



Effective Working Relationships with Organizers

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“It Takes Two...”



- The Organizer and Chief Referee (CR) each play a role in the success of a race
- The Organizer is responsible for the overall running and conduct of the event
- The CR is responsible for the sporting aspects and compliance with the rules (including pre-event)
- Ideally these two people should work together to create a successful event



Roles and Stereotypes





The Organizer (or Promoter)

- ▣ Responsible for organization of the race
- ▣ May be a volunteer or paid (often poorly)
- ▣ May or may not have backup network
- ▣ Possibly involved for years in the sport, but may not have been “behind the scenes” at other races
- ▣ Probably not an official
- ▣ May have a case of “Promoter Fantasy”





The Chief Referee

- ▣ Responsible for more limited aspects of race
- ▣ May be from another region, and unknown to the organizer or other officials
- ▣ Not highly paid
- ▣ Probably has no experience as an organizer
- ▣ Many different personalities and motivations for being involved





Sources of Conflict

- CRs look at one small aspect of race, but their decisions may have larger ramifications
- Organizers may not be very organized
- Assumptions may be made by both groups due to a lack of communications
- Whether large or small – our duty is to provide organizers with the best service possible
- Sometimes there is a fine line between helping and hindering







Case Studies

- ▣ Moving a display vehicle because you can't see the finish
- ▣ Stopping the race on the road for a minor issues
- ▣ Yelling at a volunteer
- ▣ Making a major decision and having the organizer find out about it at the manager's meeting
- ▣ Mishandling post-event paperwork





Discussion

What are some issues that
you have had with
organizers?





Possible Solutions

- ▣ Communicate!
 - ▣ Make organizers part of the process and the solution
- ▣ “Managing” your Organizer
- ▣ Be organized
- ▣ Know the rules
- ▣ Know the race
- ▣ Have people skills





Organizer “Pet Peeves”

1. Officials “Taking Over” the event
“With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility”
2. Making critical decision without consulting them
3. Surprise expenses
4. Not “Doing Your Homework” on the race
5. Disrespecting staff and volunteers
6. Not knowing the impact of your decisions





Top 10 Organizer “Pet Peeves”

5. Being high maintenance
6. Making changes to the Tech Guide 3 days out
7. Not taking care of equipment
8. Arriving late
9. Not being responsive before the event
10. Getting a call from USAC asking where post event paperwork is.





Resolution to issues

- ▣ Most issues can be resolved before they escalate
- ▣ Remember that it is the organizer's race, not yours





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