

# SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

Officials have a duty to take reasonable care to avoid injury to participants and this includes keeping up to date on the rules of the game, particularly rules relating to safety aspects.

## **Duties of care of an official:**

- Duty to enforce the rules
- Duty to protect participants
- Duty to warn participants of dangers
- Duty to ensure that the sport can be conducted safely
- Duty to control and supervise the competition.

Participants in sport will be taken to consent to the risks of injury from activities that are “within the sport”.

## **Risk management tips for officials:**

- Always inspect and clear the range/stage of visible dangers. Consider reducing the size of the range/stage if necessary (e.g. ensure safe angles and stage within template);
- Cancel the contest or event if there is inclement or dangerous weather (e.g. extreme heat or thunder storms where lightning is likely);
- Inspect and control use of both competition and protective equipment;
- Enforce the rules of the sport and control the conduct of participants (a warning to “tone down” behaviour before things get out of hand can be effective);
- Be able to provide basic first aid if required and to deal appropriately with potential and actual injuries;
- Keep a record of any incidents that occur during a competition (e.g. Incident Report Form);
- Seek regular evaluation of your performance and make sure you know about changes to the rules;
- Ensure you have a “balance” in your life and give yourself sufficient time away from officiating to avoid “burn out”;
- Have insurance to cover both if a claim is made against you and also to cover medical expenses or lost income if you are injured.