

BACK TO TRACK & FIELD COMPETITION GUIDANCE

All competition must take account of local conditions and any risk assessment for normal activities should be undertaken as well as ensuring that all government guidance around Covid-19 is considered. The Competition Risk Assessment must consider mitigations and plans for when activities do not go as expected. The risk assessment needs to state who completes the risk assessment and what their role is within the competition. Planning scenarios around, for example, an injury occurring and the need to access help while social distancing.

These protocols have been developed to cover as many scenarios as possible. They should be adjusted to suit the individual competition where appropriate.

Principles for Return to Track & Field Competition

- Resumption of competitive sport 'behind closed doors' or with limitations on the number of spectators
- Pre-registration
- Limit field sizes
- Spread timetable across longer timescale
- PPE for officials (masks, wipes, gloves, anti-bac spray, hand sanitisers)
- Stands remain closed
- No spectators or limit spectators (one parent/coach per athlete)
- High jump/pole vault subject to cleaning protocols
- No relays
- Temperature checks for all involved in the event

Venue

- Contact the venue to ensure it is open and all Covid-19 requirements are in place.
- Appoint a named Covid-19 lead for the event and proceed to work with the venue management on planning for the event ensuring all risk assessment procedures are in place for Covid-19 and all other risks. This person should be named prior to the event.
- A detailed risk assessment covering all Covid-19 and other risks must be completed with the venue provider.
- These guidelines apply to **Northern Ireland only** and are based on those detailing the use of Track and Field venues that are open.
- Athletes will be disqualified and asked to leave the venue if they don't obey event guidelines and instructions on the day.
- All the correct social distancing signage needs to be in place prior to any competitions.

Registration

- Three people allocated for registration. All will be required to wear gloves and masks. Hand sanitiser will be available. Perspex screens are recommended.
- There will be markers on the ground distancing people in the line between each other, including an orderly queuing system outside with social distance markings.
- Two staff will have laptops and the other person will be giving out the numbers.
- All athletes will have to bring their own pins to all events.
- All athletes bib numbers will be made available online on the start lists prior to competition.

- There should be no one allowed to stand about in the area where registration is taking place.
- One person only when collecting a bib number, either a parent or athlete. No coaches allowed in the registration area.
- Only one bib number given out to an individual. (Clear signs for this)
- Extra staff needed to manage the queuing and to reinforce these rules. In one door and out another door.
- Athlete temperature tests will be taken at registration.

Entries

- Entries should be taken online or prior to the event to ensure numbers and scheduling is planned prior to the event.
- Events must be timetabled and planned according to pre-entries.

Communication

Guidance communication will be issued prior to the events to all parents, coaches, officials and athletes.

Licence/Permits

- The licence and permit process will potentially open from 1st August – government guidance dependent.
- The licence will be awarded as soon as possible but it is essential all competition organisers have included all the information requested in the process to facilitate the process.
- For any competition results to appear on Power of 10 a Track and Field license must be granted by UKA. This includes any competition which will adopt a virtual format.

Warm up area

- Social distancing needs to be adhered to when athletes are warming up. Communication will be sent out to all athletes as to where the location of the warm up area will be.

Call Room

- No call rooms, athletes proceed to competition start area directly.
- Event areas could have a socially distance marked 'holding area' allocated for athletes prior to an event that enables them to maintain social distancing if possible.

Weighing implements

One person only allocated for weighing implements. Gloves are required and masks are optional. No one else is allowed to touch the scales apart from the one allocated person.

Photo Finish Room

- Only two photo finish judges allowed into the photo finish room. Social distancing should be adhered to unless the photo finish judges are from the same household.
- The door is to be locked when both are in the room.
- Under no circumstances should any journalists be allowed in the photo finish room. This is to be communicated to all journalists prior to any events.
- All photo finish equipment to be put out at the start of the competition and disinfected by the same person.

First Aid/Medics

Ensure consideration is given to the wider community health provision. Local emergency and health services should be contacted to ensure they are aware of the event and potential ramifications of holding the event in the locality.

Results

- Only one staff member will be dealing with the results.
- Staff will use their own laptops.
- No results board.

Officials & staff tea & coffee

- There may be no sandwiches or tea & coffee available (depending on duration of event).
- All officials & staff should bring their own tea & coffee.

Coffee vendor

- There will be no vendors for any small event meets.
- When vendors are allowed to attend ANI events, they will have the correct PPE in place for protection against Covid-19, to ensure that it meets essential health and safety requirements.

Stand

- Stand Area will be closed to all spectators.
- It is recommended that all athletes only bring one family member or coach to the event.

Toilets and changing areas

Toilet allocation is provided meeting all guidance on hygiene/cleaning and social distancing requirements (subject to council / venue agreement). Changing rooms and showers will not be accessible.

Field cards

- Only one official to handle the field card for each event. Pencil or permanent ink should be used so cards can be disinfected
- Official should wear gloves when handling field card, and field card should be kept inside a covered clipboard that is disinfected before and after use.
- All officials should bring their own clip board where possible
- The field card should be wiped with disinfectant before being left with the results official and not touched by any other official or staff member. The results official should wear gloves when handling the field card. Alternatively, the Field Referee should photograph the completed field card and email/text it to the Results Official.

