

What happens if you have a clash of events?

This happens a lot. So **don't panic**.

Track takes precedence over field

- This is for practical reasons because a track event is lots of people doing the same thing at the same time, so they all need to be there, whereas, in the field, athletes compete one at a time and there is more scope to adjust.

Under UKA rules (World Athletics rules are different), at the discretion of the Field Referee (which is nearly always given):

- During a field competition an athlete can go to a track event (or other field event) and the officials will do their best to work around this (e.g. bringing forward in a round to jump before they go, or putting later in a round to jump when they get back)
- The athlete **cannot** catch up if the next round of trials has started (which includes the first athlete of that next round being on the runway / in the circle) and a HJ / PV bar will NOT be put down to accommodate a returning athlete.

In case of a clash, I would **advise athletes to**:

- Take a full timetable with them so that they can see what track events are on the track while they compete in the field and therefore whether everything is running to time;
- Talk to the track marshal / starter before they sign into the field event(s) to tell them where they will be if they are missing at the start line – note that this does **not** mean that the race will be held for them;
- Tell the lead field official about the clash when they sign in to an event – including the time they expect to leave - and ask that the running order is adjusted in the appropriate rounds;
- Tell the lead official a few minutes before they go off to the track event (especially if a new round has just started so they can get a jump in before they go);
- Give themselves plenty of time to change shoes if they need to;
- Get back to the field event as soon as the track judges let them leave the area – no standing around recovering or chatting / celebrating – they can do this while they wait for their next field trial;
- Tell the lead official when they get back to the field event so that they can be slotted in again and be clear if they want to take the next trial or pass;
- Listen to what the officials are saying and don't be frightened to speak up (bearing in mind that the official might need to ask the athlete to wait for a minute while they deal with something else).

Under the rules, officials aren't allowed to tell athletes when to leave for a track event as that is coaching, but good officials should:

- Take note of what the athletes tell them when they sign in and make sure they understand what the athlete is telling them
- Maintain a clear dialogue with the athletes about the rounds and who they expect to be jumping, when, and why some athletes might be leaving the competition area or jumping in a different order

Try to time the rounds to help athletes without jeopardising the timetable