

Guidance notes for Assessment of Field Officials 2011

Assessment of officials takes place at all major meetings. This used to be done solely by the respective Referees/Chiefs but at many meetings now both a Field Assessor and a Track Assessor are appointed to aid this process. Their role is to observe and assess, not to interfere with the running of the events!

Assessment enables informed judgements to be made about:-

- The technical ability of officials in the competition environment
- Suitability for “promotion” (particularly for inclusion in the IOG)
- Future appointments
- Guidance for personal development

Prior to the meeting

1. Contact the field referee responsible for producing the duty sheet. Ask for a copy of the duties prior to the meeting to enable you to plan your observations.
2. On receipt of the duty sheet, look at the spread / movement of the individual officials during the meeting. For larger meetings it may be appropriate to liaise with the referee(s) prior to the start of the meeting to agree the observation of certain events. If possible send a copy of your planning to the Referee before the meeting or failing that provide them with this on the day.
3. Check all issued paperwork and that you are fully conversant with the grading system and assessment requirements in operation at the time. A new 4 point grading system has been introduced for the 2010 outdoor season. The assessment forms and criteria for assessment (generic and discipline specific) can be found on the UKA website. If you have difficulty in locating them contact the NTD or Meeting Manager well before the meeting in order that they can ensure that you are supplied with this information. You will need it in order to plan for the event.
4. Devise a system for recording your observations during the day. A note sheet for Field Assessors, which you may find helpful, is included at the end of this document. This system should be concise, as you will not have time to make copious notes on each individual official.
The fact you have been given this role means that you are an experienced practitioner and have a good understanding of the duties involved. The following could be considered as a starting point in conjunction with the guidance outlined on the UKA assessment proforma instructions:

Field Assessment You should try to see all of the officials carrying out as many of their duties as possible

- Arrival time at event
- Supervision of warm up
- Efficient organisation of team
- Efficient running of event (e.g. not taking too long, round 3 to 4 etc)
- The briefing of athletes in the call room/on site by the team leader prior to the event.
- Speed of actions (spiking, calling up, taking a measurement)
- Liaison with colleagues (other team members, computer input staff etc)
- Liaison with athletes
- Knowledge of rules and correct application
- Knowledge of role/duty
- Accuracy of duty (spiking, bar measurement etc)

- Presentation and accuracy of result cards
- Carrying out of all duties allocated
- Responding to and dealing with issues as they arise

On the day of the meeting

1. Arrive in plenty of time to familiarise yourself with the stadium and to meet the referee.
2. Check any changes in the officiating team (withdrawals, late additions etc). You might have to explain your role to any less experienced officials and put them at ease. Where there is a referee's team briefing, the referee should introduce you and inform the team about the assessment process.
3. Agree with the referee how officials will be told if they have performed exceptionally well or poorly and how the grades will be recorded and submitted to UKA between you. (see notes for "End of meeting")
4. Periodically during the meeting, you should briefly catch up with the referee to compare observations. This should focus on any good or below standard performances observed. This is particularly important where officials need to be informed by the end of their duties of any higher or adverse grading awarded. You should also consult with the Team Leaders as they are in a good position to help to assess their team.
5. Although not strictly within your remit, you will probably see the Clerks of Course at work and it might be of assistance to the Technical Manager if you see and take note of any particularly good or bad points of their performance to support the TM in their appraisal and recording.
6. If you see officials, particularly those with less experience performing well it is appropriate to feed back to them during the meeting. Likewise if someone is doing something drastically wrong it is fairer to speak to them before they carry out that duty again. For a 2 day meeting it is essential to have provided feedback on any weaknesses before the start of the second day as part of the assessment process is developmental. The Assessor and the Referee will have agreed beforehand about how this will be handled.

Specific Field matters

1. The referee may possibly ask you to assist with dealing with any issues should they arise during your attendance at an event whilst he/she is elsewhere. You could act in an advisory capacity in this context but remember you are there primarily as an observer/ assessor. You should in this instance make it your priority to get the referee to the event site (e.g. by radio remembering any radio protocols!). You should be noting how individual officials in the event team are dealing with the issue in order to inform your assessment. You should not interfere in the running of an event unless there is an obvious Health and Safety issue.
2. Move around each event, trying to keep as inconspicuous as possible (and safe!). Observe all of the officials in the team. Obviously you will want to be at events to monitor key points in the event such as briefing in the call room, warm up, start of the event , the end of round three for the split to see how these are managed by the relevant officials, but it might not be necessary to stay for the whole event.

3. You will need to be positioned so as to effectively observe and hear all of the officials in the team carrying out their duties, but not be right on top of the officials as you can be sure that some will find this disconcerting and may impact on their performance. Try to be seated as much as possible.
4. Where there are many events going on simultaneously, it might be a good idea to prioritise the order in which you visit them. For example, a shot putt competition should take a fraction of the time it takes to run a pole vault competition. It might be prudent to observe the warm up for the pole vault for example, then move to the shot for several rounds before going back to the pole vault.
5. **All** officials in the field team will be assessed against the **same** criteria at the meeting. Make sure you know those criteria and grade accordingly.

At the end of the Meeting

1. Decide the range of grades for the team with the referee and come to an agreement. This may be a compromise and that fact can be made clear in the comments. If there is disagreement rather than compromise the Referee will make the decision as to which grade will be submitted. For any officials who are below the required level this needs to be agreed during the meeting and simply confirmed in time to speak to the official(s) concerned.
2. Between the referee and yourself, personally inform any official who has received anything other than the expected grade. Ensure you have objective evidence to support your grading. This should be done as sensitively and as privately as possible and not in full public view. Those below the standard required will normally be spoken to by the Assessor who will have all the written information to hand and will not be involved with other duties.
3. It might be appreciated if you give some feedback to any developing officials who have been drafted in to help out at the meeting where you notice anything of particular benefit to them.

After the meeting

1. Complete the assessment grid. You as the assessor put in grades and comments. It is important that your comments are relevant to the grade awarded. Send it to the referee for any additional comments from them. They should then send the form back to you. If you feel that officials should be considered for inclusion in the IOG please state this clearly on your assessment.
2. The assessor then sends the assessment form to John Pickles and the NTD, or the Meeting manager where no NTD is appointed (plus Andrew Clatworthy) and a copy back to the referee on same e-mail. This ensures that what the referee has approved is what has been sent in finally. It is important to ensure that your assessments are submitted within the specified time period following the meeting.

