

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 un-satisfactory and from an officials' point of view it is wholly un-satisfactory 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 season but most certainly in the next 2 to 3 years.

Long throws (Hammer, Discus & Javelin) can only take place if the lead official is qualified to at least 2 (County level) and all persons operating in the 'sector' have completed the Health & Safety module of the officials course and should be experienced Level 1 ideally Level 2.

Part of my job 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 up-grade 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;

Assistant Official: (L1 Trainee)

Must attend Health & Safety course and be under the supervision of a licensed official.

Level 1. Club official:

Must attend L1 officials' course, which consists of the Generic including H&S module and the Discipline specific module, e.g. Track Judging, Field Judging, Timekeeping, Photo-finish or Starter / Starters assistant, plus 4 experiences of officiating recorded & evidenced in the Record of Experience (RoE). If you have already helped at 4 events this season providing you supply the 4 evidences you only need to attend the L1 course to qualify at L1

Level 2. County official:

As L1 with a further 6 experiences recorded in the RoE (10 experiences in total) Plus satisfactory answers in the Generic & Discipline specific Q&A papers.

Level 3. Regional official:

As L2 with additional 10 experiences (20 experiences in total) plus at least 1 positive report from a L3 official.

Level 3. 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 which is part of the Derbyshire Athletics Network (DAN) then on your successful completion of any L1 course DAN will reimburse fully your course fees, it is not something for nothing as you have to put in the work to attain the L1 qualification and the license. Contact Barry Parker to claim your payment.

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 paperwork for this is supplied in the course resource pack.

For a course near you go to

<http://www.englandathletics.org/courses.asp?section=33§ionTitle=Courses+and+Bookings>

Mike Heffernan. County Track & Field Officials Secretary. (v2 up-dated Oct 17)

