

SUMMARY OF NEW IAAF RULES IMPLEMENTED AS OF 1 MAY 2008  
SUMMARY OF IAAF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – MARCH 2008

## 1. Technical Rule Changes

*Many changes were made to the IAAF Technical Rules at the 2007 Congress. Some further changes have been made with immediate effect, ie as from 1 May 2008:*

### Rule 143.7

#### Athlete bibs

Every athlete shall be provided with two bibs which, during the competition, shall be worn visibly on the breast and back, except in the High Jump and Pole Vault, where one bib may be worn on the breast or back only. The bib shall correspond **usually** 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. In competitions either the athletes' names or other suitable identification on the bibs will be allowed **instead of numbers on any or all of the bibs.**

Explanation: It has become relatively common practice for names to be used on athlete bibs, including at this year's World Indoor Championships. However until now the Rules did not allow strictly for same. This rule change clarifies this situation.

### Rule 144.1

#### Indication of Intermediate Times

...Otherwise such times must not be communicated to the athletes by persons in the competition area without the prior approval of the appropriate Referee. **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 to personnel authorised in accordance with the relevant Rules and Regulations..**

Explanation: There has been concern about coaches, managers and other persons calling times to athletes from places within or near the track, without the permission of the Referee. This has been particularly the case in major meets in Europe. This change defines the competition area in order to prevent such persons from claiming they were entitled to be there without permission.

### Rule 144.2(c)

The following shall not be considered assistance: ...

**(c) Any kind of personal safeguard (e.g. bandage, tape, belt, support, etc.) for medical purposes. The Referee in conjunction with the Medical Delegate shall have the authority to verify any case should he judge that to be desirable. (See also Rule 187.4.)**

Explanation: This change is made to make complete sense of the changes to Rule 187.4. See explanation below.

### Rule 146.6

The Jury of Appeal shall consult all relevant persons. If the Jury of Appeal is in doubt, other available evidence may be considered.

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.

Explanation: This change follows the “controversy” at the Osaka World Championships where the Jury of Appeal over-ruled the decision of the Chief Walk Judge in the men’s 20km walk. This rule change makes it clear that a decision of the Chief Walk Judge, which relates to directly disqualifying athletes in the last part of certain races, has the same status as if the decision had been made by a Referee

#### **Rule 187.4**

##### **Assistance**

(a) An athlete shall not use any device of any kind - e.g. the taping of two or more fingers together or using weights attached to the body - which in any way provides assistance when making a trial. **If taping is used on the hands and fingers, it may be continuous provided that as a result no two or more fingers are taped together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually.** The taping should be shown to the Chief Judge before the event starts.

(b) An athlete shall not use gloves except in the Hammer Throw. In this case, the gloves shall be smooth on the back and on the front and the tips of the glove fingers, other than the thumb, shall be open.

(c) In order to obtain a better grip, an athlete may use a suitable substance on his hands only. In addition, hammer throwers may use such substances on their gloves, and shot putters may use such substances on their neck.

***Note that the previous 187.4 (d) to (g) are consequently deleted along with some of the wording previously contained in 187.4 (a)***

Explanation: The Osaka Congress decided that the Technical Committee with the advice of others should review the rules relating to personal safeguards in throwing events. This review was completed at the Technical Committee meeting in March. In essence, following advice received from coaching and medical experts, the recommendation was that many of the previous restrictions on bandages etc were not necessary and that the rules were unnecessarily complicated.

These changes simplify the situation, and remove many unnecessary potential points of conflict between judges and athletes. Basically the new wording permits most taping provided that it does not result in two or more fingers being taped together. There is no longer any need for judges to determine whether the taping covers a cut or wound.

The “Sedykh” method of continuous taping of the hands of hammer throwers is also permitted, in principle, provided it does not result in two or more fingers in effect becoming, one. In other words the taping can be continuous provided each finger can move freely individually.

Please note that although previous sub clauses (d) to (g) are removed, the use of these protections is still allowed. The reason for the removal of these sub-clauses is to make the wording simpler. These previous protections are now allowed under the wording of both 144.2(c) and 187.4.

Please also note that under Rule 144.2(c), the Referee (and for more complex cases or at larger meetings, in conjunction with the Medical Delegate) has the usual power to make a determination on unusual cases. In summary, the key question in applying the new wording is, as always, whether what the athlete is proposing provides he or she with unfair assistance.

