

RACE WALK CHIEF JUDGE INSTRUCTIONS TO ATHLETES

Instruction Checklist

- Give athlete instructions in the call room or at the start line
- Be clear and brief
- Introduce yourself as the Chief Judge; introduce the Chief Judge Assistant (if there is one)
- State number of judges
- Review meaning of Paddles and any rules in play (ie: Last 100m or Penalty Zone)
- Point out location of Posting Board and Penalty Zone (if in use)
- Remind athletes to keep racing until shown the Red Paddle, even if 3 or 4 Red Cards are shown on the Posting Board
- Advise slower walkers to stay inside of Lane 1 for safety
- Any questions?
- Hand over to starters in ample time for their instructions

Sample Scripts

Elite/Experienced Walkers

Hello athletes, I'm _____, I will be your Chief Judge today, this is _____ who is my Assistant Chief Judge. We are the only ones who can show you the Red Paddle for disqualification. If you are shown the Red Paddle, please exit the course and remove your competition number (for road courses) or exit the track (for track races). There are (X) number of Judges on the course/track. The Red Card Posting Board is located _____. Athletes can verify any cards by looking for their number.

(If being used discuss the Penalty Zone and/or the Chief Judge 100m rule processes)

If there are novices in the race, the Chief Judge should verify they understand the rules of RW, show the corresponding symbols on the Yellow Paddles, remind them that the Red Cards that lead to disqualification. Since Yellow Paddles do not lead to disqualification, the athlete should find their number on the Posting Board. They should be reminded to keep racing until the Chief Judge or Chief Judge Assistant shows them the Red Paddle and that they can be disqualified after the completion of the race due to the need for Red Cards to be verified.

Novice or Beginners

Hello athletes, I'm _____ and I am your Chief Judge today. Today we have (X) number of Judges on the course. All Judges have Yellow Paddles. These paddles do not indicate that you have committed a foul but are in danger of committing a foul. If you are shown the >, this indicates one or both knees may be bent. If you are shown the ~, this indicates you may have visible loss of contact with the ground. If you continue to walk outside of legal technique, Red Cards are turned into the Recorder and placed on the Posting Board next to your race number. If you see either of these symbols on the Posting Board (indicate location) next to your race number, this means that Red Cards have been submitted. When 3 Red Cards are turned in, from separate judges, the Chief Judge (or Assistant Judge if used) will notify you that you have been disqualified by showing you a Red Paddle. The Chief Judge (or Assistant) is/are the only ones who can remove you from the race. Disqualifications can occur late in a race, so please remain near the finish or where directed by the finish line officials so we can communicate all disqualifications at the end of the race. Does anyone have any questions?