



November 2025

OUTDOOR Track and Field Licensing Guidance 2026

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1. New/additional info for 2026 (*in italics below*)

- [Highlight Rule CR1 S2 \(ii\) relating to the 8-hour day and TR19.13 relating to Photo-finish calibration](#)
- [Video take off camera for horizontal jumps for level 2 competitions](#)
- [As planned from previous years, Chief Starters must be level 2+ from 2026](#)

2. Where to apply

All Track & Field Licences [here](#), apart from [Scottish Basic and Level 1](#)



Registered Office:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsall Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE
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3. Useful links

England Athletics: [Organising an event](#)

Scottish Athletics: [Licensing](#)

Athletics Northern Ireland: [Organising an event](#)

Welsh Athletics: [Track & Field Licence](#)

World Athletics: [Global Calendar](#)

Para Athletics: [WPA \(World Para Athletics\) Events](#) (filter by Great Britain)

4. Facilities

All competitions must be held at venues that have completed TrackMark accreditation units 1 to 4 appropriate to the event. (see section 6 & 7 relating to the level of competition.) Further information can be found [here](#) or by contacting TrackMark@uka.org.uk

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.

6. UK Athletics Level 2 Licences

a. UK Athletics Level 2 Licence WITH World Athletics Permit

- 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](#).



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- 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 Requirements

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

- Photo-finish
- EDM
- Higher level of officials, with a higher concentration of level 3/4 qualifications – see [appendix 1](#) below
- The facility must have a levels and measurement survey registered at UK Athletics for a standard level F Permit. For the higher-level Permits please see [appendix 2](#) below.
- See section 19 regarding [UK Records](#)

8. World Para Athletics (WPA) Endorsement or Approved Events

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 non-disabled and disabled 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.



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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. Who to Contact

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 “World Para Athletics (WPA)” above.

10. Affiliation & Insurance

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](#).

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

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](#).



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12. Rules

Competitions must be conducted in accordance with [UK Athletics 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.

A couple of rules we would like to highlight:

- **8-hour day**
 - In accordance with rule CR1 S2 (ii) no event will be scheduled for longer than 8 hours on any one day unless additional Technical Officials are appointed
- **Photo-finish equipment**
 - In accordance with rule TR19.13, equipment must be recalibrated every 4 years

There are mandatory requirements relating to UK Anti-Doping; please refer to [Appendix 4](#) below for details.

13. First Aid

Appropriate first aid provision must be made. If in doubt, please refer to the '[Purple Guide](#)'.

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](#).

14. 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](#).

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](#)

Competition providers from [Wales](#), and [Northern Ireland](#) may be asked to complete a similar form tailored to their specific demographics.



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15. Disciplines on applications

Please indicate on the licence application which disciplines are provided for all athletes, including classified, that are offered in your competition. This information will help promote your event via the “**Competition Finder**” which can be found [here](#).

16. 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 falls 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.

17. Floodlights after Dusk

For events that will start and/or finish after dusk then the following will apply. (NB. For clarity this applies to any events that start during hours of daylight but will not conclude until after dusk).

1. Non-technical track events (**i.e. excluding any hurdle/steeplechase events**)
 - Will be permitted as long as the venue has operational floodlighting
2. All technical track events: (**ALL field events, track hurdles, steeplechase**)
 - Will only be permitted after dusk if the venue can demonstrate that it has achieved ®minimum standards of floodlighting compliance (Class III).

For technical events dusk is defined as the period starting half an hour before local lighting up time as defined by venue postcode on "[The Time and The Place](#)" website.

Contact ehunt@englandathletics.org for further information/guidance.

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 will be 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](#).



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Appendix 1 - 2026 Outdoor Officials & Equipment Requirements

| Equipment | Level 1 | Level 2 |
|---|--|---|
| Essential: | Equipment for checking throws implements. | Photo Finish EDM Wind Gauges Equipment for checking throws implements. |
| Desirable: | Photo-finish EDM Wind Gauges | Radios Video take off cameras for horizontal jumps Start Information System* *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) | Level 3+ (Essential) (Level 4 for UK records) |
| | 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. | 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: | Each individual event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified Level 2+ lead Plus, minimum one additional qualified official, who may be a newly qualified level 1. Cont... | Each individual event: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 |
| Note: Additional help as required, and this can be qualified or trainee/assistant officials | | |



