

**ARTICLE WRITTEN FOR THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN
ATHLETICS OFFICIALS' ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 2006**

NEW OFFICIALS SCHEME – INFORMATION

You will all be aware that there is a new UKA Officials' Education programme in operation as you will have read about it in the UKA Officials' Newsletter. If you have not seen the newsletter it may well be because you have not registered with UKA for your Officials' Pass and Licence! If this is the case then please do something about it as soon as possible as from January 1st 2007 anyone who is not registered will not be covered fully by insurance, although they will be able to officiate as a helper under the supervision of a registered official.

I thought that it would be useful to provide a few facts about how the scheme will operate.

- Level 1 covers all the disciplines and should enable those who attend the workshop and gain some practical experience to assist officials in any discipline at an athletics meeting. Many people in athletic clubs have a preference as to discipline and also have some knowledge so they would start with a Level 2 workshop and move through from that level.
- Level 2 is almost comparable to the old Grade 4 with some elements of the old Grade 3 as well. ***The other levels of the new scheme do not equate in any way to any of the old grades. It is a totally new scheme.***
- After the end of 2006 (effective date Jan 2007) no further officials can enter the lists as Grade 4 or be upgraded to Grade 3. There will be no further preliminary exams. Entry is via the Level 2 course (for some people Level 1) and then progression through the new scheme.
- For an official attending a Level 3 workshop early in 2007 (or the pilot in November 2006) the earliest they will qualify will be the end of 2008 (effective date Jan 2009) as the criteria set are as follows:-
 - **Minimum** 2 years officiating experience from date of completing Level 2. (for those attending a Level 3 workshop having not come through the new Level 2 route that will be the date used).
 - Attendance at Level 3 workshops (Generic, Technical, Discipline)
 - Maintenance of a logbook that has evidence of officiating at a minimum of 30 meetings. At least 12 of these must be in each 12 month period.
 - 6 reports; 1 demonstrating use of technology, 1 out of territory, 1 as Clerk of Course, 1 as Referee/Chief, 2 as a member of a team.

These reports to be submitted to the territory for scrutiny as reports for higher level officials are currently. They would then go to the peer groups for upgrading purposes in November 2008 (as currently happens with grade 1).

Primarily the assessment needs to be appropriate to what it is that we expect Level 3 Officials to be able to do.

- Referee at league/ county level meeting
- Be appointed to teams at Territorial/ CAU/ BAL/UKWAL/ESSA/ Home Country International level.
- Be aware of how to use technology appropriate to discipline

- Knowledge of/ opportunity to operate under I.A.A.F rules

Having proved themselves at Level 3/or whilst working towards the Level 3 qualification these officials would then be eligible to be considered for appointment to major meetings as Technical Officials. (Bear in mind that on the old system only Grade 1 officials on the UK active list receive the National availability lists and they will continue to receive them. New Level 3s may be added to that list)

- Anyone unsure of what is entailed at each of the new Levels should refer to the Summer 2006 edition of the UKA Officials Newsletter which was sent to all licensed officials.
- The system of upgrading currently in place will have been completely phased out by the end of 2007.
- Once the new Level 3 is fully under way then the new Level 4 will be developed.
- If you look carefully at where attaining Level 3 places an official it is obvious that to work through Level 3 on the new scheme is the way to progress for officials with the old grades of 2, 3, or 4 (for those who are Grade 4 by experience the Level 2 Workshop is the sensible route). For the pilot course we have attendees from all those three grades as well as Level 2 officials who are moving through the new programme.
- If anyone wants advice on how they should proceed in order to make progress as an official please get in touch with me. New systems always cause confusion but I think that once this really gets going it will provide officials with better training and will encourage newcomers, as the time-scale for progression is very much reduced for those who show a high level of competence.

Moira Gallagher (North of England Upgrading Secretary)