

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, 3 Timekeepers and a very under strength team of Field Judges being helped by a few parents.

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, possibly within the next season but most certainly in the next 4 to 5 years.

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

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;

Level 1. Assistant Official:

Must attend L1 assistant officials' course plus 2 experiences of officiating signed off by a licensed official.

Level 2a. Club official:

Must attend L2 officials' course which consists of the Health & Safety module, The Generic module and the Discipline specific module, ie. Track Judging, Field Judging, Timekeeping or Starter / Starters assistant, plus 4 experiences of officiating recorded & evidenced in the Log book. (If you have already helped at 4 events this season providing you supply the 4 evidences in the Annual Record of Experience (ARE) you only need to attend the L2 course to qualify at 2a)

Level 2b. County official:

As L2a with a further 6 experiences recorded in the same ARE and answer the questions on the course CD for Officiating Generally and your discipline (10 experiences in total)

Level 2c. Regional official:

As L2b with additional 10 experiences (20 experiences in total) plus at least 1 positive report, in your discipline, 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 L2 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 L2 qualification and the license.

There is of course one further requirement before the issue of a UK officials License and that is a satisfactory DBS (formerly CRB) 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.