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# Judges certification

# Program Level 2 OCR Cross Country

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v2023.11.09

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the development program objectives:  
<https://www.worldobstacle.org/official-development>
- Understand the level 2 judges' role and responsibilities
- Understand the different adaptive categories
- Understand protests and the appeals procedure
- Understand how to debrief level 1 judges and write a Technical Officials Report
- Understand the difference between a Technical Delegate and a Race Director



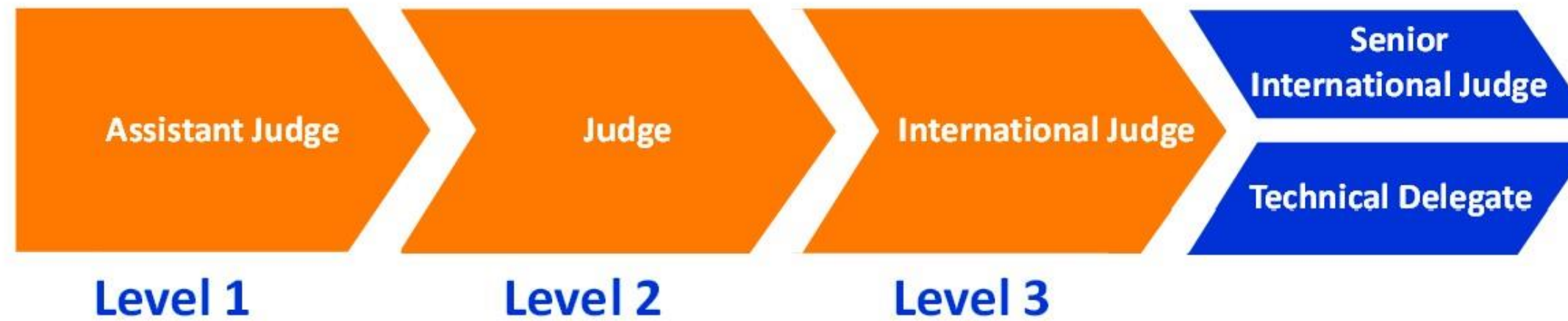


## JCP PATHWAY

### UIPM



## JUDGE CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK



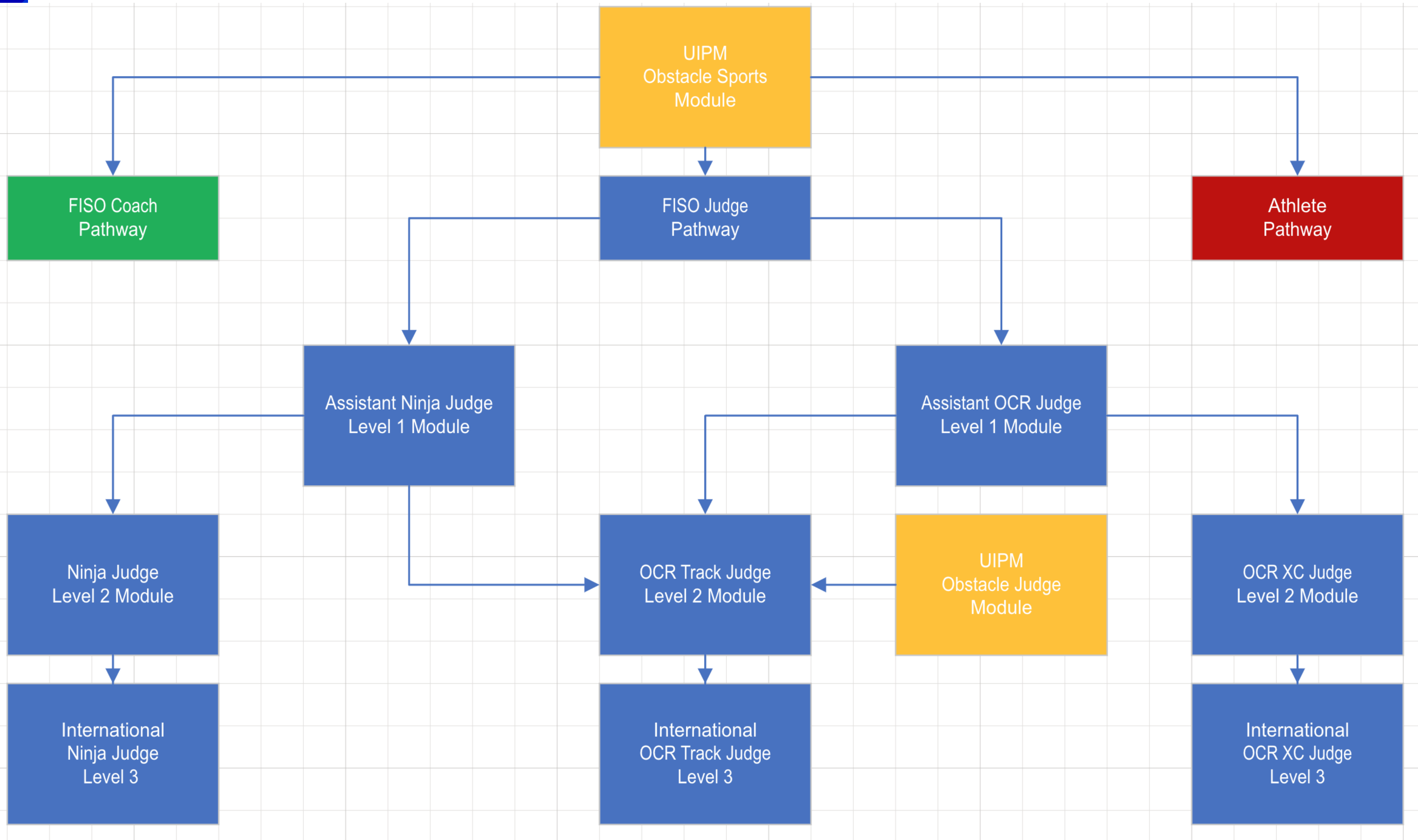
Marshal  
experience &  
prerequisites  
Level 1

