

Place Judge

What is my role?

As the name suggests, place judge's determine the finishing order of the athletes at the completion of a race .

At State Meetings and at some Centres, place judges may also be involved in timekeeping.

How many place judges should there be?

Ideally, there should be up to eight place judges (one judge per lane or per athlete in the race) and a Chief Judge. The Chief Judge's job is to allocate a position (i.e. first, second etc) for each judge. A Chief Judge should be able to record several or all placings in a race.

How do I judge?

The athletes places are determined by the order in which any part of the torso (i.e. between the shoulders and waist, not the head, hands, feet, etc) reaches the finishing line.

Who do I place?

Laned events

Place judges are allocated a specific place to determine. E.g. John is to determine which lane comes in first place and informs the Chief Judge when prompted.

Unlaned events

At the completion of the race, the athletes are given place blocks from the judge/s. The athletes are then placed into a line in their finishing order and taken to the recording table/area.

Where do I stand?

All judges should:

- Judge from the same side
- Be next to the finish line, preferably on a raised stand (for better viewing of the finish line) approximately 2 - 3m away from the track.

What if I make a mistake?

Mistakes do happen. Even experienced place judges make mistakes.

Sometimes you miss the finish; you're blinded by other athletes; it's a close "blanket finish"; you are distracted by something; or you just don't know. When judging, first impressions are the best. If this happens -

- Don't panic
- Don't let on to the athletes that there is any problem
- Quietly let the Chief Judge know and they will deal with it
- If there are any problems with the results the Chief Judge will determine the placings.

What are some handy tips for Place Judges?

Be aware of other judges behind you and not obstruct their view.

For multi-lapped events a judge or multiple judges may be required to monitor the progress of a number of athletes especially slow athletes who may be lapped.