



GOLD REFEREE COMPETITION GUIDELINES

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1. Introduction

The World Athletics Referee Education and Certification System (WARECS) is a global system that provides for the education and recognition of Referees in four levels – National Athletics Referee (NAR) and three levels of World Athletics Referee – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

World Athletics Referees (WARs) are appointed by World Athletics in accordance with CR3.1 to all World Athletics Series track and field competitions and the Athletics competitions of the Olympic and Youth Olympic Games and such other competitions as World Athletics deems appropriate. Generally, these will be WARs who have successfully been evaluated as Gold Referees. In addition to the rule requirements, this document aims to provide guidelines as to the responsibilities of the WARs when appointed to these competitions and the related expectations of World Athletics.

2. World Athletics Gold Referees

The list of those who have successfully undertaken the WARECS Gold Referees evaluation (and those who have been exempted) is maintained by World Athletics. It is generally refreshed every two years after the eight-year mandate of those whose qualification is expiring at that time have been successfully reevaluated. Referees from this list may be considered for appointment to the major international competitions specified above as well as other roles and duties.

3. Role of the World Athletics Referee

In accordance with CR8, the WAR shall be the Referee of each event to which they are assigned, but also, in some situations mentioned in this document, shall assist in the proper conduct of some events.

It is the responsibility of the WAR to ensure that the World Athletics Competition Rules and Technical Rules and relevant Regulations, as well as any decisions made by the Technical Delegates are observed in the conduct of the event.

It is important to note that further to being Referees and when they are available to do so, the WARs will continue to be assigned to certain positions as additional officials, particularly in races (see point 6 below). When appointed for Cross Country, Road Running and Mountain and Trail Running competitions, WARs shall provide all necessary support to the Organisers. They must be present at all times when an event to which they have been assigned is in progress. They should ensure that the conduct of the competition is in full conformity with the Rules, applicable Regulations and relevant decisions made by the Technical Delegates.

4. Chief World Athletics Referee

For each competition to which WARs are appointed, one WAR will be nominated by World Athletics as Chief. The Chief World Athletics Referee cannot, in any case, overrule any other WAR when they are acting as a Referee. The responsibilities of the Chief World Athletics Referee are to:

- prepare the roster allocating of WARs on a session-by-session basis to the specific events on the programme, based on points 5 and 6 below, and submit it to the Technical Delegate(s) for approval at least one month prior to the competition;
- ensure that all of the on-site logistical arrangements for WARs, as agreed by the Technical Delegates / World Athletics, are provided;
- prior to the competition, arrange preliminary meetings with the National Athletics Referees (NARs) (and when needed with the Technical Delegates), to examine the general programme and assignments and the working / operational arrangements between WARs (when acting as Referees) and the appointed National Chief Judges;
- arrange a daily post-competition debriefing meeting to collect comments from WARs, ensuring that any observations or interventions are reported to the Technical Delegate(s) for further action;
- monitor the performance and welfare of the WARs and to offer advice and assistance as required;
- advise the Technical Delegates of any areas of concern in the conduct of specific events;
- if requested to do so, report on the performance of each WAR in the manner set out by World Athletics for this purpose.

5. WARs Appointed to Events

When appointed as Referees, the WARs will act in accordance with CR8 and CR18.

When sufficient are available, WARs should be appointed to be Referees for the:

- Call Room;
- Running and Race Walking Events (including one as Start Referee);
- Field Events (preferably one per Field Event);
- Combined Events;
- Video Room (preferably one for Track Events and one for Field Events);

In case of a shortage of WARs, and when the TDs / World Athletics will consider it appropriate, local officials (preferably Gold or Silver WARs), may also be appointed to act as Referees. The TDs / World Athletics will decide which events will have appointed WARs or local officials as Referees.

In the case of the Call Room, Video Room, Running and Race Walking Events and Starts, in order to keep consistency when taking decisions, and for a full and continuous integration in the team of officials that will officiate in those areas, the same Referees will act for the whole duration of the competition, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

For the Road Events, it is possible to have only one Referee, or one for Running and another for Race Walking events, which will also allow for their integration in the team(s) of officials assigned to these events and participation in the preparation of the venue.

In the case of each Field Event, the WAR will be the same for the Qualification Round and the Final. When a Qualification Round is staged in two concurrent groups, a separate Referee may be assigned to each group. The same philosophy may be followed in the case of simultaneous groups in Combined Events. In the case of a Qualification Round, when it is already planned that the officials in one of the groups will be the same as for the Final, the WAR for the Final will be assigned to that group.

In the case of Javelin Throw and Discus Throw (including for Combined Events), it is advisable to have a second WAR in the landing area, to supervise the accuracy of the marking of the fall of the implement and, in the case of Javelin, the judging of the validity of the throw in the landing area.

In the case of the Field Events, also for a full and continuous integration in the relevant team(s) of officials that will officiate in those events but also for technical reasons, the WAR shall participate in the pre and post events briefings.

Effort shall be made to reach consensus among the Referees. However, when no final consensus can be reached, the Video Referee shall have the final decision based on the available video images, except in cases concerning starts, where the final decision shall be made by the Start Referee.

6. Other Areas which may be Controlled by the World Athletics Referees

The following are the areas that may be covered in order to fulfil their role (see point 3) and when they are checking various aspects of the rules. Obviously, the same aspects that they would check when acting as additional officials must also be checked when they are acting as Referees.

