



BOURNEMOUTH ATHLETIC CLUB

bournemouthathleticclub.co.uk

bac2sec@yahoo.co.uk

Technical Officials - Code of Conduct

Based on the UKA Welfare Procedure

As a responsible athletics technical official you will:

- respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and treat everyone equally, regardless of background or ability
- place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance
- encourage and guide athletes to accept and take responsibility for their own behaviour and performance
- be appropriately qualified and update your licence and education as and when required by UK Athletics
- ensure that the activities you guide or advocate are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete
- at the outset, clarify with athletes (and where appropriate their parents or carers) exactly what is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from you
- co-operate with other officials, competition organisers, coaches, team managers etc. in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of Athletic events under the relevant rules of competition, thereby offering all participants every opportunity to achieve their own personal goals and aspirations
- act in a decisive, but friendly, manner in their interaction with other officials, competitors, coaches and spectators, respecting the rights of others
- consistently promote positive aspects of the sport (e.g. fair play) and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- consistently display high standards of behaviour and appearance

In addition, as a responsible athletics technical official you **must**:

- develop appropriate working relationships with athletes (especially under 18s), based on mutual trust and respect. In particular, you will not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward;
- strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationships with athletes can cause significant problems for other team members and can fracture teams, raising concerns of favouritism, or even of victimisation, should the relationship later end.

- You **must not** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop with any athlete under the age of 18. Any violation of this could result in an official licence being withdrawn or restrictions being imposed on it
- it is also **strongly recommended** that you do not allow intimate personal relationships to develop with athletes (judged by you) who are aged 18 and over.

Welfare Guidelines:

In addition to the above Code of Conduct you should follow the guidelines below to ensure that you work within the best practice. Officials should:

- never do something for an athlete that they can do for themselves
- avoid critical language or actions, such as sarcasm, that undermine an athlete's self-esteem
- not spend time alone with a young athlete unless clearly in view of others
- avoid taking a young athlete alone in your car
- never invite a young athlete alone to your home
- never share a bedroom with a child
- always explain why and ask for consent before touching an athlete
- work in same-sex pairs when supervising changing areas
- ensure that parents/carers know about and have approved in advance if taking a young athlete away from the competitive venue
- respect the right of young athletes to an independent life outside athletics
- challenge inappropriate behaviour or language by others
- report any accidental injury, distress or misunderstanding or misinterpretation. A brief written report of such incidents should be submitted to the Committee as soon as possible, and parents/carers notified.
- report any suspected misconduct by other officials, coaches or athletics personnel

Competition Guidelines

In registering as a Technical Official of UKA and/or accepting the responsibility of a position at an athletics competition (all disciplines and types) you shall at all times be expected to:

- keep up to date with any changes in the relevant competition rules and should not hesitate to seek the advice of others if the need arises
- never smoke whilst officiating, nor consume alcoholic beverages so soon before competition that it affects their competence or prior to the end of officiating duties for the day. Tobacco products should only be used in the designated area if such an area is provided

- dress appropriately, to the standard and nature of the competition, as outlined by the relevant Officials Committee
- be fully prepared for any task that is assigned to you
- arrive in good time for the competition and report immediately to the officials in charge.
- conduct the event according to the rules with the welfare of the athlete in mind and carry out your assignments in an efficient and non-abrasive manner
- work in a spirit of co-operation with other officials and do not interfere in any way with their responsibilities
- extend the benefit of your experience to the less experienced officials whenever the opportunity arises
- give evaluations, when requested, in an objective way and without friendships in mind.
- act in a manner that will bring credit to the Athletics Community and yourself, both within and outside the competition arena and/or area.
- refrain from the use of profane, insulting, harassing or otherwise offensive language in the conduct of the tasks assigned to you.
- never condone rule violations

Share your Code of Conduct with the Club or athlete involved