

PART I – GENERAL

1. General

World Rankings Competitions must be organised in conformity with the Competition Rules and Technical Rules and any applicable Regulations and shall be listed on the World Athletics Global Calendar.

In all competitions, events may be held in a different format from that provided under the Competition and Technical Rules, but rules giving more rights to the athletes than they would have obtained applying the actual Rules, may not be applied. These formats shall be decided or authorised by the relevant governing body having the control over the competition.

In the case of mass participation events held outside the stadium, these Rules should normally only be applied in full to those athletes, if any, who are designated as taking part in the elite or other defined section of the races such as age group categories for which there are placings for awards or prizes. Race organisers should outline in the information provided to other athletes which other rules will apply to their participation, particularly those pertaining to their safety.

Note: For non-World Rankings Competitions Members should adopt the Rules and Regulations to conduct such competitions.

Whilst these Rules already contemplate some variations from their strictest applications, it is emphasised that competition organisers may go even further in using different formats for competitions – the only restriction being that the athlete may not receive more “rights” in such circumstances. For example, it is acceptable to reduce the number of trials in a Field Event or reduce the time allowed for an athlete to take their trial but not to increase either.

With respect to mass participation Running and Race Walking Events, race organisers are advised to emphasise in the information provided to all participants the rules and procedures that will apply to the various categories, especially in relation to safety considerations, particularly when all or part of the race is not closed to traffic. This may for example allow athletes (other than those competing in the elite or other categories to whom Rule 6.3 of the Technical Rules would apply) to use head or earphones when they are running on a closed course but prohibit their use (or at least recommend against it) for the slower runners when the course is open to traffic.

2. The Athletics Facility

Any firm, uniform surface that conforms to the specifications in the Track and Field Facilities Manual, may be used for Track and Field Athletics.

400m Standard Oval Track Stadium competitions under paragraphs 1. (a) and (b) of the World Rankings Competition definition may be held only on facilities that hold a World Athletics Class 1 Athletics Facility Certificate. It is recommended that, when such facilities are available, 400m Standard Oval Track Stadium competitions under paragraphs 1. (c), (d), (e) and 2. of the World Rankings Competition definition should also be held on these facilities.

In any case, a World Athletics Class 2 Athletics Facility Certificate shall be required for all facilities intended for use for 400m Standard Oval Track Stadium competitions under paragraphs 1. (c) and 2. (a), (b), (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition. It is recommended that all competitions under paragraphs 1. (d), (e), 2. (d), (e) and 3. of the World Rankings Competition definition should also be held on certified facilities or, at least, the facility must conform to the Rules and Regulations, as amended from time to time. If the applicable regulations or World Rankings Competition categories so require, the facility must be certified.

Note (i): The World Athletics Track and Field Facilities Manual, which is available from the World Athletics

Office, or may be downloaded from the World Athletics website, contains more detailed and defined specifications for the planning and construction of Track and Field facilities including further diagrams for track measurement and marking.

Note (ii): The current standard forms required to be used for the certification application and measurement report as well as the Certification System Procedures are available from the World Athletics Office, or may be downloaded from the World Athletics website.

Note (iii): For Road Race Walking, Road Running or Cross Country, Mountain and Trail courses, see Rules 54.11, 55.2, 55.3, 56.1 to 56.5, and 57.1 of the Technical Rules.

Note (iv): For the 200m Standard Oval Track (Short Track) Athletics Facility, see Rule 41 of the Technical Rules.

3. Age and Sex Categories

Age Categories

- 3.1 Competition under these Rules may be divided into age group classifications as follows or as additionally prescribed in the relevant competition regulations or by the relevant governing body:

Under-18 (U18) Men and Women: Any athlete of 16 or 17 years on 31st December in the year of the competition.

Under-20 (U20) Men and Women: Any athlete of 18 or 19 years on 31st December in the year of the competition.

Master Men and Women: Any athlete who has reached their 35th birthday.

Note (i): All other matters concerning Masters' competitions are referred to the World Athletics/WMA Handbook approved by World Athletics and WMA.

Note (ii): Eligibility, including minimum ages for participation in Competitions, shall be subject to the applicable Technical Regulations.

- 3.2 An athlete shall be eligible to compete in an age group competition under these Rules if they are within the age range specified in the relevant age group classification. An athlete must be able to provide proof of their age through presentation of a valid passport or other form of evidence as permitted by the applicable regulations for the competition. An athlete who fails or refuses to provide such proof shall not be eligible to compete.

Note: See Eligibility Rules for sanctions for non-compliance with this Rule 3.

Whilst Rule 3.1 of the Technical Rules defines the age groups in a particular way, it is the regulations for each competition which determine which age groups will apply and whether, as envisaged by Note (ii), younger athletes can participate.

