



**WORLD
ATHLETICS™**



WORLD ATHLETICS RULE CHANGES 2023

November 23

RULE CHANGES FROM 3 MAY 2023

The World Athletics Council was presented with a series of proposals in March 2023 which can be described as being in five “groups”:

- a significant number of wording changes throughout both the Competition Rules and Technical Rules that were consequential upon Council’s decision to adopt the concept of **World Rankings Competitions**. This including changes to the many previous references to various types of competitions recognized under “Rule 1.1” as well as operational matters where a difference existed between the old and the new
- a further audit was undertaken to complete the conversion of all generic textual references to gender so that now all such references are gender neutral
- reference changes to give effect to new terminology such as from ITO to World Athletics Referee
- as always, a number of standard editorial changes to correct grammar, punctuation and mistakes in rule references from one rule to another
- a small batch of substantive rule changes that are explained on the following slides

COMPETITION RULE 20 – UMPIRE REPORTS – GREEN TEXT

- It is important that Umpires “report” all instances where they believe the Rules have been infringed, even when the athlete or team does not finish the race. The addition of Rule 8.4.4 of the Technical Rules is intended to standardise practice and to complement Note (ii) to Rule 20.4 of the Competition Rules - as there has been a clear difference of approach across the world.
- The standard practice overall should be that where an athlete / relay team does not finish a race, it is generally to be denoted as DNF rather than DQ, including in hurdles races where a technical rule has been breached but the athlete **obviously stopped racing even if eventually reaching the finish line**. Rule 8.4.4 of the Technical Rules is in place to cover the situation where such an athlete or team makes a protest – so sub-rule 8.4.4 is thus added.
- To reduce the number of DQs appearing in results that should actually be DNF.

TECHNICAL RULE 4.3 – SIMULTANEOUS ENTRIES

If an athlete is entered in both a Track Event and a Field Event, or in more than one Field Event taking place simultaneously, the appropriate Referee may, for one round of trials at a time, or for each trial in the High Jump and Pole Vault, allow an athlete to take their trial in an order different **from the start list (or as determined in accordance with Rule 25.6.1 of the Technical Rules)**. However, if an athlete subsequently is not present for that particular trial, it shall be deemed that they are passing once the period allowed for the trial has elapsed. **As this possibility exists only for that particular round/trial allowed by the Referee, if the athlete is then not present for a subsequent round/ trial, when their competing order will be again according to the start list (or as determined in accordance with Rule 25.6.1 of the Technical Rules), it will be counted as a failure once the period allowed for the trial has elapsed.**

Note: In Field Events, the Referee shall not allow an athlete to take a trial in a different order in the final round of trials but the Referee may allow an athlete to do so during any earlier round of trials. In Combined Events, a change may be allowed in any round of trials.

*This clarification is designed to make it clearer that when an athlete misses a trial in a field event whilst competing in another event it should be recorded as a **pass** or a **failure**.*

TECHNICAL RULE 6.4.5

Viewing by athletes competing in Field Events, of images of previous trial(s), recorded on their behalf by persons not placed in the competition area (see Note to Rule 6.1 of the Technical Rules). The viewing device or images taken from it must not be taken into the competition area **beyond the immediate area in which those providing the recording are placed. To ensure a better view of the images, the athlete may hold the device whilst communicating with the persons who have taken the images.**

This clarification is designed to provide greater guidance to technical officials as to what is permitted practice. In the past some officials have been stricter in their interpretation of this Rule than was intended.

TECHNICAL RULE 8.4.1

(In a Running or Race Walking Event,) if an athlete makes an immediate oral protest against having been charged with a false start, the Start Referee (or if one is not appointed, the relevant Running and Race Walking Events Referee) may, if they are in any doubt, allow the athlete to compete “under protest” in order to preserve the rights of all concerned. Competing “under protest” **should** not be allowed if the false start was indicated by a World Athletics certified Start Information System, unless for any reason the Referee determines that the information provided by the System is obviously inaccurate.

When the Start Referee decides on an immediate oral protest made by an athlete for being charged with a false start, they have to consider all the available data and in case of a reasonable possibility that the athlete’s protest may be valid, they should allow the athlete to compete under protest. After the race, a final decision must be taken by the Referee, a decision that may be subject of an appeal to the Jury. The Referee should not **normally** allow an athlete to compete under protest if the false start has been detected by a Start Information System that appears to be working properly or in cases where it is very clear by visual observation that the athlete has committed a false start and there is no valid reason to allow the protest. **However, it is acknowledged that when the reaction time is close to the allowed limit, any movement could be hardly visible. In this case if, in the opinion of the Start Referee, it would require further study of the technological evidence, the Start Referee may decide to allow the athlete run under protest to preserve the rights of all concerned.**

The restriction on the determination by the Start Referee was previously mandatory but is eased within the guidance provided by the addition to the green text.

TECHNICAL RULE 19.10.2 – OFFICIAL TIMES FOR ROAD MILES

19.10 For all hand-timed races, times shall be read and recorded as follows:

19.10.1 For races on the track, unless the time is an exact 0.1 second, the time shall be converted and recorded to the next longer 0.1 second, e.g. 10.11 shall be recorded as 10.2.

19.10.2 For races partly or entirely outside the stadium, unless the time is an exact whole second, the time shall be converted and recorded to the next longer whole second, e.g. 2:09:44.3 shall be recorded as 2:09:45.

Note: For the Road Mile, the conversion shall be done to the next longer 0.1 second.

