

Safety and Quality Standards for Road Races

Introduction

Running activities are growing at a rapid rate and as the number of activities increase, so too does the demands of the runners. Every runner has a reason for participating and holds certain expectations on the level of quality and safety wherever and whenever they intend to take part in a public race.

Every race organiser has the intention to organise their race in the most secure way possible for the runners and the spectators whilst maintaining the quality in order to attract a large number of participants.

Until now there are only a limited number of regulations that exist in some European countries. Where examples of best practice exist, the experience cannot be considered Europe wide and is not understood by all.

For that reason, European Athletics has developed Safety and Quality Standards for public road races that have been developed by the consultation and integration of different experts within the running movement.

There is a need to recognise the races with a good-quality level. It is the role of European Athletics and its Member Federations to support this movement by setting and implementing road race safety and quality standards. European Athletics together with the different stakeholders are responsible for setting the standards to ensure the necessary legitimacy and credibility.

European Athletics with the support of the Athletics Federations in all European countries has the intention to serve the different stakeholders:

- Runners
- Organisers
- Authorities & Institutions
- Service providers
- Media

The Safety and Quality Standards serve as an orientation, common view and understanding of the expected requirements. Additionally it will encourage positive partnerships between runners, race organisers, European Athletics and the athletics Federations as well as with all the other stakeholders.

The Standards

The safety and quality standards for Road Races are divided into three levels – 1-star, 3-star and 5-star - to encompass all types and sizes of races.

European Athletics is developing an online platform and promotional tools that will enable Member Federations to manage the spread of the standards in their territory. The online platform will facilitate race organisers applying for certification that will then be monitored by European Athletics and the relevant Member Federation. European Athletics will not be involved in race organisation but only give valuable promotion to certified races.

The ultimate goal is to have as many races in Europe certified, bringing race organisers and Member Federations closer together and to have the runners themselves recognising and having the confidence in the system.

No	CRITERIA	1-star	3-star	5-star
	ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE			
1	All required permits and authorisations to stage the event have been obtained including national law and restrictions by authorities.	A	A	A
2	There is an appropriate registration system and a secured entry fee payment system.	A	A	A
3	The registration process and entry fee payment can be completed online.		A	A
4	The entry fee payment system allows for payments from all countries in Europe.			A
5	The race rules have been published and include the entry procedure and fees, date, race distance, start time(s), competition categories and age groups, prizes and gifts, and the policy for change/cancellation due to severe weather conditions, safety issues or security problems.	A	A	A
6	The Organiser has general liability insurance for the risk he has.	A	A	A
	SAFETY			
7	The local authority and/or police and/or security services have been involved in the planning of the safety and security arrangements.	A	A	A
8	At least one marshal – appropriately clothed so as to be instantly recognisable - with accurate direction and instruction signs - is stationed at each intersection along the course. Marshals are to keep their assigned position until advised by the race official responsible for closing the field. Marshalls should receive a clear briefing outlining their role and responsibilities.	A	A	A
9	The start area is to be traffic free until the last participant has started and the finish area is to be traffic free until the last participant finishes or the announced cut-off time is reached.	A	A	A
10	The whole course is closed to vehicular traffic, except branded official vehicles, for the duration of the event.			A
11	In the case of a multi-race event, the races have been planned so that there are no conflicts in terms of the course or participant flow, human resources, equipment, supplies and logistics.	A	A	A
12	The start line and finish line are properly secured, wide enough for the expected number of participants and clearly identified. The start area is accessible only to participants and race officials at the time of the start.	A	A	A
13	There are regular pre-race announcements about weather conditions and safety risks and a countdown to the start on an appropriate public address system.		A	A
14	There is an identified meeting point near the finish area.			A

