

## MARSHAL DUTIES

(USATF Rule 133; NCAA Rule 3.15; tailor these instructions to the competition)

Marshals “shall have full charge of the enclosure or course.” and “...shall prevent anyone but officials and actual competitors” from being in the competition area. Marshals work with the head official of each competition area but they are under the direction of meet management. Basic responsibilities include:

1. **Secure access to the competition area so that only working officials, competitors, and other authorized/credentialed individuals are permitted entry.**
2. **Secure the start area of each race, prevent physical encroachment and sound interference (including that from the announcer) which could jeopardize the start.** Protect the starters and competitors. Control photographers. If athletes are disqualified and refuse to leave the start/track, Marshals should ask them to accompany them off the track, and failing that, should pull the starting blocks and/or stand where the runner would have started.
3. **Secure the finish area of each race and prevent any person other than competitors from crossing the finish line/timing system so that the order of finish and timing can be accurately determined.** Protect the finish/timing equipment from being bumped.
4. **Secure every field event competition area, including the runways, pits, circles, and implement landing areas to protect competitors and officials, spectators, and media.** Safety is paramount; make certain no one is within an area where they could be struck by an implement. Coordinate with field event head judges regarding their needs for Marshaling. At least one, and often three Marshals are needed per event.
5. **Secure meet administration areas within the competition enclosure.** Allow only authorized /credentialed persons in. This is not an area for off-duty officials.
6. **In the event of an injury, secure the area to permit access to the injured person only by appropriate personnel.** Once medical personnel have arrived, keep all others and media out.
7. **See that competitors, coaches, or trainers do not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct within the competition area.** Do not physically touch individuals, but inform them of the consequences of their conduct for that meet and for future competitions. If individuals fail to respond to verbal directions, and physical is necessary or physical injury is imminent, ask law enforcement to intervene.
8. **Assist in the enforcement of competition uniform, electronics, and unauthorized assistance rules.**
9. **Possess writing materials to make a record of uniform, electronics, and unsportsmanship infractions, and refusals to follow Marshals’ directions.** Provide reports to the Chief Marshal or the Meet Referee.
10. **Anticipate movement of officials from one location to another to carry out their duties; precede them to ensure the area is ready for the officials to use when they relocate.**
11. **If no other escorts are available, escort competitors during competition, following competition, and to drug testing areas.**

## MARSHAL EQUIPMENT

1. Chair
2. Distinctive badge, hat, or armband
3. Marshal report form
4. Pens, pencils
5. Sunscreen, water
6. Inclement weather gear