TECHNICAL RULE 20.2.1

The regulations for each competition should include tables which shall, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, be used to determine the number of rounds, the number of heats in each round and the qualification procedure, i.e. those to advance by place and time. Such information shall also be provided for any preliminary qualifications.

Note (i): Tables which may be used in the absence of any provision in applicable regulations or other determination by the Organisers are published on the World Athletics website.

Note (ii): The applicable regulations may specify how vacant positions due to withdrawals in semi-finals and finals may be filled in by athletes ranked next following the previous round after those qualified.

3 MIDDLE DISTANCE QUALIFICATION TO NEXT ROUND

In events of distances of 1500m or more, there will now be ONLY automatic qualifiers.



TECHNICAL RULE 20.4 – TRACK DRAWS – “PREFERRED” LANES

For events 100m to 800m inclusive, and relays up to and including 4 × 400m, where there are several successive rounds of a race, lanes will be drawn as follows:

- 20.4.1 For the first round and any additional preliminary qualification round as per Rule 20.1 of the Technical Rules, the lane order shall be drawn by lot.
- 20.4.2 After the first round, athletes shall be ranked after each round in accordance with the procedure shown in Rule 20.3.2(a) or, in the case of 800m, 20.3.2(b) of the Technical Rules.

For an eight-lane track, three draws for lanes will then be made. When there are fewer or more than eight lanes, the principles in the following system with the necessary modifications should be used.

- 20.4.3 For straight races:
 - a. one draw for the four highest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 3, 4, 5 and 6;
 - b. another for the fifth and sixth ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 2 and 7, and
 - c. another for the two lowest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 1 and 8.
- 20.4.4 For 200m races:
 - a. one draw for the three highest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 5, 6 and 7;
 - b. another for the fourth, fifth and sixth ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 3, 4 and 8, and
 - c. another for the two lowest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 1 and 2.
- 20.4.5 For 400m races and all relays up to and including 4 x 400m and 800m races started in lanes:
 - a. one draw for the four highest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 4, 5, 6 and 7;
 - b. another for the fifth and sixth ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 3 and 8, and
 - c. another for the two lowest ranked athletes or teams to determine placings in lanes 1 and 2.

TECHNICAL RULE 20.9 – CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY

~~One Day Invitation Meetings~~

20.9 In competitions held under paragraphs 1.(d) and 2.(d) of the World Rankings Competition definition athletes may be seeded, ranked and/or allocated to lanes in accordance with the applicable regulations for the competition or any other method determined by the Organisers but, preferably, notified to the athletes and their representatives in advance.

In **invitation** meetings, if there is only a “final” round but with more than one race, the races should be arranged according to any applicable regulations for the meeting or the series of meetings of which it is a part. If there are none then it is usual for allocation of athletes to the various “races” to be undertaken by the Organisers or if requested by the appointed Technical Delegate(s).

All reference to One Day Meetings are now changed to Invitation Meetings.

TECHNICAL RULE 24.11

24.11 The composition of a team and the order of running for a relay shall be officially declared **no later than the published first call time (the time by which the athletes must be present in the Call Room) for their respective heat in each round of the competition.** The team shall compete as named and in the declared order. If a team does not follow this Rule, it shall be disqualified.

The previous Rule required declaration one hour before the first call time and it also allowed alterations verified by the Organisers' approved medical officers to be made until the final call time. This proved to be a difficult process sometimes causing stress for the replacing athlete and their team. Now there is a very simple one step process with no more changes possible.

Note that the practice of confirming the intention of a team to compete at an earlier time – according to the conditions set for each competition will continue.

TECHNICAL RULE 25.5 – COMPETING ORDER IN FIELD EVENTS

25.5 Except where Rule 25.6 of the Technical Rules applies, **or the applicable regulations provide otherwise**, the athletes shall compete in an order drawn by lot.

If any athlete by their own decision makes a trial in an order different from that previously determined, ~~Rule 18.5 of the Competition Rules and Rule 7.2 Rules 7.1 and 7.3~~ of the Technical Rules shall be applied. In the case of a warning, the result of the trial (valid or failure) will stand. If there is a Qualification Round, there shall be a fresh drawing of lot for the final.

To provide for competitions, such as the Diamond League, where a different system for the competing order in field events is provided for in its competition regulations.

TECHNICAL RULE 25.6 – CLARIFICATION: COMBINED EVENT RETIREMENTS

CLARIFICATION IN GREEN TEXT

When an athlete has retired from an event either by their own decision or by a decision made in accordance with Rule 6 of the Competition Rules, they may take no further part in that event, including, in the case of Vertical Jumps, in a jump-off for first place or, in the case of Combined Events, in **any further that particular event** of the Combined Events **within that Combined Event**.

To make it clear that athletes have attempted to start an event within a Combined Event but then retire from that event, it is still possible for them to continue in subsequent events within that Combined Event. However, they may not return to the event from which they have retired.

TECHNICAL RULE 25.12

The conditions for qualifying, the qualifying standard and the number of athletes in the final, shall be decided by the Technical Delegate(s). If no Technical Delegate(s) have been appointed, the conditions shall be decided by the Organisers. For competitions conducted under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b) of the World Rankings Competition definition, there should be at least 12 athletes in the final unless otherwise provided in the regulations for the competition.

Note: The applicable regulations may specify how vacant positions due to withdrawals in finals may be filled in by athletes ranked next following the qualification round after those qualified.

