

# SCENARIOS FOR OFFICIALS: STARTER/STARTER'S ASSISTANT



## Answers

### Scenario 1 – 100m

- a) If the recaller is in any doubt about the validity or fairness of a start they must fire the gun and stop the race. They would then inform the starter of their opinion based on what they saw, and the starter would then decide.
- b) If the starter's assistant is alert, and has the time, they should signal to the starter that all is not correct in the "set" position. If the starter stands the athletes up the assistant would inform the starter of the problem for him to decide.
- c) The starter must take account of all the information the members of the start team have made available to him. If the athlete in lane 5 was judged to have not heard the set instruction the starter would ask for a green card to be shown to the whole field. If the starter is not convinced that the athlete did not hear but merely did not react, then a yellow conduct warning card must be shown to the athlete in lane 5 for causing the start to be aborted. (The information from the assistant is vital in such scenarios as they would know if athletes heard the instruction by the clarity of received speech in their position and the reaction of athletes in the lanes further away than lane 5.)

### Scenario 2 – 400m

In sequence:

- The starter should ask all athletes to stand up and line up immediately.
- The starter should ask the nearest assistant to enquire of the athlete who stood up what was his concern.
- The assistant will communicate the reason to the starter.
- The starter will inform all the field of the reason for standing up the race.
- BUT, having confirmed with the start referee, a yellow conduct warning will be given to the athlete in lane 6 for disturbing the start as they stood up without the

permission of the starter once the start procedure had commenced. (Note that with younger athletes it may be preferable to explain to everyone the misconduct with a general warning and then allow the race to proceed without the warning card. That gives younger athletes experience of a situation they may have never encountered before.)

- The assistant issues the yellow card and the chief assistant notes it on the start list.
- The designated official with communication with photo finish will inform them of the offending athlete and the rule number that was applied.

### Scenario 3 – 300m

Nothing!

The rules allow the chassis of the starting block to protrude into an adjacent lane as long as there is no risk of impeding the athlete in that lane. Since it is a start with an echelon the athlete in the next lane is in front of the block in question. If the footpad of the block intrudes then the chassis would have to be repositioned.

### Scenario 4 – 5000m

It is strongly recommended that a race on a curved line with more than 16 athletes should be started using a split line system. The organisation of the athletes should be two thirds on the inner start line and one third on the forward line. Simply split the field 20/10 in this case. That should be done following the start list in the order it is printed assuming the hip numbers (if issued) align with that listing.

The starter must position himself in a position where he sees both start lines – invariably that will be from a front on view in this case.

The two assistants will take one line each. They will explain the procedure for a breaking point for the front line. They assure themselves that the athletes on "their line" are correct in the "on your marks" position before stepping back.

Once both assistants have stepped back the gun will be fired.

### Scenario 5 – 1000m

#### The starter

Immediately looks at the SIS information in collaboration with his recall starter(s). If available examine the wave form on the SIS. Consider:

- Did the athlete in lane 3 move first?
- Did his hands or feet leave the ground or starting block footpads?
- Did the athlete in lane 4 react to the movement of lane 3?
- Decide – in this case probably a conduct warning for disturbing the start – this must be confirmed and agreed with the start referee.
- Announce the decision.

### **The start referee**

Listen to the deliberations of the start team and only intervene when concurring the award of a conduct warning.

Relay the decision and rule number to photo finish.

### **The assistants**

- Immediately line the athletes up again.
- Await the starter's decision to be announced.
- Show the appropriate card (yellow) for the offence.