Sex Categories

- 3.3 Competition under these Rules is divided into men's, women's and universal classifications. When a mixed competition is conducted outside the stadium or in one of the limited cases set out in Rule 9 of the Technical Rules, separate men's and women's classification results should still be declared or otherwise indicated. When a universal event or competition is conducted a single classification result only shall be declared.

- 3.4 An athlete shall be eligible to compete in men's (or universal) competition if they either were born and, throughout their life, have always been recognised as a male or comply with the applicable Regulations issued pursuant to Rule 3.6.1 of the Technical Rules and are eligible to compete under the Rules and Regulations.
- 3.5 An athlete shall be eligible to compete in women's (or universal) competition if they either were born and, throughout their life, have always been recognised as a female or comply with the applicable Regulations issued pursuant to Rule 3.6.2 of the Technical Rules and are eligible to compete under the Rules and Regulations.
- 3.6 The Council shall approve Regulations to determine the eligibility for:
- 3.6.1 men's competition for males who are female to male Transgender;
 - 3.6.2 women's competition for females who are male to female Transgender; and
 - 3.6.3 women's competition for female classification (athletes with differences in sex development).

An athlete who fails or refuses to comply with the applicable regulations shall not be eligible to compete.

Note: See Eligibility Regulations for Transgender Athletes or Eligibility Regulations for the Female Classification, as appropriate, for sanctions for non-compliance with this Rule 3.6.

Universal competition covers events in which men and women participate together without separate classification of results as well as relay or team events in which both men and women are included in the same teams.

4. Entries

- 4.1 Competitions under the Rules are restricted to eligible athletes.
- 4.2 The eligibility of an athlete to compete outside of their own country is as set forth in Rule 5 of the Eligibility Rules (Requirements to Compete in International Competitions). Such eligibility shall be assumed unless an objection to their status is made to the Technical Delegate(s). (See also Rule 8.1 of the Technical Rules.)

Simultaneous Entries

- 4.3 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.

The Note clarifies that allowing an athlete to take a trial in a different order in the final round of trials (irrespective of the number of rounds of trials) because of a clash with another event is not permitted. If an athlete is not present in the final round and has not previously indicated that they will pass, then the time allowed for their trial will run and if they do not return before it expires, then they will be recorded as a failure. (See also Rule 25.18 of the Technical Rules where a change of order will normally not be made when a replacement trial is awarded - in any round of trials.)

Failure to Participate

4.4 At all competitions under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b) of the World Rankings Competition definition, an athlete shall be excluded from participation in all further events (including other events in which they are simultaneously participating) in the competition, including relays, in cases where:

4.4.1 final confirmation was given that the athlete would start in an event but then failed to participate;

Note: A fixed time for the final confirmation of participation shall be published in advance.

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.

4.4.3 an athlete failed to compete honestly with bona fide effort. The relevant Referee will decide on this and the corresponding reference must be made in the official results.

Note: The situation foreseen in Rule 4.4.3 of the Technical Rules will not apply to individual events within Combined Events.

However, a medical certificate, provided by and based on an examination of the athlete by the Medical Delegate appointed under Rule 6 of the Competition Rules or, if no Medical Delegate has been so appointed, by a medical doctor so designated by the Organisers, may be accepted as sufficient reason to accept that the athlete became unable to compete after confirmations closed or after competing in a previous round but will be able to compete in further events (except Combined Events individual events) on a subsequent day of the competition. Other justifiable reasons (e.g. factors independent of the athlete's own actions, such as problems with the official transport system) may, after confirmation, also be accepted by the Technical Delegate(s).

The relevant Referee, once aware of such a situation and is satisfied that the athlete who abandoned the race was not competing with a bona fide effort, must make a reference to this in the relevant results as "DNF TR4.4.3". Either in the process of the Technical Delegate(s) making such a decision or the Jury of the Appeal considering any appeal arising from it, reasons for the withdrawal or non-participation proposed by or on behalf of the athlete can be considered. The Rule sets out the process that should explicitly be followed in the case of a medical reason.

Failure to Report to the Call Room(s)

4.5 Subject always to any additional sanction under Rule 4.4 of the Technical Rules, and except as provided below, an athlete shall be excluded from participation in any event in which they are not present in the Call Room(s) at the relevant time as published in the Call Room schedule (see Rule 29 of the Competition Rules). They shall be shown in the results as DNS.

The relevant Referee will decide on this (including whether the athlete may compete under protest

if a decision cannot be made immediately) and the corresponding reference must be made in the official results.

Justifiable reasons (e.g. factors independent of the athlete's own actions, such as problems with the official transport system or an error in the published Call Room schedule) may, after confirmation, be accepted by the Referee and the athlete may then be allowed to take part.

5. Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs

Clothing

- 5.1 In all events, athletes must wear clothing which is clean, and designed and worn so as not to be objectionable. The clothing must be made of a material which is non-transparent even if wet. Athletes must not wear clothing which could impede the view of the Judges.

At all competitions under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b), (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition, and when representing their Member Federation under paragraphs 1. (e) and 2. (e) of the World Rankings Competition definition, athletes shall participate in the uniform clothing approved by their Member Federation. The Victory Ceremony and any lap of honour are considered part of the competition for this purpose.

Note: Rule 5.1 of the Technical Rules should be interpreted widely in terms of what "could impede the view of the judges", including athletes wearing their hair in a particular way.

Shoes

- 5.2 Athletes may compete either barefoot or in Athletic Shoes on one or both feet. Athletes must comply with all Regulations relating to the wearing of Athletic Shoes approved by the Council.
- 5.3 [Intentionally left blank.]
- 5.4 [Intentionally left blank.]
- 5.5 [Intentionally left blank.]
- 5.6 [Intentionally left blank.]

See also the Athletic Shoe Regulations in the "Book of Rules Book C: Competition", published separately on the website.

Athlete Bibs

- 5.7 Every athlete shall be provided with two bibs which, during the competition, shall be worn visibly on the front of the torso and on the back, except in the Jumping Events, where one bib may be worn on the front of the torso or on the back only. Either the athletes' names or other suitable identification will be allowed instead of numbers on any or all of the bibs. If numbers are used, they shall correspond with the number allocated to the athlete on the start list or in the programme. If track suits are worn during the competition, bibs shall be worn on the track suit in a similar manner.
- 5.8 No athlete shall be allowed to take part in any competition without displaying the appropriate bib(s) and/or identification.
- 5.9 These bibs must be worn as issued and may not be cut, folded or obscured in any way. In running or walking events of 10,000 metres and longer, the bibs may be perforated to assist the circulation

of air, but the perforation must not be made on any of the lettering or numerals which appear on them.

5.10 Where a Photo Finish System is in operation, the Organisers may require athletes to wear additional number identification of an adhesive type on the side of their shorts or lower body.

5.11 If an athlete does not follow any part of this Rule 5 and:

5.11.1 refuses the direction of the relevant Referee to comply; or

5.11.2 participates in the competition,

they shall be disqualified.

Rule 5.11 of the Technical Rules prescribes the sanction if any aspect of Rule 5 of the Technical Rules is not followed. It is expected however that where possible the relevant officials should request and encourage the athlete to comply and to advise them of the consequence if they do not. But where an athlete does not follow an aspect of the Rule during competition and it is not practical for an official to request compliance, athletes should note that disqualification may follow.

It is a responsibility of the Starters Assistants and Umpires (for Track and Out of Stadium Events) and the Judges (for Field Events) to be vigilant on these matters and report any apparent breaches to the relevant Referee.

6. Assistance to Athletes

Medical Examination and Assistance

6.1 Medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy may be provided either on the competition area itself by the official medical staff appointed by the Organisers and identified by armbands, vests or similar distinctive apparel or in designated medical treatment areas outside the competition area by accredited team medical personnel specifically approved by the Medical or Technical Delegate(s) for the purpose. In neither case shall the intervention delay the conduct of the competition or an athlete's trial in the designated order. Such attendance or assistance by any other person, whether immediately before competition, once athletes have left the Call Room or during competition, is assistance.

Note: The competition area, which normally also has a physical barrier, is defined for this purpose as the area where the competition is being staged and which has an access restricted to the competing athletes and personnel authorised in accordance with the relevant Rules and Regulations.

6.2 Any athlete giving or receiving assistance from within the competition area during an event (including under Rules 17.14, 17.15.4, 54.10.8 and 55.8.8 of the Technical Rules) shall be warned by the Referee and advised that, if there is any repetition, they will be disqualified from that event.

Note: In cases under Rules 6.3.1 or 6.3.6 of the Technical Rules, disqualification may be made without warning.

Assistance not Allowed

6.3 For the purpose of this Rule, the following examples shall be considered assistance, and are therefore not allowed:

- 6.3.1 Pacing in races by persons not participating in the same race, by athletes lapped or about to be lapped or by any kind of technical device (other than those permitted under Rules 6.4.4 and 6.4.8 of the Technical Rules).
 - 6.3.2 Possession or use of video recorders, radios, CD, radio transmitters, mobile phone or similar devices in the competition area.
 - 6.3.3 Except for shoes complying with Rule 5 of the Technical Rules, the use of any technology or appliance that provides the user with an advantage which they would not have obtained using the equipment specified in, or permitted by, the Rules.
 - 6.3.4 The use of any mechanical aid, except by an athlete with an impairment as authorised or permitted in accordance with the Mechanical Aids Regulations.
- See also the Mechanical Aids Regulations in the “Book of Rules Book C: Competition”, published separately on the website.
- 6.3.5 Provision of advice or other support by any official of the competition not related to or required by their specific role in the competition at the time (e.g. coaching advice, indication of the take-off point in a jumping event except to indicate a failure in Horizontal Jumps, time or distance gaps in a race etc.).
 - 6.3.6 Receiving physical support from another athlete (other than helping to recover to a standing position) that assists in making forward progression in a race.

