

CODE OF CONDUCT: TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

Officials play a vital role in the preparation and delivery of safe and high-quality athletics events.

The code of conduct for officials reflects the required standards of personal and professional conduct in that role.

Responsibilities – Professional Standards

To maximise the benefits and minimise the risks to participants, officials must attain an appropriate level of competence through qualifications, and a commitment to ongoing training to ensure safe and correct practice.

Responsibilities – Personal Standards

Officials must demonstrate proper personal behaviour and conduct at all times.

Rights

Officials must respect and champion the rights of every individual to participate safely in sport and physical activity.

Relationships

Officials must develop positive relationships with participants (and others) based on openness, honesty, mutual trust and respect.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES - PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

As a responsible technical official, I will:

- 1.1** abide by the UKA and the HCAF Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Procedures
- 1.2** abide by the UKA and the HCAF Adult Safeguarding Policy and Adult Safeguarding Procedures
- 1.3** keep my professional knowledge and skills up to date, be appropriately qualified and renew my coach licence as and when required by UKA
- 1.4** work in a spirit of cooperation with other officials and not interfere with their responsibilities
- 1.5** offer guidance and support to less experienced officials whenever appropriate
- 1.6** report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to the parents/ carers and club/regional/national or UKA Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible
- 1.7** challenge and report any inappropriate behaviour or suspected misconduct by other technical officials, coaches or other people involved in athletics to the club, HCAF or UKA as soon as possible.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES - PERSONAL STANDARDS

As a responsible technical official, I will:

- 2.1** never smoke or consume alcohol whilst involved on officiating duties
- 2.2** be fully prepared for the officiating task that is assigned to me

- 2.3** dress appropriately and to the standard and nature of the competition, as outlined by the relevant officials' committee
- 2.4** arrive in good time for the competition and report to the official in charge
- 2.5** consistently promote positive aspects of the sport such as fair play and never condone rule violations or the use of prohibited or age-inappropriate substances
- 2.6** avoid swearing and critical, abusive language or irresponsible behaviour, including behaviour that is dangerous to me or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- 2.7** avoid destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as I find them
- 2.8** avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to me or others, excluding athletics equipment used in the course of my athletics activity
- 2.9** always explain why and ask for consent before touching an athlete
- 2.10** work in same-sex pairs if supervising changing areas.

3. RIGHTS

As a responsible technical official, I will:

- 3.1** respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and others involved in athletics and treat everyone equally
- 3.2** officiate without discrimination on grounds of age, gender, sexual, cultural, ethnic, disability or religious preference
- 3.3** act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- 3.4** in no way undermine, put down or belittle other officials, athletes, coaches or practitioners
- 3.5** ensure the welfare and safety of the athletes under my supervision
- 3.6** not exert undue influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
- 3.7** conduct the event in accordance with the rules and with due respect to the rights and welfare of the athletes.

4. RELATIONSHIPS

As a responsible technical official, I will:

- 4.1** clarify with athletes (and where appropriate, with parents or carers) exactly what it is that is expected of them and what athletes are entitled to expect from me as an official
- 4.2** encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
- 4.3** cooperate fully with others involved in the sport such as other technical officials, competition providers/organisers, team managers, coaches and representatives of the governing body in the provision of fair and equitable conditions for the conduct of athletics events under the relevant rules of competition

- 4.4 act in a decisive, objective but friendly manner in my interaction with other officials, athletes, coaches and spectators, and carry out my duties in an efficient and non-abrasive manner
- 4.5 strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and will not conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes
- 4.6 not allow an intimate personal relationship to develop between me and any athlete aged under 18 years. (Any violation of this will result in a technical official's licence being withdrawn. It is a criminal offence to conduct such a relationship with an athlete aged under 16 years.) (It may also be a violation of a technical official's licence to form an intimate personal relationship with an adult at risk.)
- 4.7 not allow intimate relationships to develop between myself and athletes judged by me to be aged over 18 years
- 4.8 avoid spending time alone with young athletes unless clearly in the view of others
- 4.9 never take a young athlete alone in my vehicle
- 4.10 never invite a young athlete alone into my home, hotel or boarding room
- 4.11 never share a bedroom with a child.

BREACH OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I understand that if I do not follow the code, the following sanctions may be taken by my club, Home Country governing body and/or UKA.

I may:

- receive a verbal warning
- receive a written warning
- be required to attend supplementary safeguarding training
- be suspended by the club/HCAF/UKA
- be required to leave or be dismissed by the club/HCAF/UKA
- have my UKA technical official's licence withdrawn
- be referred to DBS/Disclosure Scotland/AccessNI.

Print name

Signature Date