6.1 Video Room (TR 12) – see also separate ‘Video Recording and Video Referee Guidelines’

The Video Referee must check in advance:

- the available video images provided by the official system and the communication system with the service providers or broadcaster who are supplying them;
- the reliability of the communication system with the infield Referees, Video Distance Measurement Room, International Photo Finish Judge, Technical Information Centre (and other relevant officials as agreed);
- the existence in the team of local assistants that may facilitate the contact and communication with the other officials mentioned above);
- the suitability and functionality of the assigned work area.

In case of problems, the Video Referee will report to the Chief WAR and, if needed, to the Technical Delegate(s).

6.2 Track Events (when acting as additional officials not as Referees)

- running in lanes especially in curves;
- correct cutting in from the breakline;
- correct use of cones in areas without kerbing, on the breakline and for group starts;
- control of the correct application of TR16 by the start team (for the WAR assigned as Start Referee);
- typical areas of jostling and obstruction;
- infringement of the assistance rule;
- correctness of hurdling in hurdle and steeplechase races;
- relays: placement of athletes, takeovers, check-marks, recovering of dropped batons, etc.

6.3 Jumping Events

- EDM/VDM checks before each event;
- correct use and number of markers;
- correct determination / display of the time allowed for each particular trial;
- control of crossing of the track of athletes wishing to talk with their coaches, placed in the reserved areas for them;
- control of the validity or non-validity of the trials;
- the correct conclusion of qualification rounds (particularly the non-continuation of athletes once qualified for the Final);
- infringement of the assistance rule;
- position of the uprights / crossbar and landing areas in the Vertical Jumps;
- the uniformity of raising of the bar when two qualification groups are competing;
- no practice in Pole Vault with poles during the competition;
- the preparation of the take-off boards;
- levelling of the sand in the landing area.

6.4 Throwing Events

- EDM/VDM checks before each event;
- correct use and number of markers;
- correct determination / display of the time allowed for each particular trial;
- control of crossing of the track of athletes wishing to talk with their coaches, placed in the reserved areas for them;
- practice throws under the control of the officials;
- control of the validity or non-validity of the trials;
- in qualification rounds ensuring the non-continuation of athletes once qualified for the Final;
- infringement of the assistance rule;
- implements: control and statistics;
- correct setting out and marking of the landing sectors;
- no practice with implements during the competition;
- correct use / positioning of the gate panels of the cage.

6.5 Road Events (when acting as additional officials not as Referees)

- checking of transponders;
- correct display of laps remaining for lapped or about to be lapped athletes;
- arranging and functioning of the drinking/sponging and refreshment stations.

6.6 Positioning of World Athletics Referees Appointed to Track Events (when not Referees)

In the case of Running and Race Walking Events, WARs, when available, will be assigned specific positions. Below are suggestions about these positions, it always being possible to adapt the plan based on the number of available WARs.

100m

Front or back view (in the latter case, when there is a no-go zone in operation at the finish line area)

200m

| | |
|---|------------|
| A | 2B1 |
| B | 2B2 |
| C | 2B3 |
| D | 2B4 |
| E | Front view |

400m / 400mH

| | |
|---|-------|
| A | 1B/HS |
| B | 1B/BS |
| C | BS/2B |
| D | 2B/HS |

800m

| | |
|---|----------|
| A | 1B/HS |
| B | 1B/BL/BS |
| C | BS/2B |
| D | 2B/HS |

10,000m

| | |
|-----|--------------|
| A | 1B/HS |
| B | 1B/BS |
| C | BS/2B |
| D | 2B/HS |
| E+F | Lap counting |

1500m

| | |
|---|-------|
| A | 1B/BS |
| B | BS/2B |
| C | 2B/HS |
| D | 1B/HS |

3000mSC

| | |
|---|----------|
| A | 1B/H1/HS |
| B | 1B/H2/BS |
| C | BS/H3/2B |
| D | 2B/WJ |
| E | 2B/H4/HS |

100mH / 110mH

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| A | Rows 1-3 |
| B | Rows 4-6 |
| C | Rows 7-10 |
| D | Front or back view |

4 x 100m

| | |
|-------|-------------|
| A | 1B/HS |
| B+C | 1B/TKZ 1/BS |
| D+E | BS/TKZ2/2B |
| E(+F) | 2B/TKZ3/HS |

5000m

| | |
|---|--------------|
| A | BS/2B |
| B | 2B/HS |
| C | 1B/HS |
| D | 1B/BS |
| E | Lap counting |

4 x 400m

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| A+B | 1B/TKZ/HS |
| C | 1B/BL/BS |
| D | BS/2B |
| E | 2B/BS |

Legend: 1B: First bend; 2B: Second bend; HS: Home straight; BS: Back straight; 2B1: Position BS/2B; 2B2: Position at the middle of 2nd bend; 2B3: Position 2B/HS; 2B4: Position around 5m after the end of 2nd bend; BL: Breakline; TKZ: Take-over zone; Rows x-y: Flights of hurdles X to Y; WJ: Water jump; HX-Hurdle in a steeplechase race

6.7 Reporting

- At the conclusion of the event, and in case there will be any matter to report, this should be done using any form if provided by World Athletics or otherwise.
- At the conclusion of each day of competition, the Chief WAR should after the post-competition debriefing meeting the WARs, ensure that any observations or interventions are reported to the Technical Delegate(s) for further action. In the early days of a competition if there are multiple sessions on a day (and later on if circumstances necessitate it), it may be advisable to de-brief after each session.
- At the end of the competition, the Chief WAR must report to the Technical Delegates / World Athletics all relevant aspects that they consider important, including any proposals to improve aspects of future World Athletics competitions.

6.8 Evaluation

Each WAR's performance during the competitions to which they have been appointed will be evaluated as deemed appropriate by World Athletics from time to time.

Note: It is recommended that these Guidelines or an adaptation of them should be followed by Area Associations.



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