

Unit OF7 Contribute to the health and safety of the competition environment

Introduction

Summary

Officials have an important role to play in maintaining the health and safety of competitors and other staff involved in an event. One key aspect of this is the health and safety of the competition environment itself. This may be a court, pitch, track or anywhere that the competition takes place. The official may personally inspect the competition environment themselves or they may delegate this responsibility to someone else.

The unit is divided into three parts. The first part (pages 2 – 4) describes the three things you have to do. These are:

- OF7.1 Ensure the competition environment is safe in advance of competition**
- OF7.2 Ensure competitors equipment is safe in advance of competition**
- OF7.3 Assess and manage risks in the competition environment during the competition**

The second part covers the knowledge and understanding you must have.

Target Group

This unit is for officials in a variety of sports and officiating roles at the higher levels in their sport/activity (usually at the national level).

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OF7.1

Ensure the competition environment is safe in advance of competition

The National Standard

What you must do

To meet the national standard, you must:

1. identify your organisation's health and safety requirements for the **competition environment**
2. ensure all aspects of the **competition environment** have been inspected according to organisational requirements and any hazards identified
3. ensure that any hazards associated with the **competition environment** have been risk assessed
4. ensure that any risks have been reduced to an acceptable level in line with your organisation's health and safety requirements
5. seek information and advice, where necessary, from **other people**
6. ensure that **other people** are aware of any hazards and the measures taken to reduce the risks associated with these
7. maintain relevant records regarding the risk assessment and risk management procedures.

What you must cover

This element covers the following types of:

a competition environment

- 1 physical environment
- 2 resources used in the physical environment
- 3 spectators/bystanders

b other people

- 1 facility management
- 2 co-officials
- 3 competitors
- 4 competitor representatives

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OF7.2

Ensure competitors' equipment is safe in advance of competition

The National Standard

What you must do

To meet the national standard, you must:

1. identify your organisation's requirements for **competitors' equipment**
2. ensure that **competitors' equipment** has been inspected in advance of competition
3. ensure that **competitors' equipment** complies with the requirements for competition
4. ensure that any hazards associated with **competitors' equipment** have been identified and risk assessed
5. ensure that any risks have been reduced to an acceptable level in line with your organisation's health and safety requirements
6. seek information and advice, where necessary from **other people**

What you must cover

This element covers the following types of:

a competitors' equipment

- 1 equipment used during competition
- 2 jewellery and other personal accoutrements

b other people

- 1 co-officials
- 2 competitors
- 3 competitor representatives

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OF7.3

Assess and manage risks in the competition environment during competition

The National Standard

What you must do

To meet the national standard, you must:

1. monitor the **competition environment** during competition
2. identify any new or emerging hazards and take immediate action to deal with these according to organisational procedures
3. assess the risks associated with these hazards
4. put in place measures to reduce the risks to an acceptable level following organisational requirements
5. seek information and advice, where necessary, from **other people**
6. make sure **other people** are fully aware of any hazards and measures to reduce the risks associated with these
7. maintain records regarding the risk assessment and risk management procedures.

What you must cover

This element covers the following types of:

a competition environment

- 1 physical environment
- 2 resources used in the physical environment
- 3 spectators/bystanders
- 4 competitors' equipment

b other people

- 1 facility management
- 2 co-officials
- 3 competitors
- 4 competitor representatives

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What you must know and understand

To be competent in this unit, you must know and understand the following

- K1 Basic requirements of relevant health and safety legislation and their implications for your role as an official
- K2 The requirements of your organisation in relation to health and safety
- K3 The principles of the duty of care
- K4 The relevant normal and emergency operating procedures for the facilities where you officiate
- K5 The importance and principles of risk assessment
- K6 The types of hazards that are common in the competition environments where you officiate
- K7 How to carry out basic risk assessments of the types of hazards you are likely to come across in terms of the competition environment and competitors' equipment
- K8 Who apart from yourself may be involved in identifying hazards and assessing/managing risks in the competition environment
- K9 Why you may need to consult with other people on issues to do with health and safety in the competition environment
- K10 What to do when the level of risk is unacceptable
- K11 Your own technical limitations when it comes to risk assessment and control and what to do if you feel unable to deal personally with identified hazards
- K12 How to promote safety to all those present and why this is important
- K13 How to check that safety procedures are being followed
- K14 Ways in which you can help to improve health and safety
- K15 Relevant records and reports