

Announcer

Characteristics, Tips and Techniques

The announcer shall be responsible for giving proper announcements to assist competitors in reporting to the clerk of the course or to the field event judges on time. An effective announce has a clear voice, is observant and proactive, and is responsive to instructions and call schedules. Key considerations for the announcer include:

- Speak clearly and reasonably slowly
- Test the sound to ensure that it is not too loud or soft—if working in a booth, test how it sounds outside the booth
- Check out the layout of the track and field areas to facilitate giving directions
- Use a *calls order script*, to keep the meet on schedule with pre-event calls (1st, 2nd and final)
- Allow the athlete's performances speak for themselves, **do not affect the competitive outcome by calling a running event like a horse race**
- Announce *full* results for each event (place, competitor, school, time/mark) as soon as they are available
- Be attentive to the track, **do not speak** when athletes are **under the starter's control** and assist the officials by reminding athletes not competing or warming up to remain in the stands

Sample Dialogue

- 3:00 “Welcome to the ABC track meet, official meet time is now 3:00. All field event athletes please report to your event area for check in.” Point out the location of each event. “All running events are to check in with the clerk of the course who is located _____. All officials and volunteers are to check in with _____ who is located _____.”
- 3:15 “First call for all field events—you should be reporting to your event area.” Then note the assignment of Boys and Girls to their specific events. “First call for the Boys 110 meter hurdles. All boys in the high hurdles should check in with the Clerk of the Course who is located _____.”
- 3:20 “Second call Boys 110 meter high hurdles, first call Girls 100 meter high hurdles. All girl hurdlers should be reporting to the clerk of the course located _____.”
- 3:25 “Final call Boys 110 meter high hurdles, second call Girls 100 meter high hurdles. All hurdlers should be checked in at the Clerks area located _____.”
- 3:29 “The first event on the track today is the Boys 110 meter high hurdles.” If available list the lane assignments or at least the schools assigned to the lanes in the varsity races. “Final call for the Girls 100 meter high hurdles. All Girl hurdlers should have checked in with the Clerk of the Course.” Next get the crowd and officials ready for the start by saying: “Please be quiet for the start of the Boys high hurdles.”

As the meet progresses, make the first, second and final calls at about five minute intervals (depending on the number of varsity and junior varsity heats) working least two events ahead.

Finally, at the start of the of the 200 meter dash remind anyone in the infield to sit down so that timers can see the starter. Call the next field event when requested to do so by that area. To keep the crowd involved, announce the results of each event at the earliest possible point as well as a running score for the event a regular intervals:

“After X events, the score is ____.”