

Trail Running Officiating Guide



Royal Spanish Athletics Federation (RFEA)
National Committee of Judges (CNJ)
Trail Running Commission

Trail Running Officiating Guide

Guidelines for Athletics Judges
and Regional Committees of Judges

2026 Edition

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Gender Clause

The Royal Spanish Athletics Federation (RFEA) guarantees the effective equality of men and women as one of its basic principles of action. To this end, generic masculine mentions appearing in this guide shall be understood to also refer to their corresponding feminine forms.

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Presentation



This guide synthesizes, complements, and updates the Trail Running Officiating Handbook (2020 edition). It aims to serve as a helpful resource and to promote standardized criteria for all athletics judges interested in officiating this discipline.

To this end, it provides a clear and concise overview of the current procedures developed by the National Committee of Judges, which apply to races on the RFEA national calendar.

The guide is divided into eight chapters:

1. The Trail Running Jury
2. Race Preparation
3. Mandatory Gear Check
4. The Call Room
5. The Start
6. Race Monitoring
7. The Finish
8. Application of Penalties

Ultimately, we hope this document serves not only as a quick and effective field reference, but also as a tool to continue elevating the technical excellence of our officiating community in national Trail Running.

We welcome your suggestions and contributions at cnj@rfea.es.

Trail Running Commission
National Committee of Judges



Updates Regarding the Trail Running Officiating Handbook (2020)

The evolution of Trail Running, ongoing experience, and the emergence of new requirements have prompted the update of the Trail Running Officiating Handbook (2020). This guide outlines the most significant changes, such as new technical officiating procedures and the introduction of new roles within the jury.

- **Introduction of the Race Tracking Judge.** This role assumes the duties of the Chief Transponder Timing Judge and includes additional safety-related responsibilities.
- **Addressing the shortage of Course Marshals.** To compensate for the frequent lack of marshals provided by the race organization to act as umpires for the Referee, expanding the jury may sometimes be necessary.
- **New Technical Rule 57.** The content has been updated to align with the current wording of the World Athletics Technical Rules.
- **New standardized method for time penalties.** The Referee will now determine the penalty time based on the race distance, using the method described in this guide. This penalty will be added to the offending athlete's final finish time.

Despite these updates, the 2020 Trail Running Officiating Handbook remains fully valid. It continues to serve as the foundational reference, providing an in-depth explanation of all technical officiating concepts for this discipline.



Download here the [Trail Running Officiating Handbook \(2020\)](#).

The Trail Running Jury

Technical control and officiating at Trail Running events on the national calendar are governed by the principles of rigor, safety, and coordination between the jury members and the race organization. The responsibilities of all officials are outlined below.

Organization Members



Race Director

The highest authority responsible for the logistical organization of the event. They must collaborate closely with the Referee during the preparation and execution of the race, but they have no jurisdiction over technical disciplinary matters, which fall strictly under the purview of the officials.



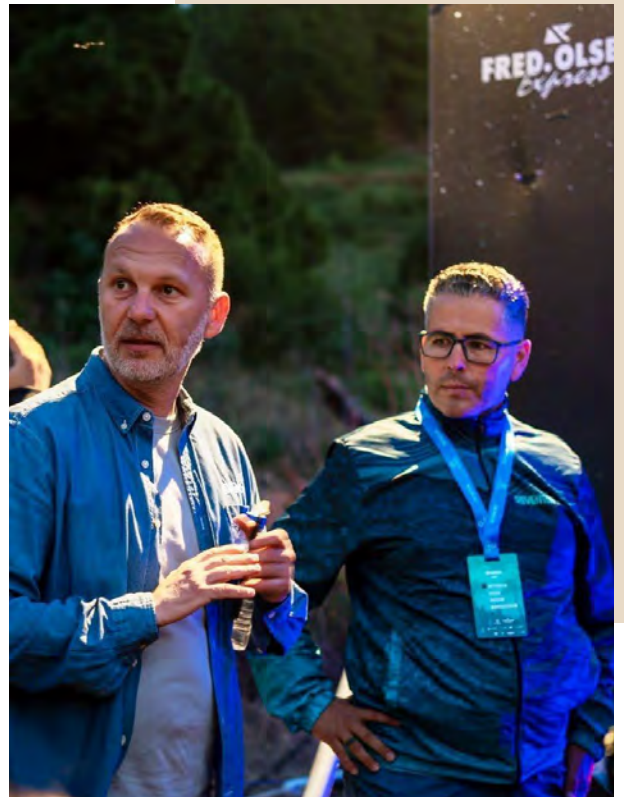
Safety Manager

Leads the safety and security team, which is composed of organization staff, volunteers, or medical personnel. Their responsibilities include drafting the Safety Plan and directing and coordinating rescue operations. During the race, they are typically based in a centralized control room.



Organization Marshals

Qualified personnel provided by the race organization who can assist the jury, depending on their availability and the operational needs of the race. They act as umpires and under the referee's direct supervision. They carry out the tasks assigned during the pre-race briefing and report any incidents directly to the Referee.



National Jury Members



Referee

Holds disciplinary authority and assumes the duties of the Meeting Manager during the competition. They are responsible for organizing the jury, working in close collaboration with the Local Officials Manager, who is appointed by the Regional Committee.



Local Officials Manager

Appointed by the host Regional Committee, they collaborate with the Referee during race preparation. They provide insight into the technical profile of each official and, ideally, possess knowledge of the specific characteristics of the race course.



Assistant Referee

Appointed by the National Committee of Judges (CNJ) for ultra-trails, stage races, or uphill races to allow for rotation with the Referee. In uphill races, this role ensures there is an official with disciplinary authority present when the Referee cannot be at the start and finish lines simultaneously.