## **2. Technical Rule Interpretations**

The Technical Committee determined the following rule interpretations:

### **Rule 146.4/180.5**

Where an athlete is allowed to remain in a throws or horizontal jump event after the first three rounds "under protest", he or she shall always compete before all other competitors in the order (and if more than one of them, before all other athletes and in their respective original draw order). This remains the case after round 5 whether they have improved their performance in rounds 4 and 5.

*This will be formally changed in the rules in 2009 but should be interpreted in this manner until then*

### **Rule 147 – validity of performances in mixed competitions**

Performances achieved in valid mixed competition will count for all purposes, including the achievement of qualifying performances for international competitions but not for world records.

*It is therefore a matter, if they have not already done so, for each federation (and for OAA in the case of area records) to determine whether performances in valid mixed competitions, will be recognised as national records.*

### **Rule 162.4 – placement of starting blocks**

Some questions had been raised of the Committee whether there is or should be any restriction on how far back behind the start line, starting blocks could be placed? Apparently in some countries hurdlers had been seeking to place their blocks further back so as to more easily approach the first hurdle in a race.

The Committee determined, given that there is no advantage to the athlete over any other athletes, that the rule should be interpreted so that there is no restriction. Thus provided the starting blocks remain within the athlete's lane as per normal, they (and, logically, also the athletes fingers when placed on the ground) can be placed as far behind the starting line as the athlete wishes.

Obviously the starter must still be able to see the position of the athletes when in their starting positions on their marks and when set.

### **Rule 183.11 – tape on vaulting poles**

The Committee was provided with photographs of some unusual taping and additions that have been made on the side of the bottom end of vaulting poles. These are apparently made to protect the poles from damage.

The Committee determined that such additions are permitted as they do not provided any unfair advantage to the athlete.

### **Rule 187.17 (b) – new rule regarding "4m line" in javelin**

Two matters were raised regarding this new rule:

(1) following competition experience in Oceania this summer under the new rule, the Committee recommends that the proposed line to be painted across the runway 4 m

back from the throwing arc, be changed to a small side marks on either side of the runway, so as to eliminate confusion for the athletes;

(2) it was again emphasised that the purpose of this rule change was solely to speed up measuring of trials and did not create a new reason for calling a failure on the trial. If any athlete throws from behind this 4m point or retreats behind it before the implement lands, it is not for that reason a failure. *It would however be a failure of the athlete touched the ground outside the sideline of the runway, either in front of or behind this 4m point, before the implement landed.*

#### **“Passing” trials in field events**

The Committee has determined that “passing” of a trial may be announced (or a previously announced “pass” changed to a “trial”), at any time up until the athlete’s name is called or displayed on the scoreboard for that trial. *This of course does not apply to the second and third attempts at a height in vertical jumps where the first or second trial has been passed.*

#### **4. Other Matters**

**4.1 International Starters Panel** – the IAAF has now established this Panel. We are pleased to advise that Geoff Martin is one of the eight members. The members will be appointed to the major international events, and will start the major sprint races at those competitions, in order to ensure some uniformity of starting at major events.

**4.2 Hurdles** – the IAAF Technical Committee was advised of the intention of the IAAF Coaches Commission to examine an idea to increase the distance between the hurdles in hurdles events held in the straight. The Committee will be involved in any such study which would also look at the heights or hurdles in women’s events.

**4.3 Safety** – following the incident at the Rome Golden League meet in 2007 when a long jumper was “speared” by a javelin during competition, the Committee emphasised that organisers must carefully examine timetables and the number and positioning of persons on the in field when long throws are held, particularly when jump runways are placed on the infield. Greater emphasis on these issues is to be placed in officials education and competition management courses.

**4.4 Combined Events** – the Committee is to establish a working group to examine possibilities for conducting the final events of combined events in a manner such as the proposed Gundersen method (where athletes begin the race with a time advantage equivalent to their points lead over the other athletes). This includes the paper prepared by Peter Hamilton (AUS). It will also look at request from some television companies to consider changing the order of events to make combined events “more interesting”.

#### **NEW IAAF HANDBOOKS**

No new edition of the IAAF Handbook will be printed to take account of these changes. Officials should themselves update the 2008 version accordingly. The changes will be included in the edition printed after the 2009 IAAF Congress.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION IN AUSTRALIA**

These new IAAF rules, came into effect internationally on 1.5.2008. Hence, the Rules are also effective immediately in Australia (ie as from 1.5.2008).