Technical  
Official (TO)  
Level 2  
(CAT4)

National  
Technical  
Official (NTO)  
Level 3  
(CAT3)

International  
Technical  
Official (ITO)  
Level 4  
(CAT2)

Senior ITO  
Level 5  
(CAT1)



## Development pathway

**Level 1 – Assistant Judge (AJ):** eligible to **officiate at national competitions** according to the national local regulations. In international competitions, they are allowed to perform the role of Obstacle and Arrival Judges. This level is common for all technical pathways.

**Level 2 – Judge (J):** eligible to officiate **international competitions** as the Timekeeper, the Secretary, Assistant CTO, starting judge and finish judge. There are 3 technical pathways: OCR Cross Country, OCR Track, and Ninja.

**Level 3 – International Judge (IJ):** International Technical Officials (ITO) who are eligible to officiate **international** competitions as CTO – Chief Technical/Head Official. There are 3 technical pathways: OCR Cross Country, OCR Track, and Ninja.

**Senior International Judge (SIJ):** Senior International Technical Officials (SITO) who are nominated under technical parameters and annually selected from the best Level 3 IJs based upon the previous two seasons. The selected judges will be part of a list prepared by the FISO Technical Officials Committee.

**FISO Technical Delegates (TD):** Senior Technical Officials (SITO) who are selected by the FISO Event Management Team for major international competitions.





## LEVEL 2 JUDGE

### Criteria for OCR Cross Country:

- Officiate at a minimum of two (2) NF sanctioned events, supervised by a Level 2+ Judge.
- Officiate at one (1) additional National Championship or National Series event.
- Attend level 2 Judge training certification for the specific pathway.
- Pass the level 2 Judge level test.
- Understand the specific competition rules for the specific technical pathway
- Complete re-certification training every 3-years.
- National background check as required to meet national laws.
- Complete Safeguarding / SafeSport training every 2-3-years, aligned to national laws.



## Accountabilities

1. Keep in contact with the timing service to get changes made in case of for instance protests outcomes, timing issues, etc.
2. Speak with the TO's in case of protests to get their statements.
3. Debriefing with Judges.



# Start judge

## Accountabilities

1. Start judge: make sure that all athletes start in their designated wave. The only exception is when athletes missed their start wave. In that case, they are moved to the last competitive start wave.
2. Start judge: 30 minutes after the last athlete has departed the start wave, you start in your role as sweeper of the course





# Finish judge

## Accountabilities

1. Station prepping: check if the medals are unpacked, there are volunteers to help with the handling of medals, drinks, food, taking off the bands, escorting athletes in the right direction away from the finish area.
2. **All** bands need to be removed and replaced with the plastic finisher band.
3. Take a picture and written note of all the bands that an athlete finishes with. This in case of proof for protests.
4. Write down the amount of bands, how many penalty bands and the bib number. Penalty bands are SILICONE bands and must be handed in at the finish.
5. When an athlete wants to file a protest, notify them of the correct protest procedure. Have your volunteer keep people away from the timekeeper.