Race Tracking Judge

Monitors the progress of the race in real time, reviewing intermediate split times to detect abnormal paces or athlete withdrawals. They keep the Referee informed of any race incidents.



Judges

The jury will consist of at least five judges, in addition to the Referee (and Assistant, if applicable) and the Race Tracking Judge. If necessary, this number will be increased to meet the specific requirements of each race.



Race Preparation

Pre-Race Meeting with the Race Organization

This meeting will be convened by the Referee as soon as possible after accepting the appointment (usually held virtually or by phone). If the meeting is conducted solely between the Referee and the Race Director, a summary of the outcomes must be immediately forwarded to the Local Officials Manager, the Assistant Referee (if applicable), and the Race Tracking Judge.

Required Attendees: The Race Director (or a designated representative with decision-making authority), the Referee, the Local Officials Manager appointed by the host Regional Committee, and the Assistant Referee (if applicable). Optionally, the Race Tracking Judge, the Timing Operator from the transponder timing company, the Safety Manager, and the Logistics Manager may also attend.

Key points to discuss and document



01

Regulations

Comprehensive review of the event-specific regulations and any potential discrepancies with the current RFEA Trail Running Regulations, which apply in conjunction with them.

02

Course Analysis

Review of elevation profiles and GPS tracks, as well as evacuation and alternative routes. Identification of potential conflict points: complex intersections, potential shortcuts, and crowded areas prone to unauthorized assistance.

03

Mandatory Gear

Confirmation of the official mandatory gear list based on weather conditions and race regulations, and establishment of the gear check protocol (at the start line, at intermediate points along the course, and/or at the finish line).





04

Start Line Logistics

Call Room procedures, countdown sequences, starting commands, type of starting signal (starting gun, air horn, or whistle), and the location of the race announcer.

05

Aid Stations

Physical demarcation and technical oversight of aid stations, distinguishing between those where outside assistance is prohibited and those where it is permitted.

06

Cut-offs Points

Establishment and precise location of cut-off points. Athletes may not proceed past a cut-off point once the time limit has expired, and they will be recorded as a DNF (Did Not Finish) in the official results.

07

Timing Systems

Verification of the timing company's current RFEA certification (or preparation of a manual timing system). Confirmation of the number of intermediate timing points and the protocol for transmitting data to the Race Tracking Judge.

08

Course Marshals

Obtaining the roster, locations, assigned duties, and direct contact information of all Course Marshals assigned to assist the jury (if applicable).

09

Mobility & Communications

Mapping of areas with mobile network coverage and the provision of alternative radio equipment, as well as logistical transportation for the jury (organization-provided vehicles, 4x4s, or independent travel on foot or by personal vehicle).



Pre-Race Meeting with the Jury

It is called by the Local Officials Manager in agreement with the Referee. It is recommended to hold it online a few days before the competition and distribute a summarized field manual. If this is not possible, it will be held on-site before the start of the race with the entire jury and marshals.

Guidelines to convey to the jury

01

Assignment of Positions

Distribution of schedules, permanence times, exact functions in each location (start, forks, aid stations, peaks, finish line) and autonomy in movements. Explanation of the protocol to follow for mandatory gear check.

02

Pole Control

Instructions to register athletes who take the start with poles (being obliged to reach the finish line with them or deposit them exclusively in the areas authorized in the specific regulations).

03

Protocol for Infractions

Upon detecting a regulatory infraction on the route, the judge or marshal must note down the bib number without addressing the athlete or taking any disciplinary measure at that moment(*), communicating the fact immediately to the Referee.

04

Judges' Equipment

Review of the weather forecast and the officiating material (stopwatches, starting guns, field sheets...), and each judge's individual gear (clipboards/tablets, rain pencils, uniform, footwear, warm/waterproof clothing, headlamps, phone with charged battery...).



(*) There are only three exceptions to the referee's exclusive authority where a judge can order an athlete to withdraw from the competition: exceeding the time limit at a cut-off barrier, lacking mandatory gear at an intermediate control (provided that the regulations enforce disqualification), or detecting an obvious physical issue (an injury or fainting) upon prior instruction from the official doctor.

Mandatory Gear Check

The verification of mandatory gear is essential for both fairness and safety. Whenever infrastructure and scheduling permit, one check will be conducted in the Call Room (at the start) and another in the Post-Finish Area. The following explains when to use each type of gear check.



01

All gear for all athletes

In the Call Room: Preferred for elite athletes, championships, or mass-start events with a small field size or a short mandatory gear lists.

In the Post-Finish Area: Preferred for elite athletes, championships, or events where the arrival of runners is widely spread out.



02

Part of the gear for all athletes

In the Call Room: Preferred for large-scale races. Officials check a single gear item per athlete (either predetermined or random).

In the Post-Finish Area: Suitable for busy finish lines. Officials may check the same item for all runners, or rotate items between them.



03

All gear for some athletes

In the Call Room: Recommended for large-scale races with strict time constraints before the start.

In the Post-Finish Area: Recommended for top finishers in each category when checking every runner is not feasible.



04

Part of the gear for some athletes

In the Call Room: Use only if no other gear check protocol is feasible.

In the Post-Finish Area: Last resort option if finish line congestion prevents the use of any other protocol.

On-Course Mandatory Gear Checks. Justified by adverse terrain or weather conditions, these should ideally be located in low-speed zones (such as uphill sections or aid stations) and signposted 50 meters in advance. To ensure fairness, exactly the same gear item(s) must be checked for all participants, from the first to the last.

The Call Room

The Call Room controls access to a restricted pre-start area. Once inside, athletes are not permitted to leave until the start of the race. If an athlete needs to exit for a valid reason (e.g., to use the restroom), they must be escorted by an official or a designated staff member.