As with the previous change in relation to Track Events, the note has been added to allow for the application of regulations for the substitution of replacement athletes where there are withdrawals among those who have qualified for field event finals. As with the Track Events, trial procedures were implemented during the 2023 World Championships. The actual wording of both these regulations will be presented to Council in the near future.

TECHNICAL RULE 25.17 – CLARIFICATION: TIMING FOR COMPETITION TRIALS

Individual Events

Number of athletes remaining in the competition	High Jump	Pole Vault	Other
More than 3 athletes (or for the very first trial of each athlete)	1 min	1 min	1 min
2 or 3 athletes	1.5 min	2 min	1 min
1 athlete	3 min	5 min	-

Combined Events

Number of athletes remaining in the competition	High Jump	Pole Vault	Other
More than 3 athletes (or for the very first trial of each athlete)	1 min	1 min	1 min
2 or 3 athletes	1.5 min	2 min	1 min
1 athlete	2 min	3 min	-

Consecutive Trials

	High Jump	Pole Vault	Other
Consecutive trials	2 min	3 min	2 min

Note (v): *In Vertical Jumps, the number of athletes remaining in the competition is determined at the time the bar is raised to a new height.*

Note (vi): *The time for consecutive trials will be applied for any consecutive trial regardless of it being in the same round for a replacement trial, at the same height or consecutive heights in Vertical Jumps or when the order is changed at the end of a round of trials. The time for consecutive trials will be applied if it is longer than the time allowed for the trial based on the calculation of the number of athletes remaining in the competition. However, when an athlete, based on the calculation of the number of athletes remaining in the competition, is entitled to a longer time, then that will be applied.*

TECHNICAL RULE 32.2 – PERSONAL THROWING IMPLEMENTS

Except as provided below, all such implements shall be provided by the Organisers. The Technical Delegate(s) may, based on the applicable regulations of each competition, allow athletes to use their own personal implements or those provided by a supplier, provided that such implements are World Athletics certified, checked and marked as approved by the Organisers before the competition and made available to all athletes. ~~Such implements will not be accepted if the same model is already on the list of those provided by the Organisers.~~ Unless the Technical Delegate decides otherwise, not more than two implements may be submitted by any athlete for any throwing event in which they are competing.

The struck-out sentence is removed to allow athletes to present personal implements with less restriction. Note that the requirements for such implements to be available to all athletes in the competition remains and for each athlete to submit no more than two personal implements remain.

TECHNICAL RULE 39.8.5 – COMBINED EVENTS LANE DRAWS

39.8.5 starting positions / lanes for last event of a Combined Events competition may be determined by the Technical Delegate(s) or the Combined Events Referee as they deem desirable. **In the 200m and 400m events, after ranking the athletes according to Rule 20.3.1 of the Technical Rules, the lanes shall be drawn in accordance with Rule 20.4.4 and 20.4.5 of the Technical Rules, respectively.** In all other events, they shall be drawn by lot.

To apply the new “preferred lanes” lane draws to some events within Combined Events even though each race is in a sense a first round.

RULE CHANGES FROM 14 AUGUST 2023

The Council of World Athletics considered that in addition to the changes implemented in May 2023, there was justification for some additional changes to be approved for immediate implementation for the Budapest World Championships.

In summary these covered:

- providing for lane draws for 800m events (that had been overlooked in the May changes)
- an extended definition on take-offs in horizontal jumps
- a further interpretation for judging rotational trials in circle throws
- clarifications on shoelaces, items falling from athlete's bodies in field events

TECHNICAL RULE 30.1.1 – CLARIFICATION: Take-off in Horizontal Jumps

30.1.1 they while taking off (**at any time**) prior to the instant at which they cease contact with the take-off board or ground), break the vertical plane of the take-off line with any **front** part of their take-off foot / shoe, whether running up without jumping or in the act of jumping; or

Note: It will not be considered a failure, if the break of the vertical plane is made by a loose part of the shoe (e.g. shoelace).

Since the intent of Rule 30.1.1 focuses on the position of the front of the take-off shoe / foot, it is not relevant if the vertical plane should be broken in other ways, for example by their hands or arms or a cap or piece of jewellery falling from the athlete's body during the take-off. Similarly, a loose shoelace or the like is not relevant to the adjudication even if it breaks the plane.

To clarify that including at any time prior to the instant of take-off the vertical plane is broken by the planted shoe/foot, it is a failure. [There was an unusual case recently where the plane was broken prior to the take-off but at the point of take-off it was not.

Also to clarify that it will, however, not be considered a break of the vertical plane if the break is simply by a shoe lace or something falling from the athlete's body, like a cap or jewellery.

TECHNICAL RULE 32.14.2 – CLARIFICATIONS – THROWING EVENTS

32.14 It shall be a failure if an athlete in the course of a trial:

32.14.1 releases the shot or the javelin other than as permitted under Rules 33.1 and 38.1 of the Technical Rules;

32.14.2 after they have stepped into the circle and begun to make a throw, touches with any part of their body the top (or the top inside edge) of the rim or the ground outside the circle;

*Note: However, it will not be considered a failure if the touch ~~is made without providing any propulsion and~~ occurs during any first rotation at a point completely behind the white line which is drawn outside the circle running, theoretically, through the centre of the circle. **Nor, at any time, if the touch, including of the top of the stopboard, is made by a loose part of the shoe (e.g. shoelace) or clothing, of any other item (e.g. cap) which was attached to the body at the time of the start of the throw and became detached during or after the throw.***

To make an important clarification in accordance with long-standing practice and interpretation. To clarify that a touch only by, for example, shoelaces of, or the falling of a cap or jewellery from an athlete touching the top of the iron band or the ground outside the circle does not constitute a failure.

