

To be read in conjunction with other Track Officials information

Officials Required

- Track Referee
- Track Umpires for Change Over Zones and Bends
- Relay Escorts

General Rules

- The baton shall be carried in the hand during the event
- Receiving athlete may start running in the takeover zone.
- The baton passing takes place within the 30 metre takeover zone.
- The position of the baton is decisive, not the athlete's body, head, feet or legs.
- The receiving athlete must commence running from within the takeover zone.

If the Baton is Dropped during take-over

- The baton must be picked up by the athlete who dropped it, not by another athlete in the same team.
- Athletes may leave their lane to pick up the baton as long as they do not interfere with any other runners on the track or shorten the distance to be covered. Once the baton has been retrieved, the athlete can return to their lane and continue with the race.
- Provided this is done within the takeover zone, there will be no disqualification.

Track Umpire - Change Umpire Reports On

- The wrong athlete picks up a dropped baton.
- An athlete interferes with any other athlete whilst retrieving the baton.
- The baton is received by the outgoing athlete before or after the takeover zone. The position of the baton is decisive, not the position of the body of the athlete.
- The baton is thrown between athletes.
- An athlete starts running from outside the takeover zone.
- An athlete fails to maintain the change position order in unlaned relay events e.g 4 x200m or Swedish Relay.



Officials Information Sheet: Relays, Updated August 2024.

Reasons for Disqualification

- If the baton is thrown between runners.
- If the baton is not carried by hand the whole way.
- If an athlete interferes with or blocks any other competitor.
- If the baton is not changed in the 30 metre takeover zone.
- If athletes runs on or over their inside lane line.
- If an athlete takes or picks up the baton of another team.
- If a receiving athlete commences their run from outside the takeover zone.
- If the athlete who drops the baton is not the one who then picks it up.
- These infringements are reported by the various Track Umpires to the Track Referee who determines if a disqualification will occur.