Athlete identification typically takes place during bib collection. Therefore, ID verification in the Call Room is not required, unless specifically mandated by event regulations and communicated well in advance.

Required Checks

- **Bib and Transponder Verification**
Manual recording on the field sheet and/or electronic scanning via the access antenna. If a transponder reader is used, officials should verify that the chip reading matches the athlete's physical bib number.
- **Uniform and Advertising Compliance**
Verification of compliance with uniform regulations (particularly in team or national championships).
- **Mandatory Gear Check**
Conducted according to the established gear check protocol.
- **Pole Registration**
Accurate logging of which athletes start the race carrying poles. This data must be transmitted to finish line officials and to the specific points along the course where pole drop-off/pick-up is authorized.

Any incident in the Call Room must be reported immediately to the Referee for a final decision.



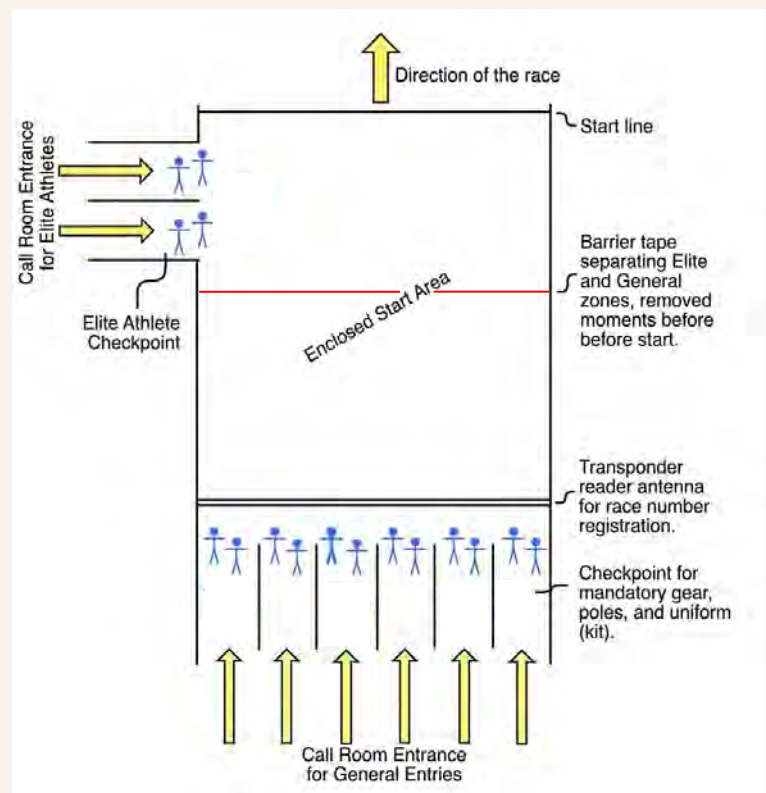
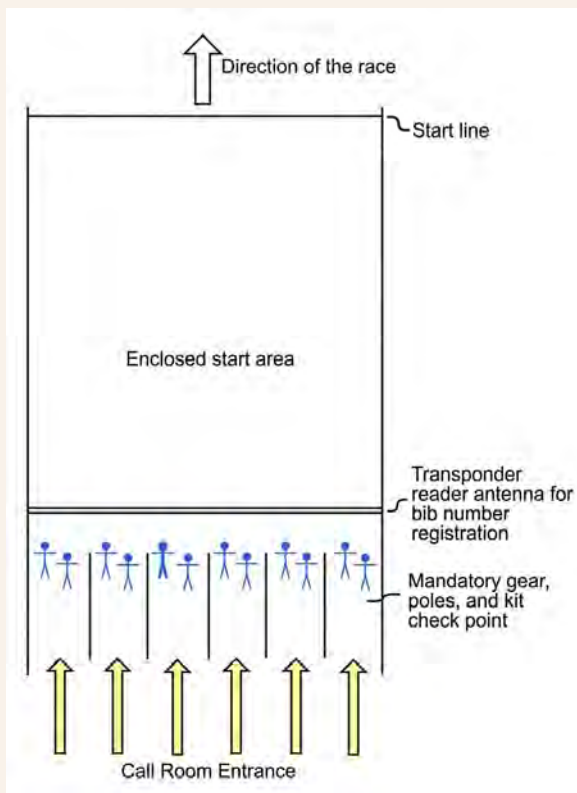
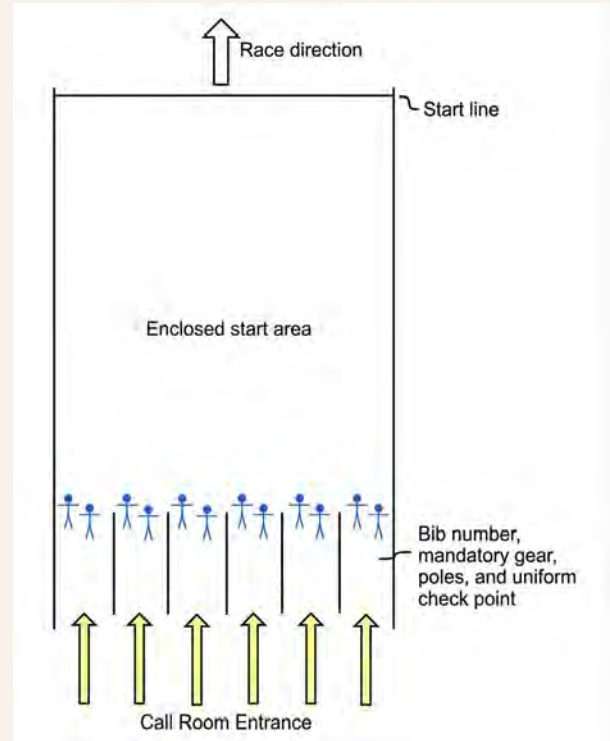
Call Room Layout

