

Dear Colleague,

**Please read this letter carefully before opening the attached 2016 International Meetings Officials list.**

### **Background**

This is the second year of the IMO. Analysis of last year's appointments show that the initial selection policy was implemented, with some officiating opportunities being offered at Level 5 meetings to Level 3 officials not on the IMO list, as well as to IMO list members. In addition, crucial management and assessment roles were offered to experienced colleagues who were not on the IMO list, making effective and much valued use of their skills and abilities.

### **Process**

As last year each Tri-Regional and Home Countries' Officials group was asked to make recommendations to the Peer Groups on those in each discipline who should be included in the International Meetings Officials group. These recommendations were passed on to the Peer Groups and also to the Technical Advisory Group.

Peer Groups then met, having been advised by TAG on the number of appointments available and asked to prepare initial IMO lists for 2016. In doing so, they also had access to all the assessments from the 2015 indoor and outdoor seasons. Their proposed lists were then submitted to TAG for final scrutiny.

Thus throughout, the process has been "peer-driven", a principle which has always been at the heart of the assessment and selection process.

### **Availabilities and Appointments**

So initial policy and practice has been continued, this being that on an annual basis the list would be reviewed and that whilst all Level 3 officials would retain their Level 3 status until such time as they chose to relinquish it, most appointments to Level 5 Permit events (televised events) would be made from within the International Meetings Officials list. The numbers required on this list are based on calculations of the number of available appointments, so that those in this group can officiate on a more regular basis at this level. This is necessary to keep their skills suitably honed. The aim remains that they will officiate at least twice a year at Level 5 Permit events, if availabilities permit.

However, Level 5 Permit events require more than just "judges". At each event there are twenty or more ancillary appointments, many of which require the experience and skills of Level 3 officials. In 2016, ancillary appointments will be more pro-actively managed to ensure that there is a balance between necessary experience and opportunities for development, including for those at Level 2C. There also remain a significant number of management appointments and not all those who hold the Competition Management Award are on the IMO list. As this CMA list continues to grow, there may be more on the list than there are available "national" appointments. From the outset, however, it was intended that those holding the CMA should use their skills to improve competition delivery at Home Country, Regional and County level as well.

We need to continue to provide opportunities for existing Level 3 officials, and those who are Level 3 Probationary, to demonstrate their abilities at this level and to move onto the IMO list in future.

As previously, I anticipate that in the course of a year, all of the above will provide many opportunities to work on Level 5 Permit meetings for those Level 3 officials not on the IMO list.

**All Level 3 licensed officials have been consulted about the level of competition at which they wish to operate. Unless they have indicated otherwise, all Level 3 officials will be circulated with a single availability list which includes Permit Level 5, 4 and 3 meetings. Anyone who indicates their availability for a particular event will be indicating their willingness to act either as a “judge” (which also covers Starting and Timekeeping) or in an ancillary role. In the event that you wish to be considered only for “judging” roles and do NOT wish to be considered for ancillary roles, return the availability form but in addition please advise Malcolm Rogers by separate e-mail. ([MRogers@britishathletics.org.uk](mailto:MRogers@britishathletics.org.uk)) If you made your wishes clear on the recent return, there is no need repeat this again.**

Since last year, we have refined the selection guidelines into a clear Selection Policy, which will be circulated with the indoor availability email.

### **Further Points**

Each year, there will be individual circumstances where, as now, individuals feel unable to commit to major events. There has always been the opportunity for people to request a “sabbatical”. In such circumstances, people should contact Andrew Clatworthy and Malcolm Rogers. Such people obviously remain eligible for consideration in future years as long as they hold a valid licence.

There will inevitably be disappointments at not having made the IMO list. Given the number of available appointments, there has to be a cut-off point and in 2016 there is one less indoor fixture than in 2015. The list is not “a badge of honour”. It is a list of those who their peers currently regard as being best suited in terms of technical ability and temperament to fill the available number of places, with each individual officiating more than once in order to keep their skills honed. My personal view is that this is more honest than the practice which existed for years whereby people were nominally on a “national” list, but were never put forward by their TRNG when they made nominations for selections.

The additional meetings which are accessible to all Level 3 officials constitute high-level competition. Home Countries stage a significant number of National Championships and Internationals every year with the Age-Group Championships in particular offering possibly the most demanding and rewarding officiating experience of the season. A number of other competition providers also promote high-level competition.

In conclusion, I want to repeat that both British Athletics and I value highly the huge contribution that technical officials make to the sport at whatever level they operate. I am on public record as saying that my highest admiration goes to those who regularly turn out on a wet mid-week evening at local leagues, as well as to those who have the privilege of operating at the highest level.

Kindest regards,



Cherry Alexander  
British Athletics Major Events Director