

# DUTIES OF THE MEET REFEREE

## Updated 2021

The referee is solely responsible for the proper conduct of all phases of the track and field competition. Under authority of the referee, all other meet officials are assigned and are responsible to the referee.

The referee will rule on infractions or irregularities which may not be covered within the rules. The referee may seek the advice of the head umpire or head field judge or other meet officials prior to making a ruling. The referee is also authorized to make decisions on any questions which might arise in connection with the event, including those not specifically placed under the jurisdiction of other officials. The referee's authority begins upon arrival at the meet site. In the absence of a head field judge, the referee assumes those duties.

Responsibilities of the referee will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

### 1. PRE-MEET DUTIES

#### A. Inspect all track and field event facilities.

1. Areas of safety and emphasis that should be checked.
  - a. Sufficient padding around the pole vault and high jump landing pads.
  - b. Are the pole vault standards secured?
  - c. Are all throwing areas roped or flagged to ensure safety of spectators and athletes?
  - d. Are vaulting standards scored?
  - e. Is there a mark on shot put toe-board representing 34.92 degrees?
  - f. Check for "event closed" signs.
  - g. Check the legality of vaulting poles.
  - h. Check for weighing and inspecting the implements

#### B. Meet with the meet director.

1. Obtain and review all games committee information. (Should be distributed prior to the meet)
2. Review and discuss the schedule. Are we following a set schedule or is it a rolling schedule? When are field event areas open for warmups?
3. Does the referee have to verify records?
4. Is there a jury of appeals and who is on it?
5. Do you have appeal forms?
6. Was a time limit set for being excused from field events?

#### C. Meet with head umpire. Review disqualifications and procedures.

1. Umpire report, they do not disqualify.
2. Umpires should report to the head umpire, but they should not leave their station until the race is over.
3. Handout "Umpires Meeting"

#### D. Meet with the head timer.

1. Verify if there are, in fact, enough timers for non-FAT meets. There should be at least two on the first three places in qualifying meets. (Recommendation, not a requirement)
2. Designate someone to read lap times at non-FAT meets.
3. Discuss procedures for verifying records.
4. See if they understand how to obtain the official time if handheld timing is being used.
5. Watches can be read in hundredths when going from prelims to semis or prelims to finals. At all other times, manual times will be rounded up.

#### E. Hold a pre-meet coaches meeting.

1. Items to cover in this meeting are listed on separate handout; please follow suggestions there as well as covering, marking rules for track and runways, no marks on runways, no shoes or spray paint for marking along side runways, procedure for concurrent events.

#### F. Meet with the head finish judge.

1. They should designate a lap counter and a bell ringer.
2. The bell is rung or the gun is fired designating the final lap of all races 800m or longer.
3. The head finish judge should not be involved with disqualifications. The results should be recorded, and the referee will inform the head finish judge if there is a disqualification. Note disqualification on sheet that goes to the announcer.

4. Lapped runners do not move out.
  5. Do they have a red and white flag?
  - G. Meet with the assembly clerk.
    1. Check uniforms. May have to review rules with them. (Preventive Officiating)
    2. Announce how they will qualify for finals or how places will be decided if no preliminaries.
    3. Explain starting line colors and passing zone colors. Send runners to their exchange zones for 400, 800 and medley relays.
    4. If weather permits, sweats off in the chute.
  - H. Meet with the starters.
    1. Have they checked the gun sensor if F.A.T. is to be used?
    2. Have they checked the PA system if available?
    3. Have they determined whom they get the ready signal from?
  - I. Determine if there is a Jury of Appeals and who is on it.
    1. Review appeal procedures with those concerned – jury of appeals, head umpire, head finish judge.
    2. Referee cannot be on the Jury of Appeals. If no jury is assigned the referee is the final authority.
  - J. Meet with the head field judge.
    1. Determine if field event judges know their duties and procedures. If there is no head field judge, the referee should meet with all event judges. This meeting usually has to take place as you visit each event.
  - K. Meet with the Inspector of Implements
    1. Does he/she understand their duties and the rules involved?
    2. Is there a procedure for marking implements?
    3. Is there a procedure for impounding implements?
    4. Are they measuring vaulting poles?
    5. Review pole vault weigh-in procedures
  - L. Meet with the announcer.
    1. Announce disqualifications from the finish sheets!
  - M. Review procedures to follow in the event of a record in both running and field events.
  - N. Designate area of availability during the meet.
2. DUTIES DURING THE MEET
- A. Directly responsible for ensuring fair competition.
  - B. Spend time with pickers and timers to determine if they are following correct procedures.
  - C. Visit each field event during competition to insure proper procedures are followed.
  - D. Visit relay exchange zones to observe procedures.
  - E. Make adjustments in heat and lane assignments if necessary
  - F. Decide place winners in track events if judges are unable to do.
  - G. Responsible for determining if a race shall be re-run, and if so, who is eligible to participate in the re-run and when it should be scheduled.
  - H. May suspend meet due to an emergency such as hazardous weather conditions.
  - I. Referees decisions are final except for any appeal procedure established prior to the meet.
  - J. If conditions warrant, referee may alter the order of trials in field events.
  - K. Referee is authorized to disqualify a runner who commits an infraction personally observed by the referee, but not reported because of the absence of an umpire.
  - L. When a competitor is disqualified, the referee shall notify or cause to be notified the competitor or the competitor's coach of the disqualification. The public address announcement meets this requirement.
  - M. Be at head of track during hurdle races. Look for athlete deliberately knocking down hurdles.
3. DUTIES FOLLOWING THE MEET
- A. Stay until all events are completed. The referee's authority concludes 30 minutes after the last event results have been announced or made official. The referee shall approve the official scorer's final results and record the time the meet was officially concluded.

### **CHECKLISTS OF ITEMS THAT THE REFEREE SHOULD HAVE AVAILABLE**

- A. Guidelines for rerunning a race.
- B. Guidelines for breaking ties in field events.
- C. Guidelines for checking the legality of vaulting poles.
- D. Checklist of items to discuss with various officials.
- E. Six-inch ruler to check vaulting poles.
- F. Safety considerations handout

## G. 25' Measuring Tape