

November 2025

MARATHON & ULTRA Distance *Track* Licensing Guidance 2026

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

- [Appendix 1 – necessary numbers of officials](#)

2. Where to apply

All [Marathon & Ultra Licences](#), apart from [Scottish Basic & Level 1 Licences](#)



REGISTERED OFFICE:

UK Athletics Limited | Athletics House | Alexander Stadium | Walsall Road | Perry Barr | Birmingham | B42 2BE

Tel: 0121 713 8400 | Fax: 0121 713 8452 | britishathletics.org.uk

Registered in England No. 3686940

3. Useful Contacts

[International Association of Ultrarunners \(IAU\)](#)

England Athletics: [Organising an event](#)

Scottish Athletics: [Licensing](#)

Athletics Northern Ireland: [Organising a Track & Field event](#)

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

4. Track Facilities / Floodlighting

All races must be held at venues that have achieved [TrackMark Accreditation](#) in the units appropriate to the event. Non-technical track only events can take place as long as the venue has operational floodlighting. For World/British records (including age group bests) a level 2 licence is required and a certification of track measurement. For further information on UKA's TrackMark accreditation can be found [here](#) or by contacting TrackMark@uka.org.uk

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. Level 2 Licence

Enhanced level of licence where performances are eligible for international selection. This means that a facility must have a UKA approved track measurement and levels survey. Additionally, a higher level of officials' qualifications is required.

See also '[International Association of Ultrarunners](#)' below.

In accordance with UK Athletics rule book, CR1 S1 (7), licences should be applied for preferably at least 8 weeks in advance of a competition. Applications for licences submitted after that date will be considered on merit.

7. International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU)

Licence holders should apply to the [International Association of Ultrarunners](#) for an IAU label at least **60 days in advance**, so that all performances in the event can be recognised by the IAU for ranking and competition grant purposes.

8. Rules

Competitions must be delivered under UKA Rules for Competition (Rule G9 from page 339 onwards) and IAU (International Association of Ultrarunners) guidelines.

There are **compulsory** requirements relating to UK Anti-Doping, please see [Appendix 2](#) on page 6 below.



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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

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](#):

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](#).

12. Equipment

Chip timing. A second back up system either chip and or video. For World/British records (including age group bests) a level 2 licence is required.

Ideally a double electronic system both active and passive is required for all IAU competitions - but not in demand for domestic races. However international records would require the evidence of electronic timing and stopped timing (stop watches) for intermediate distances or distances which are not covered by electronic mats, eg 100 miles.

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](#).



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14. Race Director

Should be a competent and experienced person at previous ultra-events or experience of shadowing established ultra-events. A UK Athletics officials qualification would be desirable.

15. Minimum athlete age

In accordance with the UK Athletics rule G9, the minimum age is 20 years on the first day of running.

16. Power of 10

All results from licensed competitions are eligible for [Power of 10](#) inclusion. Exclusions may occur if the UK Athletics/IAU 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 [here](#).

17. Changes to Licence: events/date/venue

Changes to events/date/venue/chief officials must be informed to tandfeventlicensing@uka.org.uk or the relevant Home Country Contact found in section 9 above before the competition so that the application can be amended and if necessary, the licence will be reissued.

18. 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](#).

19. Ultra-Track Running Distance Definition

Any distance further than a marathon distance (42195m)

20. Post Event 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:

<https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/events/organising-anevent/event-returns/>

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



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Appendix 1 – Officials Required for Ultra Running Events 2025

Officials on duty	<p><i>At least 2 qualified officials must be present at all times. There must be 3 officials present for the start, finish and any specific intermediate distances/times.</i></p> <p><i>**The welfare and capability of volunteers in extended events should be considered, and long extended shifts should be avoided to ensure the safety of all involved.</i></p> <p><i>These guidelines are considered minimums and the number of participants may require more officials' and this should be determined by risk assessment.</i></p> <p><i>The officials can be made up with a mixture of the following track judges/timekeepers/endurance officials.</i></p>	
	Level 1	Level 2
Track Referee (Can be track judge or endurance qualified)	Level 2+	Level 3+ (Level 4 for UK records)
Chief Timekeeper (Can be qualified timekeeper or endurance official) **See equipment section above	Level 2+	Level 3+
Additional Qualified Officials , who may be track judges, endurance officials or timekeepers.	<p><i>Plus at least 2 additional qualified track or endurance officials with relevant experience.</i></p> <p>**See note above</p>	
Starter	<p>Qualified Starter (Level 1+) required if a gun start is used.</p> <p>If a horn/electronic/other start is used, a competent and experienced person may perform the starter role, although a Starter qualification is desirable</p>	



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Appendix 2 - 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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