Key Factors Influencing the Layout

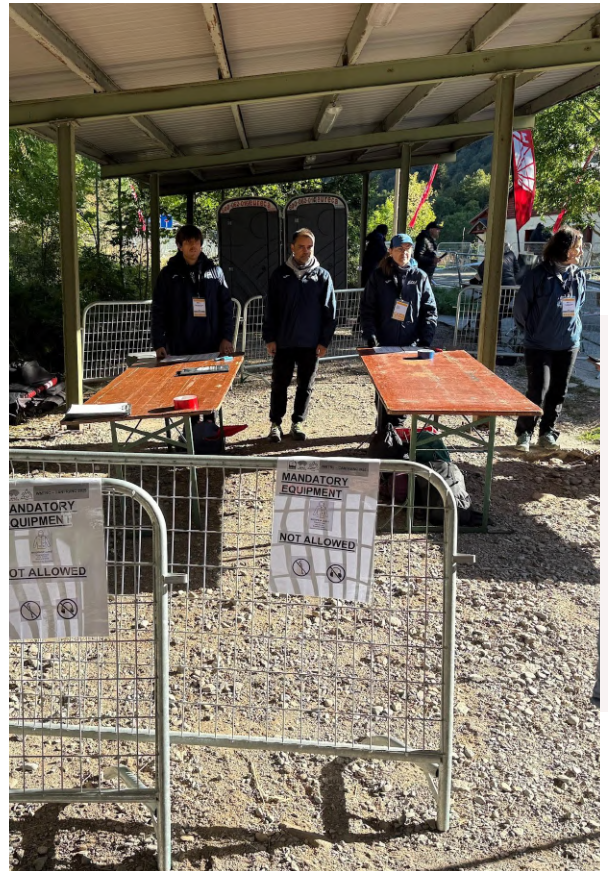
1. The total number of athletes to be checked.
2. The physical area available near the start line.
3. The materials and logistical means available for assembly.
4. The specific mandatory gear check protocol to be applied.
5. The number of officials available to staff the area.
6. The time available between the opening and closing of the Call Room.
7. The availability of transponder readers to log athletes automatically, eliminating the need for manual recording.

Corridor Design and Operation

Set up parallel entry lanes staffed by two officials each: the first verifies uniform compliance, logs poles, and records bib numbers, while the second conducts the mandatory gear check (support tables optional).



Call Rooms



The Start

Start Line: Must be clearly visible, though some flexibility is permitted in natural or sensitive environments (e.g., beaches, snow, protected areas).

Starting Signal: The start is marked by an acoustic signal (starting gun, horn, or whistle), preceded by a 10-second countdown and/or the standard "On your marks" command.

Start Warnings: In large-scale races, warnings should be announced five minutes, three minutes, and one minute prior to the start.

Start Recall Protocol: To prepare for a potential start recall, two officials may be positioned approximately 100 meters down the course, equipped with marking tape or a highly visible element to signal the recall and halt the runners.



Start Team Responsibilities

- **Protocol Compliance:** Ensure full compliance with the established start protocol.
- **Manual Timing:** Manually start one or more stopwatches. In uphill races where timekeepers are stationed at the finish line during the start, contact them via phone or radio so they can hear the starting signal.
- **Team Positioning:** In team competitions, position the teams in the starting order dictated by event regulations.

To ensure race safety, officials must maintain an accurate roster of all athletes who take the start, compiled either manually in the Call Room or generated via electronic transponder scanning.

Race Monitoring



The race course is divided into sections defined by checkpoints (start, finish, and intermediate points).

Key Aspects to Monitor

DNS (Did Not Start)

Registered athletes who fail to take the start.

DNF (Did Not Finish)

Athletes who withdraw or drop out of the race.

Athlete Location

The specific course section where each athlete is located at any given time.

Missing Athletes

Athletes who pass a checkpoint but fail to reach the next one, without having reported a withdrawal.

Abnormal Pacing

Athletes who gain an unrealistic number of positions or log impossible split times (indicating potential course cutting).

Lead and Tail Runners

The real-time position of the race leaders and the final runners on the course.



Intermediate Checkpoints

Utilizing transponders at intermediate checkpoints enhances athlete tracking and overall race safety by instantly recording and transmitting crossing times. If electronic timing is unavailable, an official (judge or marshal) must manually log the bib numbers and forward these records to the Race Tracking Judge without delay.

The **minimum number of intermediate checkpoints** is determined by the race distance: at least one checkpoint is required within the first 19 km, with an additional checkpoint mandated for every subsequent 20 km section.

The Race Tracking Judge



A mandatory role within the Trail Running Race Jury. This Judge is responsible for centralizing all race status data and reporting any incidents directly to the Referee.

Key Responsibilities

- **Status Updates:** Ensure the prompt recording of DNS and DNF statuses in the provisional results.
- **Course Tracking:** Monitor athlete locations across the course, maintaining real-time awareness of the lead and tail runners.
- **Pace Monitoring:** Identify abnormal pacing or split times that may indicate course cutting or unauthorized vehicle use.
- **Missing Athletes:** Coordinate with event organizers to initiate search protocols for missing athletes.

Coordination with the Timing Team

Transponder-Timed Races

The Race Tracking Judge assumes the role of Chief Transponder Judge, collaborating directly with the official timing operator.