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| | | |
|--|---|---|
| who must be overseen by a licensed official at all times. | HJ/LJ/TJ may be led by an experienced level 1 official, who has officiated those jump events at least 4 times | |
| 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 | | |
| Track Referee: | Level 2+ (chief) | Level 3+ (chief) (Level 4 for UK records) |
| Track Judges required | Plus, at least three or more qualified Judges / umpires | Plus, up to seven or more qualified Umpires dependent on the nature of the event. This must be sufficient to cover umpiring duties around the track as well as judging duties at the finish. For most events a team of 8 will be adequate |
| TIMEKEEPERS WITH PHOTO-FINISH (For UK Records see rule C35 S1 of rule book) | | |
| Chief Timekeeper: | Level 2+ (chief) | Level 3+ (chief) (UK records not applicable without photo-finish below 800m) |
| Additional qualified Timekeepers: | Plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers. Cont... (For 800m+ only competitions, without sprints the chief + 2 acceptable.) However, if insufficient timekeepers, times can only stand for Power of 10 purposes if the electronic timing works. | Plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers (For 800m+ only competitions, without sprints the chief + 2 acceptable.) However, if insufficient timekeepers, times can only stand for Power of 10 purposes if the electronic timing works. |



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| TIMEKEEPERS WITHOUT PHOTO-FINISH | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chief Timekeeper: | Level 2+ | Not applicable |
| Additional qualified timekeepers | Plus at least 3 qualified timekeepers (For 800m+ only competitions, without sprints the chief + 2 acceptable.) | |
| PHOTO-FINISH | (Level 1 Optional) | (Level 2 Essential) |
| | Level 2+ or 2 level 1+ photo-finish operators | Level 3+ (Level 4 for UK records) Plus at least 1 qualified photo-finish operator |
| ADDITIONAL STAFFING FOR LEVEL 2 LICENSED EVENTS | | |
| DEPENDENT ON EVENT, NOT PART OF LICENSING REQUIREMENTS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | | |

Appendix 2 - World Athletics Permit Applications

| World Athletics Permit? |
|---|
| <p>The benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances appear in the World Athletics ranking Lists. • Performances recognised for major championship qualification. • Advertising literature may carry the WA logo as an approved event. • Once the permit application has been approved by UK Athletics and World Athletics it will appear on the WA Global Calendar here. |
| How much notice? |
| <p>In principle Competitions should be submitted for approval to World Athletics with minimum 60 days notice and, in any case, no later than 30 days before the start of the competition.</p> |



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How/where to apply?

- Register and be approved as a competition organiser at World Athletics [here](#):
 - 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 system, so please allow a few additional days to ensure sufficient time.
 - Upgrading to level E is only available to a very small number of competitions previously agreed with UK Athletics. These can only take place where the facilities have World Athletics facility certification.
 - Currently upgrading to Challenger level (D) does not require this certification, but this could change in the future.

What does it cost?

There is a fee of **€25** 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 Rules](#) 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.

Appendix 3 - World Para Athletics Applications

World Para Athletics Endorsement / Approval?

The benefits:

- Performances appear in the [World Para Athletics Ranking Lists](#).
- Performances recognised for major championship qualification.
- Advertising literature should confirm the event is WPA Endorsed / Approved

Note: in 2024 there were 172 GB athletes with an IPC Licence, with 67 WPA Endorsed & 2 WPA Approved competitions promoted nationally. This covered most area & national championships, HC internationals etc.



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How much notice?

WPA Endorsement at least **8 weeks** before the Competition.

WPA Approved at least **90 days** prior to the competition date.

How/where to apply?

WPA Endorsement

- For all UKA competition with Event Specific, or Area, National or International standard
- If you are seeking entries from [Licensed para-athletes](#) i.e. national and international standard
- Select 'WPA Endorsement' on the UKA Level 2 licence form
- No other forms, fees or paperwork required
- Submit results to [Power of 10](#) as usual
- For events with 30+ para entries, please submit the results on the [SDMS template](#) to Jan Richards

WPA Approval

- This only applies to **Para only** domestic and international competition
- Contact Jan Richards at the earliest opportunity jrichards@britishathletics.org.uk
- Application form must be submitted to WPA at least 90 days before the competition
- Apply for your UK Athletics level 2 licence as usual, ticking 'WPA Approval'
- Submit results to [Power of 10](#) as usual
- Submit results on the [SDMS template](#) to Jan Richards

What does it cost?

WPA Endorsement = no cost to the competition organiser

WPA Approval = €200, plus travel / accommodation for an ITO appointed by World Para Athletics.
These fees are payable to UKA c/o Jan Richards jrichards@britishathletics.org.uk

Rules?

All World Para Athletics Endorsed or Approved events held in the UK under relevant [World Para Athletics](#) and [UK Athletics Rules](#). This should include:

- WPA implement weights and Wind Speeds for all
- M & W competing separately on the track, except for 5000m and above
- M & W may be combined on the field, ideally separate cards
- Classifications can be combined on Track and Field
- Para-Athletes can compete alongside non-disabled athletes



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Any European and World Records that are broken will only be ratified if UKAD testing is in attendance and undertaking tests. The DCO will need to sign the record form. Testing of the record-breaking para-athlete is not a requirement for ratification. It is good practice to complete the [WPA Record Forms](#) in case UKAD attend a latter part or day of the competition. Please submit any forms to jking@britishathletics.org.uk

Appendix 4 - 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](#).

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/themself, 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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