

**ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA
OFFICIALS AND WALKING COMMITTEES**

**EXPLANATORY PAPER, DISPENSATIONS AND GUIDELINES
JUDGING OF RACE WALKING**

Introduction

Athletics Australia has adopted the IAAF publication - *"The Judging of Race Walking"* (5th Edition 2006) as the principal guideline document (in addition to the IAAF Rules) for Race Walking in Australia.

All athletics groups in Australia should use this IAAF booklet as, amended where appropriate by dispensations from the IAAF Rules in Australia granted by Athletics Australia. This will ensure uniformity of judging and application of the Rules throughout Australia. When the IAAF booklet is obtained from Athletics Australia, it will have this document inserted giving the dispensations and local rules listed below.

Australian Race Walking Competition Rules

At all walking competitions conducted under the jurisdiction of Athletics Australia (i.e. Australian and State Championships, selection trials, interstate competition and interclub competition), IAAF Rule 230 applies unless dispensation(s) have been granted by the controlling body for the particular level of competition.

In the interest of uniformity, it is recommended that Little Athletics, Veterans and Schools' competitions be conducted under the same rules.

Race Walking Competition Rules

Athletics Australia has approved the following dispensations to the IAAF Rules for competition in Australia:

20.4 Walking Rules - Generally walking events are to be conducted in accordance with IAAF Rule 230 except as amended hereunder.

20.4.1 Australian Records - Notwithstanding Rule 260.25, a minimum of four AA graded judges, of whom at least two judges shall be from the IAAF Panels of International or Area Judges and/or AAOES graded level 'A' Walk Judge, shall be officiating during the competition at which an Australian record is claimed and shall sign the application form.

Rule 260.29 (b) shall be applied to all Australian records in road events. Compliance with sub-rule (d) will not be required. Measurement by any course measurer approved by Athletics Australia shall be accepted for the purposes of sub-rules (a) and (c).

20.4.2 Chief Judge - Notwithstanding Rule 230.3(b), the Chief Judge shall be allowed to act as a Race Walking Judge at all events in Australia.

The Chief Judge, provided he/she is a member of the IAAF or Area Walk Judge Panels (or has been a member of same at any time during the previous eight years) may exercise the power under Rule 230.3(a), at any competition held in Australia.

20.4.3 Posting Board – In conformity with Rule 230.6(d) a posting board shall be used at all Australian Race Walk Championships of 5km and longer (track and road). For all other levels of competition, the use of a Posting Board is optional.

Note: Whilst the use of a Posting Board is strongly recommended, the failure to provide same will not invalidate any event or the action of the judges (including in Australian Championships).

20.4.4 Cautions – Add to Rule 230.4. If a competitor, who is to receive a red card, has not received a prior caution from a judge, the judge may issue a caution to the competitor. The judge shall then advise the Chief Judge that a caution has been issued as well as submitting the disqualification proposal.

20.4.5 Disqualification – Notwithstanding Rule 230.6 (a), at lower level competitions (eg interclub and club meets), where there are less than the number of walk judges required by the IAAF Rules available, the following disqualification arrangements will apply:

- (a) where one judge is available – one red card for disqualification
- (b) where two or three judges are available – two red cards for disqualification
- (c) where four or more judges are available – three red cards for disqualification

20.4.6 Clothing in Walk Events – For walk events, IAAF Rules 143.1 should be interpreted to mean that competitors should not wear tights or other legwear that could impede the walk judges' clear view of the walkers' knees.

20.4.7 Rules 230.3(a) and 230.4 – Whilst the use of signs complying with this rule is strongly recommended, the use of differently designed or coloured signs will not invalidate the actions of the judge.

Judging Panel Selection

Athletics Australia shall appoint Walk Judges (including Chief Judges) through its Officials' Committee for national competitions. State Associations shall appoint Walk Judges through their Officials' Committee for state competitions.

The following principles should apply in selecting Judging Panels for all levels of walking competition in Australia.

- Judges who have a conflict of interest should stand down from Judging Panels when they have a close family member and/or an athlete they coach in the race.
- As wide a cross section of interests as possible should be represented on the Judging Panel i.e. different clubs at state level and different states at national level competition.
- Only one close family member should be on a Judging Panel for a particular race unless otherwise determined by the applicable governing body. This principle will not normally apply where such family members are each members of the IAAF or Area Judging Panels.

- The highest graded Judge should be the Chief Judge at state championship events (i.e. IAAF/Area Panel Judge then level A, B and C Judges). The AA Officials Committee may rotate opportunities to act as chief judges amongst the IAAF and Area Panel Judges for Australian Championships.

Whilst the onus is on Judges to declare their conflicts of interest, the Chief Judge should ensure that the above principles are applied when he/she forms a Walking Judge Panel.

Specific Advice for Judges and Recorders

Whilst a caution can be given to a competitor once for loss of contact and also for not straightening the support leg, a second caution cannot be given under any circumstance for the same offence to the same competitor.

The third red card for a competitor should not normally be posted on the Posting Board until the Chief Judge or his/her assistant has advised the competitor of his/her disqualification.

**Athletics Australia
Officials and Walking Committees
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