Assistance Allowed

- 6.4 For the purpose of this Rule, the following shall not be considered assistance, and are therefore allowed:
 - 6.4.1 Communication between the athletes and their coaches not placed in the competition area.

In order to facilitate this communication and not to disturb the staging of the competition, a place in the stands, close to the competition area of each Field Event, should be reserved to the athletes' coaches.

Note: Coaches and other persons otherwise complying with Rules 54.10 and 55.8 of the Technical Rules may communicate with their athlete(s).
 - 6.4.2 Medical examination / treatment and/or physiotherapy under Rule 6.1 of the Technical Rules necessary to enable an athlete to participate or continue participation once on the competition area.
 - 6.4.3 Any kind of personal safeguard (e.g. bandage, tape, belt, support, wrist cooler, breathing aid etc.) for protection and/or medical purposes. The Referee, in conjunction with the Medical Delegate, shall have the authority to verify any case should the Referee judge that to be desirable. (See also Rules 32.4 and 32.5 of the Technical Rules.)
 - 6.4.4 Heart rate or speed distance monitors or stride sensors or similar devices carried or worn personally by athletes during an event, provided that such device cannot be used to communicate with any other person.
 - 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.

- 6.4.6 Hats, gloves, shoes, items of clothing provided to athletes at official stations or when otherwise approved by the relevant Referee.
- 6.4.7 Receiving physical support from an official or other person designated by the organisers to recover to a standing position or to access medical assistance.
- 6.4.8 Electronic lights or similar appliance indicating progressive times during a race, including of a relevant record.

Rule 6 of the Technical Rules has been the subject of constant change in recent years to reflect the way in which athletics is conducted, to respect the role of coaches, to manage innovation and new products, etc. World Athletics will continue to respond to new products and trends as soon as they become common place during events and competitions.

Changes to these rules are designed to facilitate the athletes' participation in the competition as much as possible and to reduce unnecessary conflict between athletes/coaches and the officials. Each of these rules should be interpreted in this light whilst always ensuring the competition is conducted fairly to all.

Rule 6.3.5 of the Technical Rules however makes it clear that the officials should not assist any athlete beyond what is required of their role – and specifically states as an example that officials should not provide details of the take-off position in jumping events, other than for the purpose of indicating the point of “impact” in a foul jump in Horizontal Jumps.

7. Warnings and Disqualification

Bona Fide Participation, Unsporting and Improper Conduct

- 7.1 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.

The applicable Referee shall have authority to warn or exclude from competition, any athlete or relay team guilty of breaches of this Rule or Rule 6.1 Note (ii), (iii) or (iv) of the Competition Rules or Rules 6, 16.5, 17.14, 17.15.4, 25.5, 25.19, 54.7.6, 54.10.8 or 55.8.8 of the Technical Rules. Warnings may be indicated to the athlete by showing a yellow card, exclusion by showing a red card. Warnings and exclusions shall be entered on the result card and communicated to the Competition Secretary and to the other Referees.

In disciplinary matters, the Call Room Referee has authority starting from the Warm-up Area up to the competition area. In all other instances, the Referee applicable to the event in which the athlete is or was competing, shall have authority.

The applicable Referee (where practicable after consulting the Competition Director) may warn or remove any other person from the competition area (or other area related to the competition including the Warm-up Area, Call Room and coaches seating) who is acting in an unsporting or improper manner or who is providing assistance to athletes that is not permitted by the Rules.

Note (i): The Referee may, where the circumstances justify it, exclude an athlete or relay team without a warning having been given. (See also Note to Rule 6.2 of the Technical Rules)

Note (ii): For events outside the stadium, the Running and Race Walking Events Referee shall, wherever practicable (e.g. under Rules 6, 54.10 or 55.8 of the Technical Rules), give a warning prior to disqualification. If the Referee's action is contested, Rule 8 of the Technical Rules will apply.

Note (iii): When excluding an athlete or relay team from competition under this Rule, if the Referee is aware that a yellow card has already been given, they should show a second yellow card followed immediately by a red card.

