

## Purpose

To determine the order in which the athletes reach the finish line in a track event.

**Note:** Timing gates and photo finish can provide all placings for track events. The procedure described on this handy hint is when timing devices are not used. This procedure should be used as a backup method of placing should the automatic timing system fail.

## Equipment

- ✓ Place judging tags/tickets
- ✓ Finish posts painted white
- ✓ Recording forms, pens and clipboards
- ✓ Two-way radios or flags (1 red and 1 white) for communication between Officials
- ✓ Bell for lap scoring

## Safety

The finish and nearby areas must be clear of obstructions and hazards.

## Where to stand

Place Judges should:

- operate from the inside of the track.
- be in line with the finish line for an accurate view of the athletes reaching the finish line.
- preferably be seated on an elevated stand at least five metres back from the inside lane of the track for a good view of the finish.

## What to do

- Place Judges are allocated a specific place to judge, **not** a lane, e.g. third place **not** lane 3.
- For unlaned events, i.e. events longer than 400m:
  - a Lap Scorer is necessary.
  - Place Judges may be allocated several athletes to record the laps completed and finishing order.
  - a Place Judge will ring the bell as each athlete begins their final lap.
- Act independently, do not consult with other Place Judges over decisions.

## How to place/judge

- The placings are determined by the order in which any part of the athlete's torso reaches the finish line. The torso is between the shoulders and waist and does not include head, neck, arms, legs, hands or feet.
- At the end of the race for laned events, the Place Judge:
  - records the athlete's number or Centre on a recording form.
  - hands the recording form to the Chief Place Judge.
- At the end of the race for unlaned events, athletes are:
  - lined up in finishing order, may be handed place judging tags.
  - to then proceed to the recording area.
- At Centre level, place judging tags may be handed to the athletes to then proceed to the recording area.
- Place Judges' decisions on the finishing order takes priority over Timekeepers and may be used to differentiate equal times.
- If a mistake happens, e.g. missed the finish or too close for a decision, remain calm and inform the Chief Place Judge immediately. The Chief Place Judge will determine the official placings if there are any discrepancies.

## Handy hints for Place Judges

- When place judging, first impressions are the best.
- Need to concentrate on the finish of the race.
- Be aware and do not obstruct the view of other Place Judges.
- Do not converse with the athletes — it slows down the process.
- In unlaned events, be aware of athletes being lapped or withdrawing.

