

RESPECT FOR OFFICIALS

I was a Track Referee at our County Championship on the 10/11 May and I was really disappointed with the behaviour and attitude of some of the parents and club athletes towards our officials.

The starter was verbally abused by a competitor which was unacceptable then the parent complained to me about his attitude. Then another parent representing a well known Midlands club's athletes spent all day complaining about the starter and asked me for his name to put a complaint in. It appears that we are now getting more complaints and disruptions from athletes/parents/coaches when they are unhappy with a decision from an official. Officials will not continue to tolerate this sort of attitude and behaviour, if it continues we will lose some very good officials from our sport. Incidents like these are now becoming more frequent and we need to get this message across into the clubs to remind their athletes and associates that we must respect our officials.

Noel Mckakly

MAFEO AGM

Annual General Meeting will held on Sunday November 16th at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham followed by a Health & Safety Course which you will need to book if you wish to attend. At the moment the morning is free so if you have anything you would like us to arrange please let the Secretary know and we will see what we can do.

Kate Michell Hon Secretary

TETANUS (lockjaw) - no comments required! OFFICIALS ARE YOU PROTECTED?

Tetanus is caused by bacteria (germs) that get into the body through a wound. You are more at risk of developing tetanus if the wound is deep or if it gets dirty with soil or manure, but even small wounds such as a prick from a thorn can allow enough bacteria to get into your body to cause tetanus.

Once inside your body, the bacteria release a toxin (poison) which then causes tetanus, and the illness can take up to 21 days to develop. Tetanus affects your nerves, and can be fatal.

Tetanus is quite rare in the UK because many people are vaccinated against it. A full course of tetanus immunisation consists of five doses of vaccine in total. This vaccine enables your body to create antibodies against the tetanus toxin, which then protect you from the illness if you were to become infected with the bacteria.

You shouldn't need more than five doses of tetanus vaccine during your lifetime. If you think you may have missed any of your doses, you should talk to your doctor or practice nurse.

It's always better to be safe than sorry.

Janice Pryce

Edited by Andrew Hulse - all contributions gratefully received

MAFEO Newsletter



June '08

MAFEO On-Line

Thanks for all the helpful comments and suggestions on the 'Test' website. After discussion at a recent committee meeting it was decided that this would be moved to what we hope will be the permanent site, a point of call for all members for information, links and who knows what else in the future.

[HTTP://www.mafeo.net](http://www.mafeo.net)

Andrew Hulse

'Water Proof Clipboards' (A must for the British Summer!)

Our present stock of Weatherwriters will be the last at this price as we have been advised of an increase. At present they cost £22.00 for Portrait (track) and £24.00 for Landscape (field) plus Postage, if required.'

Kate and Cedric

Discount for Level Two Members on Qualification

At the recent committee meeting it was decided that in order to encourage Level Two officials who are completing their Log Books to do so. They will receive a discount on their membership of 50% for the year following the receipt of the Level Two qualification. A voucher will be sent to those officials by the Secretary upon receipt of proof of qualification in the form of a photocopy of their UKA officials pass.

**Officials Conference
Heart of England Conference Centre Sunday 20th April 2008**

The day started well, freebies! A bag, a clipboard and a pen, which most of us immediately put into the boot of our cars as we had already brought a bag, a pen and a clipboard, still it's the thought that counts. After coffee and a chance to meet up with friends we went into the conference room, which was described by Xavier Gonzalez as looking like the set of American Idol. Alan Bell started the proceedings and introduced Niels de Vos, who gave us his vision for UKA leading up to and past 2012. Alan then introduced Xavier Gonzalez, the CEO of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Xavier gave an informative talk on the role and working of the IPC and how it paralleled much work and functions of the IOC itself. He also talked of his vision of there being simply one Olympics for all athletes, and how the UK was amongst the leaders in forwarding the position of Disability sport, especially in Athletics.

The next part of the day was in workshops, I went to the Disability Field Events workshop run by Chris Cohen. True to form Chris gave us a frank and informative presentation showing the in's and out's of the many and varied events as well as an explanation of the categories, at last I understand what a F52 athlete is.

Moira Gallagher outlined the process being implemented at present for the new progression through training, attending courses and experience from Level 1 to Level 3, with some brief details Level 4. Moira said that Level 3 will become the level for officials who would be on the National list and that in 2011 all the Levels would be harmonised accordingly.

LUNCH – have you ever tried to organise 230 officials into queues for food? It can be done!

After lunch there were two presentations, firstly by John Trower, a UK International coach, and his perspective of the Coach/Official and Athlete/Official interactions. He provided some frank, amusing and sometimes slightly worrying anecdotes and experiences of what has and does occur at International meetings, with a plea for a Consistency in the interpretation of the rules by officials, although he did admit to not being totally up to date himself on occasions. This was followed by Jason Gardner who gave us an insight into the psyche of an Olympic athlete, working his way up to the top, working through pain, both psychological and physical, and culminating in the Gold Medal Relay in Athens.

The second set of Workshops then took place, my choice being the role of the TIC (Technical Information Centre for those who hate TLA's), Sue McKeirnan

gave an informative account of her experience running the TIC at the European Indoor Competition last year. Who would have thought that so many trees needed to be sacrificed to satisfy team leaders 'needs' for a copy of every single piece of paper produced by anybody at the games.

The final session involved much swapping of spectacles and holding of paper at great distances so the august members of the panel could actually read the questions, answers where sometimes a little vague or consisted of "We don't actually know at the present time", the latter being particularly true when the subject was 'Who will be eligible to officiate at the 2012 Olympics?'

Overall an enjoyable informative event.

<http://www.ukathletics.net/officials/officials-conference/>

(for details/downloads of the event)

Andrew Hulse

Know That Post Code

Following a recent accident to an athlete at a meeting in Shropshire to which an ambulance had to be called, it became evident that some ambulance control centres insist on knowing the postcode of the location of an incident. The postcode of the track was not readily to hand and this resulted in a delay. Fortunately the accident was not life threatening but in different circumstances any delay might have been critical.

Meeting Organisers should ensure that they know the track's postcode and pass this information on to the Meeting Manager and Referees. Some track postcodes are listed on the running track directory

www.runtrackdr.com/tracklist

(or find this on the links page on www.mafeo.net)

but the listing is not comprehensive.

Rob Mulgrue

Form 10

All officials, Levels 3,4 & 5 need to complete their Form 10 during the year and then to send it to either the Tri-Regional secretary (Levels 4 & 5), or their County Officials Secretary (Level 3) at the end of the season, (by the end of September). For Level 3's this is in addition to their Competition Experience log books.

(Blank Form 10's can be downloaded from www.mafeo.net)