Note (iv): If a yellow card is given and the Referee is not aware that there is a previous yellow card, it shall, once this is known, have the same consequence as if it was given in association with a red card. The relevant Referee shall take immediate action to inform the athlete or relay team or their team of their exclusion.

The below key points are made to provide guidance and clarity in relation to the way in which cards are shown and recorded:

- a. Yellow and red cards can be given either for disciplinary reasons (refer mostly to this Rule) or for certain technical infringements that are disciplinary in nature.
- b. Whilst it is normal and usually expected that a yellow card would have been given before a red card, it is envisaged that in the cases of particularly bad unsporting or improper behaviour or failing to participate in a bona fide manner, a red card can be given immediately. It should be noted that the athlete or relay team has in any case the opportunity to appeal such a decision to the Jury of Appeal.
- c. There will be also some cases in which it is not practical or even logical for a yellow card to have been issued. For example the Note to Rule 6.2 of the Technical Rules specifically allows for an immediate red card if justified in cases covered by Rule 6.3.1 of the Technical Rules such as pacing in races.
- d. A similar situation might also follow when a Referee issues a yellow card and the athlete or relay team responds in such an inappropriate manner that it is justified to then immediately give a red card. It is not essential for there to be two completely different and distinct in time instances of inappropriate behaviour.
- e. As per Note (iii), in cases where a Referee is aware that the athlete or relay team in question has already received a yellow card during the competition and they propose to issue a red card, the Referee should first show a second yellow card and then the red card. However if a Referee does not show the second yellow card, it will not invalidate the issuing of the red card.
- f. In cases where a Referee is not aware of a pre-existing yellow card, and they show only a yellow card, once this becomes known, the appropriate steps should be taken to disqualify the athlete as soon as possible. Normally, this would be done by the Referee advising the athlete directly or through their team.
- g. In cases of relay events, cards received by one or more members of the team during any round of the event shall count against the team. Therefore, if one athlete receives two yellow cards or two different athletes receive a yellow card in any round of the particular event, the team shall be regarded as having received a red card and shall be disqualified.

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

- 7.2 If an athlete is disqualified from an event for an infringement of a Technical Rule (except under Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules) any performance accomplished in the same round of that event up to the time of the disqualification shall not be valid. However, performances accomplished in a

previous round of that event, other previous events or previous individual events of a Combined Event shall remain valid. Such disqualification from an event shall not prevent an athlete from taking part in any further event in that competition.

Disqualification resulting from exclusion under Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules

7.3 If an athlete is excluded from competition under Rule 7.1 of the Technical Rules, they shall be disqualified from that event. If the athlete's second warning occurs in a different event, they shall be disqualified only from the second event. Any performance accomplished in the same round of that event up to the time of the disqualification shall not be valid. However, performances accomplished in a previous round of that event, other previous events or previous individual events of a Combined Event shall remain valid. Such disqualification shall prevent an athlete from taking part in all further events or rounds of events (including individual events of a Combined Event, other events in which they are simultaneously participating and relays) in that competition.

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 the consequence of an athlete(s) acting in a manner that would lead to a 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 of that team taking part 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.

7.5 If the offence is considered serious, the Competition Director shall report it to the relevant governing body for consideration of further disciplinary action.

Rule 7.3 shall also 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.

8. Protests and Appeals

8.1 Protests concerning the status of an athlete to participate in a competition must be made, prior to the commencement of such competition, to the Technical Delegate(s). Once the Technical Delegate(s) make(s) a decision, there shall be a right of appeal to the Jury of Appeal. If the matter cannot be settled satisfactorily prior to the competition, the athlete shall be allowed to compete "under protest" and the matter be referred to the relevant governing body.

8.2 Protests concerning the result or conduct of (a round of) an event shall be made within 30 minutes of the official announcement of the result of that (round of the) event.

The Organisers of the competition shall be responsible for ensuring that the time of the announcement of all results is recorded.

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.

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.

8.4.2 a 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, 16.8 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.

8.4.3 if a protest or appeal is based on an athlete’s incorrect exclusion from an event due to a false start and it is upheld after the completion of the race, then the athlete should be afforded the opportunity to run on their own to record a time in the event and consequently, if applicable, to be advanced to subsequent rounds. No athlete should be advanced to a subsequent round without competing in all rounds unless the Referee or Jury of Appeal determines otherwise in the particular circumstances of the case, e.g. the shortness of time before the next round or the length of the race.

Note: This Rule may also be applied by the Referee, the Jury of Appeal in other circumstances where it is deemed appropriate (see Rule 17.1 of the Technical Rules).

8.4.4 when a protest is made by or on behalf of an athlete or team which did not finish a race, the Referee must first ascertain whether the athlete or team was or should have been disqualified for a breach of the Rules unrelated to the matter raised in the protest. Should that be the case, the protest shall be dismissed.