Also, to remove the subjective references to leverage and propulsion in the Rule Note in relation to touches by the feet on the ground outside of the top of the iron band in the back half of the circle during the first rotation by athletes using rotational techniques.

TECHNICAL RULE 32.14.2 – CLARIFICATIONS – THROWING EVENTS

The addition of the Note to Rule 32.14.2 of the Technical Rules applies to rotational techniques used by athletes in Shot Put, Discus Throw or Hammer Throw. It should be interpreted that any “incidental” touch of the top of the rim or the ground outside in respect of the back half of the circle during the first rotation should not, of itself, be regarded as a failure. However it is clear that any technique which thereby obtains an advantage ~~through leverage or propulsion~~ would constitute a failure.

The intent of Rule 32.14.2 is to respect the purpose of the circle’s limits so that the athlete complies by remaining in the circle until they exit correctly. It is, unless they overbalance, only the position of their feet/shoes which is critical. It is not relevant if the top of the iron band or the ground outside of the top of the stopboard is touched by a loose shoelace or the like or for example a cap or piece of jewellery falling from the athlete’s body during the trial.

RULE CHANGES FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2023

The World Athletics Council was presented with a series of proposals in August 2023 which can be described as being in four “groups”:

- reference changes to give effect to new terminology such as Short Track and transitions from ITO to World Athletics Referee and similarly for other officials
- standardisation of wording such as Qualification (instead of Qualifying)
- as always, a number of standard editorial changes to correct grammar, punctuation and in updating many rule references from one rule to another (particularly CR18, TR7 and TR17)
- the usual two-yearly presentation of substantive rule changes that are explained on the following slides

COMPETITION RULE 14 – COMPETITION DIRECTOR: ROLE AND DUTIES

14. The Competition Director shall, where applicable with the Technical, and other relevant, Delegate(s):

14.1 plan the technical organisation of a competition, including the integration of Event Presentation and Victory Ceremonies;

14.2 ensure that this plan is executed before and during the competition;

14.3 ensure that any technical problems are resolved or an alternate solution put in place;

14.4 direct the interaction between the participants in the competition; and

14.5 through the communication system, be in contact with all key officials and other relevant stakeholders involved in the delivery and broadcast of the competition;

14.6 engage fully with the Event Presentation Manager to ensure compliance with Rule 17 of the Competition Rules;

14.7 ensure the accurate preparation and publication of the Call Room schedule in accordance with Rule 29.1.1 of the Competition Rules;

14.8 communicate with the Start Coordinator to ensure the efficient operation of Rule 22.1.3 of the Competition Rules;

14.9 be fully aware of the applicable regulations for the competition and the functioning of the planned technological and IT systems; and

14.10 manage any matters arising under Rule 7.5 of the Technical Rules.

During the competition, to ensure an efficient operation, the Competition Director should be located with an optimal view of the competition area, close to the Event Presentation team and with satisfactory and reliable availability of technological connections and supporting monitors.



COMPETITION RULE 18

Much of the previous Competition Rule 18.5 was more properly a Technical Rule. The “offences” of unsporting behaviour, improper manner and no bona fide effort were not previously properly constituted as Technical Rules but many words were included about the “consequences”. It provides greater clarity for these provisions were re-worded and reformatted. As a result, almost all of the previous CR18.5 is relocated to Technical Rule 7. Only the following remains in CR18.5 with referencing words added in bold type:

18.5 The applicable Referee shall have authority to warn or exclude from competition, any athlete or relay team **in accordance with Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules.**

Competition Rule 18 now almost completely cover the powers and duties of the Referees rather than also including some disqualifiable matters and how to deal with them.

COMPETITION RULE 25.4 AND 25.5

25.4 The following standard abbreviations and symbols should be used in the preparation of start lists and results where applicable: (add)

Advanced to the next round by draw

qD

25.5 A Technical Information Centre (TIC) will be established for competitions held under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b), (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition and is recommended for other competitions held over more than one day. **It may be a virtual or physical operation, or a combination of both.** The main function of the TIC is to ensure smooth communication between each team delegation, the organisers, the Technical Delegates and the competition administration regarding technical and other matters relating to the competition.

An effectively managed Technical Information Centre will significantly assist in the delivery of a high quality competition organisation.....

Because the hours of operation of the TIC and SID(s) may be long, it will be necessary for the TIC Manager to have several assistants and for them to work in shifts. **Where a virtual TIC is fully or partially in operation, the hours of operation may more easily be extended, but it is important to make clear the hours during which the virtual operation will be monitored.**

Whilst some duties.....

TECHNICAL RULE 4.4.2 – COMPETITIONS WITH REPECHAGE ROUNDS

4.4.2 an athlete qualified in any Qualification Round of an event for further participation in that event but then failed to participate further;

Note: If the applicable regulations require a Repechage Round, failure to participate in that round is not an infringement of this Rule.

To clarify the situation where there are repechage rounds – as there will be in some events at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games and an athlete who may be in other events decides for any reason not to participate in the repechage.

