

# Race Walking Officiating

*By Michael Roth, USATF Race Walk Vice Chair*

## Completing Your Toolbox: RW Judging Basics

Track and field officials should develop basic competence in every event, including race walking. If you can see a foot fault on the track or in the horizontals and throws, hooking in the hurdles, or a failed baton exchange, then you can judge race walks. The Race Walk is a technique event and training the eye to see technique faults is the same for all events.

Race Walk Judges are versatile, serving in many other roles at meets - on the track and in the field. Learning to see legal walking will complement your skill set and elevate your value at local meets, helping to keep the meet on schedule and serving the needs of the Association at championships. Don't let your fears stop you from gaining experience in this event. Easy to use [Race Walk Best Practices](#) and [Judging Forms](#) have been created specifically for new officials and meet directors.

A simple two-sided [Basic How to Judge summary](#) can be reviewed before and during races. Laminate a copy and attach it to your clipboard.

The USATF Race Walk Committee's website also includes [self-paced training videos](#).

The two most important videos are at the top of the list:

- [Understanding & Officiating the Race Walk for Basic Competency](#) will give you the knowledge needed to judge a Race Walk at the local level.
- [Race Walk Judging Training – A New Way to Train to Evaluate the Straightened Leg](#) provides insight into the bent knee violation, which is the most common foul by sub-elite athletes. This is the population you are most likely to see at your local and Association meets.

The year 2026 will be full of new experiences and opportunities. Don't leave any blind spots in your officiating skill set - learn to judge race walking now!