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.

These rules not only apply where a Starter failed to recall a false start but where also a Starter failed to correctly “abort” a start. In both cases the Referee must consider all factors involved in the particular case and must decide if the race (or part of it) has to be re-held.

Giving two examples of extreme situations, it will not be logical or necessary to re-run a Marathon race in a case where an athlete who finishes was responsible for a non-recalled false start. But the same will probably not be the case in a sprint event where an athlete was responsible for a non-recalled false start as this may have affected the start and subsequent race of other athletes.

On the other hand, if for example in a preliminary round, or perhaps even more so in a race within a Combined Event, it was clear that only one or some athletes were disadvantaged by a failure to recall a false start or to abort a start, a Referee could decide that only those athletes be given the opportunity to run again – and if so under what conditions.

Rule 8.4.3 of the Technical Rules covers the situation in which an athlete is wrongly given a false start and excluded from a race.

- 8.5 In a Field Event, if an athlete makes an immediate oral protest against having a trial judged as a failure, the Referee of the event may, if they are in any doubt, order that the trial be measured and the result recorded, in order to preserve the rights of all concerned.

If the protested trial occurred:

- 8.5.1 during the first three rounds of trials of a horizontal Field Event in which more than eight athletes are competing, and the athlete would advance to any subsequent rounds of trials only if the protest or subsequent appeal was upheld; or
- 8.5.2 in a vertical Field Event, where the athlete would advance to a higher height only if the protest or subsequent appeal is upheld,

the Referee may, if they are in any doubt, allow the athlete to continue competing “under protest” to preserve the rights of all concerned.

In cases where the Referee is sure that the decision of the Judges is correct, particularly by their own observation or advice received from a Video Referee, the athlete should not be allowed to continue.

But when considering whether to order the measurement of a trial which is the subject of an immediate oral protest the Referee should:

- a. not do so in cases where there was a clear breach of the Rules, for example in the long jump a clear mark made in the plasticine by the athlete in question or in a throwing event where the implement has clearly landed outside the sector;
- b. always do so (and immediately so as to not delay the competition) in cases where there is any doubt.

The good operation of this Rule means that the Judge with the spike or prism should always mark the point of landing (except in throwing events where the implement clearly lands outside the sector) even when they see a red flag. Apart from the possibility that the athlete may make an immediate oral protest, it is also possible that the Judge with the flags may have incorrectly or accidentally raised the wrong one.

- 8.6 The protested performance of the athlete and any other performance achieved by them while competing “under protest” will become valid only if a subsequent decision to that effect is made by the Referee or an appeal to the Jury of Appeal is made and it is upheld.

In Field Events where, as a result of an athlete competing “under protest”, another athlete is allowed to continue in the competition when they would otherwise not have done so, such athlete’s performances and eventual results will remain valid irrespective of whether the “under protest” athlete’s immediate oral protest is successful.

The first paragraph of Rule 8.6 of the Technical Rules applies to all events, not only to Field Events.

8.7 An appeal to the Jury of Appeal must be made within 30 minutes:

8.7.1 of the official announcement of the amended result of an event arising from the decision made by the Referee; or

8.7.2 of the advice being given to those making the protest, where there is no amendment of any result.

It shall be in writing, signed by the athlete, by someone acting on their behalf or by an official representative of a team and shall be accompanied by a deposit of USD 100, or its equivalent, which will be forfeited if the appeal is not allowed. Such athlete or team may appeal only if they are competing in the same round of the event to which the appeal relates (or are competing in a competition on which a team points score is being conducted).

Note: The relevant Referee shall, after their decision on a protest, immediately inform the TIC of the time of the communication of the decision. If the Referee was unable to communicate the decision orally to the relevant team(s) / athlete(s), the official time of the announcement will be that of posting of the amended result or of the decision at the TIC.

8.8 The Jury of Appeal shall consult all relevant persons, including the relevant Referee (except when their decision is to be fully maintained by the Jury of Appeal). If the Jury of Appeal is in doubt, other available evidence may be considered. If such evidence, including any available video evidence, is not conclusive, the decision of the Referee or the Chief Race Walking Judge shall be upheld.

8.9 The Jury of Appeal may reconsider a decision if new conclusive evidence is presented, provided the new decision is still applicable. Normally, such re-consideration may be undertaken only prior to the Victory Ceremony for the applicable event, unless the relevant governing body determines that circumstances justify otherwise.

In certain circumstances, the Judges (Rule 19.2 of the Competition Rules), the Referee (Rule 18.6 of the Competition Rules) and the Jury (Rule 8.9 of the Technical Rules) can each reconsider a decision made by them – if it is still applicable and practical to do so.

