

World Para Athletics Role of the International Starter

1 Introduction

- 1.1 International Starters are appointed by World Para Athletics (WPA) to all IPC Games and IPC Competitions (see WPA Rules Part B - 3.1.2 (a) and (b)) to assist in the proper conduct of the races held in the stadium. While the role of the International Starter is outlined briefly in Rule 2.6 of the WPA Competition Rules, this document aims to provide more comprehensive and clearer guidelines as to the responsibilities and duties assigned by the Technical Delegate to the International Starter and the expectations of WPA.
- 1.2 The deployment of the International Starter is intended to:
- Add a consistent approach to the start process at all major Competitions.
 - Ensure the current technical rules concerned with starts are correctly interpreted and implemented at all major competitions.
 - Influence the organisation and practice at starts around the world.
 - Enhance the way in which the image of the sport is presented.
- 1.3 WPA Starting Guidelines have been developed intended to give to the International Starters, WPA and Organising Committees a clear understanding of:
- Rules interpretation
 - Rules implementation
 - Operational procedures
 - Problem solving skills

2 Becoming an International Starter

- 2.1 An International Starter has to be able to demonstrate a consistent approach to all of the technical requirements of the role of starter. In addition, there are several desirable technical and personal characteristics applicable to candidates for the role. These include,
- Exemplary record as a starter at a high level of competition.
 - A thorough knowledge of the current rules, the relevant technology and their application.
 - An open, flexible approach to working with officials from other nations.

- Experience of officiating outside of their own national system.
- A relevant command of English.
- Some experience of developing, mentoring or training other starters.
- A comprehensive knowledge of the delivery structures of WPA major competitions particularly the relationship to the Technical Delegate(s).

2.2 Candidates are proposed as follows;

- Previous Experience as Chief Starter at a WPA World Championships or IPC Games in the past four years.
- Recommendation by the International Starter from experience at the event indicated above.
- Previous experience as a member of the International Starters Panel.
- Recommendation by the WPA Technical Delegate(s) from events as an International Starter.

2.3 It is strongly recommended that regional governing bodies look to develop an area panel of International Starters who will work at all area level events. This would create a natural progression for starters to move forward to global events based on performance and experience. This approach will also improve starting and implement an agreed standard across the world.

2.4 Detailed “Terms of Reference”, outlining the selection, training, appointment, deployment and evaluation of International Starters have been prepared by the WPA.

3 Deployment of the International Starter

- 3.1 The International Starter will take direction about his duties from the WPA appointed Technical Delegates for the competition. Understandably, there is a significant need for the deployment of the International Starter to be handled efficiently, in partnership with the LOC, in an atmosphere of development rather than implied deficiency. The Technical Delegates and the International Starter will agree in advance of the meeting on which events the International Starter will start. During the course of the competition, however, these events can change, if deemed necessary by the International Starter and Technical Delegates.
- 3.2 The LOC will be informed of the International Starter’s appointment normally within one year in advance of the event. Once the LOC is informed of the nomination of the International Starter, they will be requested to include the appointed International Starter as one of the start team. The appointed Start Coordinator will include the

International Starter in the whole range of duties but especially the starts of the events identified in 3.1 above.

3.3 The timescale for deployment should allow total familiarisation for the meeting and all relevant briefings to take place. A desirable programme would ensure that;

- The International Starter visits the stadium at least the day before the start of the meeting.
- When appropriate, the International Starter should be included in any test or rehearsal event prior to the competition. He is also requested to be present at any training session organised for the competition with the participation of the official start team.
- During that lead-in period, the International Starter must liaise with the service company responsible for the electronic timing and the Start Information System (SIS). That liaison will include positioning and operating procedures for the team of technicians.
- The International Starter will ensure the installation is correct and the equipment is operating reliably and correctly. Any doubt regarding the accuracy of the information provided by the SIS must be reported immediately to the Technical Delegate and the Start Referee.
- The International Starter will meet with the Start Coordinator and the whole start team (Starters, Recallers and Assistants) participating in their briefing sessions, identifying, finalising and agreeing:
 - - General patterns of work for that country
 - Specific duties for each team member
 - Role of the International Starter
 - Finalising and agreeing exact interpretations of the WPA Rules

3.4 The International Starter should be present at any competition that the Technical Delegate(s) deem it is useful for him to attend.

- The International Starter can brief the Technical Delegate(s) about the starting arrangements and competencies before the meeting commences.
- The International Starter can begin to develop a strategy for cooperation with the nationally appointed team members.
- The International Starter, in cooperation and agreement with the Technical Delegate(s), can amend local practices that do not meet WPA requirements.

3.5 The implementation of this coordinated approach:

- Ensures a consistent, cross-referenced approach to the deployment of an International Starter.
- Allows the Technical Delegates to have advanced, confidential discussions with the International Starter about the specific needs of the meeting in a particular national environment (this will vary by nation).
- Has the potential for the International Starter to be in communication with his start team colleagues well before the event.
- If it is deemed necessary, enables the International Starter should be able to deliver some level of training and instruction to the home nation team. In doing so good practice is understood and well established.
- Positions the International Starter as part of the team and enables him to support local officials and report subsequently on performance.
- Enables improvement and development needs in a host nation's starting practice to be identified.