

# TRACK MEET UMPIRES

UMPIRE \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT TO POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

REPORT INFRACTIONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER RACE TO \_\_\_\_\_

## A. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Be available, at your assigned position, at all times during the meet. If you must leave your position, notify the head umpire.
2. Do not be afraid to make a call, but if you do, be able to justify it. Also, if you do not make a call, and it is appealed, be prepared to justify why you did not make the call.
3. Do your very best to keep non-competing athletes away from the track.
4. Report to the exchange zones prior to the start of a relay.
5. During the sprint and hurdle events. Position yourself along the inside of the track and watch for lane and hurdle infractions. \*Note your position for the 100, 110, and 300 hurdles
6. **Never** coach an athlete during the race.
7. Refer to the information below and to the attached sheets for specific instructions!!

### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL UMPIRES

1. **Relay exchanges** - be familiar with the track markings and know the exchange zone colors for all relays. Position yourself inside and outside the track at the exchange zone. You should never try to watch more than 4 lanes - call for help if you need it!! The baton must be passed within the passing zone - WATCH the baton!
2. **Pole (Break line)** - watch for lane cuts, runners interfering with others, and make certain that runners do not "cut" prior to the line - remember, one step on or over the line to the runners left can result in a disqualification.
3. **Curves** - Watch for line infractions on the curves on all distance races including the 400m. Umpires should be positioned to adequately observe the entire turn. Watch for runners stepping on the line to their left in lane races and on the inside line during non-lane races - three steps with either foot can result in disqualification.
4. **Straight-aways** - watch for runners "cutting off" the path of another, interfering with others, etc. Use common sense and "preventative officiating". Tell them to "watch the line".
5. **Hurdles** - Watch the runner to see that he/she goes over the hurdle-not around! Watch the trailing leg during all hurdles but especially the 300 m hurdles - it must go over the hurdle. A runner can not "push" a hurdle with their hands or "run through" a hurdle,
6. **Indicating an infraction** - when an umpire detects an infraction or an irregularity, during a race, such as illegal crowding, running on or over the left line of a runners lane, or violating the hurdle or relay rules, a **YELLOW** flag is waved overhead. When no infractions are observed, wave a **WHITE** flag after the runners have passed your area of responsibility.
7. **Reporting an infraction** - when the race is completed, the umpire must **record** any infraction and **report** it to the **Head Umpire** - this report must include the competitor's number, uniform color, lane number, and the violation that was observed. The Head Umpire will report this information to the Meet Referee who will make the final decision.
8. **Communications** - To prevent confusion and ill-feelings, it is advisable to not discuss any observed infractions with coaches, athletes, or spectators until after the referee has made a decision regarding any particular incident.
9. **Disqualification** - Always remember - Umpires DO NOT disqualify teams or individuals. Umpires only **observe, detect, and report** infractions.

# Umpire Positions and Responsibilities

## #1 Position - Beginning off First Curve

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 10th row of hurdles. One or two at head of track with head umpire.
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 8th row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ Finish Line exchange ~ red to red
4. 400 Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 200/400 exchange and 400/800 exchange – common – green to green
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #2 Position ~ Head of First Curve

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 9th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 1st row of hurdles on start side of track
3. 800 Relay ~ Finish line exchange ~ red to red
4. 400 Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 200/400 exchange and 400/800 exchange – common – green to green
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #3 Position ~ At “Break” Line

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 8th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 2nd row of hurdles on start side of track
3. 800 Relay ~ Finish line exchange ~ red to red
4. 400 Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 200/400 exchange and 400/800 exchange – common – green to green
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #4 Position ~ Middle of Track

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 7th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 3rd row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ 1st/3rd exchange ~ red to red then yellow to yellow
4. 400 Relay ~ 2nd exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #5 Position ~ At Corner of Track

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 6th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 4th row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ 1st/3rd exchange ~ red to red then yellow to yellow
4. 400 Relay ~ 2nd exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #6 Position ~ At End of Track

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 5th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 5th row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ 1st/3rd exchange ~ red to red then yellow to yellow
4. 400 Relay ~ 2nd exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #7 Position ~ At Corner ~ Near Start

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 4th row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 6th row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ 1st/3rd exchange ~ red to red then yellow to yellow
4. 400 Relay ~ 3rd exchange ~ yellow to yellow
5. Medley Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off

## #8 Position ~ Middle of Track ~ Front Straight

1. 100/110 Hurdles ~ 3rd row of hurdles
2. 300 Hurdles ~ 7th row of hurdles
3. 800 Relay ~ 1st/3rd exchange ~ red to red then yellow to yellow
4. 400 Relay ~ 3rd exchange ~ yellow to yellow ~ ask clerk to help w/out-going
5. Medley Relay ~ 1st exchange ~ yellow to yellow
6. Distance Races ~ Watch for lane infractions, bumping, pushing, cutting a runner off
7. Watch for interference as runners approach the finish line