8.10 Decisions involving points which are not covered by the Rules shall be reported subsequently by the Chairman of the Jury of Appeal to the Chief Executive Officer of World Athletics.

8.11 The decision of the Jury of Appeal (or of the Referee in the absence of a Jury of Appeal or if no appeal to the Jury is made) shall be final and there shall be no further right of appeal, including to CAS.

9. Mixed Competition

9.1 Universal competitions such as relays or other team events in which men and women compete together or events in which men and women compete for a single classification are permitted in accordance with the applicable regulations of the relevant body.

9.2 Other than under Rule 9.1, for all other competitions held completely in the stadium, mixed events

between male and female participants shall not normally be permitted.

However, the following may be permitted:

- in competitions under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b), (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition in Field Events if permitted by the applicable regulations,
- in competitions under paragraphs 1. (d), (e) and 2. (d), (e) of the World Rankings Competition definition always in Field Events and if specifically permitted by the relevant Area Association in events per Rule 9.2.1 of the Technical Rules,
- in competitions under paragraph 3 of the World Rankings Competition definition always in Field Events and if specifically permitted by the relevant National Member Federation in events per Rule 9.2.1 of the Technical Rules:

9.2.1 mixed stadium competition in races of 5000m or longer but it is permitted only when there are insufficient athletes of one or both sexes competing to justify the conduct of separate races. The sex of each athlete shall be shown in the result. Such races shall not, in any case, be conducted so as to allow athletes of one sex to be paced or assisted by athletes of another sex.

9.2.2 Field Events for men and women may be conducted simultaneously at one or more event sites. Separate result cards shall be used and results declared for each sex. Each round of trials of such events may be conducted either by calling all athletes of one sex followed by the other or by alternating them. For the purposes of Rule 25.17 of the Technical Rules, all athletes shall be regarded as if they were of the same sex. Where Vertical Jumps are conducted on a single event site, Rules 26 to 28 of the Technical Rules must be strictly applied, including that the bar must continue to be raised in accordance with a single set of previously announced increments for the entire competition.

The intent of Rule 9.2.1 of the Technical Rules is to facilitate the conduct of races of 5000m or longer, when small numbers of athletes of one or both sexes are entered. The intent of the Rule is not to provide opportunity for women to compete in races against men to achieve potentially better performance conditions.

To be clear, mixed competition is:

- a. permitted in all national competitions in Field Events and if specifically permitted by the relevant National Member Federation in races of 5000m or longer according to Rule 9.2.1 of the Technical Rules (No additional permission from an Area Association is required);
- b. permitted in competitions held under paragraphs 1. (d), (e) and 2. (d), (e) of the World Rankings Competition definition in Field Events and if specifically permitted by the relevant Area Association in races of 5000m or longer according to Rule 9.2.1 of the Technical Rules;
- c. not permitted in a competition held under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b), (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition unless in the case of Field Events the applicable regulations for the competition so provide.

There are also restrictions on the recognition of World Records in mixed competitions – see Rules 31.1 (with reference to track races of 5000m and longer) and 32 (with reference to women's road races) of the Competition Rules. Rule 32 of the Competition Rules Note (ii) provides guidance on how a women only race can be achieved (enabling a women only record to be set) in a situation where both men and women are or might be competing.

(See also Rules 25.2 and 25.3 of the Competition Rules.)

10. Surveying and Measurements

- 10.1 The accuracy of the markings and installations for athletics facilities under Rules 2, 11.2, 11.3 and 41 of the Technical Rules shall be checked by an appropriately qualified surveyor who shall furnish appropriate certificates together with details of any check measurements made to the relevant body and/or the facility owner or operator. They shall be given full access to stadium plans and drawings and the latest measurement report for the purpose of this verification.
- 10.2 For Track and Field Events in competitions under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b) of the World Rankings Competition definition, all measurements shall be made with a calibrated steel tape or bar or with a scientific measuring device. The steel tape, bar or scientific measuring device shall be manufactured and calibrated according to international standards. The accuracy of the measuring equipment used in the competition shall have been verified by an appropriate organisation accredited by the national measurement authority.

At competitions other than those held under paragraphs 1. (a), (b), (c) and 2. (a), (b) of the World Rankings Competition definition, fibreglass tapes may also be used.

Note: Concerning acceptance of Records, see Rule 31.17.1 of the Competition Rules.

