

LICENCE STANDARDS FOR LICENSED ATHLETICS COMPETITIONS IN SCOTLAND

In order to obtain a **scottishathletics** Event Licence, organisers of athletics events in Scotland must agree that their event will comply with the following standards (including those points relevant to their discipline). The **scottishathletics** Competitions Team will be on hand to support event organisers with ensuring that their events meet the standards set out below.

XC = Cross Country HG = Heavy Throws (Highland Games) HR = Hill Race ALL = All disciplines
RR = Road Race / MT TF = Track and Field TR = Trail/Ultra VIR = Virtual Race
NS = Non-stadium (XC, HR, RR, TR)

THE STANDARDS

Planning and Consents		
1.	a) UKA, WA and WPA (where appropriate) rules will be applied to the event, as well as any additional scottishathletics licensing requirements, codes of conduct and other relevant standards. http://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/rules/ https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/book-of-rules http://www.paralympic.org/athletics/rules-and-regulations/rules https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/events/organising-an-event/ b) A copy of the UKA Rules for Competition will be available on the day of the event (hard copy or electronic).	ALL
2.	Consideration will be given to the participation of disabled participants (including those with physical, sensory and intellectual impairments) and any necessary reasonable adjustments that may need to be made to enable them to take part will be implemented.	ALL
3.	Possible inconvenience to residents and other members of the public at / near the event site / stadium and surrounding areas will be considered and minimised where reasonably possible. This also includes consideration of the impact on local emergency services provision.	ALL
4.	a) UKA Rules T3 S1-5 regarding young athletes will be observed, and event organisers will not offer events unsuitable for specific age groups, nor throws implements of weights above the advised maximum. b) Parental or guardian permission will be requested on the entry form for athletes under 16 years old. c) The event will meet UK Athletics' scottishathletics Welfare and Safeguarding requirements. For guidance refer to: http://www.uka.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/	ALL
5.	a) Competitors' age groups shall be determined by UKA rules T3 S1-5 *Please note: changes to be introduced from Winter 2025 in Scotland* b) Masters athletes must be 35+ years old on the day of the event, under UKA rules, or 40+ for trail events. In Scottish Road and Cross Country championships, Masters medals are typically awarded to athletes aged 40+ on the day of the race.	ALL
6.	The maximum time allowed for a track and field competition held under a UKA licence will be 8 hours, unless more than one set of officials is used, in line with UKA rule C1 S2 (1) (ii).	TF

7.	For non-stadium events: a) The land owner, local authority and any other relevant body will be consulted with regard to the course and safety matters, and all necessary consents will be obtained. b) If requested, the local authority, or other relevant authority, should be provided with all relevant information relating to the event. c) It is a statutory requirement that a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) be applied for if the event is staged on the public highway and is subject to any closures and/or placing of equipment (cones, barriers, stop/go boards etc) on the highway. TTRO may not be required if the Highways Authority has confirmed that it has no objections to the event being staged without closures etc. on the open highway, in accordance with the Highway Code.	NS
8.	Observations made by the local authority, highways authority, police and/or emergency services regarding the course or other aspects of the event will be carefully considered and, if not adopted, will be drawn to the attention of scottishathletics at the time of the licence application.	NS
9.	The venue for a race's start and finish will be free from moving traffic and be able to cope with expected numbers and conditions, and the course adequate for the type of event being staged.	NS
Licensing Matters		
10.	Organisers will display: 1) "Under UKA Rules" and either the scottishathletics Licence Number or "scottishathletics Licence Applied For". 2) The course measurement certificate number and logo, if applicable. 3) World Athletics permit (if applicable) on: 1) Event website (if applicable) 2) Event entry form (online and offline) 3) All pre-event athletes' information	ALL
11.	Event Organisers will record and report the number of scottishathletics members and non-members entering their licensed event by completing and submitting an event return form within 28 days following their event date.	ALL
12.	a) The event organiser may upload a full set of results for publication on the scottishathletics website through their licensing portal. Results will be published subject to meeting data protection requirements, and should be in a PDF format. b) If the event hosted a scottishathletics District or National Championship, results must be submitted within 28 days of the event taking place. It is not compulsory for non-championship events to submit results. c) For licences issued by UK Athletics (Track and Field Level 2), results must be submitted to Power of 10 post-event.	ALL
13.	scottishathletics reserves the right to request a copy of the entry list from any licensed event. Lists must be received within 28 days of the request being made.	ALL
14.	Within 48 hours of any licensed event, race organisers are required to notify scottishathletics and UK Athletics separately in the event of any fatality or any resuscitation, hospitalisation, serious incident, accident or circumstances which might reasonably be expected to give rise to an insurance claim. See: https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/health-safety/online-accident-incident-report-form/	ALL

