

**ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA  
OFFICIALS COMMISSION**

**SUMMARY OF NEW IAAF RULES PASSED AT 2009 IAAF CONGRESS**

*A range of changes was made to the IAAF Technical Rules at the 2009 Congress. It should be remembered that all congresses are now regarded as "technical congresses" and therefore change can now be made even in large numbers every two years rather than every four, as was previously the case. The opportunity is again to be taken as the new Handbook is finalised to make further "editorial changes". Full details will be contained in the proof copy of the Handbook once it is completed.*

*This particular document aims to summarise those changes, which may affect national, state, local and school competitions in Australia. Some facility and equipment changes are not detailed here.*

*The main changes to the Technical Rules are summarised as follows.*

**1. Rule 100 - General**

This rule has been amended by the addition of the underlined words as follows:

All International Competitions, as defined in Rule 1.1, shall be held under the Rules of the IAAF and this shall be stated in all announcements, advertisements, programmes and printed material.

In all competitions, except the World Championships (Outdoor and Indoor) and Olympic Games, events may be held in a different format from that provided under the IAAF Technical Rules, but Rules giving more rights to the athletes cannot be applied. These formats shall be decided by the respective bodies having the control over the competition.

*Note: It is recommended that Members adopt the Rules of the IAAF for the conduct of their own athletics competitions.*

This rule change gives greater opportunity to Athletics Australia to permit certain events and competitions to be held in different formats (not for example just the vertical jumps as previously allowed). However note that such altered formats cannot give additional rights to athletes – ensuing all such competitions will still be regarded as valid under the rules.

**2. Rule 119 – Jury of Appeal**

The rule has been amended to ensure that members of Juries of Appeal who may have a conflict of interest do not participate in Jury deliberations.

**3. Rule 125.5 – Warnings to athletes**

These changes were designed to provide that warnings or exclusions issued by any referee are communicated to all other referees and the Competition Secretary. This is to ensure that warnings can have cumulative effect (from different referees if appropriate/necessary) and that exclusions are effectively observed across the competition.

**4. Rule 125.8 – Warnings by Outside Events Referee(s)**

A new rule is inserted as follows:

The Road Race Referee shall, wherever practicable, give a warning prior to disqualification. If contested, the normal rules regarding protests will apply.

This rule is designed to be applied in applicable situations such as when the referee believes an athlete may be being paced. In other words to avoid disputed situations that might arise from a straight out disqualification, it is now deemed to be more appropriate to, if practicable, issue a warning first. Note that this is intended to lead to a technical rule disqualification rather than a behavioural exclusion.

5. **Rule 127.4 – Umpires’ Reports**

Amended to clarify that umpires must make any relevant reports even when they are aware that the athlete or team has or will not finish the race.

6. **Rule 132 – Technical Information Centres**

The important role of the TIC is now formally recognised within the IAAF Rules for the first time.

7. **Rule 137 – Measurement Judge (Scientific)**

The rule has been amended to clarify that it is the applicable referee who oversees the testing process for the EDM or VDM and for the test to be verified in writing on or attached to the results sheet.

8. **Rule 141 – Age Groups**

Athletes (both male and females) competing in masters road, cross country and road walking events must now have reached their 40<sup>th</sup> (rather than 35<sup>th</sup>) birthday. The previous rule remains in place for all 'in stadium' events.

9. **Rule 144.1 – Intermediate Times**

Rule amended so that any non-official given permission to call times from the infield should only do so where there is no visual time display at that point and provided they call times to all athletes participating.

10. **Rule 144.2 - Assistance**

This Rule has been re-organised to make it read in a better way but in the main there is no substantive change to the content except to clarify the situation in relation to springs etc in shoes.

11. **Rule 144.3 - Windsocks**

Clarified so that more than one windsock may be provided on a single event site.

12. **Rule 146 – Protests**

A number of further clarifications have been made to make this rule more operable:

- Protests can be made by the athlete, someone acting on his behalf or a team official
- The protester or his representative must have a bona fide interest in the event in question

- If the referee is not accessible then the protest may be made to him through the TIC
- Where an athlete is allowed to continue competing under protest, any subsequent performance will only be valid if the protest (or appeal) is eventually upheld in his favour
- Referees shall inform the TIC of the time of their decision on any protest
- If a referee is unable to advise the protester directly this shall be done through the TIC and the time of the decision shall be deemed to be the time of posting of the decision by the TIC
- The 30 minute time limit for an appeal shall run from (a) the official announcement of the amended result OR (b) if no amendment, the time of the advice to the protester.

**13. Rule 160.1 – Kerbing on the straight**

Kerbing is no longer required in the straights and if not present shall be replaced by a white line 5cm in width.

