Annex J – Predicting Marshal Strength

What Is the Predicted Number?

The 'predicted' marshalling strength at any location is the number of marshals that the organising team consider to be appropriate having taken account of all local circumstances and potential spectator activity.

This applies to staffing requirements for all rally stages.

The actual circumstances on rally day may change for many reasons therefore the 'predicted' number is neither a minimum nor maximum and may need to be adjusted. If possible try to provide for a small reserve of spare marshals for each stage so that you have deployable resources for any unforeseen demands on the day.

How is the 'Prediction' used?

The 'predicted' number of marshals will be the number that is entered into event documentation and listed in the setup information. It will be used to recruit and allocate marshals and will be referred to by the Safety Delegate when inspecting the venue.

'Predicting' the requirement

What does this number mean and what factors will influence assessment when 'predicting' what it should be?

These following points should be considered however the list is not exhaustive:

Location
Terrain
Attractiveness to spectators
Access
Potential for incidents
Other resource at the location.

The location

Thinking about the location is it going to be attractive to spectators?

If so, is it easily accessible or does access require some effort?

If the location is attractive and readily accessible it is likely that there will be more spectators than at less easily accesses locations. In less accessible locations the spectators are more likely to be 'experienced' and therefore possibly understand the potential risks but do not be complacent about this aspect.

From this it may be reasonable to conclude less marshals are required at less readily accessible locations.

Considering who else will be at the location.

It may be that a radio car is allocated to the location. If so what about the status of these marshals? If it is a mandatory radio point the radio crew are not really available as marshalling strength for spectator management as they have a specific task. Should it be that a radio car has been allocated

to provide a link into an area where spectators may gather it is not unreasonable to consider the crew available to assist with spectators.

Terrain and potential incidents.

Does the area allow places for spectating that are relatively safe and easy to manage? If yes and access is restricted, then less manpower is needed.

Regarding incidents if an 'off' likely and spectators are present this may require managing by marshals.

Setting the number.

To arrive at a number, you need to consider the implication of the factors outlined above (and others specific to the location) and then "predict" the required marshalling strength in the circumstances you can reasonably expect to prevail at that location. Do not put in a very low number. If it is unrealistic to staff that location with such a low number, be realistic in your prediction. Also consider your plan if you have numbers far in excess of your minimum requirement on the day of the event.

Why is the expression 'predicted' used?

The expression is less prescriptive than 'minimum', which is a finite statement**. If a minimum is stated and that resource is not available, then a set standard has not been achieved and the stage cannot run.** This is similar for instance to the requirement for a 'mandatory' radio point that has not been staffed. i.e. something that has been specified in the safety plan is not fulfilled.

The predicted number of marshals at any one location is a more flexible term. It can be adjusted to reflect actual rather than anticipated circumstances. It may be that four marshals have been "predicted' as being required but only two are available. It may be possible to downgrade the requirement if anticipated spectator activity has not materialised. Alternatively, it may be that marshals need to be redeployed from another location where the 'predicted' quantity can be revised.

Conclusion

Predicting marshal numbers is a not precise activity and requires realistic assessment of the location issues and consideration of available resources. It is not a paper only exercise where numbers are specified to fulfil a regulatory requirement.

Sensible and pragmatic assessment of requirements should result in better spectator management on rally stages and lead to better use of resources and improvements in safety for spectators, marshals and competitors.

REMEMBER- leading up to the stage start and when the stage is live, situations may change and issues may arise. Having predicted marshal numbers permits a proactive and flexible approach to managing spectator safety.