11. Validity of Performances

- 11.1 Only Athlete performances accomplished during World Rankings Competitions are valid.
- 11.2 Performances in events normally conducted in the stadium, made outside traditional athletics facilities (such as those held on a temporary facility in town squares, other sporting facilities, beaches, etc.) or on a temporary facility built within a stadium shall be valid and recognised for all purposes, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:
- 11.2.1 the relevant governing body as provided in Rule 1 of the Competition Rules has issued a permit for the event;
 - 11.2.2 a qualified panel of National Athletics Referees are appointed to and officiate at the event;
 - 11.2.3 where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used; and
 - 11.2.4 the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10 of the Technical Rules before the event and, where possible, on the day of the event.

When a competition described in Rule 11.2 of the Technical Rules is held over more than one day, the survey should be made on the day of the first event. In either case if the surveyor can be satisfied that there will be no movement or alteration to the facilities being surveyed, the survey may be completed up to two days prior to the day of the first event.

- 11.3 Performances in events conducted in a fully or partly covered venue where the length or other specifications of the facility do not comply with the rules for Short Track competitions shall be valid and recognised as if they were achieved on a 400m Standard Oval Track, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:
- 11.3.1 the relevant governing body as provided in Rule 1 of the Competition Rules has issued a permit for the event;

- 11.3.2 a qualified panel of National Athletics Referees are appointed to and officiate at the event;
- 11.3.3 where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used;
- 11.3.4 in the case of an oval track, its length is greater than 201.2m (220 yards) but no greater than 400m; and
- 11.3.5 the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which, if held on a temporary facility, a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10 of the Technical Rules.

Note: The current standard forms required to be used for reporting on the conformity of the competition area or facility are available from the World Athletics Office, or may be downloaded from the World Athletics website or the Global Calendar platform, as appropriate.

When a result is achieved on a complying facility with no advantage gained and all related rules observed, the fact that it happened at a covered competition site does not prevent a result being listed among the outdoor equivalent distances and used for any statistical purpose (performances, e.g. on covered 400m tracks and straights). The current practice that results made in tracks shorter than 200m count towards the Short Track results does not change.

- 11.4 Performances made in accordance with these Rules in Qualification Rounds, in deciding ties in High Jump and Pole Vault, in any event or part of an event which is subsequently decreed void under the provisions of Rule 18.7 of the Competition Rules, or Rules 8.4.2, 17.1 or 25.20 of the Technical Rules, in Race Walking Events in which Rule 54.7.3 of the Technical Rules is applied and the athlete is not disqualified or in individual events in Combined Events competitions, regardless of whether or not the athlete completes the whole Combined Events competition, will normally be regarded as valid for purposes such as statistics, records, rankings and the achievement of entry standards.

World Athletics has exceptionally determined that solely for the purpose of determining whether an athlete has achieved the entry standard for a Combined Events competition:

“The conditions shall have been complied with in each of the individual events, except that, in events where wind velocity is measured, at least one of the following conditions shall be satisfied:

- a. The velocity in any individual event shall not exceed plus 4 metres per second.
- b. The average velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2 metres per second.”

12. Video Recording

In competitions held under paragraphs 1. (a), (b) and (c) of the World Rankings Competition definition and, whenever possible, in other competitions, an official video recording of all events to the satisfaction of the Technical Delegate(s) shall be made. It should be sufficient to support the role of the Video Referee when appointed and in other situations to demonstrate the accuracy of performances and any violation of the Rules.

Specific information is provided in the Video Recording and Video Referee Guidelines, which may be downloaded from the World Athletics website.

The appointment at any competition of a Video Referee will significantly affect the practical oversight of many aspects of those competitions at which sufficient video collection and replay systems are available.

The Video Referee will generally be able to act proactively in respect of the Running or Race Walking Events (e.g. the start, running inside the lane line around the curve, jostling and obstruction, breaking from lanes too early, relay changeovers). If the number of cameras and equipment is sufficient to play a similar role for some or all of the Field Events, they can undertake a similar role, but usually in a more reactive fashion when the on-field Referee requests further examination or review of a specific incident.

In the case of the Running or Race Walking Events, the Video Referee will observe the races on one or more screens in the video room and then based on either their own observations or upon referral from a Referee or Chief Umpire in the competition area, examine one or more particular issues by looking at any replayed footage that might be available. If it is clear as a result that there has been an infringement of the Rules, then they should take the appropriate decision and convey it to the Running and Race Walking Events Referee and the Chief Photo Finish Judge. Similarly, if an Umpire or a Running and Race Walking Events Referee has reported a potential infringement, it should be checked by the Video Referee and the appropriate advice provided and decision taken.

In addition, official video footage will as in the past continue to be used to assist in dealing with protests and appeals.

It is becoming common for experienced companies to provide an existing service for competitions rather than Organisers setting up their own. However, either option can be used.

13. Scoring

In a match where the result is to be determined by the scoring of points, the method of scoring shall be agreed by all the competing Members or teams before the start of the match, unless provided for in the applicable regulations.