

Preamble

1. The role of Umpires in an Out of Stadium race is similar to that of Umpires in a track race. They are assistants to the Out of Stadium Referee but without the authority to make final decisions - (refer to Rules 125/127 of the IAAF Handbook). Additionally, Umpires should be familiar with the relevant rules of the various Out of Stadium events – road walks (IAAF Rule 230), road racing (IAAF Rule 240) and cross country (IAAF Rule 250).
2. It is usual that one umpire will be appointed as Chief Umpire whose role is to co-ordinate the activities of the umpires on the course, issue equipment (such as luminous vests, radios etc.), issue race information in an Umpires booklet and provide ongoing feedback to the Out of Stadium Referee during the race programme.
3. The Umpires' booklet is usually white on one side and yellow on the other side and contains all relevant information (such as course maps, race details, umpires' report forms etc.) that will be referred to for the duration of the race(s).
4. Where the Umpire(s) are scheduled to be positioned on the course for more than say 3 hours, provision should be made for relief for meal and/or toilet breaks.
5. As a component of pre- race organisation, the Out of Stadium Referee and the Chief Umpire will conduct a briefing with all appointed Umpires to advise them of particular issues relating to the races on the day. These issues may include such matters as course conditions and layout, traffic movements, risk assessment issues, weather conditions, emergency evacuation procedure, radio protocol and athletes' uniform requirements.
6. It is important that Umpires familiarise themselves with the information and advice provided, both orally and material included in the issued Umpires' booklet, and if unclear, ask questions of the Out of Stadium Referee and Chief Umpire prior to taking their nominated appointed position on the course.
7. If any Umpire is undertaking practical experience training during his/her appointed Umpire role, he/she needs to discuss this training with the Out of Stadium Referee/Chief Umpire prior to the commencement of his/her duties in order that the Out of Stadium Referee/Chief Umpire may assess the Umpire's performance of his/her duties, provide feedback to the Umpire and, if deemed satisfactory, sign off the Umpires' AA Practical Proficiency Card.

Race Activities

1. Once reaching his/her nominated position on the course, each Umpire should make radio contact with the Chief Umpire advising that he/she is in position prior to the start of the race (s.)
2. If there are any circumstances noticed by the Umpire whereby a race start should be delayed, this information should be radioed to the Chief Umpire/Out of Stadium Referee without delay. Examples causing a delay could be a fallen tree branch, an injured athlete still on the course, non race persons training on the course or vehicular traffic to be cleared.
3. Immediately after the start of a race, the Umpire should listen to information shared as to the number of athletes who have commenced the race.
4. The Umpire should view with concern the safety of all athletes and report by radio to the Chief Umpire the details of any athlete who is injured or in obvious difficulty. This is a Duty of Care responsibility.
5. The details of any athlete(s) who step from the course and retire from the race should be forwarded to the Chief Umpire as well as the Chief Transponder Judge (if tag timing devices are being used). The information should include whether the athlete requires immediate medical attention and/or assistance in returning to the finish area.
6. The Umpire are primarily in position to be “the eyes and ears” of the Out of Stadium Referee and to view the conduct of the race in accordance with the IAAF rules and any local rules of the competition.
7. Such IAAF rules may include
 - (i) Rule 163.2 – athletes pushed, obstructed or jostled.
 - (ii) Rules 230.12/240.10/250.9 – athletes gaining an advantage by leaving the marked course either shortening the distance to be run or seeking a better running surface.
 - (iii) Rule 144 – athletes being paced or coached by persons not participating in the same race. This rule should be considered if drink station attendants run beside athletes.
 - (iv) Rule 143 – athletes not conforming to the uniform rules of the race

NOTE Please refer to the Out of Stadia Umpire Report Form for further details

8. **The umpire should maintain ongoing radio contact with the Chief Umpire (or Out of Stadium Referee in his absence, report any infringement of the Rules (initially athlete number, Rule Number and breach details) and complete an Umpires’ Report form with the relevant information as soon as possible.**

9. The Umpire should also record any incidents not listed on the Report Form that may be of possible significance for future reference to the Out of Stadium Referee. An incident example that may be of relevance in a possible future investigation could be an athlete running with only one shoe (the missing shoe may have the timing chip attached to it).
10. It is quite common that Umpires are required to change course cones and signs between or during races (for example in an 8km race converting a 2km course lap to a 3km course lap). The Umpires should confirm with the Chief Umpire by radio that the course changes have been completed in a timely manner as per pre race briefing instructions so that athletes are able to follow the correct course. This information is also of importance to the Starter.
11. Communication by radio is important for the proper conduct of the race(s) and as such Umpires who should fully understand communication protocol. Umpires should only speak succinctly on the radio to convey their relevant information. Listening to others speaking on the radio may be important. For example, an Umpire positioned earlier on the course may request that Umpires positioned further along the course should watch for the demeanour of a tired or injured athlete.
12. Where there are several races on the race programme, it is good practice for Umpires to radio to the Chief Umpire the positions of the first and last athletes on the course. This information is relevant for the Competition Director and the Out of Stadium Referee who will be preparing for the start of any subsequent race.

General

1. The role of an Umpire in an Out of Stadium race can be a lonely experience particularly if the assigned position is remote from the start/finish that is usually busy with various activities. It is thus important that all Umpires take care of themselves by having suitable clothing (including wet weather gear if required), food and water as required and take a toilet break prior to commencement of duties.
2. Should an Umpire be required to leave his/her position for any reason during the time on duty, the absence should be radioed to the Chief Umpire for attention as required.
3. On completion of course duties the Umpire should make their way back to the finish area and return any equipment and completed Report forms (if not previously collected). There may be occasions whereby the Out of Stadium Referee/Chief Umpire may wish to further discuss race activities. For example, there may be a pending protest of a race result for which the Umpire may have relevant information or may be called upon by a jury.
4. In summary, Umpires are important for the proper conduct of Out of Stadium races. They contribute significantly to the overall satisfaction of athletes by ensuring fair competition in accordance with the IAAF and local rules. Satisfaction for the Umpire is the contribution made to the Technical Officials' team in providing a necessary service and support for the athletes.