



Return to Racing Guidelines for Officiating

May 7, 2020

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The Return to Racing Guidelines for Officiating is intended to communicate what changes race directors should expect, why they are necessary and how to prepare for those changes.

Officiating and Rules Enforcement:

1) Officiating Team Considerations

- a) Consider best option for your event, race format and course design
 - i) Requesting USAT Certified Officials
 - (1) Request via the sanctioning process
 - (2) Regional Officials Coordinator (ROC) will contact the Race Director with staffing options
 - (3) Dependent upon event size/race format, official availability, and when possible, the ROC will work with the Race Director to:
 - (a) Optimize the size of the officiating team
 - (b) Keep officiating team to the absolute necessary
 - (c) Limit travel
 - (4) Officials Reimbursement
 - (a) Consider electronic payment options
 - (i) To be agreed upon between Official and Race Director
 - ii) Self-Officiating
 - (1) Consider available options and resources to ensure a fair event
 - (a) If no or minimal volunteer marshals are available, consider requesting USAT officials
 - iii) Motorcycle and Driver for officials
 - (1) Officials discretion
 - (2) Subject to availability

- b) Amount and location of officials / volunteer marshals
 - (i) Staff key areas as necessary and agreed upon by Head Official
 - (ii) Some areas may require more officials or volunteer marshals to best promote fairness, hygiene and physical distancing include:
 - (a) Transition Area
 - (b) Run Course
 - (c) Finish/Results Area
- c) Supplies: have ample hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, and other essentials on hand to keep officials and volunteer marshals well equipped to do their jobs
 - i) Gloves: Not ALL officials and volunteer marshals need gloves. Remember, gloves only protect the person wearing the gloves. Dirty gloves can transmit disease in the same fashion as dirty hands without gloves. Gloves should only be worn in close proximity to athletes, during equipment inspections, or other areas as necessary where transmission of disease or dirty substances is high

2) Lodging Considerations

- a) Lodging for Officials (if needed)
 - i) Consider physical distancing guidelines may require arranging single occupancy, unless members of officiating team are cohabitants

3) Head Official Communications

- a) Head Official
 - i) Head Official will contact Race Director after receiving assignment and coordinate officiating logistics with Race Director and officiating team
 - (1) Starting 4-6 weeks prior to event until post-event

4) Briefings (pre-event)

a) Virtual vs. In-person

i) Virtual is recommended

- (1) Use Pre-recorded Rules briefing and/or host Virtual Rules Briefing (Zoom/Google Hangout/FB Q&A) in advance of the event (coordinated by Head Official)
- (2) Post to YouTube for athletes who cannot attend the live briefing.
- (3) In-person briefings should only occur once mass gathering restrictions are relaxed
 - (a) Consider multiple briefings
 - (b) Adhere to gathering thresholds

ii) Rules Ambassador, if available

- (1) Consider Rules Ambassadors to assist with briefings

iii) All rules and enforcement procedures should be communicated to the participants including normal and modified policies and procedures to officiating based on physical distancing and increased hygiene measures, courses, rules, etc

5) Race Day

a) General Considerations

i) Encourage role model behavior

- (1) More athlete self-reliance may be needed
- (2) Ethics of participation
- (3) Respect of each other
- (4) Urge everyone to follow the guidelines and observe the rules
 - (a) Following the rules of the sport are the cornerstone of self-regulation

- ii) Race Numbers
 - (1) Race numbers must be provided, either as tattoos, self-body marking or paper and must be visible/readable during all segments of the event
- b) Officials Team Meeting (head official/assistant officials/volunteer marshals)
 - i) Head Official will coordinate officiating team, confirm assignments, placement, plans, processes and timelines
- c) Transition Area
 - i) Equipment Checks
 - (1) All equipment check should be carried out as visual checks
 - (2) The officials or volunteer marshals may need to do a physical check of equipment
 - (a) Any official or volunteer marshal performing a physical check of an athlete's equipment should be masked and gloved, replacing gloves after and between inspections
 - (b) In this case, sanitary wipes should be available to athletes for wiping down equipment after official or volunteer marshal have checked the equipment
 - ii) Bar-ends
 - (1) Consider visual checking for bar-ends at transition entrance
 - (2) Consider having one volunteer handing out bar-ends to athletes to repair their bikes
 - (a) If missing bar-end is identified when athlete is not present, any volunteer repairing missing bar-ends should be masked and gloved
 - (3) An alternative is to have bar-ends spread out on several tables for athletes to grab themselves (with staff/volunteers monitoring)
- d) Racking
 - i) Consider numbered racks, this will ensure athletes have an individually designated corral area, as defined by race management