TECHNICAL RULE 7

Technical Rule 7 (now titled **Warnings and Disqualifications**) is substantially changed from 1 November 2023. Its key internal headings will now be:

Bona Fide Participation, Unsporting and Improper Conduct

TR 7.1 will read:

Athletes and relay teams shall participate in athletics competitions in a bona fide manner and shall not engage in unsporting or improper conduct. Any athlete or relay team failing to comply with this Rule may be warned or disqualified. [Most of the rule and green text that was previously in Competition Rule 18.5 will follow]

Disqualification resulting from an infringement of a Technical Rule (other than Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules)

TR 7.2 will read very much like the previous TR7.1

Disqualification resulting from exclusion under Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules

TR 7.3 will read very much like the previous TR7.2

TR 7.4 will include much of the previous TR7.3 but is also amended to cover some aspects of “conduct” disqualifications in relays. [See next slide]

TR 7.5 will read as the previous TR7.4

TECHNICAL RULE 7.4 (AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS TR7.3)

7.4 When a relay team is excluded from competition under **Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules**, it shall be disqualified from that event. Performances accomplished in a previous round of that event shall remain valid. **If the disqualification of the relay team was a consequence of (an) athlete(s) acting in a manner that would lead to disqualification under Rule 7.1 if competing in an individual event, Rule 7.3 of this Rule will be applicable to such athlete(s). Otherwise,** such disqualification shall not prevent any athlete or relay of that team taking part ~~in all further events (including individual events of a Combined Event, other events in which they are simultaneously participating and relays)~~ in any other **event(s)** in that competition.

However, if the behaviour of one or more such individual athletes is considered serious enough, **Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules** may be applied to them with the applicable consequences.

Rule 7.3 shall be applied to an athlete whose second warning in the competition incurred in the relay race, or who had a direct exclusion in the relay race that led to the disqualification of the team.

TECHNICAL RULE 8.3 – PROTESTS RELATING TO PLACINGS IN RACES

8.3 Any protest shall be made orally to the Referee by an athlete, by someone acting on their behalf or by an official representative of a team. Such person or team may protest only if they are competing in the same round of the event to which the protest (or subsequent appeal) relates (or are competing in a competition in which a team points score is being conducted). To arrive at a fair decision, the Referee should consider any available evidence which they think necessary, including a film or picture produced by an official video recorder, or any other available video evidence. The Referee may decide on the protest or may refer the matter to the Jury of Appeal. If the Referee makes a decision, there shall be a right of appeal to the Jury. Where the Referee is not accessible or available, the protest should be made to them through the Technical Information Centre.

Note: The World Athletics Photo Finish Judge, where appointed, should act on behalf of the Running and Race Walking Events Referee regarding protests about the placing of athletes.

TECHNICAL RULE 8.4.1 AND 8.4.2 – PROTESTS RELATING TO THE START

8.4 In a Running or Race Walking Event,

8.4.1 if an athlete makes an immediate oral protest against having been charged with a false start, the Start Referee (or if one is not appointed, the relevant Running and Race Walking Events Referee) may, if they are in any doubt, allow the athlete to compete “under protest” in order to preserve the rights of all concerned. Competing “under protest” should not be allowed if the false start was indicated by a World Athletics certified Start Information System, unless for any reason the Referee determines that the information provided by the System is obviously inaccurate. **If an athlete is allowed to compete under protest, a red and white (diagonally halved) card shall be raised in front of the athlete.**

8.4.2a protest may be based on the failure of the Starter to recall a false start or, under Rule 16.5 of the Technical Rules, to abort a start. The protest may be made only by, or on behalf of, an athlete who **should normally have** completed the race **with bona fide effort**. If the protest is upheld, any athlete who committed the false start or whose conduct should have led to the start being aborted, and who was subject to warning or disqualification according to Rules 16.5, 16.7, 16.8 or 39.8.3 of the Technical Rules, shall be warned or disqualified. Whether or not there may be any warning or disqualification, the Referee shall have the authority to declare the event or part of the event void and that it or part of it shall be held again if in their opinion justice demands it.

Note: The right of protest and appeal in Rule 8.4.2 of the Technical Rules shall apply whether or not a Start Information System is used.

TECHNICAL RULE 16.5.3 – DISTURBING THE START

Where an athlete in the judgement of the Starter,

16.5.1 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 or sitting up in the case of a crouch start, without a valid reason, (such reason to be evaluated by the relevant Referee); or

16.5.2 fails to comply with the commands “On your marks” or “Set” as appropriate, or does not place themselves in their final starting position at once and without delay; or

16.5.3 after the command “On your marks” or “Set” disturbs (an) other athlete(s) in the race through sound, movement or otherwise, **resulting in such athlete(s) committing what would otherwise be a false start**, 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 ~~Rule 18.5 of the Competition~~ Rules 7.1 and 7.3 of the Technical Rules. A green card shall not be shown. However, when 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.

This Rule has been interpreted in different ways by different officials acting as Start Referees (and as Starters) around the World. Start Referees have been warning athletes for having moved (sometimes very slightly), not disturbing any other, after the Starter aborted the start, or sometimes, when the SIS automatically recalls the athletes. If an athlete is disqualified for committing a false start not the consequence of a move of another athlete, a warning should not be given to this last athlete

TECHNICAL RULE 17

Rule 17 of the Technical Rules has been significantly re-structured so as to better enable the denoting by Referees, Photo Finish Judges and in the Results, exactly which section of the Rule has been infringed.

It also attempts to remove the possible confusion caused by the previous TR17.4 being written in the negative.

Additionally, the previous references to “material advantage” are consolidated in the new TR17.4 and a removed from a previous note.

Nothing has really changed in relation to the intention of the Rules but hopefully the new presentation will make more sense and be easier to understand.