# Adaptive athletes

**PO1** Adaptive athletes in this class use a **wheelchair** and are able to self-propel in areas of flat or even terrain.

This class includes athletes with, but not limited to impairments of muscle power, range of movement, limb deficiency such as unilateral or double leg amputation, spinal cord injuries resulting in paraplegia or tetraplegia.

**PO2-1** Adaptive athletes in this sport class have a significant **limitation within the obstacle elements** of racing.

They have a severe degree of activity limitation such as, but not limited to: complete loss of range of motion, power or proprioception in one arm, through-the-shoulder amputation, severe cerebral palsy or a severe neurological **impairment affecting mostly the upper body**. Athletes in this group are unable to use their upper limb to grip under the armpit.

**PO2-2** Adaptive athletes in this sport class have a significant **limitation with the running elements** of racing.

They have a severe degree of activity limitation such as; complete loss of motion, power or proprioception in one leg, short stature or a severe neurological impairment **affecting mostly the lower body**. Athletes in this class may choose to use mobility devices to race such as walking stick(s) or crutches.

**PO3** This sport class includes Adaptive athletes with a **moderate degree of activity limitation in their lower limb(s)** such as athletes with, but not limited to; lower limb amputation, moderate neurological impairments affecting the lower body or a loss of range of motion or power in the ankle or knee joint.

**PO4** This sport class includes Para athletes with a **moderate degree of activity limitation in their upper limb(s)** such as athletes with, but not limited to; upper limb amputation where the athlete is able to grip under the armpit, moderate neurological impairments affecting the upper body or a loss of range of motion or power in the wrist or elbow joint.

**PO5** Adaptive athletes in this sport class have a **visual impairment**.

Condensed adaptive Obstacle Classes In events with a limited number of adaptive athletes, three sport classes may be used. PO1, PO2-4 and PO5. These classes represent nonambulatory, ambulatory and vision impaired athletes respectively with no distinction between PO2, PO3 and PO4. Alternatively, event organizers may wish to combine both PO2-1 and PO2-2 classes



## INTENT OF RULES

- Competition Rules specify the conduct and behavior of athletes during competition
- Create an atmosphere of sportsmanship, equality, and fair play
- Provide safety and protection for the athletes
- Emphasize ingenuity and skill without limiting the athlete's freedom of action
- Penalize athletes who gain or attempt to gain an unfair advantage

<https://www.worldobstacle.org/competition-rules/>





## Conduct of Athletes

- 2.1. General Conduct
- 2.2. Outside assistance
- 2.3. Drug Abuse
- 2.4. Health
- 2.5. Eligibility
- 2.6. Insurance
- 2.7. Registration
- 2.8. Uniform
- 2.9. Footwear
- 2.10. Other Equipment
- 2.11. Race numbers
- 2.13. Timing and Results



## How to deal with rule violations

- **Verbal Warning:** The purpose of a verbal warning is to alert an athlete about a possible rule violation and to promote a "proactive" attitude on the part of officials.
- A verbal warning may be given when:
  - An athlete violates a rule unintentionally
  - A TO believes a violation is about to occur
  - No advantage has been gained
- **Penalties:** There are no time penalties and no penalties that are subjective in nature or require judgement of an official.



## How to deal with rule violations

- **Disqualification:** A disqualification is a penalty appropriate for severe rule violations, such as but not limited to, interference with other athletes, dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to assist an athlete in distress, novel interpretation of the rules which results in an unfair advantage, or intentionally bypassing obstacles. 3.5.2.
- **Suspension:** A suspension is a penalty appropriate for fraudulent or very severe rule violation, such as but not limited to repeated dangerous or unsportsmanlike conduct • A suspended athlete shall be prohibited from competing in FISO competitions or competitions sanctioned by NFs affiliated with FISO during a suspension period
- **Expulsion :** An athlete will be expelled for life for repeated rule violations that incur suspension as the penalty.





