

Place Judging

Function:

To determine the order in which athletes cross the finish line in a track/course event.

What do I need?

- Recording sheet
- Place Tickets
- Pen
- Clipboard

Where do I stand?

All judges should:

- operate from the same side of the track
- on a raised stand at least 5m back from the inside lane of the track
- in line with the finish

How many place judges should there be?

- It is preferable that there is a Chief Judge and enough judges to take at least the first four places.
- For longer races judges should note the finishing order of all competitors.

What do I do?

- Place Judges are allocated a specific place to judge e.g. 3rd place
- Judging a place occurs when an athlete's torso – (not head, neck, arms, hands, legs) crosses the finish line
- Record the athlete's number and club and hand to Chief Judge or athlete to proceed to the recording area
- In distances greater than 400m, athletes may be handed place numbers from the judges before being placed in finishing order and proceeding to the recording area

How do place judges record the finish?

- The Chief Judge notes the first to finish
- The First Judge notes first and checks second
- The Second Judge notes second and checks third
- The Third Judge notes third and checks fourth
- The Chief Judge determines the placings after collecting the record sheets

What happens if a mistake is made?

- Sometimes you may miss the finish; it may be too close for you
- to make an accurate decision or you are unsure
- Remain calm and inform the Chief Judge immediately and they will assist you

Handy Hints for place judges

- Be aware of all judges on the stand and do not obstruct their view
- Do not converse with other place judges over your decision
- Do not converse with the athletes as this slows down the process
- In non-laned events, be aware of athletes being lapped or withdrawing

Note: The single function of Judges may vary on the type of meeting at which they are officiating e.g. at some competitions with limited officials Timekeepers may also perform the role of Judges. Where an official has a dual role, it is important that the official does not lose sight of their athlete until identity is clearly established



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