

Signing in at a meeting?

- Print Name. Yep, done that.
- Sign Name. Yep, done that. Oh b****r, wrong box. Start again.
- Sign Name. Yep, done that
- Print Name. Yep, done that.
- Club. Yep, done that.
- Level. Yep, done that.
- UKA Pass number. Don't know that. Where did I write it down? Oh b****r, it's in the car.

Tip of the week - write your UKA Pass Number on the back of your MAFEO badge, so you've always got it with you.

Anon

Thanks anon, sounds like a good tip to me (Ed.)

Level 3's and 4's Upgrading to New Level 3

How, When, Where, What is the process? - All questions I have asked myself this year.

The latest documents from Moira Gallagher can be found buried in the Officials Education section on the UKA site. Links to both documents on the MAFEO website on the left hand side of the homepage.

Thanks to Pat Lockley for finding these.— Andrew Hulse

My favourite memory of Beijing.

Well there were two if you include the women's 400m when my new neighbours found out I do like to shout at the TV when our athletes need some encouragement up the home straight!

The best bit was seeing the judge on the triple jump checking the take off board. He had obviously spent hours watching videos of that nice lady who did it at the Manchester Commonwealth Games and was very professional in the way he raised the white and red flags, what amused me was when he raised the white flag he had a big grin and appeared ever so happy that the athlete was successful. When he raised the red flag he looked so apologetic and close to tears on some occasions, as if it was his fault!

I'm sure the British officials in 2012 will keep a stiff upper lip!

Stuart Paul

Edited by Andrew Hulse - all contributions gratefully received

MAFEO Newsletter



Sept. 2008

ENCLOSURES

1. Form for Nominations for Officers and Committee

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

This will take place at Alexander Stadium on Sunday 16th November 2008 at 13.00 hrs.

If you have any of the following items for this meeting:-

The names of anyone you wish to propose for Life Membership, to be eligible for this the nominee **MUST** have been a member for at least ten years and have retired from active duties.

Do you wish to request changes to the Rules and Constitution? The Committee will be putting forward changes in order to bring the details up to date.

Do you wish to nominate a member for the Committee (use enclosed form) They have to be with the Secretary no later than **5th October 2008**.

There will be a Health and Safety Course at 14.00 hrs and you will have to confirm your intention to attend this in order to be provided with the course information. Please let Kate Michel know by phone, post or by email at courses@mafeo.net

At present we do not have anything arranged for the morning so if you would like us to make use of that time please send me your requests and we will do our best to accommodate them. You will be kept informed of the arrangements.

**Don't Forget it is nearly time to finish off your Form 10's
for this year and then send them off by the end of
September**

Health and Safety - Field Events

After judging field events at over 1000 meetings during the last thirty five years, the last twenty five at Referee/Level 5 grades, I have managed to cope without having experienced an injury to any official in a team or at a meeting where I have been involved, or in charge..

Having now read the UKA "The Safe Conduct of Track and Field Events" Booklet and attended the compulsory and enlightening UKA "Health and Safety" course I understand that I am now an Officially Accredited Health and Safety Assessor. In my new role I now realise where I have previously gone wrong. I did not do "A Health and Safety Assessment".

I have corrected this for the next league meeting at my club where I will be the Field Referee and, bearing in mind my newly acquired status, have come to the following conclusions.

Hammer and Discus - As two gates are fitted for safety reasons, both must be closed. Athletes will not be allowed to use any form of turning technique as they may get giddy and fall.

Javelin - Athletes will not be permitted to run carrying such a dangerous implement. They must walk to the scratch line with the point downwards. Any throw where the javelin does not stick in the ground will be disregarded as unsafe.

Shot - These are dangerous and heavy items and must only be thrown with two hands in an underarm method.

Long and Triple Jumps - Athletes will not be permitted to wear spiked shoes in case the 5mm needle spikes catch in a gap exceeding 5mm and they trip and fall. Judges must not go in the sand in case it gets in their shoes and causes a rash.

High Jump - Bars will not be used as athletes keep knocking them off and may injure themselves or others. Athletes will jump and judges will decide whether or not they would have cleared their pre declared height

Pole vault - Jumpers will not be allowed to go higher than 3m in case of altitude sickness and nose bleeds. They must wear protective headgear and elbow and knee guards. Judges must not go closer than 5m to the site in case of falling upright, bars, poles or athletes.

Whilst I have not directed my attention specifically to track events I understand that the following points are under consideration.

Timekeepers - The stands from which they officiate are notoriously dangerous. In future league matches, as points are only awarded for places, timekeepers will no longer be required.

Starters - It has been noted that most starters are now wearing ear protectors, all athletes should be advised to do the same. The alternatives will be to fit silencers to guns, or start races by dropping a flag.

Track races - For steeplechase events athletes will be required to produce a Certificate of Competence to swim at least three metres. A lifeguard must be on duty at all times.

I once enjoyed my sport but I am now beginning to wonder, is it all worth the hassle?, where has the 'fun' has gone? I now have an eye on the spectators to check that there is not a 'no win - no fee' solicitor taking photographs and notes.

Finally a word of advice. Do as I do. If you are having difficulty in filling in your expense claim form you should contact your local MP who will clearly be an expert in this field.

Yours from the safety of my padded room.

Les Barnett Leamington C & AC (A full Assessment has been carried out on this article)

Who is the Field Referee?

It has been becoming more and more clear to myself that in recent times the main questions asked by competitors and officials alike at lower league or even higher meetings are "Who is the Field referee? and where is he/she?"

Surely the time has now come to consider them wearing either a blue top or even a yellow cap, (or any uniform colour), so these people can be distinguished at these meetings?

I personally think that as all officials are now wearing the 'navy and white' they are shown less respect by competitors. Surely the time has now come for UK Athletics to recognise the valuable work these unpaid volunteers and provide all with a decent uniform or failing that a cap to distinguish them to the spectators/competitors.

Dave Berrington

I can't see UKA providing uniforms or caps, but a valid point about some way of being able to find the Field Ref easily! (Ed.)