World Athletics will shortly be preparing and distribution a definitive list of references to be included in results covering disqualifications, warnings and the like. This will be kept updated and should be a handy reference tool for Referees, Photo Finish Judges and Results Providers.

TECHNICAL RULE 19.19 – CONDUCT OF THE ZERO CONTROL TEST

19.19 The Chief Photo Finish Judge shall be responsible for the functioning of the System. Before the start of the competition, they will meet the technical staff involved and familiarise themselves with the equipment, checking all applicable settings.

In cooperation with **the Start Referee (or if one is not appointed, the relevant Running and Race Walking Events Referee)** and the Starter, they shall initiate a zero control test, before the beginning of each session, to ensure that the equipment is started automatically by the Starter's signal within the limit identified in Rule 19.13.2 of the Technical Rules (i.e. equal to or less than 0.001 second).

They shall supervise the testing of the equipment and ensure that the camera(s) is (are) correctly aligned.

To clarify that it is the Start Referee who should be involved in the conduct of the zero control test and that if there is a Start Referee, no other Referee is required to be involved.

TECHNICAL RULE 19.23 – TIMING OF EVENTS UNDER TR11.2

19.23 Times shall be read and recorded from the Photo Finish image as follows:

19.23.1 For all races up to and including 10,000m, unless the time is an exact 0.01 second, the time shall be converted and recorded to the next longer 0.01 second, e.g. 26:17.533 shall be recorded as 26:17.54.

19.23.2 For all races on the track longer than 10,000m, all times not ending in two zeroes shall be converted and recorded to the next longer 0.1 second, e.g. 59:26.322 shall be recorded as 59:26.4.

19.23.3 For all races held partly or entirely outside the stadium, all times not ending in three zeroes shall be converted and recorded to the next longer whole second, e.g. 2:09:44.322 shall be recorded as 2:09:45.

Note: For the Road Mile, the conversion shall be done to the next longer 0.01 second.

Note: Events held according to Rule 11.2 of the Technical Rules shall be considered to be conducted inside the stadium for timing and recording of performance.

TECHNICAL RULE 20.3.1 – (AND GREEN TEXT FOR 20.2)

20.3 Ranking and Composition of Heats, as follows:

20.3.1 For the first round, the athletes shall be ranked with the seeding determined from the relevant list of valid performances achieved during the predetermined period **or in accordance with the applicable regulations.**

The wording changes acknowledges existing practice, for example in the Diamond League.

ALSO: GREEN TEXT FOR TR 20.2

Unless the applicable regulations determine otherwise, for major competitions, at least, the basis of the seeding should be the best times achieved by each athlete in valid conditions (including with wind readings for the relevant events) during the pre-determined period. This period may be specified in the **applicable Technical** regulations or in the document setting out the entry conditions and standards for the competition. Where there is no such specification, then **the** “Season Best” should be used unless the Technical Delegate(s) or the Organisers decide that for one, some or all events the circumstances justify an alternate period or other criteria being applied.

TECHNICAL RULE 20.4.1 – DRAW FOR LANES

20.4 For events 100m to 800m inclusive, and relays up to and including 4 × 400m, where there are several successive rounds of a race, lanes will be drawn as follows:

20.4.1 **Unless the applicable regulations provide otherwise**, for the first round and any additional preliminary qualification round as per Rule 20.1 of the Technical Rules, the lane order shall be drawn by lot.

The wording change is to provide for the possibility in future in certain competitions, even in the first round, for the allocations of lanes to be made by a different method – for example using current World Athletics Ranking positions.

TECHNICAL RULE 24.7 – PASSING OF THE BATON

24.7 The baton shall be passed within the takeover zone. The passing of the baton commences when it is first touched by the receiving athlete and is completed the moment it is in the hand of only the receiving athlete. In relation to the takeover zone, it is only the position of the baton which is decisive. Passing of the baton outside the takeover zone shall result in disqualification. **Rule 17.3.2 of the Technical Rules shall apply when relevant.**

The application of Rule 17.3.2 of the Technical Rules may be necessary when an athlete, during the takeover, steps outside the allocated lane inside the takeover zone without material advantage gained and other athletes obstructed.

In determining the position of the baton, it is the whole baton which must be considered.

Umpires must be diligent to ensure that they observe any contact with the baton prior to the baton entering the **takeover** zone. If the outgoing runner even touches the baton prior to the baton being inside the zone, the team will be subject to disqualification. They must also ensure that the baton is only in the hand of the receiving athlete before it “leaves” the takeover zone.

TECHNICAL RULE 25.2 – PRACTICE TRIALS FOR FIELD EVENTS

25.2 Once a competition has begun, athletes are not permitted to use, for practice purposes, as appropriate,

25.2.1 the runway or take-off area;

25.2.2 vaulting poles;

25.2.3 implements;

25.2.4 the circles **or runway** or the ground within the sector with or without implements.

However, the use of implements outside the circle or runway is prohibited at any time.

The added words clarify that:

- the rule applies to all throwing events, including the javelin
- warming up with implements cannot be done at all outside the circle or runway

TECHNICAL RULE 29.19 – ABSENCE DURING COMPETITION

25.19 An athlete may not leave the immediate area of the event during the progress of the competition, unless they have the permission of, and is accompanied by, an official. If possible, a warning should be given first, but for subsequent instances or in serious cases the athlete shall be disqualified. **If an athlete subsequently is not present for a particular trial, it will be counted as a failure once the period allowed for the trial has elapsed.**

The addition of the words provides clarity and direction for the Judges in such cases.

