

MAFEO Newsletter



Oct 2018

MAFEO AGM & MCAA Officials Conference

Will be held at the Alexander Stadium
on Sunday 4th November 2018

Do we still need a Newsletter?

There have been no new Newsletters for quite some time, mainly because, despite many requests, we have had no articles, questions, queries or anything else submitted to us!



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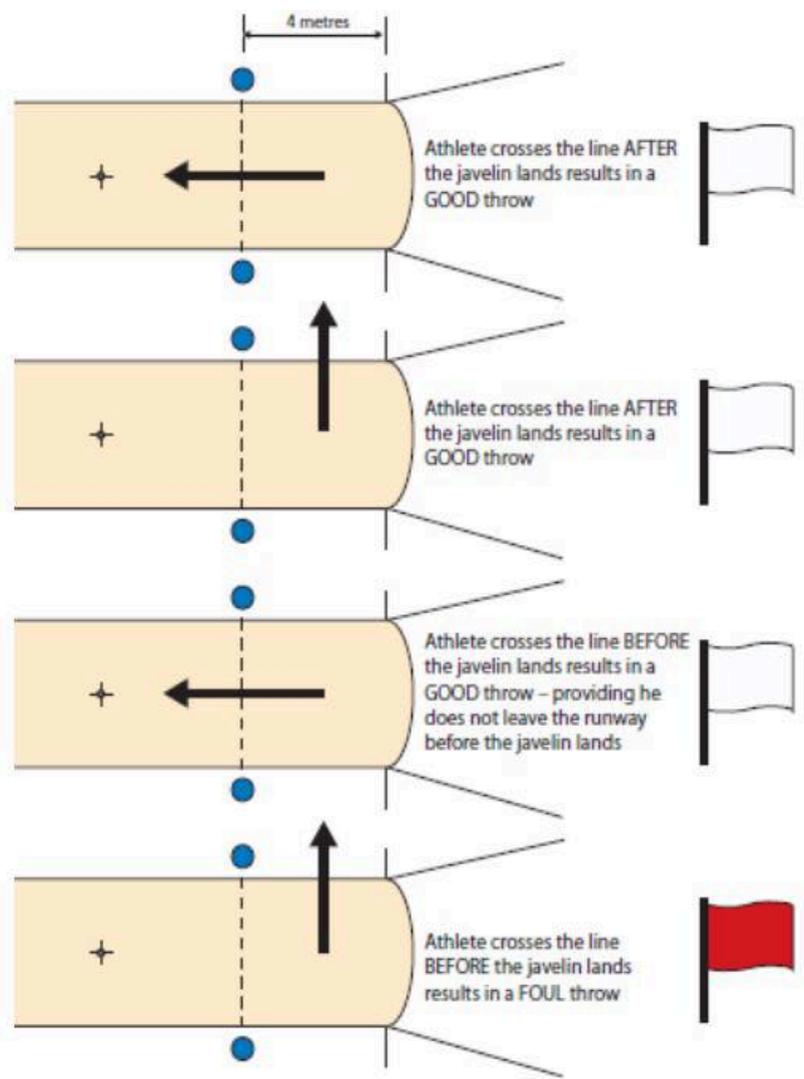


Is everybody out there happy and contact with everything, does nobody have any comments or thought about the Guidelines regarding throws cages? Does everybody know about the new track markings for Relays, (in particular 100m). Are we all up to speed with EDM, VDM, FSE, ESS? Do we all even know what these acronyms stand for? Do we need to know? Do they or will they ever affect your working practices as an Official? UKA or IAAF Rules, which apply? What are the differences?

DO People still WANT a Newsletter ?- is there another way you would prefer to get information, updates, anecdotes, reports, even opinions, from us?

PLEASE LET US KNOW

Thanks to Rob Walker for this graphic which explains the role of the 4m mark on a Javelin Runway



IAAF World Championships Roles

At the IAAF Championships in 2017 I was asked to take on a role I was not aware of previously. That role was to manage the long throws warm up area. It started off by liaising with the technical manager to get a cross section of the implements being used in the competition. As well as this the other items needed were markers, measuring tapes, chalk and cleaning clothes. This took place on the Monday before the championships started with the area open for training the next day. The area was open every day usually open from 9.00am to 8.00pm until the end of the championships. There were two days when there was morning qualifying and the area needed to be manned from 7.30am. I was helped by Alison and a judge from the field team and some volunteers. I could not guarantee the number of volunteers coming up from the stadium so I was grateful for Alison and the allocated official's help.

On site we booked out equipment for the athletes to practice with. As a deposit for the implements we would hold on to their accreditation until they returned the item. This worked well until one athlete thought that they could take away a hammer to use in the competition. This caused a mild panic as it was one of the best we had in that weight. It was returned later by a team member apologising for the mistake.

As it was a training facility and not at a track with other events taking place at the same time I would allow the coaches and athletes to manage the safety in the landing area but we kept a very close eye on everything. I was impressed by the way the hammer throwers organised themselves. They queued and when it was their turn to go into the circle they would whistle towards the landing area and the previous thrower on the way to collect their implement would hold their hand up to acknowledge carry on walking and would know when to turn to face the circle to watch the hammer coming out.

In general the athletes were very good and did as we asked. As usual there is the odd ones that caused more trouble but they were the exception.

Again Thanks to Rob Walker for this.

The Summer of '17

I was very fortunate to be appointed to the Technical Team for both the World Para Championships and the IAAF World Championships, which may sound very glamorous, BUT, I can tell you straight away for anyone who has not done this job at a major championship it hides a whole new set of problems just waiting to be solved.

Every military group has a quartermaster or more realistically a 'scrounger', the person who is responsible for procuring anything that might be needed. This also now seems to be part of the remit of members of the Technical team, so on day one we set about scouring the QE Stadium of anything that we know would or might be useful, if we didn't relocate it we knew where to find it at a later time. This just happened to include the most comfortable swivel chairs, coat-racks, hangers, gaffer tape of any colour and a few more 'essential' items.

Just to make life that little bit more interesting we found that we were not even allowed to set foot on the 'hallowed turf' to be able to set end of sector markers or do anything that meant stepping on the grass! Eventually we wore them down and took great delight in the thought of shots, javelins and discus burying themselves as deep as possible.

One of the more interesting jobs was trying to control the athletes on their 'lap of honour', trying to get them around the stadium and back to the mixed zone in under 5 minutes, not always successful with that! One of the things I doubt I will ever forget were the immortal words of the Competition Director, (Chris Cohen), 'Tech Team, Tech Team, this is Comp One, will somebody make sure that there is an Iron Lung available for Andy Hulse when he finally manages to get those athletes out of the arena'

The weather was not ideal and this meant that the nice Pink Parasols, which were also waterproof' were in great demand, we had only been issued with 15, but needed at least 50, the staff around the outside of the stadium never did seem to realise that every time we went to get our food during the day we came back with at least 1 parasol or base or both from wherever we could find them!

Repairing High Jump stands from the warm up area, building additional 'feet' for the competition high jump stands, assembling and disassembling portable discus cages, swapping broken hurdles, checking the alignment and heights of Hurdles for the 400mH races, resetting a sector within 5 minutes of the end of one competition and the start of another, with different arcs, all the time being scrutinised by an IAAF member and only being given the OK if arcs were within 1.5cm of the agreed distances. All of this when we on some days started work at 6.30am, had a quick bite to eat when other officials brought us sausages and bacon from the accommodation food hall at 8.30am, then working or watching and fire fighting until 11.30pm.

Good times, working with great officials all of whom are great friends as well, nothing to beat it.

Andy Hulse