

ENDURANCE OFFICIALS UPDATE (July 2015)

By way of an introduction in my new role as County Endurance Officials Secretary I thought I would bring you an update on recent changes which affect Endurance Officials. I have taken on this role this week having taken over from Ernie Cripps who has carried out this role for a great number of years. Thank you, Ernie, for your long service to the county and its many Officials. You will be a very hard act to follow.

A little about my background - I am a Level 3 Endurance Official and I have operated at many local races (Road and Cross Country), Northern and National Championships. I have been responsible for the dual-county Cross Country Championships in January for the last 15 years and I have been Clerk of Course for 2 English Schools Cross Country Championships (2013 and 2014). I am due to be Clerk of Course for the English Nationals next February at Donington Park. I also represent England Athletics on the UKA Endurance Education Group.

An Endurance Bulletin was published in early July – the rates for opening the Bulletin are being reviewed. It has been posted on the UKA website. If any Endurance Official has not received an electronic copy please contact me and I will forward you a copy.

It has been agreed that Endurance Officials who don't hold a current licence will not be appointed to major events and should not be operating as Officials. They can operate under the direct supervision of a current Licenced Endurance Official at the majority of 'lower' level competitions.

Discussions relating to the confusion arising over the roles of Race Referee and Race Adjudicators in Road Races are ongoing. There is an argument that suggests that Race Adjudicators cannot necessarily be Race Referees at the same time because on the one hand a Race Adjudicator need not be a Licenced Official; and, secondly, it is difficult for one person to fulfil both roles adequately at the same time.

RISK AWARENESS

Earlier this year the UK Endurance Education Group agreed that from 1st April 2015 all attendees at a Level 2 course must attend the Risk Awareness module – previously, it was voluntary. Risk Awareness has replaced the Risk Assessment module because RunBritain has agreed that for Road Races the Race Director is responsible for the Risk Assessment and not Licenced Technical Officials, as in Cross Country; the course content largely remains the same. The name change is an attempt to avoid any confusion! The consequence is that Risk Awareness becomes a compulsory element at L2a (club).

By introducing Risk Awareness as a compulsory element at L2a results in the need to ensure that all currently active Endurance Officials have completed the module. It has been agreed to promote courses as required up to 1st October 2015. After October 1st anyone without the Risk Awareness module will be transferred to "assistant" level. (This is explained in the recently published Endurance Bulletin). Could this include YOU?

The Risk Awareness course content for distance learning has been submitted to UKA but production has been delayed following staff changes at UKA. The problem lies in posting the course module on-line. The on-line module would be free to already Licenced Officials. Completion of the course is a priority as it is not considered acceptable to extend the deadline.

Officials must have attended the Risk Awareness module before being able to Referee any race (this is not a new requirement).

Those Officials to whom this applies should be emailed to advise them of their situation and the available options, including attending a taught module.

If there are any Officials within the County who need to attend a Risk Awareness module please contact me, Barry Parker, who will organise, and can deliver, a course at a suitable venue.

DBS

Reminders of DBS (formerly CRB) renewals are supposed to be issued 8 – 12 weeks before expiry. Anyone who has not renewed their DBS within 6 months of expiry is made inactive and email notification is sent to the Officials and the CofSec.

Officials (and Coaches) can now apply for DBS clearance on-line and, I am told, is much, much quicker to access. DBS application can still be made in hard copy and using the postal service. Please remember that once clearance has been given and the Certificate is received by the Official that Certificate HAS to be sent to UKA Welfare in Sale before any Licence is issued. Again, if anyone needs help with their DBS application please do not hesitate to contact me.

LEVEL 2 COURSES

If clubs feel that they need a Level 2 Endurance Officials Course please contact me so I can arrange a course. I am a Course Tutor with my own laptop, digital projector and screen and I am prepared to come to a venue near your club (preferably free of charge) but there has to be a suitable number of candidates to make the course (financially) viable. Do not be shy in asking.

Barry Parker

(Endurance COfSec)

(29th July 2015)