

The Transition of Officials Roles and Responsibilities: UKA and Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAF's)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: What will this mean to me as a licenced official?

A1: In the short term, there will be no changes for you as an individual official. You will still receive communication from your relevant home country and operationally there will be very little change. As stated, the transfer is intended to create more support and development opportunities for officials. If you are a licenced official at levels 1-3 you will receive a greater level of support from your relevant Home Country, if you are an official licenced at levels 4 or 5 (including ITO's) then you will receive support from predominantly UKA but also your relevant home country as required. We will continue to work collectively UKA and the Home Country Athletics Federations (HCAF's) to ensure the needs of the officials community are met.

Q2: How will this effect my officials licence?

A2: Your officials licence will not be effected and UKA shall continue to license you. Moving forward the administration of that licence may move across to the relevant home country (if you are a licenced official at levels 1 – 3) however, this will be reviewed in the coming period and should there be any change then you will be notified accordingly. You will still be licenced by UKA and the licence terms and conditions will still apply throughout the officials' pathway.

Q3: Will these changes have any impact on how I am insured as an official?

A3: No, there will be no impact on the insurance cover for officials which will remain in place.

Q4: Who will be responsible for course/qualification delivery?

A4: The Home Country Athletics Federations will be responsible for course content and qualification delivery for assistant official, level 1 photo finish/field/track/timekeeping/race walking/endurance and starter/starter assistant as well as the newly developed call room module. Each Home Country will have responsibility for Levels 2 and 3 content. UKA will remain responsible for providing safeguarding modules, health & safety and risk awareness training and will continue to work to review these elements as appropriate.

Q5: Will the officials' qualifications change?

A5: In the short term there will be no change, however each HCAF will engage with member clubs and the wider official's community, to understand more about what is working and what needs to be improved to inform any longer-term amendments to course content and delivery mechanisms, with a specific focus on Level 1/entry level. We are committed to ensuring that we can build greater capacity in our sport at entry level, and this will be our driving motive, working to remove barriers where they exist and making it easier, without compromising on safety, for volunteers to get involved in our sport. As a collective (UKA and the HCAF's) will agree some high-level learning outcomes for all courses / qualifications and delivery will be aligned to these across each of the HCAFs.

Q6: Will the courses be the same across all Home Countries?

A6: In the main, there will be consistency across the UK in delivering courses that ensure that candidates achieve the same learning outcomes at the end of a course. The course content and delivery mechanisms may differ very slightly across the UK (to cater for local variation / requirements) but where possible, consistency will be maintained. HCAFs will continue work with each other and with UKA to share best practice, knowledge and thinking around course development and candidate feedback. As outlined above, we will agree the learning outcomes for all courses / qualifications and delivery will be aligned to these.

Q7: Will the courses and learning resources be the same across all Home Countries?

A7: The learning resources provided on course (as well as pre/post course) may differ slightly across the HCAF's to ensure it is most relevant and fit for purpose. One of the significant advantages to this approach is that HCAF's can be more responsive and reactive to both change and local requirements when it comes to course delivery, course content and resources. Any changes to existing content and material will be communicated as and when necessary, by the respective HCAF. In the immediate term there will be no changes in this area, and we encourage candidates to continue to register for available courses that are promoted and delivered by each HCAF.

Q8: What will this mean to me as a UKA official tutor?

A8: Moving forward information related to tutoring assistant official and level 1 content will be distributed by your HCAF. Also, the relevant HCAF will update the content and resources for tutors via the Athletics Hub. Each HCAF will take on responsibility for tutor recruitment and development at these respective levels. In the immediate term there will be no change but as and when there are planned changes, then this will be communicated accordingly.

Q9: Who will be responsible for the training of officials' tutors?

A9: HCAF's will be responsible for organising and coordinating tutor training and development for all tutors delivering at Level 1 (and 2 and 3 if/as required). UKA will maintain responsibility for developing the tutor/delivery workforce for the higher-level qualification at L4 and 5 where appropriate.

Q10: Moving forward, will I still need to complete the UKA safeguarding module to maintain my licence?

A10: Yes, you will still need to complete the mandatory UKA safeguarding module as a requirement of the qualification and/or relicensing process.

Q11: Will Athletics Hub continue to be the place where I find details of officials' courses?

A11: Yes, should there be any changes to this then we will communicate this via your respective HCAF. We are committed to review this on a regular basis to ensure that we are providing a high-quality customer journey for those coming into officiating at entry level and beyond. Each HCAF will be responsible for ensuring that information and communication to officials is high quality via their own website platforms and social media channels.