Mixed Timing Races (Transponder & Manual)

In addition to acting as the Chief Transponder Judge, the Race Tracking Judge must cross-reference the electronic data with the manual logs submitted by course officials.

Manual Timing Races

In events without electronic transponders, the Race Tracking Judge relies exclusively on the data and field sheets provided by course officials.



Download the [Race Tracking Judge Template](#), to be attached to the [Race Tracking Judge's Report](#).



Course Judge Responsibilities

Responsibilities by Location

- **Aid Stations (No Outside Assistance)**
Ensure athletes consume only refreshments provided by the organization.
- **Aid Stations (With Outside Assistance)**
Ensure outside assistance stays within the designated zone and log hiking pole exchanges. Deploying two officials—one stationed at the exit—is recommended to prevent unauthorized support.
- **Cut-Off Points**
Stop athletes exceeding time limits and record them as DNF.
- **Unauthorized Assistance**
Monitor for and report any illegal support from spectators or crews outside designated zones. Prevent repeated assistance from unauthorized pacers, accompanying runners, or support staff (e.g., "mules").
- **On-Course Mandatory Gear Checks**
Deploying at least two officials is recommended to minimize delays for the runners.
- **Intersections and Shortcut-Prone Areas**
Diligently log all passing bib numbers to prevent course cutting, forwarding these records to the Race Tracking Judge without delay.
- **Media and Camera Runners**
Ensure official camera operators are clearly identified and stay behind competitors.
- **Environmental Infractions**
Report any ecological violations, such as littering or disposing of gels and wrappers outside the designated waste bins provided by the organizers.



Reporting Duties

- **To the Referee**
All rule violations (e.g., course cutting, unauthorized assistance, littering), accidents, or significant weather changes.
- **To the Race Tracking Judge**
Submit the bib numbers of the lead and tail runners (male and female) and any confirmed withdrawals (DNF). Whenever feasible, log and forward the bib numbers of all passing athletes.



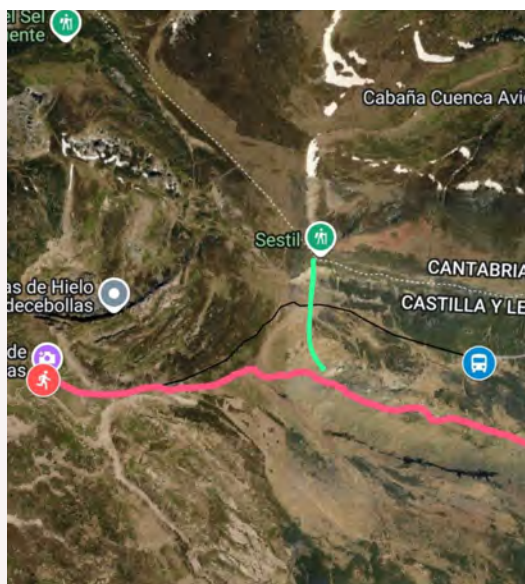
In-Race Communications

Review pre-race cellular coverage maps to ensure real-time jury connectivity.

Primary Channel: Use the dedicated messaging group (e.g., WhatsApp) to report incidents and forward athlete crossing-data.

No-coverage Zones: Use organizer-provided two-way radios in areas without cellular service.

Alternate Courses, Race Neutralizations, and Bib Regulations



Alternate Courses

Organizers must prepare alternate courses in case the primary route becomes impassable or unsafe. Race Management will authorize their deployment and notify athletes before or during the event.

Race Neutralization

Race neutralization involves suspending the course due to force majeure. It is executed either by temporarily regrouping athletes to restart once a severe threat passes, or by terminating the race early at an intermediate checkpoint. If the race is terminated early, the final official classification is established at that checkpoint using transponder data or manual logs.

Alternate Course

The map above shows the official course in red and the alternate course in green, activated due to adverse weather forecasts affecting the final section. Below, a photograph taken by the jury while inspecting the original finish line prior to rerouting toward the alternate finish line.



Bib Visibility

Penalties for improper bib placement should be exceptional, reserved strictly for cases of willful and repeated defiance of official instructions. Athletes are permitted to cover their bibs with weather-protective layers (e.g., windbreakers) for safety. This is not a penalizable offense; if identification is required, officials may simply ask the athlete to temporarily reveal their bib.



Bib Anomaly

Bib number 806 was recorded by the transponder reading at the start, but was missing from all manual passing checkpoints.

Conversely, number 908 was noted at all manual checkpoints, but was not on the start list.



Course Details



On-Course Mandatory Gear Checkpoint



On-Course Manual Transponder Reader



On-Course Transponder Timing Point



Next Aid Station Signage



Race Control Center

Outside Assistance Zones



Outside Assistance Zones



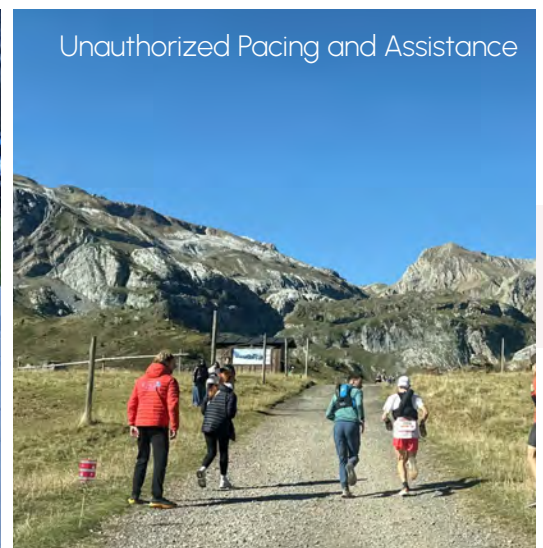
Unauthorized Pacing and Assistance



Authorized Outside Assistance



Outside Assistance Zone



Unauthorized Pacing and Assistance

The Finish

Visibility: Barring exceptional environmental constraints (e.g., severe weather or protected area restrictions), the finish line must remain clearly marked and visible at all times.

