



August 2026

INDOOR Track and Field Licensing Guidance 2026/2027

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1. New this year? (*in italics below*)

- (10) *Clarification regarding unaffiliated athletes*
- (14) *Safeguarding recommendation*
- *Appendix 1 – minimum number of officials*
- *Appendix 2 – World Athletics, check qualification requirements*

2. Where to apply:

All licences: <https://www.mysporthost.com/TFEventLicence/>

Apart from Scottish Basic and Level 1:

<https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/events/organising-an-event/licensing-and-returns/>



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3. Useful links

England Athletics, organising an event:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/clubs-and-facilities/organising-an-event/>

Scottish Athletics, licensing an event:

<https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/events/organising-an-event/licensing-and-returns/>

Athletics Northern Ireland, organising an event:

<https://athleticsni.org/Permits>

Welsh Athletics, competitions:

<https://www.welshathletics.org/en/page/track>

World Athletics Global Calendar:

[Global Calendar | Global Calendar \(worldathletics.org\)](https://www.worldathletics.org/global-calendar)

WPA (World Para Association) Calendar:

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/events> (filter by Great Britain)

WPA Rankings:

<https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/rankings>

4. Raised Runways

The use of raised portable runways and associated equipment for Pole Vault and Long/Triple Jump

UK Athletics are aware of an increased number of raised portable runways that are being constructed for use for pole vault events and training.

In order to protect the safety of athletes/officials/spectators and ensure the integrity of performances UKA is only able to license *events on temporary raised runway platforms when they, and any other associated equipment (e.g. pole vault trough, landing bed, uprights, long/triple jump landing pit, take off boards etc), have been inspected "in situ" by a SAPCA/World Athletics approved consultant. * Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump.

Note:

- For portable/demountable raised runways a re-inspection must take place each time it is reinstalled. If the raised runway is left permanently in place, then it will need to be reinspected every 3years.

UKA also recommends that raised runways are inspected for training purposes.

5. Level 1 Licence

Most competition licences issued in the UK will be Level 1, and results from these events will qualify for inclusion in the Power of 10 ranking lists. In line with UK Athletics rule CR1 S1 (7), licences should ideally be applied for at least 8 weeks before a competition. Applications submitted after this deadline will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis



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6. UK Athletics Level 2 Licence

a. UK Athletics Level 2 Licence WITH World Athletics Permit

- i. Competitions that hold a UK Athletics level 2 licence with a World Athletics Permit will feature on the global calendar, and performances from these events will be eligible for inclusion in the World Athletics ranking lists.
- ii. Applications for World Athletics Permits require a minimum of 30 days' notice.
- iii. All such competitions must adhere to the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules.
- iv. Competition providers seeking this recognition should apply for a UK Athletics level 2 licence and a World Athletics permit as early as possible, keeping the strict time limits in mind.
- v. In line with the UK Athletics rule book, CR1 S1 (7), level 2 licences should ideally be applied for at least 8 weeks prior to a competition. Licence applications submitted after this deadline will be evaluated on their individual merits.

b. Level 2 Licence WITHOUT World Athletics Permit are issued for:

- i. Qualifying performances for British Championships
- ii. Events that are World Para Athletics (WPA) Endorsed
- iii. Master's competitions with sufficient qualified officials for this enhanced level of licence to ensure relevant performances are acceptable for BMAF record purposes.
- iv. A few additional competitions that are of a high-quality standard both in organisation and competitor experience and therefore deserve to be recognised as a level 2 competition. These will be issued on merit at the time of application.

7. Level 2 Licence Requirements

The minimum requirements for this higher level of competition (note see appendix 2 below for further information relating to World Athletics Permits and Officials required):

- Photo-finish
- EDM
- Higher level of officials, with a higher concentration of level 3/4 qualifications – see [appendix 1](#) below

See section 18 below regarding [UK Records](#)



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8. World Para Athletics (WPA) Endorsement

Events seeking World Para Athletics (WPA) Endorsement or Approval must meet all the Level 2 licence requirements. This sanction enables UK Classified & IPC Licensed athletes to record performances on the World Rankings and qualification marks for European, World and Paralympic Games. Level 2 competitions that are Event Specific, and at Area and National Level are likely to attract para-athlete entries.