# PROTESTS

**There are six protest types, concerning:**

- the course
- obstacles
- application of the rules
- action of an athlete, staff, volunteer, or official
- athlete eligibility
- timing



## Appendix D – Race Protest Form

### PROTEST FORM

#### Part 1: To be completed by the protester.

Protest must be filed and signed by the protester under the conditions outlined in the FISO Competition Rules and submitted to the Referee.

Event Name:

Event Location:

Event Date:

Time Protest Submitted:

Name of Protester:

Race Number:

Telephone:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email:

Name of Protestee:

Race Number:

Telephone:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Email:

A protest is a formal complaint against the conduct of a fellow athlete or race official, or against conditions of the Competition. You must have substantial evidence, including witnesses, and you must be willing to take part in an interview. Any protest must be accompanied with a check or cash for US\$100.



**What type of Protest is involved?** (Check one box only.)

- ☐ Protest Concerning the Course
- ☐ Protest Concerning Obstacles
- ☐ Protest Against Another Athlete or a TO
- ☐ Protest Concerning Eligibility
- ☐ Protest Concerning Timekeeping

**Witness Details** (2 required)

Name of witness 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of witness 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Rule(s) Violated: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of incident: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the violation occur? Describe the location and include a diagram on additional paper if needed.

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Who was involved in the violation?

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How did the violation occur?

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Signature of Protester: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**Part 2: Official Use Only**

US\$100 protest fee attached?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Is this protest to reverse a completion jury decision?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If "Yes" attach the competition jury decision and action(s) and referee's decision and actions(s)

Competition jury member names: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Competition jury action:

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Competition jury chair's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time and date protest received: \_\_\_\_\_

Time and date protest processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of fee withheld / refunded: \_\_\_\_\_



## Protest 3.9.1. Proper Subject of Protest

Protests 3.9.1. Proper Subject of Protest. • No protest may be filed with respect to matters which were observed by or previously ruled upon by a race official. • No person may file a protest which requires a judgment call. A "judgment call," as used in these Rules, means the resolution of a dispute involving one or more material facts which cannot be determined with certainty solely through the production of tangible physical evidence. Physical evidence may include images and video.

3.9.3. Standing to File Protest. Protests may only be filed by participants who directly observed the subject of the protest, who were directly and personally involved in any incident relevant to the protest, and who possess direct, detailed, and personal knowledge of the subject of the protest.



## Protest procedure: notification of a protest

3.9.5. Notification of a Protest. A protester must verbally notify finish line staff within 5 minutes of crossing the finish line.

3.9.6. Time for Filing Protests. All protests must be filed in writing and submitted to the Technical Delegate/ Finish Judge within thirty (30) minutes after the person filing the protest has crossed the finish line.

3.9.7. Contents of Protest. All protests must be factually sufficient to support a just ruling by the Protest Committee and must contain the following: • The specific Competition Rule or Rules alleged to have been violated • The location and approximate time of the incident • The person or persons involved in the incident • A detailed statement of the specific facts, including a diagram if necessary or appropriate; and • The signature of the person filing the protest, which shall constitute an affirmation that the facts stated therein are true Failure to comply with any aspect of this Section shall subject the protest to summary dismissal.





## **Protest procedure: notice of protest**

3.9.8. Notice of Protest. All persons involved in or affected by a protest shall be notified thereof and shall have access to the contents of the protest.

3.9.9. Protest Committee. The Protest Committee shall be comprised of the Technical Delegate/ CTO and two Judges appointed by the Technical Delegate / CTO. The Technical Delegate / CTO shall serve as chairperson of the Protest Committee and shall have full authority to conduct the protest and maintain order. The Protest Committee will issue a final determination with respect to all protests timely filed and not subject to summary dismissal.



## Protest Hearing

3.9.10. Protest Hearing. In hearing a protest, members of the Protest Committee shall weigh the evidence and testimony impartially and shall render a decision in accordance with their best judgment. During all protests: • The Technical Delegate / CTO will read the protest • The person who filed the protest and all participants involved in the incident must be present, unless medically unable to attend in which case the Technical Delegate / CTO shall postpone the hearing or allow a representative to participate on behalf of the injured person • All persons required to be present shall be allowed three minutes to relate their accounts of the incident, or such additional time as the Technical Delegate / CTO may allow • A maximum of two witnesses for each participant involved in the protest may be allowed to speak for three minutes each; and • No spectators or partial observers shall be allowed to participate in the hearing.

