

Quick Guide¹
Officials' Professionalism and Decorum

The role of the official is to facilitate fair and safe competition in an authoritative yet unassuming manner.

DO...

1. Know the rules; if in doubt, seek clarification from senior officials or the referee.
2. Dress in the approved BC Athletics (BCA) officials' uniform: white golf shirt; navy blue full-length pants or just above-the-knee short pants; and shoes covering the entire foot. (Rain or cold weather gear is an exception.)
3. Wear your BCA name tag and ensure that it is visible at all times.
4. Instruct volunteers in their duties and in appropriate safety measures.
5. Maintain a safe competition area.
6. Pay attention to where you are in relation to competition areas and athletes to avoid interfering with or endangering others.
7. Work as part of a team; be a good team mate to other officials.
8. Give instructions clearly, with authority, in an audible, controlled tone of voice.
9. Treat athletes equally; ensure that all athletes receive the same instructions.
10. Be respectful and cordial, but not overly friendly with athletes, coaches, and spectators.
11. Respond to any concerns and complaints in a respectful and private manner, referring any unresolved issue to the referee or meet director.
12. Ask for the referee's assistance if needed.
13. Remain at your assigned competition area until the competition is completed.
14. Ensure that competition results are delivered to the meet secretary.

DON'T...

1. Wear clothing advertising an individual club or other organization unless that clothing is part of a meet package issued to all officials.
2. Use electronic devices, such as cell phones, for any purpose other than officiating. (Cell phones are fine for time and meet schedules but not for photos of or with athletes.)
3. Talk unnecessarily to others (e.g., athletes, coaches, or spectators).
4. Interfere with or distract athletes, including shouting across a competition area.
5. Favour any athlete.
6. Give technical advice to athletes beyond that required for a safe and fair competition.
7. Provide athletes with medication.
8. Coach athletes while officiating; officials who are also coaches or parents of athletes must especially behave impartially.
9. Curse or smoke or drink alcohol anywhere at the event venue. Officials should not have traces of tobacco or alcohol on their breath.

¹ © BC Athletics. Written by Sue Kydd with assistance from the BCA Officials Committee.