

Officials Update & Supporting and Developing New Officials – England Athletics

Nicola English – Officials Development Officer



General Updates

- England Athletics launched new website.
- 'Request a course' function on website (Over 200 requests to date)
- 1 person centrally dealing with Officials Education/Courses. (cfollos@englandathletics.org)
- Officials Course booking is now online via Athletics Hub.
- Free online H&S Course for Track and Field.

General Updates Continued...

- There are currently c.5,000 Licensed Officials.
- We have a target of increasing the number of licensed Officials by 6% each year.
- We are forecasting that we will achieve the annual target of 5,750 by the end of March 2020.
- Capacity is still being reported as a key issue. Feedback would suggest that courses are not accessible/ localised enough and more efficiency is required in the process of becoming an Official.
- We are in the process of reviewing our future strategy and better calculating the capacity required and therefore the future targets we should set beyond 2021.
- Working closely with Northern Athletics to support with recruitment and retention of officials



Southern Statistics

Licenses Issued to New Individuals										
	Region									
	London	South East			South West					
Course	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20	17/18	18/19	19/20	TOTAL
Assistant Official	2	0	0	3	2	1	1	1	2	12
Endurance	1	0	0	1	4	0	0	2	0	8
Event Adjudicator				0	3	1				4
Field Judge	6	9	9	33	47	70	11	15	25	225
First Aid							1	0	0	1
Health & Safety	10	11	15	47	73	102	22	25	28	333
Photo Finish	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
Risk Assessment	1	0	0	0	0	1				2
Risk Awareness	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	9
Road Traffic Management							0	11	0	11
Safeguarding Children	0	0	2	0	0	9	0	0	3	14
Starter				2	1	2				5
Starter's Assistant				3	4	3	2	1	1	14
Timekeeper	2	0	3	4	7	10	6	5	2	39
Track Judge	1	1	2	6	15	20	3	4	0	52
Grand Total	25	22	32	100	160	220	46	66	62	733

Project Work – Officials Taster Sessions

Aim: Provide a positive experience of officiating to those who aren't already involved so they go on to attend a course and become a 'licensed and active official'

Format:

- Sign up through the EA website to be part of EA Championship Events
- Paired with an official throughout the day, opportunity to try different disciplines.
- Free place on a L1 course following the taster day
- Details of County Officials Secretary/Mentor sent to help gain competition/event experience

Success

- Over 250 applied for the EA Championship events.
- 81 attendees in total
- 44 attended a L1 course
- Currently monitoring 'licensed officials'



Feedback

“I had a brilliant day and immersed myself in the opportunities that had been set up by Nikki to enable me and several other keen potential new officials to get a real life feel for some of the duties that are required of a Track and Field Official.

I was made very welcome and really learned a lot that day and found all of the officials I met very keen to encourage new officials and offer their help and advice freely.

Having experienced a Taster Day first hand I would strongly recommend it to anyone considering entering the realms of Athletics Officiating and really feel that this is a very positive and helpful initiative used by England Athletics to help source future officials. I think it works both ways. Those who may feel unsure, for any number of reasons are likely, after taking part in a Taster Day to be able to make an informed decision of whether to proceed or not and it is a wonderful ‘shop window’ opportunity for England Athletics to show potentially interested parties ‘what it’s all about’ and would hopefully keep any drop out of officials at an early hurdle [sorry - no pun intended] to a minimum if that is an issue as it can be with many other volunteering roles unfortunately”



Project Work - Mentoring

Background

- We train over **1000** officials each year but this is not reflected in 'active' officials
- Nationally, **less than 40%** of officials who attend an officials course, go on to become 'licensed' officials. **2017- 39% - 2018 21%**
- Of those who progress Around **75% become licenced within 6 months, less than 5%** become licenced after 12 months.

Aim of Mentoring

- Support those officials who attend a course but don't go on to get any experiences.
- Support with the technical aspects of officiating, provide feedback, help with submitting paperwork.

Format of Programme

- Contact those who attended a course within the past 2 years, but not yet licensed.
- Direct contact at courses asking people to sign up.
- Signposted from attendees at EA Champs Taster Sessions
- General mentoring enquiries



Project Work – Club Resources

Aim: To provide clubs with comprehensive information on the officials pathway to support them with recruitment and retention.

- Online resource which links to important documents on UKA/EA Website
- Introduction to officiating, why get involved
- Officials Pathway 1 – 3 (With links)
- How to run and organize an officials taster session at the club National Projects (Mentoring , Taster Sessions)
- Useful contact email addresses and links to relevant information on the website)



Project Work – Developments Days

Aim: To provide officials (both trainee and qualified) with CPD, guidance on best practice and additional support on applying for accreditation

Format:

- 1 day before the start of the season
- Support on applying for accreditation at Level 1 – 3
- Support and information on upcoming competitions
- Checking documents for DBS – not everyone is attached to a club.
- How to complete a Field card correctly.
- Practice on a manual WG, EDM, PF, False Start Equipment, Electronic Starting System



OVER TO YOU

How do you think:

- Clubs can be better supported with recruitment and retention of Officials
- What can we as a governing body do, to get more people involved in officiating?