At the Zoom meeting of the NA / EA Officials Development Project group, held on the 2nd Nov 2021, the following approach was agreed:-

To address the loss of recruitment and training of athletics officials, caused by the Covid pandemic lockdowns from March 2020 to date, The following actions are planned to (hopefully) enable clubs and leagues to recruit and train new officials for the 2022 outdoor track and field season, and for new clubs to identify club members or associates to be trained to support club events.

1. The North of England T&F league and the YDL have been given funding by EA to enable them to support costs associated with training or equipping new officials. The league has already been in touch with clubs that have confirmed affiliation for 2022, to invite them to submit names of those, in their club, who wish to become new officials
2. Parallel promotion will also be undertaken by CofSecs to clubs in their county, by Regional Council Officials co-ordinators to clubs in their region, by the NA office to affiliated clubs, to try and get applications for new people who wish to be trained and licenced as an athletics official.
3. The list of names, and the officiating specialism they wish to be trained in (Track, Field, Starting, Timekeeping, Endurance), will then be gathered by Mid to end of December, and will be used to arrange training courses, in the chosen discipline, and located in acceptable locations & times in each of the 3 regions (NW, NE & Yorkshire & Humberside) during the January to March 2022 period
4. The network of mentors, course tutors and Cofsecs in the North will then assist with the experiences needed to get the newly trained officials licenced asap. (Note: Valid Experiences can be registered prior to the training course happening, and this will speed up the licencing process).

If your club needs more officials, please help our sport by notifying the names and information to either your COfSec, Regional Council Officials co-ordinator or submit the expression of interest & details via the link at the foot of this web page:-

<https://www.englandathletics.org/officiating/qualifications/>

Steve Gaines

Northern Athletics

November 5th 2021