Continuous Control: Finish line operations must be maintained until the final athlete arrives. For long-duration events, official shift rotations must be scheduled to guarantee uninterrupted coverage.

Cut-Off Times: Athletes arriving after the established cut-off time must be classified as DNF in the official results.



Download the [Trail Running Officiating Templates](#).

Finish Team Responsibilities

Manual Timing Backup

Manually record the exact arrival order and finish time of every athlete, regardless of active transponder timing systems. This log serves as a critical fail-safe to guarantee accurate classifications in the event of an electronic timing failure.

Channelling to Post-Finish Control

Direct athletes into a restricted post-finish area to conduct mandatory gear checks. Officials must verify that any athlete who utilized poles on the course carries them across the finish line, unless properly deposited at designated assistance zones.

Determining Finish Line Ties

Unless explicitly prohibited by the race regulations, ties are permitted when there is a clear, mutual intention by the athletes to cross the finish line simultaneously (e.g., as seen in the tie for second place at the 2025 Canfranc World Championships; see photo on the right).



Finish Area Configurations



Post-Finish Gear Check



Application of Penalties

01

Exclusive Disciplinary Authority of the Referee

Only the Referee imposes penalties, typically applied at the finish area (mid-race withdrawals are classified as DNF, not DQ). The sole exception is immediate disqualification for missing mandatory gear, which checkpoint officials may issue directly at an on-course checkpoint.

02

Applicable Regulatory Hierarchy

Trail Running competitions are governed by three complementary sets of rules applied in the following order of precedence:

1. Event Specific Regulations: These prevail over all others. For Championships, this includes the specific regulatory and technical directives.
2. RFEA Trail Running Regulations.
3. World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules: With particular emphasis on Technical Rule 57.



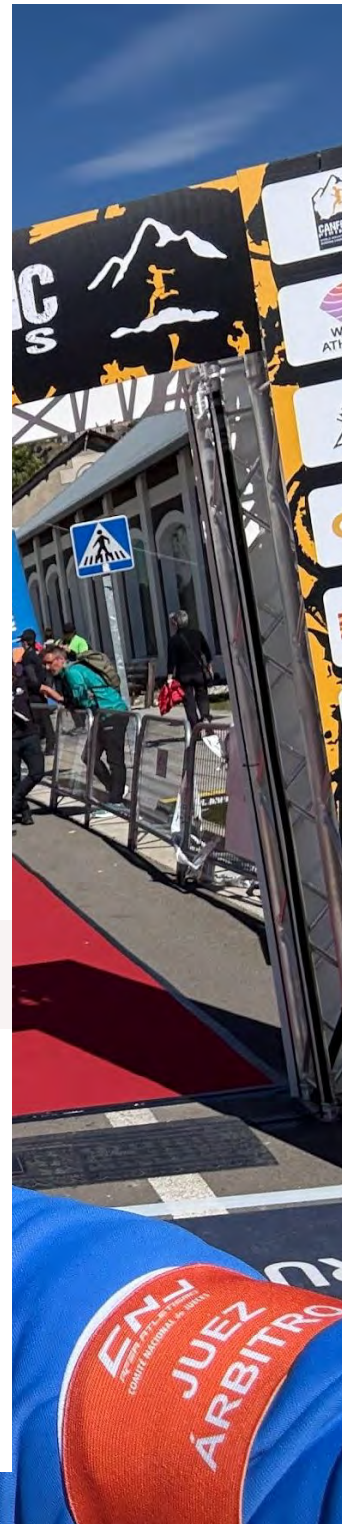
Refer to the RFEA Trail Running Regulations and the WA Competition and Technical Rules.

03

Citing Penalties in Official Classifications

Penalties must exclusively cite World Athletics rules (CR or TR), omitting event-specific or RFEA regulations:

- *Trail-Specific Infractions*: Use the generic reference TR 57.6 exclusively.
- *General Infractions*: Cite the specific applicable Technical Rule for all other violations (e.g., outside assistance, obstruction, unsporting conduct, or clothing regulations).



Technical Rule 57.6

If the Referee is satisfied on the report of a judge, or Umpire, or otherwise, that an athlete:

- has left the marked course thereby shortening the distance to be covered; or
- receives any form of assistance such as pacing (unless the race explicitly allows this), or refreshments outside of the official aid stations;
- does not comply to any of the specific race regulations;

they shall be disqualified or get the penalty stated by the specific race regulations.

Illegal Course Cutting

An infraction occurs when an athlete leaves the marked course and gains an illicit time advantage, regardless of intent.

While Technical Rule 57.6 defines this strictly as "shortening the distance," evaluating course deviations solely by distance is inadequate in Trail Running. Officials must apply the following criteria:

- **Time Advantage vs. Distance:** A course deviation is penalized if it yields a time or effort advantage, regardless of the physical distance covered (as a shorter distance does not always guarantee an advantage in trail running).
- **Irrelevance of Intent:** Penalties are imposed strictly regardless of the athlete's intent. Because subjective intent is not evaluated, any athlete who deviates from the route must retrace their steps to the exact point of exit to rejoin the marked course.

