



## **Code of Conduct for Technical Officials**

### **As a responsible technical official you will:**

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every athlete and others involved in athletics
- Place the welfare and safety of the athlete above the development of performance
- Be appropriately qualified including obtaining DBS clearance, update your licence and education as and when required by UKA and adhere to the terms of the technical officials licence
- Keep up to date with any changes in the relevant competition rules and seek the advice of others if necessary
- Ensure that activities you direct or guide are appropriate for the age, maturity, experience and ability of the individual athlete
- At the outset 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 you
- 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
- Act in a decisive, objective but friendly manner in your interaction with other officials, athletes, coaches and spectators and carry out your duties in an efficient and non-abrasive manner
- 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
- Never smoke whilst officiating or consume alcohol while undertaking your officiating duties
- Be fully prepared for the officiating task that is assigned to you
- Dress appropriately, to the standard and nature of the competition as outlined by the relevant officials committee
- Arrive in good time for the competition and report to the official in charge
- Conduct the event in accordance with the rules and with due respect to the welfare of the athlete
- Work in a spirit of cooperation with other officials and do not interfere with their responsibilities
- Offer guidance and support to less experienced officials whenever appropriate
- Encourage and guide athletes to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour
- Develop appropriate working relationships with athletes based on mutual trust and respect, especially with those athletes under 18 years or with vulnerable adults
- Never exert influence to obtain personal benefit or reward
  
- A Technical Official **MUST** strictly maintain a clear boundary between friendship and intimacy with athletes and **MUST NOT** conduct inappropriate relationships with athletes. Relationship with athletes

can cause significant problems for other athletes, coaches and team members, raising concerns of favouritism and/or victimisation should the relationship later end.

- In particular, you **MUST NOT** allow an intimate personal relationship to develop between yourself and any athlete aged under **18 years**. Any violation of this could result in a technical official's licence being withdrawn. It may also be a criminal offence to conduct a relationship with an athlete aged under 16 years. It may also be a violation of your technical officials licence to form an intimate personal relationship with a vulnerable adult judged/officiated by you.
- It is also **strongly recommended** that you do not allow intimate relationships to develop between yourself and athletes judged by you aged over 18 years.

**As a responsible Technical Official, when participating in or attending any athletics activities, including training/coaching sessions and competition events you will:**

- Act with dignity and display courtesy and good manners towards others
- Avoid swearing and abusive language and irresponsible behaviour including behaviour that is dangerous to yourself or others, acts of violence, bullying, harassment and physical and sexual abuse
- Challenge inappropriate behaviour and language by others
- Never engage in any inappropriate or illegal behaviour
- Never engage in destructive behaviour and leave athletics venues as you find them
- Not carry or consume alcohol to excess and/or illegal substances
- Avoid carrying any items that could be dangerous to yourself or others excluding athletics equipment used in the course of your athletics activity

**In addition, technical officials should follow these guidelines on best practice, in particular with young athletes or vulnerable adults**

- Avoid critical language or actions, such as sarcasm which could undermine an athlete's self esteem
- Avoid spending time alone with young athletes unless clearly in the view of others
- Never take young athletes in your car without parental/carer's consent
- Never invite a young athlete alone into your home
- Never share a bedroom with a young athlete or vulnerable adult
- Always explain why and ask for consent before touching an athlete
- Ensure that parents/carers know and have given consent before taking a young athlete away from the usual training venue
- Work in same-sex pairs if supervising changing areas
- Respect the right of young athletes to an independent life outside of athletics
- Report any accidental injury, distress, misunderstanding or misinterpretation to the parents/carers and Club/Regional/National or UKA Welfare officer as soon as possible
- Report any suspected misconduct by other technical officials, coaches or other people involved in athletics to the Club, Regional, National or UKA welfare officer as soon as possible