No	CRITERIA	1-star	3-star	5-star
15	There is a lead vehicle (car/bike) preceding the leading participant at all times. This vehicle must contain at least one race official who is fully aware of the course. The lead vehicle is linked to the rest of the organising team through an appropriate communication system.	A	A	A
16	There is a vehicle following last participant equipped with medical supplies. This following vehicle is linked to the rest of the organising team through an appropriate communication system.	A	A	A
17	There is an efficient system for the distribution of the participants' bibs.	A	A	A
18	The participants' bibs can be collected prior to race day, unless start time is late afternoon/evening.			A
19	There is a serious respect of weather and measures related to extremes of temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind, lightning and other local dangers. This plan includes a clear chain of command and takes into account the safety of the participants, race officials, volunteers and spectators.	A	A	A
20	A post-race report - including medical and safety issues that occur during the event - is prepared by the organiser for its own good and used to improve future editions. Runners' feedback and external reports are sought and taken into account.	A	A	A
	MEDICAL			
21	Participants' number bibs have a template on the reverse side for the runner to add any medical condition and contact details.		A	A
22	Local medical emergency services have been consulted prior to the race and been involved in the planning of the emergency arrangements and other medical services at the race. There is a first-aid post within 100m of the finish line staffed with sufficient medical professionals and trained health volunteers (first-aiders) and stocked with sufficient supplies to deal with the expected service requests.	A	A	A
23	There are sufficient medical professionals and trained health volunteers (first-aiders) - based on the race history, conditions and organisers' guidelines - and they are provided with the appropriate conditions for their work. The professionals and trained health volunteers (first-aiders) along the course are linked through an appropriate communication system.	A	A	A
24	There is a medical doctor or recognised health professional serving as the Medical Responsible. He/she is responsible for the planning and delivery of emergency arrangements and other medical services, which includes the preparation of a medical risk assessment.	A	A	A
25	The medical emergency arrangements provide for appropriate response to any likely individual medical emergencies anywhere on the course within an appropriate time.	A	A	A
	COURSE			
26	The course design ensures, as far as possible, a smooth, unobstructed run from start to finish for all participants. If it is impossible to cope with space limitations (e.g. through different bloc-start times or different courses) entries should be limited to a number that allows all participants a good-quality race experience.	A	A	A

No	CRITERIA	1-star	3-star	5-star
27	The course is on sealed surface roads, footpaths or hard-clay surfaces.	A	A	A
28	A map of the race course and event areas has been produced and displayed appropriately.	A	A	A
29	The map of the course and event areas includes the course elevation profile, drinking stations, first-aid posts, facilities, toilets, parking and public transport.		A	A
30	The course signage gives clear indications and does not confuse participants on the route to follow.	A	A	A
31	There are distance markers positioned at least every 5km (3mi) for the entire course and one kilometre or mile before the finish.	A	A	A
32	There are stations offering drinking water to all participants positioned at least every 5km along the course but according to weather conditions. They are indicated and ideally positioned at wide, flat portions of the course.	A	A	A
33	The drinking stations along the course are each equipped to provide at least 250ml of drinking water per participant under normal conditions and an appropriate additional amount as special conditions demand. Races above 15Km provide in the finish area at least 400ml drinking water per runner and appropriate nutrition.		A	A
34	The course is cleared of all event-related rubbish and the signage is removed as soon as possible after the race.	A	A	A
	TIMING			
35	All finishers receive an accurate time. If there are more than 2000 participants or if the expected time before all participants to pass the start line is more than one minute a national federation approved electronic timing system is to be used. Otherwise manual timing is accepted according to the concerned Member Federation's requirements.	A	A	A
36	An electronic system (chip) is used to record the real time of all participants – counting the delay between the official start and the crossing of start line.		A	A
	MEASUREMENT			
37	The course has been accurately measured along the shortest possible route that a runner could follow within the section of the road permitted for use in the race.	A	A	A
38	The course has been nationally certified preceding the race if it is an official record distance (10k, 15k, 20k, half-marathon, 25k, 30k, marathon, Ekiden, 50k, 100k, 24h competition). If any changes, the course has to be remeasured.		A	A
39	The course has been measured within the five years preceding the race by an IAAF/AIMS "A" or "B" course measurer and an international measurement certificate has been issued by the International Measurement Administrator.			A

No	CRITERIA	1-star	3-star	5-star
	RESULTS			
40	The race results are made available, free of any additional charge, latest 24 hours of the end of the race.	A	A	A
41	The race results are made available to participants, within 3 hours of the end of the race using a sms/email/direct communication.			A
	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES			
42	The race organisation has sought to raise awareness among its staff, volunteers, participants and spectators about energy saving, water conservation and waste management and to promote the use of public transport to/from the race site.	A	A	A
43	Measures have been taken to save energy and/or improve waste management.	A	A	A
44	The race organiser has published a sustainability plan and effective measures to implement it have been taken.			A
45	There is a management and recognition system for all volunteers.	A	A	A
46	There is no discrimination on the basis of gender in terms of facilities, arrangements or actions by the race organisation.	A	A	A
47	If wheelchair athletes are participating, there are appropriate arrangements to ensure their safety and the comfort of all participants.	A	A	A
	SERVICES			
48	There is a clothing management system that ensures that all participants can safely leave their personal clothing before the start and pick it up immediately after they finish.		A	A
49	There are sufficient clean toilets available for both genders in the start and finish areas and along the course.	A	A	A
50	There is an official race website containing all relevant information for the participants.		A	A
51	The official race website has main information for runners available in English if not the main language.			A
52	Bib pins are provided with the participants' bibs.		A	A
53	There is a pre-race expo and/or race village including health information and advice.			A
54	There are pacemakers for various target times provided to assist the participants if the race distance is 20km or above.			A
	TOTAL	34 A	44 A	54 A