Assessing Advantage for Penalties

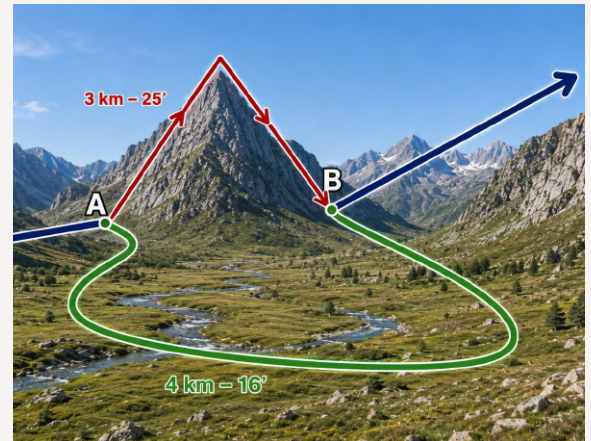
To penalize an athlete for leaving the marked course, officials must verify whether a time advantage was gained:

No Penalty (Time Disadvantage)

If an athlete deviates onto a route with a shorter physical distance but slower, more demanding terrain, ultimately losing time compared to the official route, no penalty is applied.

Penalty Applied (Time Advantage)

If an athlete deviates onto a physically longer but faster, easier route, achieving a shorter time than traversing the technical marked course, they must be penalized for illegal course cutting.



Course Deviation Scenarios

Consider a diagram illustrating two routes between Point A and Point B:

Green Path: Runs through the valley (flat and fast), allowing the runner to cover 4 km in 16 minutes.

Red Path: Runs through the mountain (rugged and slow), taking 3 km in 25 minutes.

Scenario Evaluation:

Case 1: No Penalty (Time Disadvantage)

The marked course is the Green Route. The athlete deviates onto the Red Route. Although they cover less distance (3 km vs. 4 km), they spend more time (25 min vs. 16 min). Because the deviation results in a time disadvantage, no penalty is applied.

Case 2: Penalty Applied (Time Advantage)

The marked course is the Red Route. The athlete deviates onto the Green Route. Although they cover a greater distance (4 km vs. 3 km), they significantly reduce their race time (16 min vs. 25 min). Because an illicit time advantage was gained, the athlete must be penalized for illegal course cutting.

Standardization of Officiating Criteria

Time Penalty Calculation Criteria

When a regulation dictates a variable time penalty range rather than a fixed duration, the Race Referee shall apply a standardized penalty of 1 minute per race kilometer, rounding up partial kilometers to the next whole number.

Example: For an infraction such as "Outside assistance outside permitted zones (Penalty: 3 minutes to disqualification)", an athlete not facing outright disqualification in a 45.00 km race receives a 45-minute penalty. If the race distance is 45.32 km, the penalty is 46 minutes.

Race Interference (TR 57.8)

Event Organizers must ensure that the general public and media (e.g., camera operators on foot or bike) do not interfere with the competition or provide outside assistance, including tactical information regarding other athletes.

- Media Positioning: Camera operators must always remain behind the athletes they are following.
- Mandatory Identification: Media personnel must be clearly identified (e.g., via specific colored vests) to distinguish them from athletes and spectators.

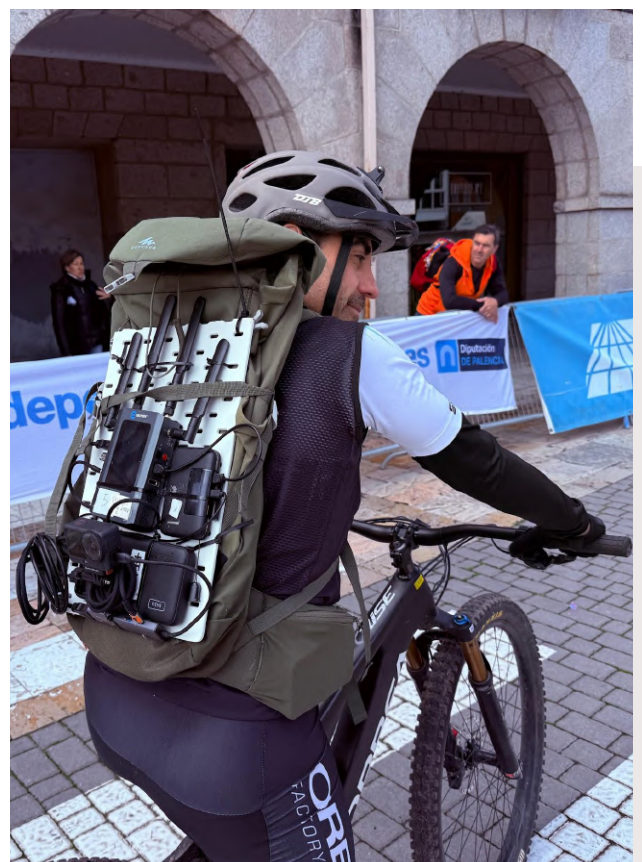
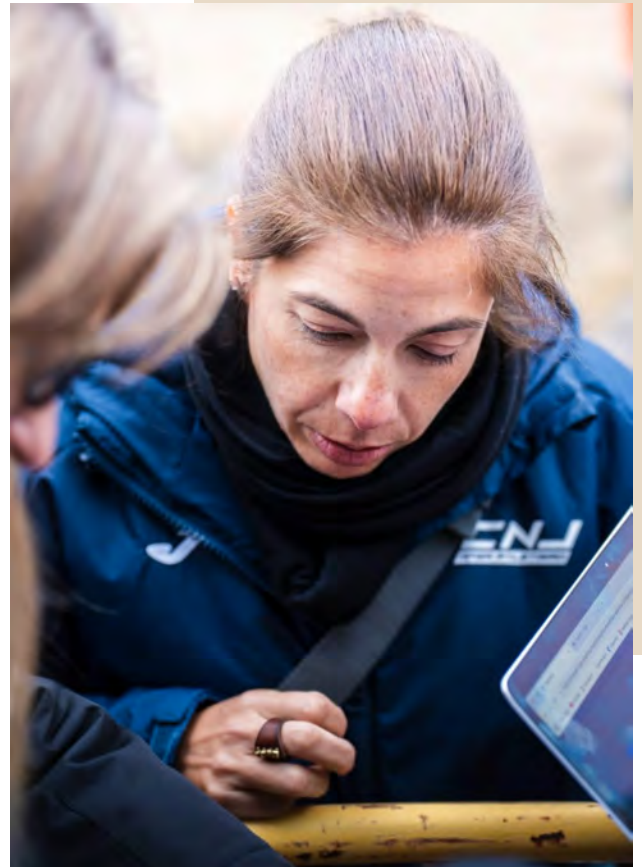
Presumption of Truthfulness of Officials