Brian Roe  
AA Hon. Technical Officer

6 May 2008

ATHLETICS AUSTRALIA  
OFFICIALS COMMISSION

SUMMARY OF NEW IAAF RULES PASSED AT 2007 IAAF CONGRESS

*A range of changes were made to the IAAF Technical Rules at the 2007 Congress. It should be noted that all congresses are now related as "technical congresses" and therefore we can expect change to now be made in large numbers every two years rather than every four as was previously the case. The opportunity will again be taken as the new Handbook is finalised to make further "editorial changes". Full details will be contained in the proof copy of the Handbook once it is completed. The current draft is available on the IAAF website ([www.iaaf.org](http://www.iaaf.org)) in the downloads section.*

*This document aims to summarise those changes, which may affect state, local and school competitions. The main changes to the Technical Rules are summarised as follows:*

1. **Rule 125 - Referees**

This rule has been amended to as follows:

- When dealing with disciplinary matters the Call Room Referee has authority from the Call Room up to the competition site. The relevant on field referee has authority from then on.
- A track referee appointed to oversee the starts is designated as the Start Referee when undertaking that role as part of his/her duties. *Note that this is not a separate position – it is simply intended to be a temporary designation applied to one of the track referees when acting in that capacity.*
- There has been some further re-organisation of this Rule to improve its reading, ie by moving old sub-rule 6 to the end of sub rule 3 and to make new sub rule 5 match the wording in Rule 145:

125.5 He shall have authority to warn or exclude from competition, any athlete guilty of acting in an unsporting or improper manner. 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.

2. **Rule 143.4 – Spikes**

The rule has been amended to provide a better guide to call room judges and other officials as to how to check the diameter of spikes in shoes to ensure they comply with the rules.(a new tool can easily be designed to assist officials in making this check)

3. **Rule 144.2(e/f) – Assistance**

These changes were designed to counter some anticipated developments in shoes technology and to provide guidance in relation to the use of wheelchairs and/or prostheses in able bodied competition. Hence in an everyday sense, there is essentially no impact from this new rule.

4. **Rule 145.2 – Disqualification for unsporting or improper conduct**

The IAAF has made a number of changes to the rule to make it clear what process should be followed in cases where athletes are warned or disqualified for acting in an unsporting or improper manner, as distinct from technical breaches of the rule. This particular change makes it clear that a second breach of these rules need not occur in the same event for the athlete to be disqualified.

#### 5. **Rule 146 – Protests**

Several further clarifications have been made to make this rule more operable:

- it is confirmed that an athlete may make an immediate oral protest at the start whether or not false start control apparatus is being used.
- it is also made clear that where in the process of consideration of such a protest no athlete is disqualified, the Referee (or the Jury of Appeal) may where he/she deems appropriate declare the event void and declare that shall be re-held.
- in cases where an athlete makes an immediate oral protest in a field event (with more than eight competitors and where the athlete would not continue without the protest succeeding) and it cannot be resolved before the fourth round begins, the Referee can allow the athlete to continue under protest (in which case he/she would jump/throw at the beginning of the order)
- the deletion of the reference to the referee and judges in 146.6 should not be interpreted as meaning juries should cease the practice of consulting them. The change is to indicate that it should not simply be restricted to them.
- the final change asserts the principle of the finality of decision made by juries of appeal (and notably also referees where there is no jury).

#### 6. **Rule 147 – Mixed Competition**

The IAAF and the congress has finally accepted the logical position that some mixed competition should be permitted. Now, other than for certain specified international competitions, mixed competition shall be allowed in track events of 5000 metres and longer and in all field events.

Separate scoring and result sheets should, however, continue to be used for males and females in such events. The IAAF has indicated that where such events are validly conducted in accordance with this new rule, that international qualifying performances and records will be accepted.

*Please note however that internationally this rule does not come into effect until 1.1.08, so international qualifying performances and records will not be accepted until after that date. There will be no retrospectivity internationally.)*

#### 7. **Rule 160.1 and 170.11 – Grass Track measurements and specifications**

In most cases, if not all (a check is still being made) any different measurements and specifications applying to grass tracks have been deleted from the Competition Rules and will be provided elsewhere, where considered necessary.

#### 8. **Rule 162.2 – The Start**

A new rule has been introduced to try to ensure that where any athlete delays or disrupts the start only he or she should be penalised rather than the entire field.

In such circumstances the matter will be dealt with by improper conduct rules rather than the specific rules for the event, ie for a first breach the athlete or athletes would be shown a disciplinary yellow card and for a second, a red. On each occasion all other athletes in the race would be shown a green card.

