



OFFICIALS EDUCATION

Endurance Level 1 - 3

LEVEL 2

Self-Taught Module

RACE REFEREE

September 2024



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The Referee

What are the main responsibilities the job of Referee has at a Cross Country or Road Race?

With whom do Referees liaise before and at the race?

List those you can think of on your Self-Taught Module Return Form.



Referee Profile

There are a number of attributes that are key to being a successful Referee:

- **Be available on the day of the race**
- **Be impartial and fair**
- **Be able to make quick and accurate decisions**
- **Be observant and alert**
- **Be respected**
- **Have a knowledge and understanding of competition rules**
- **Have people management skills**
- **Have an effective working relationship with senior race officials and race organisers**
- **Be able to spot potential problems particularly in relation to health and safety issues**
- **Be able to respond quickly and effectively to any issues which may arise**
- **Able to complete the duties and tasks that are associated with the role**
- **Sound diplomacy and interpersonal skills**
- **Patience**
- **Should be fairly mobile and active – it is possible that the Referee will be required to cover a great distance on the day of the race**



Resources required

- **UKA Rule Book**
- **Copy of specific local rules of the competition**
- **UKA Endurance Officials License**
- **Health and Safety Guidance**
- **Clipboard and paper/notepad**
- **Pencils/Pens/All Weather Writers**
- **Suitable Clothing/High Visibility Bib**
- **List of Officials**
- **List of Entrants or access to a list of entrants**
- **Race Instructions**
- **Prize Listings, criteria and process for deciding on and declaring winners**
- **Referee Reporting Form applicable to the race**
- **Accreditation or passes**
- **Contact Numbers or a Radio/method of communication**
- **Accident report form**

There may be other specific items that the Referee may want to bring to the race to help complete their role as Referee.



The Rulebook

The Referee should have a competent knowledge of the rules within the UKA Rulebook before taking on a race referee role, these rules are as follows:

Competition Rules

- Part I - General

Technical Rules

- Part I – General
- Part VII – Road Races
- Part VIII – Cross Country, Mountain and Trail Races

UKA General Rules

- G9 – Ultra Distance

Appendix 4 – Endurance Running

A copy of the UKA rulebook can be downloaded from the following webpage: [UKA Rules of Competition](#)



Responsibilities 1

The Referee should maintain some contact with the organising committee but separate from it to maintain their impartiality and objectivity.

On race day, the Referee has the responsibility for:

- Overseeing a fair and safe competition, applying UKA and local competition rules where appropriate**
- Confirming results prior to their publication**
- Resolve any issues or disputes**

The event organiser retains overall operational responsibility over the race.



Responsibilities 2

The Referee may decide after consultation with others including the Event Director, Event Manager, Clerk of Course (for cross-country races), Safety Officer, Meeting Manager or the Chief Starter that in their opinion there is a health and safety issue at risk, (e.g. the start, the finish or part of the course).

They would need to make the decision with the race director and ensure everyone concerned is informed.

The Referee is an independent arbiter ensuring the rules are observed and adhered to.

Areas / Counties and other organisations may have their own local rules, but they must not contravene UKA Rules.



Pre-Event Duties

The Referee will have a number of pre-event duties to help them fulfill their role in the race.

Liaising with the event organiser and obtain the following race documentation and resources:

- **List of Entrants**
- **List of Officials**
- **Course Maps**
- **Contact Numbers for key officials working at the event**
- **Race Licence**
- **Course Measurement Certificate**
- **Prize Information**
- **Risk Assessment Document and Safety Plan**
- **Any other applicable documents to the race**

The Referee needs to be familiar with the systems in place to administer results and should be satisfied that this is appropriate for the event.



On the Morning of the Race 1

The Referee should report their attendance and check the risk assessment is available on the day of the event for inspection if requested.

The Referee should arrive in good time prior to the first race in order to carry out duties and inspect the course (Cross Country).

It is advisable before the start of the meeting that the Referee contacts all their chiefs on their radios (to make sure they are working). This should be incorporated into the pre-race checks. The Referee should maintain contact with key officials and the organiser throughout the race.

Referees may be required to submit a race report or assessment of the event, they should familiarise themselves with the requirements of their assessment (Referees may also like to carry a copy of the requirements of the assessment with them while they are completing their duties). The Referee should be in a position to be able to complete their report and be able to observe what they are assessing.



On the Morning of the Race 2

The Referee (Cross Country) must “walk the course” before the event. If it is a high-profile event, it is usual to walk it the day before and the morning of the race itself. For smaller races this will most likely occur on the morning of the race. For road races, it is more valuable to complete a course inspection on the morning of the race. This will enable the Referee to check that they are satisfied the course is in a suitable condition for the race to go ahead in the agreed format.