3.9.14. Presence of Participants. All race participants are required to be present and to participate in the hearing of any protest in which they were involved. A Protest Committee may render a decision in the absence of any participant who fails to appear in a reasonable time. Except for medical reasons, all participants shall remain available for participation in any protests until such time as official race results are announced, the period for filing all protests has expired, or permission to leave the vicinity is granted by the Technical Delegate / CTO .



## Protest ruling

3.9.11. Protest Ruling. After dismissing all parties, the Protest Committee shall review the evidence and render a prompt decision. The decision will be posted immediately.

3.9.12. Effect of Protest Decision. The summary dismissal of a protest by the Technical Delegate / CTO or the decision of a Protest Committee shall be final, and official race results shall reflect those determinations. Official results and the determination of any Technical Delegate / CTO or Protest Committee can be subsequently modified only by FISO pursuant to an appeal duly filed in accordance with Section 3.8 of these Rules.

3.9.13. Announcement of Official Results. Until all protests are finally determined, the official results of any event shall not be announced, and no prizes for that event shall be awarded unless any outstanding protest is officially withdrawn.



## Protest checklist

1. Is the person filing the protest eligible to fill it?
  - . New protest not previously filed
  - . Not a case of a judgment call
  - . Protest filer either directly observed or was part of the incident for which the protest is being filed.
2. Are all facts described on the protest form in a way that it is possible to make a ruling based on facts?
3. Has the protest been filed in adherence of the time frame given to file a protest (i.e. verbal within 5 minutes of finishing, written within 30 minutes of passing the finish line)
4. Has the competition rule that has been violated according to the protester been noted?
5. Has the protest fee been collected?





## Protest checklist part 2

6. Are all the competition jury members present? i.e. the Technical Delegate, the CTO and the ACTO
7. Gather all the persons (including maximum of 2 witnesses) involved in the protest and take their statement. When the witness statement of a TO is necessary, the ACTO will lay contact with the TO and get their statement.
8. After hearing all statements, the jury retreats to weigh all the evidence and decide on the ruling.
9. The persons involved will hear about the rules on which the jury base their ruling and the ruling will be finalized.
10. The ACTO communicates with the Timekeeper or timekeeping company about the ruling decision if necessary.



# Appeals

Hearings and Appeals Athletes punished with a penalty have the right to appeal.

FISO shall establish a Board of Hearings and Appeals which shall consist of at least twelve (12) members, including the chairpersons of the Legal Committee, the Commissioner of Officials, at least four (4) athlete representatives, and such other members as may be selected by the Executive Director.



# Technical Officials Report



REPORT ON THE ABILITY TO ACT AS A TECHNICAL OFFICIAL AT LEVEL 2-3

Name of the Technical Official	
National Federation	
Location and Race	
Name of *Reporter	
Level of Reporter	
Date of Report	

*\*THE REPORTER MUST HAVE BEEN LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE AND HIGHER THAN THE LEVEL OF THE OFFICIAL UNDER REPORT*



1

What is the current level of the Technical Official?	
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2

Does the official have the required experience to move to the next level?	
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3

Describe the official's understanding of the role.	
--	--

4

Describe their ability to work as a member of a team and carry out their allocated duties competently.	
--	--

5

List the duties covered by the official whilst you observed.	
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6

Describe the official's understanding of the rules and their application in the race.	
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7

Describe the official's understanding of health and safety.	
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8

On the evidence of this meeting is this official ready to be accredited to the next level? Please provide summary comments.	
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# Technical Officials Report

## **Ad 1: What is the current level of the Technical Official?**

State the current level of the TO/Judge

## **Ad2: Does the official have the required experience to move to the next level?**

Can be a brief yes/no or could have a statement of 'not yet'. In case of the latter, you can describe at number 8 what the TO/Judge will need to work on to acquire the next level.



# Technical Officials Report

## **Ad 3: Describe the official's understanding of the role.**

Describe what the role was and how it was carried out.

## **Ad 4: Describe their ability to work as a member of a team and carry out their allocated duties competently.**

Describe how the TO/Judge functioned as a team member. Were they able to cooperate, align in tasks, communicate in a helpful way.





# Technical Officials Report

## **Ad 5:List the duties covered by the official whilst you observed.**

Describe what role the TO/Judge had and what tasks were covered. Have the TO help you with listing this to get as much tasks reported as possible.

