

The Good Practice Guide for small and sporting events taking place on the highway, roads and public places issued by The Home Office

For the few of our events which use public roads for part of the course, the following regulations issued in 2010 need to be noted. In particular, the organiser of any event held on the public highway needs to liaise with the Local Authority to get permission and then is required to raise a Temporary Traffic Regulations Order (TTRO) and possibly create a Traffic Management Plan which will identify the need to close roads, segregate runners from traffic and implement diversions.

Any initial discussion with the Local Authority Highways Department will require at least the following information as a minimum;

- Time and date of proposed event
- The route and its distance
- Number of runners
- Duration of event
- Marshall points
- Any bus routes

Permission is required from the Local Authority to place “Advisory Signs” on the public highway (these are signs such as Caution Runners, Runners keep left and Directional Arrows. Under Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 these signs need to be a specific size depending on the speed limit of the road concerned.. Such signs can only be put in place by trained operatives (England Athletics has a number of Chapter 8 courses planned to get individuals qualified for smaller events to overcome this). Signs can be obtained from Running Imp and similar entities at relatively little cost..

Other matters to be considered include the following:

- The risk assessment plan must take into account the safety implications for road users and set out the road signs required in a traffic management plan.
- All officials engaged on an event on a road must be briefed and wear high visibility clothing.
- Runners must comply with the Highway Code, the risk assessment and obey directions from marshals.

Chapter 11 of The Good Practice Safety Guide covers road running and athletic events and should be referred to as a checklist to ensure no safety issues have been over looked. This can be accessed via the Home Office website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications, then click on police and operational policing and its on the second page. Alternatively google “ Home Office The Good Practice Safety Guide”