**14. Rule 162.5 – The Start (Disciplinary Warnings and Disqualifications)**

It is important to note that this Rule was changed quite independently of the so called "no false start" rule mentioned in 15 below. Consequently this rule will have full and immediate effect in Australia. This will not involve very significant change in Australia as the new rule in effect covers the practice note issued in Australia after the previous rule changes concerning the start. The Rule now reads as follows:

On the command "On your marks" or "Set", as the case may be, all athletes shall at once and without delay assume their full and final set position.

Where an athlete in the judgement of the Starter,

(a) after the command "On your marks" or "Set", and before the report of the gun, causes the start to be aborted, for instance by raising a hand and/or standing in the case of a crouch start, without a valid reason, (such reason to be evaluated by the relevant Referee); or

(b) fails to comply with the commands "On your marks" or "Set" as appropriate, or does not place himself in his final starting position after a reasonable time; or

(c) after the command "On your marks" or "Set" disturbs other athletes in the race through sound or otherwise,  
the Starter shall abort the start.

The Referee may warn the athlete for improper conduct (disqualify in case of a second infringement of the Rule during the same competition), according to Rules 125.5 and 145.2. In cases where an extraneous reason was considered to be the cause for aborting the start, or the Referee does not agree with the Starter's decision, a green card shall be shown to all the athletes to indicate that a false start was not committed by any athlete.

The rule in effect means that athletes disrupting the start can be warned or disqualified irrespective of the normal (either current or as from 1.1.10) false start rules.

Note also the consequent wording changes to Rules 145.1 and 145.2

**15. Rule 162.6 and 162.7 – False Starts**

As is well known through the media the so-called "no false start" rule will be introduced internationally from 1 January 2010. It will also begin operation in Australia from that date.

Athletics Australia is currently determining any dispensation that may apply to the new rule and a separate notice will be issued in relation to same.

In essence the new rule provides:

- (a) for immediate disqualification in all events (other than combined events) upon any false start; and
- (b) in the case of combined events, for the use of the rule currently applying to all other events.

This along with the other changes to the start rules will require significant training for starters and in particular start referees. This will be undertaken prior to 31 December 2009.

16. **Rule 162.9 – Marking of Split Starts**

Cones or flags are now clarified to be compulsory for split starts (*after the incident in Berlin*).

17. **Rule 165.5 – Stopwatches**

The original sweep-hand stopwatches are no longer considered valid. Digital read-out electronic/battery operated "watches"/timers remain valid.

18. **Rule 165.19 – Chief Photofinish Judge**

Duties are clarified with improved wording.

19. **Rule 165.24 – Starting Transponder Systems**

Transponder timing systems may be started by the starter's gun or synchronised with the start signal.

20. **Rule 166 – Seedings and Draws**

Several changes:

- not only should athletes of the same teams/nations be placed in different heats in the rounds before the final but also the "best performed athletes"
- where manipulations of the draw are so required they shall only be made between athletes of similar ranking
- as has always been understood but not specifically stated the seeding for the first round shall be based on the relevant list of valid performances achieved during the predetermined period

21. **Rule 167 - Ties**

Two changes:

- there is no longer the possibility for a run-off for first place. Any tie not able to be split by the judges or photofinish will remain - as in the past for all other placings in a race.
- drawing by lot will also apply to otherwise unresolvable ties based on qualifying places for later rounds, where insufficient lanes are available for all tying athletes. This has perhaps always been obvious but never stated.

22. **Rule 168.7 – Hurdle Race Disqualifications**

Previous Rule 168.7(b) is deleted on the basis that it had no additional relevant meaning to that provided by the remaining rules. These will still apply with full force where applicable to cover such situations, ie where an athlete runs inside his own lane on the bend and jumps a hurdle on an inside lane.

23. **Rule 180.5 – order of trials in field events**

Further clarification of this rule to make it clear that any athlete(s) continuing in a field event under protest shall compete in each round before any other athlete, irrespective of any improved performance in such subsequent rounds.

24. **Previous Rule 180.6 – Number of Rounds in Field Events**

This rule is deleted as a consequence of the changes to Rule 100 (see above). This change does not mean that what was previously stated in this rule no longer applies. They remain options along with any other altered formats consistent with the wording of Rule 100.

25. **Rule 180.17 – time limits HJ and PV**

The asterisks and applicable note under the time limits for combined events are deleted on the basis that they either were confusing or had no independent meaning.

26. **Rule 180.20, 181.8/9 and 200.13 – Ties**

These rules have been substantially re-organised mainly to assist in translation from english to other languages but also to remove a whole series of previously strictly incorrect references to "ties", which were ultimately not ties as a result of the very applicable of those rules.

