

Track events – 800 / 1500 / 1600 / mile – start / finish crew

Start crew receives start register. Starter and three timers at start line.

Instructions: the event is four laps plus a little bit, cut to the rail when it is safe.

Stay to the inside unless overtaking. Finish in the outside lanes. Two commands: set and the gun (horn, whistle). If there is a fall in the first turn, a second blast will be the recall signal.

[Notes: in faster, smaller heats, finish in lane one is fine: no lapping. There should be virtually no lapping except in the latter part of the slowest heat of 1500/1600/mile. It is unlikely to need lap counters. If necessary, lap counters get sub-heat sheets: sub-heats should be set up so there will be no lapping within a sub-heat.

[800 is two laps, 1500 is a partial lap plus three complete laps, 1600 is four laps, 1 mile is four laps plus 9.344 meters.]

At the finish line are:

caller

split reader – read the quarter splits for the mile, stepping up about 2.3 meters each lap.

lap counters, if necessary.

primary timer

second timer

select time bib recorder – should be able to select all

place card hand out – for larger heats, especially middle heats of 1500/1600/mile

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One of the timers should read out finish times, and there should be at least a third watch running.

If the crew is stripped, combine place card hand out and recorder – or take care to manage a chute and omit place cards.

There may be up to 30 in the slowest heat, but rarely over 20.

800 meter heats have fewer competitors.

Faster heats have fewer competitors, maybe ten or less.

Note: USATF rule 165 – timing – specifies at least TWO and up to THREE watches all equally official, times taken to next greater tenth of a second. The second fastest watch is the time on the results.

Times may be shown to greater precision to illustrate placing. If there are additional timers beyond three, they should be predesignated for priority in case there is a failure of primary three.

USATF rule 131 describes lap scorer role. Level of strict compliance depends on level of competition.