15.	a) Organisers are required to collect an unaffiliated runner levy of £2 per entry from any entrant who is not a member of scottishathletics or their own national governing body for athletics. Levies collected must be paid to scottishathletics within 28 days following the event date. b) Membership status will be confirmed by requesting the entrants provide their six-digit scottishathletics membership number, beginning SA, (SA123456) at the point of entry. To qualify, the athlete must hold an athlete membership, not a coach, official, jogscotland etc. membership. c) Levies do not need to be collected when the full entry fee is £2.00 or less; the event is open only to athletes in the U17 age group and below; or the event is open to school pupils or students only (athletes must represent their educational institution in this case). From 1st April 2026, levies will increase to £3 per athlete. This will apply to all events taking place on or after 1st April 2026, regardless of when the licence was issued.	ALL
16.	Open road events must offer a minimum discount of £2.00 on the entry fee to all entrants who hold a current scottishathletics membership where the entry fee exceeds £2. This should also include members of other home country athletics federations, in line with UKA rules. Membership status will be confirmed by requesting that entrants provide their scottishathletics membership number (SA123456) at the point of entry.	RR
Event Facilities		
17.	There will be well-signed and adequate male, female, accessible and gender neutral (wherever possible) toilets within a reasonable distance of the: a) Race HQ b) Start c) Finish, or within the stadium	ALL
18.	There will be sufficient parking provision for volunteers, officials, competitors and spectators on or near the event site, including access for buses/coaches if expected. This may include on-street parking in suitable areas. Exceptions may apply for non-stadium events in city locations. Parking arrangements will be outlined within the event's suitable and sufficient Traffic Management Plan, which may be a standalone document, or included within the wider Event Management Plan as appropriate.	ALL
19.	There should be provision for clubs/teams to erect tents wherever suitable for the scale and location of the event.	XC
20.	For events held within a stadium, event organisers should take care to ensure a clear route for athletes and spectators to follow around the venue (for example, from the declarations area to the warm up area to the competition area for athletes). Spectators will not be allowed in the competition area during the competition.	TF
21.	All events seeking a track and field licence must be held on TrackMark-certificated facilities. Events held in non-TrackMark-certificated facilities may receive a basic licence, which will ensure the event can be insured by UKA (provided all other conditions are met) but results will not be formally recognised for ranking and record purposes.	TF
22.	There will be storage, and transportation if relevant, available for competitors' baggage.	RR
The Course		
23.	The course route and marshalling arrangements will be suitable for the size of the field.	NS

24.	The course will be signed, taped and marshalled, where appropriate, with all turnings clearly indicated, to ensure runners keep to the approved route. Where relevant and possible, runners should be kept to the left-hand side of the highway in road races. Where route markings are intentionally not used (hill, fell or trail), a clear description or map of the course will be available to all participants. Trail routes will be marked in such a way that athletes receive sufficient information to complete it without deviating from it, but the course does not need to be continuously marked. Virtual runners are expected to plan their route in advance of setting out; ensure that it is suitable for solo-running; and appropriate for their ability and current level of fitness.	NS
25.	a) For road races, if an exact distance has been advertised, the course must be measured by an accredited member of AUKCM (Association of United Kingdom Course Measurers), or AIMS for international races, and certified for the race date. An AUKCM course measurement certificate is valid for the date specified on the certificate and must be renewed each time the course is run. However, the measurement itself remains valid for 10 years if the course remains unchanged. b) The course measurement certificate will be available on race day, and a copy submitted to scottishathletics at the time of the licence application. c) The race organiser shall verify that the course route will be laid out on race day in strict accordance with the measurement record. If the course as measured cannot be undertaken as per the certificate, the event organiser will notify their course measurer, scottishathletics and the competitors, and the results will not be validated for ranking purposes.	RR
26.	Multi terrain, although not a discipline recognised on its own within UKA Rules for Competition, is closely aligned to road running and licensed under a multi terrain road licence. Multi terrain races are defined as those up to and including marathon distance, run over at least 40% tarmac, concrete or paved surfaces. Multi-terrain races do not require a certificate of course accuracy, but organisers are encouraged to submit a statement of course measurement, issued by AUKCM, within their licence application. A virtual road race will usually be considered to be multi-terrain. Times recorded in a virtual race will not be validated for ranking purposes as neither road nor multi terrain.	RR
27.	a) If the course crosses a railway level crossing, written confirmation will be obtained from the appropriate authorities that the crossing(s) will not be in use for the duration of the race. The railway level crossing will be marshalled for the duration of the race. b) If the course crosses a swing or opening bridge, written confirmation will be obtained from the appropriate authorities that the bridge(s) will not be in use for the duration of the race. The bridge(s) will be marshalled for the duration of the race. c) If tramways are crossed during a race, the system for managing this process should be detailed as part of the traffic management plan and agreed to by the tram operators. The tramways crossed should be manned by marshals and tram operator staff throughout the race.	RR TR HR
28.	Events for athletes under 10 years old should take place on fully closed roads or private roads/footpaths wherever possible. Where under 10s are on the public highway, they will be supervised by adults at all times.	RR