WPA Endorsement = competitions with both para and non-para-athletes competing together or in parallel events. This applies to most UK competition. There is **no fee** for WPA Endorsement. Event organisers selecting 'WPA Endorsement' on the UKA Level 2 Licence application **8 weeks** prior to the competition will be submitted to World Para Athletics.

WPA Approved = Para Athletics only events. These must be registered at least **90 days** prior to the competition date. There is a **€200 fee**, plus **travel / accommodation** for an ITO appointed by WPA. World Para Athletics Competition and Technical Rules apply. In track events men & women should compete separately in distances 100m to 1500m. Results should be submitted to Power of 10 as usual, with **classifications clearly marked**. For more detailed information please see appendix 3.

9. Licences are issued by:

Level 1 licences issued by:

- England Athletics - applications will be reviewed by a Regional Council representative and then a National Officer will issue the licence. Contact: tandfeventlicensing@uka.org.uk
- Scottish Athletics, contact: Events@scottishathletics.org.uk
- Welsh Athletics, contact: darran.williams@welshathletics.org
- Athletics Northern Ireland, contact: info@athleticsni.org

Level 2 licences

- Issued by UK Athletics – contact: tandfeventlicensing@uka.org.uk

World Athletics Permits

- Issued by World Athletics, after approval by UK Athletics – see [appendix 2](#) below.
- WPA endorsement/approval – see above.



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10. Affiliation & Insurance

Competition Providers

All competition providers (such as organisations or clubs, not individual applicants) must be affiliated with one of the Home Country Athletics Federations. This affiliation ensures that all competitions are covered by UK Athletics Insurance. For details about the coverage, please refer to the information provided here:

<https://www.marshsport.co.uk/ngb-schemes/uka.html>

In the event of an insurance claim the licensing body have the authority to claim back the full or part of the insurance excess.

Athletes

In accordance with UKA Rule G2 S3 (6) athletes may compete as unattached for one year, after which time they must join a club affiliated to one of the Home Country Athletics Federations.

11. Risk Assessment

All competition providers must undertake a written risk assessment that identifies the significant hazards to all affected by the event(s) and make it available if requested:

This includes any temporary structures and the identification of a responsible person, and training where required:

A guide to Safe Athletics can be found here:

<https://www.britishathletics.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/health-and-safety/Safe-Athletics-Competition-Printer-Friendly.pdf>

12. Rules

Competitions must be conducted in accordance with UKA Rules for Competition or World Athletics Technical Rules, and where appropriate, World Para Athletics Rules will also apply. For Northern Ireland, AAI Rules will be followed for each age group championship. There are mandatory requirements relating to UK Anti-Doping; please refer to [Appendix 3](#) below for details

13. First Aid

Appropriate first aid provision must be made. If in doubt, please refer to the 'Purple Guide':

<https://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/>

Should your first aid provider be late or cancel, as the organiser, you must satisfy yourself that first aid requirements have been met before proceeding with the event.

Some useful information is included [here](#).



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14. Safeguarding

Competition providers should appoint a Welfare Lead and make their contact details accessible to all event participants, officials, volunteers and spectators. Wherever possible, the Welfare Lead should be independent of event delivery to ensure they can respond appropriately to any welfare or safeguarding concerns. The Welfare Lead should also understand how concerns should be reported and escalated to UKA or statutory agencies where necessary.

The Welfare Lead must hold a current UK Athletics DBS check and have completed relevant safeguarding training. Home Country Athletics Federations provide training and resources to support the role.

15. Post Report Forms

England:

England Athletics request that all competition providers granted one of their licences complete a post-event report form for all competitions. The information gathered will help them to identify opportunities to support competition providers in our continuously evolving sport and society. The form can be accessed here: <https://www.englandathletics.org/tf-feedback>.

