

CLERK OF THE COURSE

DUTIES AND TIPS

Duties – NCAA (Rule 3-6)

- Maintain the track time schedule.
- Call together and place athletes in proper positions; place all relay teams in proper places on the track.
- Give athletes necessary instructions for their event and explain advancement procedures.
- Enforce athletes' uniform, competitor number, shoe, and logo rules and issue hip or other numbers.

Duties – USATF (Rule 138)

- Notify athletes to appear at the starting line or other assembly area before the start of their event.
- Ensure athletes are checked-in, wearing assigned bibs, and are ready for the scheduled start of their event.
- Enforce uniform, shoe and number rules; issue hip or other numbers.

Head Clerk of the Course

- Report 1½ to 2 hours before the 1st event to prepare the clerking station. Locate it to facilitate movement of runners to the starting line. Set up check-in, report-in, and staging areas, as appropriate
- Post signage, meet schedule, and event/check-in/report-in/escort timeline
- Obtain necessary info & equipment from meet mgmt (see Best Practices “Clerk Info, Eqpmt” sheet)
- Separate heat sheets by event & gender, build packs of hips numbers for each, and attach with clips
- Walk the track w/Asst Clerks to note markings, all start and break lines, SC pit & route
- Meet with the starter, to review procedures and instructions to be given by the starter and the clerk
- Meet with the finish line coordinator, to review procedures for handling event/heat sheets
- Coordinate with the announcer on timing for calls for runners to report in and check in
- Be familiar with all track markings, and all rules governing the start, running, and relays
- Assign Assistant Clerk duties, provide copies of meet schedule, and brief on the information sheet contents
- Mark on the master copy of the meet schedule:
 - Type of start for each race – lanes, alleys, or waterfall, and break-in point as applicable
 - Starting line markings for each race – color and type, and relay passing zone markings
 - Advancement procedures for the event
 - Number of laps for each race (principally for indoor meets)

Check-in Clerk

- Be aware of the progress of the meet vs. schedule; advise athletes of any schedule delays
- Maintain master set of event/heat sheets
- Check-in or scratch runners on event sheets; communicate these to finish line or announcer as appropriate
- Inform runners of heat & lane assignments; time and place for report-in; effect of failure to report-in
- Check for competition numbers or provide numbers, pins, and instructions on where they are worn
- Check runners for compliance with uniform, shoe, spike, logo, and electronic devices rule
- Have info and advise athletes on the location of: warm-up areas, restrooms, water, trainers, and awards
- Combine/eliminate heats or sections in races as needed (if OK'd by Games Committee); **or**
- In championship meets, deliver start list to Games Cmte/Referee to determine # of rounds or heats required
- Help the athletes and be cheerful.

Report-in Clerk

- Check-in or scratch runners on the event/heat sheets; communicate these to finish line or announcer
- Issue hip numbers and instructions on where they are worn; check for competition numbers
- Inform runners of: time until start of event, if must stay in the area; where to take strides; rules for advancement to next round; starting line & break line markings; starting commands; false start rule; number of staggered turns; lap counters & lap times; final lap bell; basket crew or where to leave gear; timing & movement to staging area or starting line; get spikes on
- Escort runners to the track; place in proper order/lanes; check for hip numbers-carry extras; remove sweats
- Inform line clerk/finish line coordinator/announcer of final list of starters/deliver heat sheets to them
- Relays: check uniforms; check/hand out batons; brief on exchange zones; assist in placing 2nd, 3rd, & 4th runners in proper order on track