29.	Trail races shall take place on a variety of terrain within a natural environment in open country that is mainly off-road. Courses of up to marathon distance must be composed of at least 60% trail terrain. If hosting a Championship, the course must be at least 60% trail if the race is 40+ miles, 70% if 20-40 miles and 80% if less than 20 miles.	TR
30.	The course will be cleared of all race signs, debris, etc. as soon as reasonably practical.	NS
Officials, Marshals and Event Volunteers		
31.	a) Any track and field or heavy throws event organiser must ensure that enough officials of the appropriate grading are appointed to deliver their meeting, including sufficiently qualified and experienced Chiefs and Referees. b) The appointment of a UKA Licensed Race Referee is required for off-track races, with support from other suitably qualified endurance officials. Note: Persons appointed to Chief/Referee roles should not be a member of the organising committee. Officiating requirements for events at all levels are published by UKA seasonally.	ALL
32.	In Scotland, it is a legal requirement that all individuals undertaking a regulated role (with children aged under 18 or protected adults) have completed a PVG check prior to being deployed. Further information can be found here: https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/about/welfare/safeguarding/	
33.	Adults (18+) will marshal all participants, as well as any relevant road intersections, major junctions and changes of course direction, as agreed after consultation with the local authority, safety advisory group (or similar), highways authority and police. In a cross country event, particularly in the early stages of a race, the general public should only be allowed to cross the course at well-organised cross-over points, marshalled by stewards. Note: race marshals do not have the legal authority to direct or to stop traffic, unless accredited under the Police Reform Act 2002 and authorised by a formal road closure.	NS
34.	Marshals will be fully briefed before the start of any event. They should receive written instructions as to their role, position, emergency procedures and race information. All instructions, including but not limited to role descriptions and emergency procedures must be understood by all volunteers undertaking a role.	NS
35.	All course marshals will wear distinctive tabards/bibs/tops at all times whilst on the course (this includes start/finish areas, and is applicable on both closed and open road events). For open-road events, further PPE may be required.	NS
36.	Marshals will remain on the course until released by the sweep vehicle, chief marshal or event control.	NS
37.	There will be a conspicuous vehicle (bicycle acceptable) and/or marshal preceding the field at any road race, and a sweep vehicle (bicycle acceptable) and/or marshal following the field.	RR

