

### APPENDIX NO 18.3 CHIEF TRACK REFEREE & ASSISTANT TRACK REFEREE (Lap Counter)

All track referees should view the General Track Rules Video on the ACC web site at:

<https://www.accsport.asn.au/carnivals/athletics/officials-info/officiating-video-tips>

There is one **Chief Track Referee** who controls all track events (SD - Hurdles, 200m, 100m, 400m & Relays) and long distance events (1500m and 800m). One other official is designated as the Assistant Track Referee. The assistant referee also takes on the roles of; Lap Counter and Track Umpire for long distance (LD) events, and Chief Relay Official at changeover 3. The chief track referee is usually an Athletics WA official and is the senior referee at the meet. The Assistant Track Referee needs to liaise with the Chief Track Referee as to what their duties entail, but the synchronisation of short and long distance events and the counting and ringing the bell at the start of the last lap for long distance events are key aspects of the role.

Short distance events (SD - Hurdles, 200m, 100m, 400m & Relays) and long distance events (1500m and 800m) are held simultaneously on the track and the referee need to manage these events so that SD and LD events do not finish at the same time. Priority should be given to the finish of the LD events and the referee must ensure that SD events do not finish at the same time as LD events.

The Chief Track Referee should arrive at the venue of the meeting at least 40 minutes prior to the start of the 1st event. They should inspect the course in co-operation with the Carnival Manager to be sure that he/she is aware of all the necessary markings on the track, and should also see that equipment is readily available. The Chief Track Referee should also see that the Finish Judges and Timekeepers are positioned in the correct areas to the side of the track. The Chief Track Referee is to brief all track officials before the start of the first event.

#### **Chief Track Referee – Specific Duties Include**

- *To preside over all track events, and see that all technical rules are carried out.*
- To see that the competition is 'fair' to all competitors.
- Be sure that there are sufficient officials, and to explain duties to assistant track referee (LD lap counter & umpire), Umpires, Track Judges and Timekeepers.
- To deal with reports from Umpires, or any protest.
- To make a decision in the event that Track Judges do not agree on placings. (The Referee cannot alter the placing of Judges - it is only if the Judges fail to agree that the Referee makes a decision. The Referee cannot be a Judge and Referee on the same event).
- **Check and sign all recording sheets when records are broken.**
- **Brief relay changeover officials before the relays and ensure that all relay umpires are in position for the start of each race.**
- Check to see that the technical officials place the hurdles on the correct mark, and that they are the correct height, and that the events are run in the correct order ie. G U/16, G Open, B U/16, B Open.

#### **Disputes/Protests** (refer to [Appendix 44](#)):

If an Umpire gives a report to the Referee, the report must be investigated immediately by the Referee.

If there is any reason why a race has to be re-run, it is a matter for the Referee to decide when the race is to be re-run in liaison with the Carnival Manager.

The Referee has the power to disqualify a competitor for improper conduct **and breaches of the code of conduct** during competition. Remember, it is the Referee who disqualifies NOT the Umpire or Judge.

During a circular event, the Referee should stand in a position where the entire race can be watched. However, when the competitors are nearing the finish line, should move to the Judges stand and stand in line with the finish post so that if there should be a placing dispute, the Referee is in a position to decide placings.

The start is solely in the hands of the Starter, but the referee does have the power to overrule the starter if required. If a protest comes to the Referee as to the fairness of a start, the Referee should immediately ask the Starter if he/she considered the start a fair one and in conjunction with the starter decide if the start was valid. The Referee has the power to request a re-start for an event if necessary.

If the Track Referee decides that any infringement warrants a disqualification of an athlete or team, then the Referee must do the following:

- If time allows, have the Umpires hold all runners on the track or to the side of the track while the incident is investigated/considered by the Referee. However, common sense must prevail and any investigation of a possible disqualification should not excessively hold up the programme of events as the carnival timeframe is very tight.
- Once a disqualification is called by the Referee, and where possible, he/she should verbally advise the offending runner(s) in that event.
- The Referee must then complete and sign a disqualification sheet and send that to the results room.
- Each school will then be given a copy of the DQ sheet by ACC staff.

Protests relating to matters, which develop during the carrying through of the programme, should be made at once, and not later than within **sixty** minutes after the result has been officially recorded. For relay events schools have only 15 minutes after the event to lodge a protest. The Organisers of the meeting shall be responsible for ensuring that the time of the protest lodgement is noted on the DQ sheet.

Any protest shall in the first instance, be made orally to the Referee by the athlete themselves or by the **school representative (sports coordinator/head coach)** acting on their behalf. To arrive at a fair decision, the Referee should consider any available evidence that he/she thinks necessary. However, they may not use video or photographic evidence, except for the Photo Finish system which is the primary means of result adjudication for short track events. School teachers/coaches/**parents** should not directly approach any official/umpire to query an infringement or to lodge a protest. **Only the school representative (sports coordinator/head coach) has the right to approach an official or Referee.**

#### **Video/Photographic Evidence:**

- The ACC does not allow the use of video or still photography as evidence for results, disqualifications or appeals.
- Schools and parents may take video or photographic recordings of their own students from outside the arena, but this will not be used by the ACC to determine a result, disqualification or appeal evidence.
- The only use of any video/photographic recording in result adjudication will be in cases where the ACC deem it appropriate to officially record events for results purposes only.