Please also compare the process with the similar clarification to instances covered by TR4.3 where an athlete is competing in simultaneous events.

TECHNICAL RULE 28.1 – POLE VAULT: MOVEMENT OF THE CROSSBAR

28.1 Athletes may have the crossbar moved only in the direction of the landing area so that the edge of the crossbar nearest the athlete can be positioned at any point from that directly above the back end of the box to a point 80cm in the direction of the landing area.

An athlete shall, before the competition starts, inform the appropriate official of the position of the crossbar they require for their first trial and this position shall be recorded.

If subsequently an athlete wants to make any changes, they should immediately inform the appropriate official before the crossbar has been set in accordance with their initial wishes. Failure to do this shall lead to the start of their time limit.

Once the time for the trial has started, no further change in the position of the crossbar is allowed.

Note: A line, 10mm wide and of distinguishable colour, shall be drawn at right angles to the axis of the runway, in line with the back end of the box (“zero” line). A similar line, up to 50mm wide, shall appear on the surface of the landing area and be prolonged as far as the outside edge of the uprights. The edge of the line nearer to the approaching athlete coincides with the back end of the box.

TECHNICAL RULE 28.11 – USE OF OTHER ATHLETES' VAULTING POLES

28.11 Athletes may use their own poles. No athlete shall use any other athlete's pole except with the consent of the owner.

Note: If the Judges are aware, they shall direct any athlete not complying with this rule to correct the situation. If the athlete does not, such trial(s) shall be a failure. It shall also be judged a failure if a trial is completed before the non-compliance is noticed. In all cases considered serious enough, Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules may also be applied.

This note is added to clarify the appropriate action of the Judges – and to avoid the possibility of different subjective decisions. This is similar to the situation in TR32.4 relating to actions that might be taken by athletes in throwing events.

TECHNICAL RULE 31.2 – CLARIFICATION – “SLEEPING LEG” IN TRIPLE JUMP

31.2 The hop shall be made so that an athlete lands first on the same foot as that from which they have taken off; in the step they shall land on the other foot, from which, subsequently, the jump is performed.

It shall not be considered a failure if an athlete, ~~while jumping~~, touches the ground with the “sleeping” leg.

Note: Rule 30.1.4 of the Technical Rules does not apply to the normal landings from the hop and step phases.

Words are deleted to provide clarity that the sleeping leg provision applies to all three phases during a trial – not just the jump as it appears some Judges may have been interpreting.

TECHNICAL RULE 32.3

32.3 No modification shall be made to any implements during the competition.
No spitting or application by other means of human body fluids on any implement, is permitted.

The rationale for the addition of these words to the Rule is related to health and safety and does not affect the application in any way of Technical Rules 32.4 and 32.5 in relation to the use of other substances.

TECHNICAL RULE 32.4

Note: If the Judges are aware, they shall direct any athlete not complying with this Rule to correct the situation. If the athlete does not, such trial(s) shall be a failure. ~~If a trial is completed before the non-compliance is noticed, the Referee shall decide what action shall be taken.~~ It shall also be judged as a failure, if a trial is completed before the non-compliance is noticed. In all cases considered serious enough, ~~Rule 18.5 of the Competition Rules and~~ Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules may also be applied.

This note is amended to clarify the appropriate action of the Judges – and to avoid the possibility of different subjective decisions. This is similar to the situation in TR28.11 relating to actions that might be taken if an athlete uses another athlete's pole in pole vaulting events without the agreement of the other athlete.

“SHORT TRACK” AND TECHNICAL RULE 45.1

One of the most significant “universal changes” that will come into operation from 1 November 2023 is the elimination of almost all references to *Indoor Competition* and their replacement by the terminology and concept of **Short Track**. The most significant implications are summarised as follows:

- in terms of track layouts the standard references will now be **400m Standard Oval Track** and **200m Standard Oval Track (Short Track)**
- Indoor World Records are discontinued. From now on there will only be **World Records** and **World U20 Records (for Men and for Women)**. The events recognised in each of the four categories will be set out in a table in Competition Rule 32. Where previously there has been an indoor event which was “performance different” from the outdoor equivalent, a **Short Track event record (sh)** will be continued. However for field events and straight running events there will be a single world record. Similarly for those events that were traditionally only contested outdoors. But this of course means that 50m and 60m sprints and hurdle events can now be set outdoors.
- TR17.10 and 17.12 will be adapted to provide relevant requirements for wind measurement
- Part V of the Technical Rules (currently Indoor Competitions) will be harmonized to provide for the transition. In the meantime. TR 45.1 will be amended to provide for Seedings and Draws for Short Track competitions.

TECHNICAL RULE 54.7.5 – FOURTH RED CARD DISQUALIFICATION

54.7.5 If, at any time when Rule 54.7.3 of the Technical Rules applies, an athlete receives an additional Red Card from a Judge other than one of the three who had previously sent a Red Card, they shall be disqualified. 54.7.5 If, at any time when Rule 54.7.3 of the Technical Rules applies, an athlete receives an additional Red Card from a Judge other than one of the three who had previously sent a Red Card, they shall be disqualified. **They shall be notified of this disqualification by the Chief Judge or a Chief Judge's Assistant by being shown a red paddle. The failure to give notification shall not result in the reinstatement of a disqualified athlete.**

This is really an editorial change to make it clear that the same process should be followed in this instance as under Rule 54.7.1. Whilst this has been assumed, it was not clearly specified in the Rules until now.

