

Chief Starter – Duties

[Note: Under IAAF/USATF rules, the chief starter/start coordinator may act as an administrator only, with no starting duties, or may also act as a starter]

Assign Start Team rotation - Assigning considerations: Send matrix examples

- Starters' experience: Collegiate vs High School vs Youth vs Professional
- Equitable number of assigned heats
- Equitable assignment of sprints, relays, staggered starts
- Equitable number of block starts
- Equitable recall position assignments
- Continuity for athletes – Starter assigned to HS sprint prelims moves to HS sprint finals, etc....
- Equitable gender Start assignments

Pre-meet email to Start Crew containing the following:

- Attire (weather may determine attire)
- Arrival time and location to meet prior to competition
- Coordination of team's sound systems
- Coordinate ammo/back-up guns
- Received credential/parking pass
- Suggest crew meet after the session to debrief, particularly if it is a multi-day meet

Chief Starter duties upon arrival at meet:

- Meet with Announcers (grandstand & field) to ensure “Quiet at the Start” – “Gun is up”
- Meet with Timers to verify method of signaling ready for start/apparatus to start
- Meet with Head Clerk /Line Clerk – athletes arrival prior to event time – enforcing uniform guidelines
- Coordinate with Clerks or Line Clerk regarding instructions to athletes (it saves time if you let the Clerks or Line Clerk do it all, if possible)
- Confirm there is a block crew/cone crew
- Walk the track – look for trash, track markings, damage
- Inspect the starting blocks
- Locate and place Starters' stands – ensure there is no interference with other events

Meet Day duties of Chief Starter:

- Emphasize Safety First – Fairness
- Distribute Crew Assignments/clarify for each event Starter's location and recall positions; attach Recall position diagrams
- Recall 1 accepts athletes – all Recalls assist with start line/block questions
- Inform team how we know Timers are ready
- Starter bags/equipment placed appropriately in track area
- Remind team to treat each start as if it was their only and most important start of the day, from beginning to end
- Review hand signals among Start Crew
- Review with team the recall procedures and procedures for determining any actions required
- Review green, yellow, red card etiquette
- Discuss “stand up” prior to start; no whistles
- Perform zero-gun test if appropriate
- Confirm which rules are in effect for the day
- Confirm sounds systems and start stands are in place
- Distribute bottled water to crew
- Distribute food tickets or inform how Start Crew will receive meals
- Remind team to stay alert, be respectful, be mindful of TV cameras (if appropriate) and enjoy the day
- Act as liaison to timing crew technicians
- If SIS is in use, monitor printouts for each block race, particularly when there is a recall, and when there is no Start Referee
- Act as mentor to newer Starters
- Monitor crew for proper positioning, mechanics, voice control, hold times for the “Set” command (normally 1.8-2.5 seconds)
- Praise good work; quietly/privately suggest improvements in technique when necessary