Walking the course entails the final checks that the course is set up and is up to standard, ready for the race to begin – e.g. no serious hazards or roadworks.

For road races, the course may be checked on the morning of the event via the use of a car, especially over longer distances.

The position of race equipment and PA systems should be checked to ensure they are not causing obstructions to competitors or officials.

The Referee should have a meeting with their chiefs well before the start of the event explaining in detail what they expect from them and their staff.¹¹



On the Morning of the Race 3

Ensure that volunteers and officials have been deployed appropriately to cover the different phases of the race (start, race, finish). Check also that officials are ready (for example the start and at the finish).

Remember: the Referee, jointly with the Race Director or Clerk of the Course, has the responsibility to declare that the race can start, and should be satisfied the start area is ready and safe for this to happen. If the Referee is satisfied this is the case, they should inform the Race Director that they are happy for the race to start.

The Referee should make sure they are satisfied the finish area is safe and observe the finishing competitors as they finish.



During the Race

The Referee needs to be available for the start of the race to ensure that this is conducted in a safe and fair manner, in line with the rules of the competition. Note that the Starter has overall control of the start.

During the race, the Referee will look to observe the conduct of the race.

In the event of lap courses, relays and changeovers, the Referee should be available to observe whether laps are being completed in accordance with the rules and that changeovers are occurring fairly.

Infringements during the race will be reported to the Referee, these will need to be recorded, resolved (where applicable) or appropriate action taken retrospectively – most likely to happen at the end of the race.

It is also important that the Referee is available to oversee that the finishing of runners is conducted in a safe and fair manner. This being said, the Referee will be unlikely to be able to view every finisher cross the finish line, so officials at the finish will support this activity.



Post Race Duties 1

It is important that the Referee verifies and checks race results prior to publication, including team results, points and accumulated times, relays and category results.

If any protests or disputes have arisen, the Referee must hear these and act accordingly/decisively based on the rules of competition.

The Referee must also be available to receive reports on any infringements of the rules after the finish of the race and take any appropriate decisions and actions retrospectively. Remember that infringements may occur during the race and may be reported to you as such.



Post Race Duties 2

When completing the race report, the Referee should include any applicable observations and comments in line with the specific reporting requirements – e.g. weather, satisfactory levels and standard of officials, event management and the competition.

If there are any serious concerns as a result of the race or breaches of the race licence, these should be reported to the Licensing Authority.

Note on Continued Personal Development:

To support your own personal development, you should complete your own personal log and if reports of experiences are being requested from officials, look to complete and sign off on these.



Refereeing Lap Courses and Relays

The race organiser is responsible for ensuring the necessary infrastructure is in position for laps and relays to safely take place as part of the competition.

The Referee should ensure that there are sufficient officials and changeovers occur in a safe and fair manner, in line with the rules of competition.

In the instance of refereeing laps/relays additional officials will be required in the form of lap recorders and change over marshals (in the instance of a relay).

For lapped courses the Referee should be satisfied that the course facilitates fair competition, the distances of applicable laps and the total distance required to finish the race prior to race day.



Team Competition

Team competition rules can be found in the UKA Rulebook:

- **Rule G2 (S1-S6 + S9) and TR55 (S3 +S4)**

The race organiser will determine the specific competition rules for the race, which will include:

- **Method of scoring**
- **Number of members that may be nominated for a team**
- **Number of members that are required for a complete scoring team**

There are two options for obtaining results in for Road Races:

- **The aggregate time of scoring members**
- **Total of the finishing positions of scoring members**

All Cross-Country team races are determined on the basis of the total of the finishing positions of scoring team members – the lowest score being declared the winner.



Questions 1 – Race Referee

End of module questions must be completed by the candidate, with answers inserted into your level 2 Self-Taught Module Return Form.

You may need to complete some additional research to assist you in answering and justifying your answers to the questions for this module.

- 1. Who has overall responsibility for the event(s)?**
- 2. What are the 3 main duties of the referee?**
- 3. In a National Senior Championships, the leading group of 12 athletes are directed the wrong way whilst all other athletes are sent the right way. The group of 12 athletes had re-joined the race but they are well down the field at the end. What would you do?**
- 4. In a club senior race, you notice that the athletes have been sent the wrong way on the first lap of a 7-lap race. What would you do?**



Questions 2 – Race Referee

5. A runner has missed the start of the Under 20 Women's Cross-Country championship and asks for permission to run in the Senior Women's race. What would you do?
- Say yes and she can compete in the Senior Championship
 - Say yes but will not appear in the result
 - Say no

Explain your reason

6. Which age group will a runner born on August 31st 2006 qualify for in a Cross-Country championship held in January 2023 as defined in UKA Rules for Competition?
7. A runner crosses the line first just ahead of a second runner in a race that is chip timed. The timing system places the second runner as the winner as his chip was captured first. Who is the winner?