Medical Support		
38.	a) The first aid and or medical cover for the event will meet the requirements of the recommended minimum standards for their discipline (eg. contained in the Good Practice Guide for the Provision of First Aid & Medical Services at UK Athletics Licensed Road Races, etc.). The race organiser is required to provide details and justification for any departures from the recommended minimum standards. b) A Medical Risk Assessment will be undertaken by an appropriately competent person and must be made available for inspection before or post-race by scottishathletics upon request. The medical assessment can be incorporated within the overall risk assessment if appropriate. c) A medical operations plan is a helpful tool for ensuring suitable first aid cover across any event.	ALL
39.	The race organiser is required to provide confirmation to scottishathletics that adequate first aid cover is in place when applying for a licence. The organiser should appoint an appropriate employed first aid provider, or consider the number and qualifications of any individuals from within the organisation who will act as first aiders during the event. For virtual races, event organisers must confirm on their licence application that they have advised runners of the expected steps to take in the event of accident/injury since direct medical care cannot be provided. Your first aid provider should be named in your risk assessment, or the names and qualifications of any individuals who will act as first aid providers on the day. Note: a UKA coaching qualification (which includes a first aid module) is not a sufficient level of qualification to provide first aid at a licensed event.	ALL
40.	For road races, a medical information template will be printed on the reverse of each runner's number to gather emergency contact details, medication and/or any medical information. At declarations, or within instructions communicated to participants, event organisers will request that all competitors complete the template. This is also recommended in other athletics disciplines, but is not a requirement of the rules.	RR
Refreshments		
41.	Any drinks or catering provided at the event will fully comply with current, relevant food hygiene regulations.	ALL
42.	Drinks stations will be provided on the course and/or at the start/finish for the duration of the event, in accordance with UKA Rule T55 S2 at road races and T56 S2 8 at cross country events. a) Drink stations will not be situated on the running line of a road race. b) Drink stations should be clearly signed in advance of the location in a road race, wherever feasible (eg. 50 metres beforehand) c) All drink stations will be under the control of adults (16 years+) who will be well briefed. Where additional helpers aged under 16 are used, they will be of a responsible age and always under full-time adult supervision. d) All drink stations personnel should wear distinctive tabards/bibs/tops.	RR XC
43.	As trail running can be based on self-sufficiency, each athlete shall usually be autonomous between aid stations in relation to clothing, communications, food and drink. Accordingly, aid stations shall be sufficiently spaced out so as to respect the autonomy of athletes but taking into account health, safety and emergency response.	TR

Risk Management		
44.	A risk assessment is a legal requirement for all events. Organisers must be able to demonstrate suitable and sufficient consideration to duty of care and that any risks associated with the event, including medical requirements, have been appraised and planned accordingly. The risk assessment will evaluate the significant risks to participants, spectators, event staff, volunteers and members of the general public. The risk assessment will take account of the requirements of the Health and Safety Executive's guidance on event safety as applicable to your event: http://www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/ , as well as other relevant guidance / legislation.	ALL
45.	For virtual events, event organisers are still expected to conduct a risk assessment. Participants should conduct their own assessment of their own route, but event organisers are expected to have measures in place to ensure that participants in their event can take part safely, including guidance on planning a suitable route and procedures to follow in case of accident or injury.	VIR
46.	scottishathletics reserves the right for the final risk assessment and medical risk assessment to be made available for inspection pre- or post-race.	ALL
47.	In the event of an insurance claim, scottishathletics the authority to claim back the full or part of the insurance excess from the event organiser.	ALL
48.	Planning for the event will also take account of: a) Any relevant data protection legislation concerning the handling of personal data: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/ b) Equality Act 2010: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-guidance c) scottishathletics Welfare advice: https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/about/welfare/ d) UKA guidance on welfare and safeguarding: http://www.uka.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/ All of the above may impact on your event, and this list is not exhaustive.	ALL
Miscellaneous		
49.	Under UKA Rule T55 S5 and T56 S3 (3), the wearing of headphones or similar devices (other than following a professional medical diagnosis) is not permitted on shared-usage roads. Organisers of races on closed roads may apply this condition as appropriate, and must ensure that rules for their event are clearly communicated.	RR
50.	Race numbers/bibs as issued by the event will be worn by all competitors on the front of their top, or front and back for track events. Competitors will be advised that numbers must not be folded, cut or mutilated.	ALL
51.	RHGA athletes competing in SA-licensed events must declare their RHGA registration number, eg. John Smith (SGA) 1234 (Perth) and should wear plain vests compliant with World Athletics regulations on clothing advertising. RHGA athletes competing under UKA rules will be restricted to individual events only.	HG
52.	All participants (including athletes and athlete support personnel) in any licensed event are bound to UK Athletics' anti-doping rules and must make themselves familiar with these rules. Organisers of licensed events are expected to cooperate with UK Anti-Doping with regards to any code-compliant anti-doping investigations and proceedings linked to their event or participants in their event, and include the following statement regarding anti-doping compliance, provided by UKAD, within their event registration process: <i>"An entrant shall be deemed to have made him/herself/themself, familiar with, and agreed to be bound by the UKA Anti-Doping Rules and to submit to the authority of UK Anti-Doping in the application and enforcement of the Anti-Doping Rules. The UKA Anti-Doping Rules apply to entrants participating in the sport of Athletics, for 12 months from the date of entering the event, whether or not the participant is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK."</i>	ALL