



Vancouver Island Athletic Association



STARTER'S ASSISTANT - Start Line Assembly & Basic instructions

Purpose:

- To keep the event on time, and supervise athletes from the time they check in, until they are handed over to the Starter.
- Coordinate with other officials (e.g., photo finish, announcer) to ensure accurate information flow on athletes competing in a race.
- Contribute to athlete's positive experience at event. Be consistent with each athlete throughout event— treat everyone the same. _____

Before the meet:

1. Obtain the up-to-date schedule and heat sheets for the day. Review against the schedule and determine the movement of athletes from check-in to start line to ensure races start as planned. Look for, and address any issues such as ensuring enough hurdles in lanes for the number of competitors in each heat.
2. Walk the track to note start lines, break lines, steeplechase route, and relay zones. Note any potential hazards on the track (e.g., water on track, holes or excessive tape on the track) and communicate to Meet Director if you cannot resolve yourself. Note staging or assembly areas to safely hold athletes before their race.

During the meet:

1. Check-in or scratch runners on heat sheets (if not already done in the Call Room) and communicate to finish line, Competition Secretary and Announcer as appropriate (via walkie-talkie or other means).
 2. Confirm that competitors are competing in the correct event and heat.
 3. Check that competition numbers are correct and worn properly. Issue hip numbers, if required, for longer distance races (e.g., races not run in lanes) and/or relay races.
 4. Place the runners in correct lanes or stations (if relay race). For relays, ensure the first runner has a baton that meets the rules (e.g., smooth, no tape).
 5. Assist with starting blocks if necessary.
 6. Ensure Photo Finish or Timers and Finish Line are ready to start race.
 7. Signal Starter when runners in proper position.
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