## **Ad 6:Describe the official's understanding of the rules and their application in the race.**

Describe how the TO/Judge was able to perform and explain their duties both during the briefing as during their actual work as a TO/Judge



# Technical Officials Report

## **Ad 7: Describe the official's understanding of health and safety.**

Describe if a person had to deal with any emergencies, dangers, or any other health issues. At this point you can also describe if a person had to check an obstacle for safety and reported safety issues to the TD and if the TO/Judge did a safety check for their obstacle and reported that

## **Ad 8: On the evidence of this meeting is this official ready to be accredited to the next level? Please provide summary comments.**

Describe any positive extra remarks you have about the qualities of this person that makes the TO/Judge eligible for a higher level, e.g. professionalism, cooperation in a team, etc.



# Technical Delegate

**Technical delegates (TD)** play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth running of the competition according to the established rules and regulations. Within an international competition there would typically be the following TD roles:

- OCR Cross Country (3k, 14k and Team events).
- OCR Track.

The role of the TD is as follows:

1. Regulations Compliance: TDs ensure that the competition adheres to the rules set by the sport governing body.
1. Venue Inspection: Before the competition, the TDs inspect the venues.
2. Equipment Checks: The TDs are responsible for making sure that all equipment used in the competition, especially in shooting, meets the required standards and is safe to use.



# Technical Delegate

1. Liaison: The TDs act as a liaison between the LOC and the sport governing body, ensuring communication is smooth and any issues are addressed promptly.
1. Issues and Disputes: If any disputes or issues arise during the competition, the TDs are responsible for resolving them in line with the sport governing body regulations. This includes any protests or appeals.
1. Safety & Security: TDs will highlight specific safety concerns related to the technical aspects of the event to the RDs and the LOC. Together with the RD, they will ensure that both general and technical safety protocols are in place.
1. Post-Competition Reporting: After the competition, the TDs submit their report to the sport governing body, detailing how the event went, any issues faced, and suggestions for improvement.

In essence, the TDs are there to make sure the competition is fair, safe, and in accordance with the rules, serving as an authority figure to ensure the integrity of the sport is maintained.



# How the TD role differs from the RD role

1. The Race Directors (RDs) and the Technical Delegates (TDs) both play crucial roles in the organization and execution of an event, but their responsibilities differ:
  - a. RDs oversee the entire event's operations and ensures that the different elements of the competition come together seamlessly.
  - b. TDs ensure that the competition adheres to established rules and regulations.
1. Scope of Responsibilities:
  - a. The RD's duties are more general in nature, focusing on the overall organization, logistics, personnel management, scheduling, and the successful execution of the event.
  - b. The TD's responsibilities are more specific to ensuring technical compliance with rules, inspecting venues and equipment, and handling technical disputes or issues that arise during the competition.
1. Decision-making:
  - a. RDs make decisions related to event management, logistics, scheduling, and other operational aspects are usually in the purview of the RD.
  - b. TDs make decisions related to rule enforcement, technical disputes, equipment/venue compliance, and sports-specific matters are the domain of the TD.





# How the TD role differs from the RD role

1. Communication:
  - a. RDs liaise with a broad range of stakeholders, including local authorities, sponsors, and the LOC.
  - b. TDs primarily communicate with the event organizers, athletes, coaches, and the sport governing body regarding technical and rule-related matters.
2. Post-Event Reporting:
  - a. RDs create a more comprehensive post-event report that covers various aspects of the event management.
  - b. TDs focus on submitting technical reports to the sport governing body detailing the competition's adherence to rules, any technical issues faced, and suggestions for improvement.

In summary, while both roles are pivotal for the successful execution of an event, the RDs have a broader, managerial role, overseeing the overall organization and execution of the event. In contrast, the TDs are more specialized, ensuring that the event adheres to the sport's technical and rule-based standards.



# Requirements to become a level 3 Judge

- Fluency in English
- Excellent communication skills with athletes, officials and other judges
- Advanced knowledge of Rules
- Perfect communication of decisions
- Seeking and responding positively to feedback
- Consistent application of judges' best practices
- Ability to make clear and correct decisions under pressure
- Performance Evaluation acting as a Chief Technical Official during an International competition
- Written self reflection report about at least 2 events where you were part of the competition jury
- Written self reflection report about at least 2 events where you were a CTO or ACTO





**THANK YOU!**