However there are also some substantive changes:

- where there is an unresolvable tie for first place in a throwing or horizontal jumping event, the tie shall remain. There shall no longer be a jump or throw off. This removes the previously unfair advantage held by the subsequent competitor(s) where an earlier competitor registered a foul in such a throw or jump-off.
- in the case of vertical jumps, a jump-off for first place remains but will not be compulsory if (a) such is provided by the technical regulations for the particular competition or (b) it is so decided during the competition by the Technical Delegate (or referee where there is no TD)
- if during a vertical jumps event jump-off for first place, an athlete decides not to jump, he forfeits any right to first place and is placed appropriately in the final result accordingly.

Note: Existing rule 181.9 is renumbered as 181.10.

27. **Rule 183.11 – Taping on pole vault poles**

The protective covering on poles at the plant end is no longer limited to tape. Any other suitable material is also permitted. However only tape may be used at the grip end.

28. **Rule 185.1 (f) – Leaving LJ/TJ pit**

Words “by foot” are inserted to clarify this rule and make it consistent with others.

29. **Rule 187.4(c) – Use of chalk etc on implements**

Athletes in shot put and discus are now permitted to place chalk or similar substances on the implements as well as on their hands/neck.

30. **Rule 187.6 – New note re colour of circle rims**

Note added which reads - “the circular ring should preferably be coloured other than white so that the white lines required by Rule 187.7 be clearly visible”.

31. **Rule 230 – Race Walking**

- where an athlete is disqualified under the “last 100m rule”, he shall be notified of his disqualification in the normal way (ie by the display of the red paddle) as soon as possible after the race
- more than two chief judge assistants may be appointed
- the rule is clarified to specifically impose on the chief race walk judge an obligation to report to the referee immediately after the end of the event, the details of all athletes disqualified under rules 230.3(a) and 230.6(a) AND all athletes who received red cards.
- the drinking/sponging stations (as distinct from refreshment stations) shall be water only (also applies to road running races)

32. **Rules 230.7 and 240.6 – Start Warnings**

These rules are changed to provide specifically for five, three and one minute warnings to be made before the start of races involving a large number of athletes.

Road running events may be started by a canon, air horn or like device as an alternative to a gun.

33. **Rule 240.2 – Road (Running) Race Courses**

The rule is clarified so that it is acceptable for the start and/or finish of a road race to be conducted on grass or other soft ground.

34. **Rule 240.8 – Road (Running) Race Refreshment Stations**

- the drinking/sponging stations (as distinct from refreshment stations) shall be water only (also applies to road walks)
- authorised persons working at refreshment stations may not enter the course nor obstruct any athlete. They may hand the refreshment to the athlete either from behind, or from a position no more than one metre in front or to the side of, the table.

35. **Rule 260/1/2 - Records**

- for world records, 800m now added to the list for which FAT is required [Note: this will also apply for Australian records henceforth]
- for world records false start control apparatus must be available and correctly operating so as to have produced reaction times for all events up to and

including 400m (including 4x200 and 4x400m relays) [Note: this will not apply for Australian records]

- the time for verifying/re-measuring road race courses before the race is change to "as late as possible before the race" rather than as previously reading "within two weeks".
- for combined events the previous alternate method of applying wind readings is replaced with a single method – "the average velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each (relevant) individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2 metres per second"

### 36. **General**

Note: that there have also been a range of editorial changes. For example all references throughout the text to "gun or approved starting apparatus" have been changed to "gun". This is not intended to mean that other starting apparatus may no longer be approved or used. The change is simply to delete unnecessary repetition of text that is obvious or implied by an initial reference (ie now see Rule 129.3)

Also "round of trials" is now used in the case of field events to clearly distinguish from qualifying round/final as rounds in the competition.

### **NEW IAAF HANDBOOKS**

The IAAF will finalise the new Handbook after its November 2009 Council meeting. Once available, all Member Associations and AA Officials Education Liaison Officers will be provided with a copy of the current working draft, in addition to the full document listing the rule changes, which has already been distributed.

### **AA GENERAL RULES**

An updated version of AA General Rule 20, which covers competition rule dispensations and interpretations, is being undertaken. Once completed it will be distributed in the usual manner, including being updated on the AA website.

### **IMPLEMENTATION IN AUSTRALIA**

The new IAAF rules, come into effect internationally on 1 January 2010. However, the Rules are effective immediately in Australia (ie as from 1 October 2009), with the exception that the new false start rule (and its Australia dispensations) is not applicable until 1 January 2010. Where officials and competition committees become aware of any of the other changes later than this date they should be implemented from such date and certainly by no later than 1 December 2009.

The new rules, except for the false start rule, will be applied at all national events (including the 2009 Australian All Schools/Youth and SKO National Final) held after 1 October 2009.

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2 October 2009