

How to Officiate the Javelin, Christena Harder

Prepare before the event. Pack your bag, take items you need to run the event efficiently and safely. In case of rain take a 2 gal. Ziploc bag to put over your clipboard.

Arrive early:

Pick up contestant sheets, check how many go to finals, weigh-in mark and size of spikes.

Check the venue:

Check for extension of the arc foul line and if missing spray it on or use cones. 2'5 1/2"

Check runway and find point to pull throw, 26' 3" feet back to pull through tape.

Make sure you can keep event safe, ie. Softball field, soccer fields on either side.

Sweep runway.

Run tape out to sector, opposite side as athletes. Zero the tape.

If there are any concerns with the venue contact coach.

Teach you helpers. They may have helped some else before, but make clear how you want it run, emphasize safety.

Tape puller, most important person. Tape straight, same tightness, pull through marked center point, and tell them not to use the case. Make sure all tape is off runway and foul line after measuring so the runway and board are clear for the next thrower.

Field officials. Tell them how to mark, explain tip first, flat and tail. Flats are measured from the back of the grip in high school. Show them how.

Explain what side athletes may retrieve. Javelins are carried to athletes, never thrown.

And explain what a foul is. They need to call the sector, because you never look up. You are watching feet, the foul line and exit.

Helpers should NEVER turn back on athletes.

Primary Rule: Always know what is happening in the runway, continually be aware!

Check in:

All I know about check-in I learned from John Martin, a pole-vault official.

When checking in check if athlete's uniforms are ok, if they are in another event and how to pronounce their names. Write that phonetically above their name on sheet. Check spike size when checking weigh-in marks on javelins.

Do picks, throws 10'-15' long off to side in roped in area on in sector before warm-ups. Athletes should line up and all throw at once, walk to pick up jav, line up again, throw together, pick up, repeat. Need to be supervised by official or coach.

Warm up – 15 minutes. This is the time when accidents happen!

Throw 5-8 javelins, keep kids to your side and then everyone picks up at once. Repeat.

Then give instructions: Start on time!

Line all throwers up in their order, ask them to look down the line and see who they follow. That does 2 things, they are watching and listening and you have the opportunity to check uniforms one more time.

Give instructions

Ask to see their throwing hands.

We start on time. If anyone has to leave for another event, throw them first, every 3-4 throwers and excuse them. Write time they leave beside their name on the sheet. Remind them if they make finals it is their responsibility to get back in time.

Throw

Make corrections as needed, so kids and helpers are doing the event correctly.

Important mention:

Measure to lesser inch.

Never measure foul throws.

No throws after competition is completed.

Javelin is all about safety. You are in charge and you and your helpers need to keep everything safe so the throwers, helpers and the spectators are all safe.