

**IAAF RACE WALKING COMMITTEE
REPORT TO THE IAAF COUNCIL
12/13 April 2017 – London (GBR)**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Committee met in Monaco on 25 February. This offered the opportunity to review any Race Walking related Rule Change proposals submitted by Member Federations and to discuss such matters as the use of technology and the Race Walking Competition format for major competitions (World Championships and Olympic Games).

Two members were unable to attend the meeting: Fumio Imamura (JPN) and Shande Yang (CHN). A minute tribute was paid in memoriam of Fausto Mendoza (ECU), former member of the Race Walking Committee who passed away last year.

2. RACE WALKING STRATEGIC PLAN

During the 2016 Committee meeting, it was agreed that the committee would develop a Race Walking Strategic Plan similar to the work the Cross Country Committee did a few years previously. The latest draft plan was distributed to the members. Following a lot of discussion, an updated version will be ready by end of May 2017.

3. WORLD RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS PRIZE MONEY STRUCTURE

The committee strongly supported the concept of Team Championships versus individual and recommends to the Competition Commission the following prize money structure (all amounts in USD).

	Nº	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Individuals	3	12,000	10,000	8,000	6,000	4,000	3,000	129,000
Teams	3	30,000	20,000	15,000	10,000	6,000	3,000	252,000

The proposal sees a slight increase to the total current prize money (\$381,000USD vs \$367,500).

4. RULE CHANGES (under Item 12 of the Agenda)

-Proposals by the Member Federations...

Rule 230.10(d) – Drinking/Sponging and Refreshment Stations in Road Events

The Committee did not support the rule change, as in Race Walk personal refreshments provided by the athletes are normally under the supervision of the Team Officials.

Rule 260.20(c) – World Records in Road Race Walking Events

The Committee supported the proposed rule change.

-Proposal by the Race Walking Committee...

Rule 230.7(c) – Race Walking

In addition to the rule changes proposed by the Member Federations, the Committee propose to add in the IAAF Rule 230.7(c), the Penalty times for the Pit Lane in order to clarify the times that the athlete could be stopped in the Pit Lane area. The new wording could be as follows (changes with the current IAAF Rule are indicated in red).

“A Pit Lane shall be used for any race where the applicable Regulations for the competition so provide and may be used for other races as determined by the governing body or Organising Committee. In such cases, an athlete will be required to enter the Pit Lane and remain there for the applicable period (~~as set out in the regulations or Organising Committee decision~~) once they have received three Red Cards and are so advised by the Chief Judge or someone delegated by him.

The applicable period in the pit lane will be the following. For races:

Up to 5km: 30 seconds

Up to 10km: 60 seconds

Up to 20km: 120 seconds

Up to 30km: 180 seconds

Up to 40km: 240 seconds

Up to 50km: 300 seconds

If, at any time, the athlete receives an additional Red Card from a Judge other than one of the three who had previously sent a Red Card, he shall be disqualified. An athlete who fails to enter the Pit Lane when required to do so, or remain there for the applicable period, shall be disqualified”

5. IAAF WORLD ATHLETIC SERIES

IAAF Race Walking Team Championships 2018

The Committee were informed that Taicang (CHN) will host the competition in 2018. The circuit and all other facilities are the same used in 2014 edition. Competition dates will be in May (probably 5-6 May), as in middle of April are also scheduled the Commonwealth Games.

6. TECHNOLOGY

6.1 Loss of contact – Electronic Detection System

The contract for the second phase of the project was signed in November 2016. The Committee received a presentation of the current status of the project which includes a video clip with the latest test made by the Barcelona University.

The second phase will be finished at the end of 2017 but in the meantime the IAAF Office must start the talks with potential companies for the insole production and the Committee needs to define the possible Rule Changes, timelines for the tests, rehearsal competitions, etc., as the goal must be to be ready for use in competition in 2019.

The Committee emphasised the importance of the project for the future of the Race Walking and wishes to confirm its recommendation to the IAAF that funding and a special group will be appointed in order to make the relevant follow-up with the University of Barcelona.

6.2 Scientific and educational support for Race Walking Judges, Coaches and Athletes

This project is led by Leeds University and supported by IAF and will give a very good educational support to the IAAF for race walk judges, coaches and athletes. The IAAF Office will contact Leeds University if they need some help for contacting judges and athletes and make the relevant follow-up of the project.

7. RACE WALKING CHALLENGE

The Race Walking Challenge is still considered a very good opportunity for athletes to compete in high-level competitions even if some of the best athletes do not take part in the Challenge regularly.