*Whilst the new rule specifically refers only to cases where "an athlete causes the start to be aborted, for instance by raising a hand and/or standing in the case of a crouch start without valid reason", in the opinion of the AA Officials Commission it makes no sense to continue to give a general false start to all competitors in the race also in any cases where an athlete deliberately delays/fails to obey the starters commands. In these situations the athlete should, until further notice, be shown a disciplinary yellow or red card and the rest of the field not penalised.*

#### 9. **Rule 163.3 – The Race**

This change corrects an oversight in the previous rules where it was not clear (although always intended) that in non laned races, athletes running inside lane one on the kerb or the steeplechase deviation would be disqualified as per current rules 163.3 and 163.4.

#### 10. **Rule 163.5 and Rule 170.8 – "Cut in" indication**

These changes now eliminate the use of the "lollypop" indicators at the 800m, 4x400m, split start cut-ins and make it mandatory to provide the lane intersection prisms for the 800m and 4x400m.

#### 11. **Rule 164.2 and 165.16 – Finish Line Markings**

Makes more detailed requirements as to the colouring of the intersection of the finish lines and lane lines. The rule is also moved. The new requirement is:

165.16.....In order to confirm that the camera is correctly aligned and to facilitate the reading of the Photo Finish image, the intersection of the lane lines and the finish line shall be coloured black in a suitable design. Any such design must be solely confined to the intersection, for no more than 2cm beyond, and not extended before, the leading edge of the finish line.

#### 12. **Rule 166 – Seedings and Draws**

In sub rule 2, new table system (as drafted by Peter Hamilton on behalf of AUS after many years of study of actual practices followed) was approved.

Sub rule 4 now provides that in multiple round competitions, there will now be three rather than two draws for lanes when drawing up the fields for subsequent rounds:

- (a) the four highest ranked athletes (according to the procedures in 166.3) will still randomly draw for the four middle lanes – 3,4,5,6 on an eight lane track;
- (b) the next two ranked will now draw for lanes 7,8; and
- (c) the last two for lanes 1 and 2.

This follows many submissions from coaches and others from around the world that the outside lanes are more advantageous in circular events than the inside lanes.

13. **Rule 170.17 – Relay substitutes**

Whilst the existing rules that limits the number of substitutes in relays in multiple round competitions to two remains, the old rule that prevented an athlete once replaced (say after the heat) from returning to the team at a later stage of the event (say in the final) has been deleted and no longer applies.

14. **Rule 180.3 – Field event markers**

An addition has been made to the rule to make it clear that a single (only) sighting marker can be used by athletes in shot, discus and hammer:

180.3 (b) For throws made from a circle, an athlete may use one marker only. This marker may be placed only on the ground in the area immediately behind or adjacent to the circle. It must be temporary, in position only for the duration of each athlete's own trial, and shall not impair the view of the judges. No personal markers (other than those under Rule 187.21) may be placed in or beside the landing area.

*As with all new rules such as this, exactly what is allowed and what is not will take some time to be clarified, as some athletes and coaches seek to interpret it in the most valuable way to themselves. Examples of what might be acceptable are a towel or cap placed on the ground behind the circle.*

15. **Rule 180.5/6/7 – order of trials in field events**

Several changes have been made to clarify and improve this rule – some are merely common sense statements of what should previously have been obvious, whilst others make clear statements on issues for the first time:

- (a) when at any time the draw order changes and there is an unbreakable tie, the tying athletes will compete in the same relative order according to the original draw;
- (b) the new sub rule 7 provides for the first time a clear indication of when a trial is deemed to be finished. [See also new rule 187.17 for the javelin]

***Completion of trials***

180.7. The judge shall not raise a white flag to indicate a valid trial until a trial is completed. The completion of a valid trial shall be determined as follows:

- (a) in the case of vertical jumps, once the judge has determined that there is no failure according to Rules 182.2, 183.2 or 183.4;
- (b) in the case of horizontal jumps once the athlete leaves the landing area in accordance with Rule 185.1;
- (c) in the case of throwing events, once the athlete leaves the circle or runway in accordance with Rule 187.17.

16. **Rule 180.7 – alternate methods of conducting HJ and PV competitions**

Most competition organisers, if they wish, may now conduct vertical jumps competitions validly in different formats – ie an athlete might be limited to a maximum of say six trials or perhaps a set number of heights.

AA will shortly providing guidance as to how such competitions should be conducted in Australia. The idea of course is to provide for shorter sharper vertical jump competitions in some competitions. It is not envisaged that this will be applied to international meets or major national championships.

