

## **2. Timekeepers**

### **2.1 Positioning**

It is recommended that the Timekeepers should be:

- placed at least 5m from, and in line with, the finish on the outside of the track, opposite the Judges
- on an elevated stand in order that they may have a good view of the starter and the finish line (IAAF 165.2).

(See photograph 'Timekeepers')

### **2.2 Independence**

- i. The Timekeepers shall act independently from one another:
- ii. Without showing their watches to each other and without discussing times.
- iii. The Chief Timekeeper will record times, and may examine the watches to verify the reported times (IAAF 165.7).
- iv. The Chief Timekeeper shall then decide what are the official times for each competitor and provide the result for publication (IAAF 165.10).

### **2.3 Timing**

- i. Sufficient timekeepers shall be appointed for the number of competitors entered, one shall be the Chief Timekeeper. E.g. 9 athletes 11 timekeepers.
- ii. Three official timekeepers (one of whom shall be the Chief Timekeeper) shall time the winner of every event.
- iii. Where there are 3 watches used:
  - a. If only 2 watches agree, the times shown by the 2 shall be the official time.
  - b. If all 3 disagree, the middle time shall be recorded as the official time.
- iv. Where 2 watches are used and they fail to agree; the slower time shall be accepted as the official time (IAAF 165.9).
- v. The time shall be taken from the flash/smoke of the gun to the moment at which any part of the body of the competitor (ie. "Torso", as distinct from the head, neck, arms, legs, hands or feet) reaches the perpendicular plane of the nearer edge of the finish line (IAAF 165.5).
- vi. For all races timing shall be recorded to one-tenth of a second.
- vii. All times not ending in zero in the second decimal shall be rounded to the next longer 1/10<sup>th</sup> second, ie. 10.11 shall be read as 10.2 (IAAF 165.8).

## **2.4 Chief Timekeeper**

- i. Should time the winner of every event.
- ii. Should check the watches of the Timekeepers timing the winner.
- iii. Also decides the official time to be recorded for the other placed runners, checking the watches if there is an apparent discrepancy.
- iv. Is also responsible for ensuring that the Judges and Timekeepers are ready before signalling a clearance to the Starter.
- v. Will nominate separate Timekeepers to record each of the minor placing's
- vi. Where possible, shall appoint additional Timekeepers for second and third places.
- vii. Check winning times for new event records.
- viii. Ensure that watches for record times are not cleared prior to being verified by the Chief Timekeeper.
- ix. Upon completion of each event the result sheet shall immediately be filled in and handed to the Recorder (IAAF 124.6). If the result is a record the Referee must sign the result sheet.

Further Reading - IAAF 127, 165