Equipment

- Where possible all athletes should use their own equipment and clean this frequently.
- No other person should touch another athlete's piece of equipment. (This will be reinforced in the online entry)

Leg Numbers

Leg Numbers should not be used. Lane draws drawn up prior to competition.

Participant Information

- Communicate with athletes that they should only arrive to the track a maximum of 1.5 hours prior to their event for track & field events.
- Once any events are finished, athletes should leave the track as quickly as possible.

- All participants and individuals connected to them should have information provided to them prior to the event about how the event will run.

Entrance & Exit Track

- There should only be one entrance gate onto the track for officials.
- Entrance and exit gates for athletes. (Signs required) Officials will be notified of this prior to each event.

Medals (if appropriate)

- There will be no medal presentations. Medals can be collected by lifting one medal off the table.
- One staff member will be allocated to replenish the medals.
- Only 3 medals at a time will be distanced out on the table.

High Vis

All marshals, staff and journalists should bring their own high vis top.

Walkie Talkies

There will be a sign in and sign out station for walkie talkies. Each person who has a walkie talkie will be responsible for disinfecting their own. There will be disinfectant wipes to clean these before and after the competition.

Officials consideration

- Competition Providers should ensure sufficient availability of officials before applying for a permit
- Competition providers must put in place a Risk Assessment around officials and ensure that all events can be managed to meet government guidance on Covid-19 as well as meeting licencing and event needs.
- Any government guidance around PPE or vulnerable individuals (if relevant) must be followed.
- Officials should be selected within close proximity to the venue if possible
- Masks and gloves should be provided and officials encouraged to use these. Sufficient hand sanitiser and disinfectant spray should be provided.
- Officials should ensure they always maintain social distancing in warm up or a competition environment.
- Commentator will have a roaming mic and not be stationed within the photo finish room. This should be disinfected before and after use.
- Officials should not retrieve implements. All athletes should retrieve their own implements where appropriate. It will be up to field referee to decide to either collect the implements after each round or after each throw. This will be decided prior to competition once entries have been closed.
- All officials will be allocated their events for the day prior to the competition.
- Officials to sign to say that they are happy to attend events. Prepared to return even if they have an underlying health issue. We will do our best to meet their needs.

Field Judging

- Officials use own clipboards clip boards if possible. If not, officials should take one ANI clip board for the season and bring it back (this will be the official's responsibility).
- Field referee is in charge of making sure people are social distancing. They are able to give one warning to any athlete who isn't obeying by the guidelines. Event Manager can disqualify any athletes if second warning has to be reinforced.

Track Judging

- There should only be a maximum of 1 track judge on the judges stand at any time. With 1 at the bottom of the stand and 1 beside the finish line.
- The lap board and bell should be used by a single track judge for the duration of the meeting and disinfected before and after use
- If flags are used, each flag will be allocated to an individual track judge and the flag will be cleaned after each use
- Only 1 track judge will place the break points and they will be cleaned after each use.

Starters

- There should only be a maximum of 1 starter and 1 starter's assistant at any time. They should be socially distanced as much as possible.
- The starter's equipment (gun, stand, warnings etc) will only be used by the starter and cleaned after each event.
- If Starting blocks are used they will be placed and removed by the individual athlete and cleaned before each use.

Events

- Up to six athletes may use the High Jump and Pole Vault beds and Long Jump Pits at one time, and cleaning protocols must be adhered to between groups
- Be aware some events may not be possible due to restrictions and others may need to be adapted.
- Enough time must be planned between heats/pools/events to ensure social distancing can be maintained throughout including any warmup periods.
- Event Managers need to check with the appropriate tracks to see if there is enough equipment for each event. If there are more people in that particular event than equipment communication needs to be sent out in order to ask who will be bringing their own equipment so that there is one implement for each participant.
- All lanes can be used, but athletes should try to remain socially distanced until called to their blocks.
- Athletes can run middle distance races up to 3000m for a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Venue implements can be used, provided they have been cleaned and sanitised and are only used by one athlete. Hurdles should be cleaned between races.
- Starting blocks will be given by the venue however, each athlete should sanitise the blocks before touching at the start of each race
- All equipment will be cleaned by the venue before and after each competition.
- There will be **NO** relays allowed
- Steeplechase barriers should be cleaned between races and athletes should wash or disinfect their hands if they came in contact with the barriers during a race.
Disinfectant solution should be used in the water jump.

Everyone associated with a competition must monitor themselves for any signs of the virus, as well as general health. Everyone should follow the advice of their GP or medical practitioner in all cases. Anyone showing signs of ill health or Covid-19 should not attend the competition in any capacity.

Each competitor must be briefed to ensure if they do show signs of Covid-19 within one week of the competition the competition provider must be informed so all competitors can be contacted. This is in line with the Government Track and Trace system. UKA must also be notified if there is a positive Covid-19 case following the competition.