub booking platform](https://www.athleticshub.co.uk/course-list/eng?what=Official&_ga=2.124566922.1838546297.1660153049-849325041.1573497703) on the England Athletics website.

Mike Heffernan. County Track & Field Officials Secretary