Scotland:

Event organisers in Scotland are required to complete a post-event return form as part of the licensing process. This form can be found within your licensing portal immediately following your event. The form, along with payment of any levies due, should be submitted within 28 days of your event taking place. Further details can be found on the **scottishathletics** website here: <https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/events/organising-an-event/event-returns/>

Competition providers from **Wales**, and **Northern Ireland** may be asked to complete a similar form tailored to their specific demographics.

16. Disciplines on applications

Please indicate on the licence application which disciplines are provided for all athletes, including classified, that are provided in your competition. This information will help promote your event via the “Competition Finder” which can be found here: <https://fixtures.myathletics.uk/>

17. Power of 10

All results from licensed competitions are eligible for **Power of 10** inclusion. Exclusions may occur if the UK Athletics rule book has not been followed or if the numbers of qualified officials in attendance fall below the minimum standard required. Occasionally spot checks are made to ensure this has happened.

Power of 10 have a section in their HELP tab to assist with results presentation: <https://www.thepowerof10.info/>



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18. Changes to licence: events/date/venue

Any changes to event licences must be notified to the issuing body before the competition so that the application can be amended and if necessary, the licence reissued. For contacts see list above.

19. UK Records

If UK Records are likely to be set, any Record Application must be signed by Referees or Chiefs in the relevant disciplines who are Level 4. For more information see UKA rule book C35 S1. Applications forms can be found here:

https://www.uka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ukrecord_form1.pdf



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Appendix 1 – 2026/27 Indoor Officials & Equipment Requirements

	Level 1 Competition	Level 2 Competition
**These requirements are considered the absolute minimum to hold an athletics competition and do not allow for official's welfare/breaks or no shows, so the appointment of more is strongly advised.		
EQUIPMENT		
Essential:	Equipment for checking throws implements.	Photo-finish & EDM Equipment for checking throws implements Radios Start Information System*
Desirable:	Photo-finish EDM	*SIS is desirable for record and qualification/selection purposes, but it is recognised that the equipment is not universally available and creates the need for additional Officials
FIELD JUDGING TEAM	Level 1 Licence	Level 2 Licence
**Field Referee:	Level 2+ (Essential) Field referee (or event lead if this is not possible) to give briefing to all officials, at the start of the competition that must include any relevant H&S points. This may be in written format for late arrivals.	Level 3+ (Essential) (Level 4 for UK records) Field referee to give briefing to all officials, at the start of the competition that must include any relevant H&S points. This may be in written format for late arrivals.
**Additional qualified Field officials: Note: Additional help as required, and this can be qualified or trainee/assistant officials who must be overseen by a licensed official at all times.	Each individual event: • Qualified Level 2+ lead • Plus, minimum one additional qualified official, who may be a newly qualified level 1. HJ/LJ/TJ may be led by an experienced level 1 official, who has officiated those jump events at least 4 times	Each individual event: • Qualified Level 3+ lead • Plus, minimum 3 additional qualified officials (high jump & pole vault may be 2) Of those 4 (or 3), only one may be a newly qualified level 1



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OFFICIALS STARTER TEAM		
**Chief Starter:	Level 2	Level 3+
**Starter's Assistant:	Level 1+	Level 3+
Additional starters/assistants:	As required	As required
OFFICIALS TRACK TEAM	Level 1 Competition	Level 2 Competition
TRACK TEAM		
Track Referee:	Level 2+ (referee)	Level 3+ (referee) (Level 4 for UK records)
**Track judges <u>without</u> electronic timing	Referee, plus at least 3 qualified track judges	Referee plus at least 5 qualified track judges (3 for straight track only)
**Track judges, <u>with</u> electronic timing	Referee, plus at least one qualified track official	Referee, plus at least three qualified track officials
TIMEKEEPERS		
Chief Timekeeper:	Level 2+ (chief)	Level 3+ (chief) (UK records not applicable without photo-finish below 800m)
**Timekeepers, <u>without</u> electronic timing (hand timing) – not advised for straight track:	Chief plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers. (For 800m+ only competitions, without sprints the chief plus 2 is acceptable)	Chief plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers. However, times are not acceptable for qualification purposes if hand timed for distances up to 800m



