

WHY DO WE HAVE RACE OFFICIALS?

What are they for and why do they cost us money?

The role of the race official is integral to the success of events and the growth of the sport. They help to create positive race experiences for all athletes by ensuring that races are safe and fair.

The....rules are intended for the purpose of creating equal opportunity and fair play for all competitors, providing a basis for reasonable safety and protection in an atmosphere of sportsmanship and fair play.

The above statements are taken from the Triathlon England web site and the BTF Rule Book and are a neat summation of the role, but need expansion.

- **Any activity with a set of RULES needs an arbiter of these rules during the activity.** Imagine a football (let alone Ice Hockey) match without a Referee – chaos is likely to ensue. Same goes for individual sports – think boxing without a Referee! Cricket and Tennis have Umpires, but they do the same job of interpreting and upholding the rules of the game.
- **What are rules for?** Everyone is subject to the same rules to engender
 - a. The opportunity for “fair play”
 - b. Safety
 - c. Guidelines on behaviour
 - d. Principles of achievement, aspiration
- **What is the Race Official's role prior to your event?**
 - a. Your RO will contact you prior to Race Day to check the following:
 - i. That the Triathlon England RACE PERMIT has been received or an insurance certificate is available, if not registered with Triathlon England
 - ii. Registration opening, Race Briefing and start times.
 - iii. How to get to the venue and where to park.
 - iv. Expected numbers of competitors.
 - v. Number of waves, time of waves and number of competitors in each.
 - vi. That notice boards will be available to post results and penalties.
 - vii. What first-aid cover has been arranged and which hospital contacted.
 - b. They will have familiarised themselves with course maps and Transition layout to help offer competitors best advice.
- **What is the Race Official expected to do “on the day”.**
 - a. Your RO should be with you from registration to prize giving.
 - b. They will oversee
 - i. Processes and procedures and make recommendations to change / improve where applicable.
 - ii. Safety of all aspects of the event, from security of transition to water safety, signage of courses, hazard management, marshal allocation etc. etc.

- iii. Athlete behaviour, from adherence to rules re: equipment, to monitoring respect of fellow athletes and marshals.
 - c. They will be on hand to answer technical questions about equipment, the course etc.
 - d. They will encourage everyone from Event Organisers to spectators.
 - e. They will penalise where necessary but caution in preference.

- **What will you gain from the experience?**
 - a. A safe event, enjoyed by all participants, treated fairly under the same consistently applied rules.
 - b. A report offering thoughts on the event with recommendations for change where required / appropriate.

- **Why do you have to “pay” Race Officials?**
 - a. ROs are unpaid volunteers (often current or past competitors, looking to give something back to their chosen sport). They give their time for the benefit of the sport and success of your event!
 - b. The guidelines for RO **expenses** are to cover the costs of getting to and from events up to 100 miles. Anything over 100 miles they can make an additional claim at 40p per mile to ensure they are not out of pocket. If overnight accommodation is required, you may be asked to help with costs. This is for negotiation and by prior agreement between RO and organiser.