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

Two new notes are added to make it clear that:

- (a) for the first trial of an athlete on entering the competition only one minute will be allowed, regardless of how many athletes remain;
- (b) when working out how many athletes remain this should included all athletes who might have already finished jumping but who could be involved in a jump off for first place.

18. **Rule 181.8(c) – starting height for vertical jump jump-off**

A jump off will now begin at the “next scheduled” height according to the stated progressions after the height last cleared by the athletes rather than at the lowest height at which any of them were eliminated.

Heights announced by the Chief Judge at the beginning of competition: 1.75m; 1.80m; 1.84m; 1.88m; 1.91m; 1.94m; 1.97m; 1.99m...

Athlete	Heights				Failures	Jump Off		Pos				
	1.75m	1.80m	1.84m	1.88m		1.91m	1.94m					
	1.89m	1.91m					1.97m	1.91m				
A	O	XO	O	XO	X-	XX	2	X	O	X	2	
B	-	XO	-	XO	-	-	XXX	2	X	O	O	1
C	-	O	XO	XO	-	XXX	2	X	X			3
D	-	XO	XO	XO	XXX		3					4

O = Cleared                      X = Failed                      - = Did not Jump

19. **Rule 183.2 new note – pole vault pole touching landing area**

This note makes it clear that if the pole touches the landing area in the course of the attempt after being properly planted in the box, it is not a failure.

*Please note that this is intended to clarify at least those situations where the pole on bending touches the landing area and where the pole having been planted then “jumps” out of the box onto the runway or landing area. It is a clarification designed to prevent failures being called in such situations. It is not intended to cover a new technique (ie as is the case with the “banning” of the cartwheel shot put style).*

20. **Rule 185.2/Rule 187.17 – leaving LJ/TJ pit and throwing circles/runway**

Previous words in Rule 185.2 are moved to Rule 185.1 as a new note and a completely new sub rule is added to define when an athlete is considered to have left the pit correctly.

185.2 When leaving the landing area, an athlete's first contact by foot with its border or the ground outside shall be further from the take-off line than the nearest break in the sand (see Rule 185. 1(f)).  
*Note: This first contact is considered leaving.*

Note is added to Rule 187.17 to define when an athlete is considered to have left the circle/runway correctly.

21. **Rule 187.9/187.17 – javelin runway**

There is no longer any maximum length of the javelin runway.

A new marking is to be added to javelin runways four metres back from the end points of the throwing arcs to assist in determining when an athlete has left the runway.

*The idea of this change is solely to speed up measuring if athletes choose not to leave the runway quickly.*

22. **Rule 188.1 – shot put cartwheeling techniques**

The recently developed shot putting techniques where athletes cartwheeled (in lieu of a glide) within the circle before putting implements have been banned.

*Health and safety factors were the reasons for this decision.*

23. **Rule 191 – Hammer handles**

Further modifications have been made to the specifications of the approved hammer handles. The new hammer handle design will come into force from 1.1.2008.

*If supplies are again not available by that date, AA will issue an appropriate directive at the time.*

24. **Rule 230 – Road Walk courses**

For almost all competitions now, road walk courses can now be between 1 and 2.5km in length rather than between 2 and 2.5km as previously provided..

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

Timing by transponders can now be validly used for road running and road walking events.

## **NEW IAAF HANDBOOKS**

The IAAF will finalise the new Handbook after its November 2007 Council meeting. As soon as it becomes available, all Member Associations and AA Officials Education Liaison Officers will be provided with a copy of the current working draft, in addition to the full document listing the rule changes, which has already been distributed.

## **AA GENERAL RULES**

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

#### **IMPLEMENTATION IN AUSTRALIA**

The new IAAF rules, come into effect internationally on 1.1.2008. However, the Rules are effective immediately in Australia (ie as from 1.10.07), with the exception that the new hammer handles are not mandatory until 1.1.2008. Where officials and competition committees become aware of these changes later than this date they should be implemented from such date and certainly by no later than 1.12.07.

The new rules will be applied at all national events (including the 2007 Australian All Schools/Youth and SKO National Final) held after 1.10.07. The appointed Technical Delegate for the AWD Under Age Championships will determine whether any of the changes should not apply to that event in 2007.

If suppliers are unable to deliver the new hammer handles by 1.1.08, AA will advise an amended timetable for their introduction.

Brian Roe  
AA Hon. Technical Officer  
31 October 2007