

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## NEW TRACK & FIELD OFFICIALS

### GENERAL

- Do I need prior experience?  
No.
- Do I need to know about track & field?  
No.
- Do I need a rule book?  
No, though we encourage acquiring the applicable rule books.
- Do I need to join a club or organization?  
No, though we encourage membership in Oregon Track Club (OTC) and USA Track and Field (USATF).  
<https://www.oregontrackclub.com/>  
<https://www.usatf.org/home/top-utility-nav-content/membership>
- Do I get paid?  
Each meet is handled differently. The majority of meets at Hayward Field do not pay officials.
- Do I get any gifts for volunteering?  
Yes. Examples include polo shirts, hats and track bags. Typically, meals are provided at meets.
- Do I get free tickets for my family?  
Each meet is handled differently. Tickets are provided to some, but not all, meets.
- Who do I contact for questions?  
The OTC Officials Committee: [info@oregontrackclub.com](mailto:info@oregontrackclub.com)
- Will there be training?  
Yes. There is a New Officials Training in the winter. Onsite training is provided by Head Officials and crew members.
- Will I have a mentor/buddy?  
This is determined by the Head Official, but it is often the case.
- What does an official do?  
Each official joins and works with a crew. The crew ensures a safe and fair competition for all athletes and adheres to all applicable rules for their event. Each official reports to the Head Official of their crew for their position, duties and instruction. Each crew has vastly different events, thus what an official does varies greatly from crew to crew.
- What is a crew?  
The group of officials that is responsible for managing an event or other specified duty. For example, Pole Vault Crew, Umpire Crew and Discus Crew. Each crew has a Head Official, Associate Head Official and multiple crew members. The crew ensures a safe and fair competition for all athletes and adheres to all applicable rules for their event. Each crew has different positions and an official may rotate through the different positions from meet to

meet. The Head Official assigns the crew positions. Crews vary in size, though a typical crew is 8-10 officials.

- Who are Head Officials?  
The Head Official is the leader of their respective crew. They are responsible for the crew members and their duties. They coordinate with meet management, provide training and assign positions for each member of the crew. They are the direct contact for all information and questions for that specific crew.
- Is there a commitment?  
There is no formal agreement to officiate, though we encourage regular communication with the Head Official of your intentions. The UO does require officials to sign a liability waiver.
- What if I don't like officiating?  
There are many other volunteer opportunities in the sport of Track and Field.

## DAY OF MEET

- How much time will I be there each meet?  
This depends on the event you are officiating. In general, you will arrive 1 hour before your event begins and stay until 20 minutes after your event ends.
- Where do I go when I arrive at Hayward Field?  
Officials use the Agate Street entrance, across from the fire station.
- What do I wear?  
White polo, khaki pants or shorts, solid color outer layers, preferably black or dark green.
- Can I store my things on site?  
Yes, but the location is not secured.
- Is there a meal provided?  
Yes. Depending on how long you officiate, multiple meals may be provided on site during the meet.
- Is parking readily available?  
For meets on the weekend, there is ample parking at UO parking lots within walking distance. Meet Directors try to provide parking for officials when meets are held on weekdays.
- If I live outside of Eugene/Springfield, is there a travel stipend or lodging provided?  
No.
- Do we still officiate in bad weather?  
Yes. We officiate in all conditions, except lightning. Please dress accordingly.
- How do I get a Hayward Field branded rain suit?  
Officials are eligible for a rain suit after having officiated for 3 years.
- What if I cannot officiate a meet I committed to?  
Contact your Head Official as soon as possible.

## SEASON

- How long is the season?  
The regular season is in the spring. The championship season is in the summer. Cross Country season is in the fall. You do not need to commit to all 3 seasons, though there are opportunities to officiate or volunteer in each.
- Do I have to work every meet of the season?  
No. We encourage officiating as many meets as possible though to gain experience.
- Where else can I volunteer besides Hayward Field?  
Middle school, high school, community college and regional colleges all need officials.

## CERTIFICATION

- What is certification?  
A process by which USATF trains and certifies officials to ensure fair and safe competitions. USATF provides information and instruction to officials to assure their development. There are four levels of certification: Apprentice, Association, National and Master. Officials are certified for an Olympiad, which is a four-year period.
- Do I have to be certified?  
No, though we encourage certification. Some championship meets do require certification.
- What is the cost of certification?  
Membership in USATF (yearly): \$55.00  
Background check (every two years): \$22.00  
Certification fee (every four years): \$40.00
- What are the benefits?  
Eligibility for National Championship meets.  
Liability insurance.  
Access to trainings, resources, rulebooks and newsletters.  
USATF discounts.
- I want to be certified, what do I do?  
Contact Scott Phoenix, USATF Oregon Certification Chair: sandcphoenix@gmail.com

## LIST OF RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS

- OTC  
Oregon Track Club, a local non-profit who promotes and encourages interest in Track and Field.  
<https://www.oregontrackclub.com/>
- OTC Officials Committee  
A committee of the Oregon Track Club dedicated to the recruitment, training and support of officials.

<https://www.oregontrackclub.com/officials>

- TT  
TrackTown USA, a local event production company.  
<https://www.gotracktownusa.com/>
- USATF Oregon  
The Oregon Association of USA Track and Field.  
<https://oregon.usatf.org/>
- USATF  
USA Track and Field, the national governing body of Track and Field.  
<https://www.usatf.org/programs/officials>
- WA  
World Athletics, the international governing body of Track and Field.  
<https://worldathletics.org/>
- OSAA  
Oregon School Activities Association, the state high school governing body of Track and Field.  
<https://www.osaa.org/>
- NCAA  
National Collegiate Athletic Association, the national colligate governing body of Track and Field.  
<https://www.ncaa.com/sports/trackfield-outdoor-men/d1>  
<https://www.ncaa.com/sports/trackfield-outdoor-women/d1>
- UO  
University of Oregon  
<https://goducks.com/sports/track-and-field?path=track>