The reports of competition officials (judges and marshals) carry a presumption of truthfulness and must be accepted as factual by the Referee absent irrefutable contrary evidence.

Conversely, third-party protests lacking direct official confirmation require concrete, verifiable proof to be evaluated.



Download the [Trail Running Officials Assignment Template](#) and append it to the [Referee Report](#).



Official Resources

Official Forms and Templates

- [Field Sheets](#)
- [Officials Assignment Template](#)
- [Race Tracking Judge Template](#)
- [Course Umpire Report](#)

Training Resources

- [The Race Tracking Judge in Trail Running Officiating \(2025\)](#)
- [Trail Running Officiating Seminars \(2021-2022\)](#)
- [RFEA Trail Running Officiating Course \(2021\)](#)

Official Reports

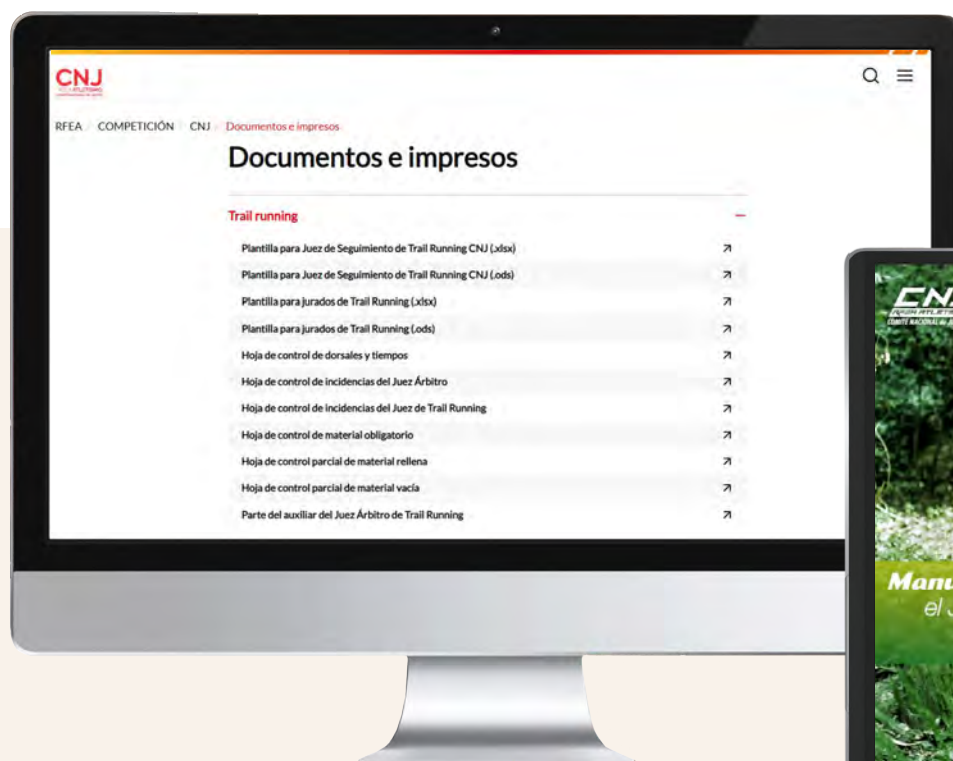
- [Referee Report](#)
- [Race Tracking Judge Report](#)

Official Regulations

- [RFEA Trail Running Regulations](#)
- [World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules](#)

Handbooks

- [Trail Running Officiating Handbook \(2020 ed.\)](#)
- [Environment and Trail Running](#)



Acknowledgements

The integration of Trail Running into Athletics in 2015 challenged us to develop an officiating framework that combines our rigor and precision as officials with the unique demands of vast, open natural environments.

The procedures outlined in this guide demonstrate the success of this officiating approach. Through the collaboration of judges, organizers, and athletes, this methodology is now an established reality. This achievement would not have been possible without the CNJ's firm commitment to ensuring rigorous technical control over this discipline. We extend our sincere gratitude to Simón Iglesias for his foundational drive in defining how to judge this new discipline; to Antonio Pérez, former CNJ president, for establishing an ad hoc commission dedicated to advancing Trail Running officiating; and to Gemma Castaño, current CNJ president, for providing the commission with the continuity and autonomy required to address emerging challenges.

Our officiating framework has proven robust, effective, and mature, having been successfully implemented at major international events—such as the 2022 European Championship in La Palma and the 2025 World Championship in Canfranc—earning the approval and recognition of both World Athletics and European Athletics.

Nevertheless, significant progress remains to be made, particularly concerning the integration of technology to streamline our duties. The Trail Running Commission continues to work proactively to develop advanced protocols, tools, and resources, enhancing the technical control of these constantly evolving and growing competitions.

Antonio J. Belmonte

Coordinator of the CNJ Trail Running Commission