It was felt however, that the current format is just not working and a simpler format, perhaps over the course of 1-2 weeks with training camps included could be a viable alternative.

A working group will study all this possibilities and come back with some ideas before the World Championships in London.

8. INTERNATIONAL RACE WALKING JUDGES

8.1 2017 Appointments

The Committee's recommendation to appoint the most experienced judges at major events was implemented and the appointments for 2017 were circulated. Four extra judges were appointed for the World Championships in London 2017, as the three Race Walking Events will be on the same day.

8.2 Criteria for Area Panel to IAAF Panel

The criteria for the Area Race Walking Judges to promote to the International Race Walking Judges panel was discussed. The Committee feels that the experience as Area Race Walking Judge will be an important point to be consider in order to promote and recommends that:

- ARWJs were proposed by the Area Associations according to a defined quota/area
- ARWJs must not be older than 60 in the year of the Evaluation
- ARWJs must have served on the Area Panel since at least 2016.

8.3 Area Race Judge's Lecturers (TOECS – new members)

The last Seminar for RWJECS Level II Lecturers was organised in 2011 in Sesto-San Giovanni (ITA) and some of the current members of the lecturer's panel are not involved any more in race walking. The Committee recommends that a new Seminar be conducted in Spring 2018 with new potential candidates proposed by each Area and approved by the IAAF.

8.4 International Race Walking Judges evaluation (IRWJ)

The next International Race Walking Judges Evaluation (IRWJ) will be conducted in autumn 2018 and the draft programme was discussed, which include a small reduction in the number of International Judges (25 to 20) and a different weight of the oral and written examination.

9. RACE WALK SEMINAR IN LONDON 2017

The IAAF Council previously approved the organisation of a Seminar between athletes, coaches and judges. This will be organised during the IAAF World Championships in London 2017. The seminar will be held on 11 August lasting four hours. Topics will include; Judging and Technology and Competition Program.

10. RACE WALK COMPETITION PROGRAMME IN MAJOR COMPETITIONS

The Committee acknowledged that discussions had been held between IOC and IAAF regarding the competition programme for Tokyo 2020. The IOC believe that race walking is currently in a vulnerable position citing decreased interest in events of long duration to a targeted younger audience and recent doping issues surrounding race walking. Finally the IOC are pushing more and more for gender equality and currently we do not have this in race walk as Men are competing in 20km and 50km and Women are competing only in 20km as the Council decision to allow women to compete in 50km together with the men has not yet been implemented into the Olympic Programme.

The Committee was asked to consider various options for future international competitions, leading up to and including Tokyo 2020. It was felt that if no changes are recommended, it is highly likely that the IOC may impose its own solution.

The Committee welcomes this opportunity to forge the future direction of the discipline. It is grateful that the IAAF and IOC are willing to entertain novel and creative ideas aimed to engage a broader worldwide community and audience in a discipline that has been part of the Athletics program for over a century. The Committee sees the discipline as being in a fortunate position of being able to make proposals that can take advantage of the current (and projected future) media and technological environment to make it more attractive.

Race walking must show that it is ready to adapt to a changing environment. Proposals for change leading up to 2020 will put race walking under the microscope, but will also place the event area in the forefront of leading innovation for the sport of Athletics.

Following lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed the following:

1. Introduce insole technology to assist judging as soon as possible - at the latest by Doha 2019.
2. Maintain the same competition programme for 2018 IAAF WRWTC in Taicang. If possible field test the insole technology alongside current judging protocol (including the pit lane) at that event.
3. Full use of the pit lane at the 2018 U20 World Championships. Consider introduction of mixed relay (2 x 5000m) at 2020 IAAF World U-20 Championships (in addition to individual

- 10,000m).
4. Change international distance for race walking for 2019 and 2020 to the Half Marathon for both men and women. Maintain 10,000m race walk as distance for U-20 men and women at least until 2020 IAAF World U-20 Championships.
 5. Introduce a mixed gender (2 men, 2 women) relay (4 x 5000m on the track) for 2019 and 2020 (IAAF World Championships and Olympic Games). Use pit-lane (or other penalty) for infractions. Encourage Area Championships to at least include the mixed gender track relay in 2019-2020.
 6. Review distances and format for race walking events after 2020 Olympics, based on feedback from IAAF, IOC, coaches, and athletes.

Maurizio Damilano
Chairman of the Race Walking Committee