TECHNICAL RULE 54.14 – “NEW” RACE WALKING EVENTS

54.14 In the case of Race Walking Events not covered by this Rule, the applicable regulations should specify any particular rules that should be applied and the method by which the event should be conducted.

This is to provide and allow for innovation – including for example the Mixed Marathon Race Walking Relay that will be introduced at the 2024 World Athletics Race Walking Teams Championships and the Paris Olympic Games.

TECHNICAL RULE 56 – CROSS COUNTRY RACES

56.3 For Championships and international events and, wherever possible, for other competitions:

56.3.1 A loop course must be designed, ~~with the loop measuring~~ **and it should measure** between 1500m and 2000m. If necessary, a small loop can be added in order to adjust the distances to the required overall distances of the various events, in which case the small loop must be run in the early stages of the event. It is recommended that each long loop should have a total ascent of at least 10m.

56.4 Course markings, as follows:

56.4.1 The course shall be clearly marked with tape on both sides. It is recommended that all along one side of the course a 1m wide corridor, heavily fenced from the outside of the course, shall be installed for the use of organisation officials and media only (~~obligatory for Championship events~~). Crucial areas must be heavily fenced; in particular the start area (including the Warm-up Area and the Call Room) and finish area (including any Mixed Zone). Only accredited people will be allowed access to these areas.

TECHNICAL RULE 56.5 – CROSS COUNTRY RELAYS

56.5 For Cross Country Relays, lines 50mm wide 20m apart shall be drawn across the course to denote the takeover zone. **For all takeovers, athletes are not permitted to begin running outside their takeover zone, and shall start within the zone.** All takeover procedures, which, unless otherwise specified by the organisers, shall comprise a physical contact between the incoming and outgoing athletes, shall be completed within this zone. **If an athlete does not follow this Rule, their team shall be disqualified.**

Note: 1m x 1m flags, mounted at least 2m high, should be placed at the beginning and end of the relay takeover zone. Green flags for the beginning of the zone and red flags for the end of the zone.

To avoid unnecessary disqualifications by assisting athletes and officials to understand exactly what is required.

RULE CHANGES FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Following extensive deliberations and agreements between World Athletics and the WFSGI – the association representing most of the shoe and clothing companies engaged with athletics, World Athletics produced its *Athletic Shoe Regulations*.

One of the key aspects of the Regulations is that any substantive change to specifications will have a long lead time before they come into operation.

For example, the current regulations approved by Council in November 2021 and in force from 1 January 2022, contains a new table on sole thicknesses that does not come into effect until **1 November 2024**.

ATHLETIC SHOE REGULATIONS – NEW SOLE THICKNESS TABLE

New Sole Thickness Table – in force from 1 November 2024

Event	Maximum thickness of the sole (as per Regulation 10.6 of the Regulations).	Further Requirement/Note
Track Events including hurdle and steeplechase events	20mm spike shoe or non-spike shoe	For relays, the rule applies to the distance of the leg being run by each athlete. For Track Race Walking Events, the maximum thickness of the sole is the same as that for Road Events.
Field Events	20mm spike shoe or non-spike shoe	For all Jumping Events, the sole at the centre of the athlete's forefoot must not be higher than the sole at centre of the athlete's heel referred to at Regulations 10.3 and 10.4 (i.e. at centre point of the shoe at 12% and 75% of the shoes internal length).
Road Events (Running and Race Walking Events)	40mm	
Cross-Country	20mm spike shoes or 40mm non-spike shoes	Athletes may wear spikes or non-spike shoes (i.e. road shoes). If wearing spike shoes the maximum thickness of the sole must not exceed 20mm. If wearing non-spike shoes the maximum thickness of the sole must not exceed 40mm.
Mountain and Trail Races	Any thickness	

Important notice: Pursuant to Regulation 5.3, from 1 November 2024 an Existing Shoe whose sole is greater than the maximum thicknesses set out in the above table is no longer approved and cannot be worn in Applicable Competitions.

RULE CHANGES FROM 1 APRIL 2025

There has been concern for many years about the flight and landing capacity of the currently specified 700gm javelin which is used in Men Under 18 competitions and some Men's Masters age groups.

World Athletics has always been cautious with any change to equipment specifications – being aware of the cost to competition organisers, athletic clubs, coaching groups and Member Federations in making a changeover.

It is therefore also conscious of ensuring that any change is well researched and deliverable by manufacturers.

After long examination, new specifications are agreed for this implement and after time for manufacture and purchase, will apply from **1 April 2025**.

TECHNICAL RULE 38.10 – NEW SPECIFICATIONS FOR 700G JAVELIN

700g

L0: ~~2300–2400~~**2500**mm

L1: ~~860–1000~~ **850-990**mm

L2: ~~1300–1540~~ **1410-**

1650mm

L3: 250–330mm

L4: 150–160mm

D0: 23–28mm

By moving the CoG forward and at the same time moving the CoP backwards (more area behind the CoG) it will make the javelin land tip first much more probable. The relation between 800g, 700g and 600 g will also be linear. CoP = centre of pressure,

The full text of the May and November (including those made in August) Rule Changes can be located here under **COMPETITION AND TECHNICAL RULES CHANGES**:

<https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>

The most updated online version of the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules (correct after the August changes) can be located here under **BOOK C: COMPETITION**:

<https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/book-of-rules>

The next version including all of the changes in effect from 1 November 2023 will be available online from the end of October 20-23 in this same latter location.

