

THROWS SAFETY BULLETIN FOR EVENT ORGANISERS – OCTOBER 2017



All implements thrown during athletics training sessions and competition have the potential to be lethal weapons if not properly supervised at all times.

Whilst accidents remain rare, a recent fatality and a concerning number of accidents and near misses (summarised below), have highlighted a need for improved vigilance. Accordingly, UK Athletics has produced this safety bulletin as a means of reinforcing critical safety protocols as well as raising awareness of the potential dangers associated with throwing events.

REPORTED THROWS INCIDENTS/NEAR MISSES 2017

Event	Training/ Competition	Summary of incident
Discus	Training	Athlete fatality caused by the collapse of a portable throws cage
Discus	Competition	Official struck on the shin by a discus
Discus	Competition	Official struck in the chest by a discus
Javelin	Training	Two members of public walking across infield area during javelin practice
Javelin	Competition	Javelin narrowly missed a field official the middle of the sector
Hammer	Competition	Hammer escaped over the top of a cage and landed 1m from an Official

Event Organisers

- Arrange a venue site visit at least 2 weeks prior to your event so that all facilities can be checked for safety and an event timetable agreed.
- Ensure that hammer, discus, javelin, club and weight throw events are always timetabled appropriately so that they don't present a hazard to other event participants.
- Where long jump, triple jump or pole vault runways are located on the infield throwing must not take place unless a separate risk assessment indicates that the standard of throwers will not pose a risk to others.
- Warning flags and ropes should be placed well outside the sector lines and spectators and media must always be kept outside their perimeter.
- The Meeting Manager or Event Organiser must ensure that all personnel who are liable to enter the infield are made fully aware of all safety considerations.
- Ensure that event officials supervise the event in accordance with the rulebook and UKA approved safety standards – click [here](#) to download the UKA Throws Safety bulletin for officials and coaches.



Further safety guidance is available for download from the UKA website:

- [UKA Throws Safety bulletin for Facility operators](#)
- [UKA Throws Safety bulletin for Coaches and Officials](#)
- [UKA Long Throws safety statement](#)
- [UKA Safe Codes of Practice for Track & Field](#)
- [Risk Assessment guidance/templates and sample competition risk assessments](#)