

Tadcaster Harriers Policy on Wearing Another Athlete's Race Number

The committee have adopted a policy with regard to UKA rule 143 S2 (iii). It is not permitted to take part in a race with another runner's race number. The Rule states "Athletes who receive transferred numbers without permission (from the race organiser i.e. a formal transfer) will be disqualified from the race. Both runners will be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate National Association". In our case the national organisation is England Athletics. The sanctions imposed are usually a 12 month ban from all UKA races not only for the person running but also for the person who gave them their number.

This is a serious rule and as a UKA registered club we are obliged to support and reinforce their rules. The reasons for the rule are:

- If a medical emergency occurred, there could be potential mix-ups. The organisers may get in touch with an original emergency contact, leading to panic and/or confusion. They may use the medical notes entered at the time of entry, which could have disastrous consequences.
- Any race insurance could be compromised.
- The impact in the event of the tragedy, such as at the Boston marathon a few years ago, could be very serious.
- It impacts on results not only for the race itself but for Run Britain / Power of Ten rankings / results and this is especially so where the other runner is a different category, gender or capability.
- There have been a number of incidents where ladies have been deprived of a first place or prize because they were beaten by young men with women's numbers.

UKA registered running and athletics clubs are obliged to report these incidences to England Athletics (in our case) as are race organisers. Should we neglect this we as a club could face sanctions. This is the action we will have to take going forward.

EA are compiling a 'blacklist' of runners who have been reported for number-swapping, referenced to the runner's EA registration number. A number of race organisers are now starting to check EA registrations. A number of individual athletes have been banned.

The official club policy is for runners to adhere to the rules. If not, we will, from this date, report cases that we are aware of.

Tadcaster Harriers Committee
23 February 2017