

# Risk Assessment: Track events

## Applicable to a Masters' Athletics Meeting

Date:	Assessed by:	Location :	Review :
17 July 2019	D M Marler	generic	TBC

### Outdoor Track Competitions

#### Weather

1. Ensure any areas of water pooling are swept, and are dealt with by proper maintenance and regular inspection.
2. All drains should be cleaned regularly so water, moss and debris does not accumulate
3. Low daylight should be supplemented wherever possible by floodlighting
4. Ice on the track is not an acceptable risk and events should be cancelled.
5. The immediate threat of lightning is also unacceptable, and events should be cancelled until the threat has passed.

#### How/who affected

Athletes and officials, cuts and strains from a slippery track, not being able to see, lightning strikes particularly for Starters, those on Judges/Timekeepers stands, etc.

#### Responsibility

Facility staff, officials

#### Safety Barriers (fixed and portable)

1. Check barrier top rail for secure fixings and that surfaces are not damaged so could cause injury.
2. Check barrier uprights in ground for secure fixing (particularly adjustable barriers)
3. Carry out manual handling safe practice when placing barriers in position on track and removing them after the event completed

#### Who/how affected

Athletes, officials, facility staff, guests – injury from defective structures and incorrect handling/lifting.

#### Responsibility

Facility staff, officials

### **Officials, other athletes and guests**

1. Ensure races are announced prior to start
2. Ensure guests are reminded to keep behind the barriers, and that parents must keep their children under control to avoid accidents
3. Ensure starting officials are positioned at an adequate distance away from the start

### **How/who affected**

Athletes and guests could be injured from collisions

### **Responsibility**

Officials

### **Track/Kerb**

1. Ensure the track is level, free of holes and swept regularly to remove debris, eg twigs and stones
2. Ensure there is adequate maintenance and inspection
3. Where removable kerbs are in place, exposed ends should be covered, and where sections join they should be secured.
4. Lengths of kerbing which have been removed for steeplechase or other purposes should be kept in a safe area, and repositioned once the need for removal has ceased.

### **How/who affected**

Athletes and officials – injuries from slipping/tripping due to worn out track and loose kerbing.

### **Responsibility**

Ground staff, officials

### **Starting** (further guidance needed for wireless and cabled false start equipment)

1. Ensure firearms only handled by the Starter in accordance with the law and UKA guidance
2. Ensure firearms are properly cleaned and maintained

3. Ensure firearms and ammunition are properly secured at all times and adequate provision is made for this
4. Ensure all officials liaise to establish the starting positions do not conflict with other events
5. Ensure that a whistle is blown prior to each race to indicate it is about to start and as a general warning

#### How/who affected

Athletes, officials and all others through the misuse or abuse of equipment

#### Responsibility

Starter

### **Starting blocks**

1. If used, ensure starting blocks are correctly placed in each lane and firmly positioned onto the track
2. Ensure adequate maintenance and inspection
3. Starting blocks should be inspected by an official before use
4. In 400m races starting blocks must be removed before each race finishes
5. Starting blocks may not be used for races longer than 400m

#### How/who affected

Athletes – injuries from slipping/tripping due to incorrect position, insecure positioning, collision with other athletes, or worn/poorly maintained blocks

#### Responsibility

Athletes, facility staff, officials

### **Start for races in excess of 400m, and 800m break line**

1. Athletes should line up in an orderly fashion so as not to jostle or obstruct other competitors or impede progress
2. Starter's Assistant to determine whether a second row of athletes required
3. Ensure the break line is adequately defined

#### How/who affected

Athletes – injuries due to collision with other athletes

#### Responsibility

Athletes and officials

### **Timekeeping and track judging stands**

1. In the case of stand alone/mobile timekeepers stands, ensure safety information is in place, and is legible, clear and in date
2. Ensure the floor of the platform and steps are in good repair, of a non-slip material and securely attached
3. Ensure the safety rail to the sides and rear are securely attached to the main body, at an appropriate height and yet not to cause any obstruction to view
4. Ensure the stand is on a stable and level ground
5. If there are wheels fitted to a mobile stand, ensure these are in the retracted position before people mount the stand

#### **How/who affected**

Officials, athletes – due to falling and collision

#### **Responsibility**

Facility staff, officials

### **Permanent outfield track judging and timekeeping positions**

1. Ensure Timekeepers seats/positions are clearly defined as not for use by the General Public
2. Ensure the access ways to the Timekeepers seats/positions are kept free from obstruction and, wherever possible, not accessible to the General Public
3. Ensure all flooring, steps, and seating are safe and free from defects
4. Ensure any rail or safety wall is securely attached at a satisfactory level which will not obstruct the view

#### **How/who affected**

Officials and the general public – injury from falling, tripping, collision

#### **Responsibility**

Facility staff, officials

### **Infield track judging and timekeeping positions**

1. Ensure any competition area is not used as a shortcut to timekeepers or others calling/recording positions

2. Ensure that due care is taken when negotiating track inner kerbs
3. Ensure that when officials in position they do not impede the athletes
4. Ensure that due notice is taken of the preparation and progress of field events and warning horns.

#### Who/how affected

Officials – injury from slipping, tripping falling, collision

#### Responsibility

Officials

### **Photo Finish**

1. Ensure power supply is adequate and safe for the location in all expected weathers
2. Ensure all trailing cables are properly covered with rubber mats so as not to cause trip hazards
3. Ensure camera locations are securely located so they do not suffer from poor support, weather, interference, or other difficulties
4. Ensure any raised manhole covers are adequately signed with warning notices

#### Who/how affected

Officials, athletes and the general public – electrocution, injury from trips and falls

#### Responsibility

Officials, facility staff

### **Hurdles**

1. The mechanism for adjusting the hurdles should be lubricated and well maintained both for height and positioning the counter-balance
2. Damaged hurdles must be replaced
3. Hurdles must be regularly inspected and maintained
4. Hurdle set up for Masters must follow UK requirements for each gender and age group

#### Who/How affected

Athletes – injury from collision with hurdles and other athletes

#### Responsibility

Officials, facility staff

### **Steeplechase events – Barriers**

1. Barriers top rails should be checked for secure fixings, and surfaces are not damaged so as to cause injury
2. Barrier uprights should be checked for stability, and that any adjusting mechanism works safely and effectively
3. Carry out manual safe handling practice when placing barriers in position on the track and on removing them when concluded
4. Where barrier covers are provided, these should be removed and stored safely during competition, and put in place at the close of the event

#### **Who/How affected**

Athletes, officials, ground staff – injury from defective equipment and from incorrect handling/lifting

#### **Responsibility**

Facility staff, officials

### **Steeplechase events - Water Jump**

1. Ensure water jump is full – water level with the track surface and free from debris, algae, etc.
2. Ensure water supply tap is concealed with a manhole cover to prevent unauthorised use and risk of injury to athletes and officials
3. The lining material should be regularly inspected and prompt repairs made for any defects
4. The water jump should be kept empty when not in use
5. The water jump should be regularly cleaned and disinfected

#### **Who/how affected**

Athletes, officials – injuries from slipping/tripping or water-borne debris; illness from contact with water contaminants

#### **Responsibility**

Facility staff, officials

### **Steeplechase events – Track/kerbing**

Removable kerbing must be taken out for access to and egress from the water jump, and properly secured while not needed. Open ends should be covered and securely fixed down.

Cones must be used to provide track edge markings until water jump comes into use

Cones should be supervised when there is a possibility of the wind taking them out of position.

Who/how affected

Athletes/officials – trip hazards

Responsibility

Officials, facility staff