e) Penalties

- i) Per USAT Competitive Rules and officials program procedures
 - (1) In the case of a warn and amend citation, maintain physical distancing
- ii) In the case of utilizing a Penalty Tent
 - (1) If using a penalty tent/box/defined area
 - (a) These areas should be designed in a way to adhere and respect any event guidelines on physical distancing between the penalized athletes and the penalty tent staff, as well as other athletes present in the penalty area
 - (b) If an official or volunteer marshal comes in contact with an athlete, they should replace their glove and use wipes to wipe the area of the body that was touched

f) Swim

- i) Consider allowing athletes to leave footwear at swim exit
- ii) If participatory event or participatory wave at event, consider allowing athletes to wear buoyancy shorts when swim is not wetsuit legal
 - (1) When participants are deemed “participatory” they may receive results for the event, but would not be eligible for age group awards or results submitted for USAT rankings

g) Mount/Dismount Line

- i) Ample volunteers and staff should be positioned at the mount/dismount line to keep athlete flow as it can become congested
- ii) Consider zones, corridors or lanes with appropriate spacing for incoming (dismount) and outgoing (mount) athletes
- iii) Consider spacing for athletes during the mount/dismount maneuver
- iv) Consider athletes may drop a gear during mount/dismount maneuver
 - (1) If during dismount maneuver, consider having a volunteer direct athlete to collect gear before exiting area

(a) An alternative is to have a designated volunteer to collect and place in a designated area for athlete retrieval, volunteer should be gloved and masked

h) Bike

i) Provide the best possible athlete distribution on the bike course to support physical distancing

(1) For a non-draft legal format, USAT Bike Position Rules should be followed, which discourages cyclists riding in close proximity

(2) For noted exceptions within the rules, it is recommended cyclists avoid riding directly behind another cyclist

i) Run

i) It is recommended a runner avoid running directly behind or alongside another runner

j) General Course Behavior

i) Reducing Expectorants around others

(1) Coughing, spitting, phlegm, nose blowing

ii) Consider and respect physical distancing when around other athletes

iii) Consider the use of verbal cues when passing other athletes

iv) It is recommended athletes avoid sharing incidental items such as, food and drinks, pumps, tubular tires, inner tubes and puncture repair kits

k) Officials Debrief

i) Location where physical distancing can be respected

ii) Violation reporting (documented citation of observed rules violations)

(1) Paper or electronic reporting to Head Official

(2) At Head Officials discretion, assistant officials and/or volunteer marshals may submit citations electronically to Head Official

(a) Submit form, photo or transcription via text or email

- (i) May require post submission of electronic form post event
 - (b) Head Official will review submitted citations for penalty application
- I) Head Referee Report (Penalty Report)
 - i) Communication with Timer (to be agreed upon between Head Official and Timer)
 - (1) In-person or electronically
 - (2) Timer to provide Head Official with a report of top ten splits, participants who started in an earlier and improper wave, identified course cutting or anything that requires review by the Head Official for penalty assessment
 - (a) There are no adjustments to finish times, other than the addition of penalty times
 - (3) Head Officials to submit Head Referee Report to Timer for application to results
 - (4) Required signatures may be electronic (Timer and Head Official)
 - (a) A signed copy must be retained by the Timer, Head Official and posted for athlete review
 - (5) If the Timer identifies any course cutting after the Head Referee Report is submitted, or post event, it must be submitted to the Head Referee for review and/or penalty assessment
 - (a) If penalty applied, Head Referee will update Head Referee Report and submit to Timer who will apply to results
 - ii) Posting of Head Referee Report
 - (1) Posted by Timer or Head official
 - (a) On site in results area or other designated area, this area should be clearly communicated to participants
 - (i) Location where physical distancing can be respected
 - (b) Electronically, posted with results
 - (2) Competition Violation Due Process
 - (a) In-person, on site, or electronically

- (i) If on site, and head official present on site, designated area with physical distancing protocols
- (ii) Option to text with Head Official at event site up to one hour after posting
- (iii) Post-race
 - 1. Following event, email Head Official up to 10 days after event date, at which time results will be final

(3) Post Event

- (a) Head Official will complete and submit post-race reporting to Regional Officials Coordinator (ROC) and Commissioner
- (b) Race Director submits Evaluation of Official Form to USAT
- (c) ROC may also reach out to Race Director regarding satisfaction with officiating and officiating team

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These guidelines will be updated according to the latest information from the WHO, CDC and other health authorities, as well as the USOPC, ITU and other resources released on this topic.