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**Timekeepers, <u>with</u> electronic timing:	Optional for meets with photo-finish, but if the timing system fails and the above requirements are not met, performances will not be acceptable for Power of 10 purposes	Chief plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers is encouraged in case the electronic timing fails
PHOTO-FINISH	(Optional)	(Essential)
	Level 2+ or 2 x level 1+ photo-finish operators	Level 3+ (chief) (Level 4 for UK records) plus at least 1 photo-finish operator
ADDITIONAL STAFFING FOR LEVEL 2 LICENSED EVENT (DEPENDENT ON EVENT, NOT PART OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS)		
• Meeting Manager. • Technical Manager (Level 3+) plus a sufficient number of Clerks of Course, dependent on the programme of events. The team will cover both track and field events. • National Technical Delegate (or local equivalent) (Level 4) • Call Room • Seeders • Technical Information Centre • Announcers		

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Appendix 2 - World Athletics Permit Applications

World Athletics Permit?

The benefits:

- Performances appear in the World Athletics ranking Lists.
- Performances recognised for major championship qualification – *World Athletics have yet to confirm the qualification requirements for 2027, please check with World Athletics/UK Athletics that you have the latest information*
- Advertising literature should carry the WA logo as an approved event and the permit displayed at the event.
- Once the permit application has been approved by UK Athletics and World Athletics it will appear on the WA [here](#).

How much notice?

Currently 30 days, with no flexibility.

How/where to apply?

- Register and be approved as a competition organiser at World Athletics here: <https://globalcalendar.worldathletics.org/>
 - Note: Country, search for Great Britain, not United Kingdom
- Apply for your UK Athletics level 2 licence.
- At the same time, register your competitions at World Athletics to complete at least 30 days prior to the competition.
 - The process can take a few days to work its way through the process, so please allow for this when applying
 - Disregard any upgrade to level E and the submission of a facility certificate unless this has been previously discussed with UK Athletics. As a nation, we have a limited number available each year, and these are allocated early in the season.

What does it cost?

There is a fee of 25 Euros payable to World Athletics, and this is paid online through their platform.

Rules?

All World Athletics permitted events held in the UK but be held under relevant World Athletics and UK Athletics rules.

Continental Tours, Label Races, Race Walking, Combined Event Tours

If a World Athletics or Area Permit has already been granted, it is not necessary to reapply.



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Appendix 3 - UK Anti-Doping Process

The Home Nation Athletics Federations (HCAF) have slightly different guidelines for Clean Sport and organisers are advised to contact England Athletics, Welsh Athletics, Scottish Athletics and Athletics Northern Ireland respectively for advice.

The UK Athletics Anti-Doping Rules can be found here: <https://www.uka.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/210507-UKA-AD-Rules-3-combined-final.pdf>

In summary the points that impact on competition providers and clubs are as follows:

- The Anti-Doping Rules affect all licensed competition held in the UK (track & field, indoor, cross country, road, multi terrain etc), but excludes in house fun type of events.
- Track & field athletes competing in league competitions are covered by their membership to their individual HCAF.
- All organisers of championship/open/school events must include a statement on entry forms so an athlete is aware that by entering a competition they are agreeing to the UK Athletics Anti-Doping Rules and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code – this can be by tick box for online entries. For on the day entries, this must be included on entry forms or at the top of an entry list to include a place for the athlete/parent/carer to sign.

The agreement is as follows:

All participants (including athletes and athlete support personnel) in any licensed event are bound to UK Athletics' anti-doping rules and must make themselves familiar with these rules. Organisers of licensed events are expected to cooperate with UK Anti-Doping with regards to any code-compliant anti-doping investigations and proceedings linked to their event or participants in their event, and to include the following statement regarding anti-doping compliance, provided by UKAD, within their event registration process:

“An entrant shall be deemed to have made himself/herself/themselves, familiar with, and agreed to be bound by the UKA Anti-Doping Rules and to submit to the authority of UK Anti-Doping in the application and enforcement of the Anti-Doping Rules. The UKA Anti-Doping Rules apply to entrants participating in the sport of Athletics, for 12 months from the date of entering the event, whether or not the participant is a citizen of, or resident in, the UK.”



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