



Comité Nacional de Jueces
Comisión de Salidas

AMENDMENTS TO IAAF COMPETITION RULES 2018-2019: STARTS

Seminar for starters
Firenze / ITA
January 2018



IAAF Rules (edition 2018-2019)

Text in black:

OFFICIAL RULES

Text in green:

IAAF SUGGESTIONS

Rule 118

International Starter and International Photo Finish Judge

- At all competitions under ..., an International Starter shall be appointed respectively by IAAF, the relevant Area Association or governing body.
- The International Starter shall start the races (and undertake any other duties) assigned to him by the Technical Delegate(s) and shall supervise the checking and operation of the Start Information System.

Whilst the IS takes on all the powers and duties of the Starter when starting any race to which he is allocated, he does not either then or at any other time **replace or have the power to override the Start Referee.**

Rule 125

Referees

1. One (or more) Referee(s), as appropriate, shall be appointed for the A Track Referee appointed to oversee the starts is designated the Start Referee.

At meetings where sufficient officials are available so that more than one Referee is appointed for the races, it is strongly recommended that one of them is appointed as the Start Referee. To be clear the Start Referee in such circumstances should exercise all the powers of the Referee in relation to the start and is not required to report to or act through any other track Referee when doing so.

Rule 125

Referees

However, if only one Referee is appointed to oversee the races of a certain competition, and considering the powers he has, it is strongly recommended that the Referee be positioned in the start area during each start (at least for those events using a crouch start) to witness any eventual problem that may occur and to take any decision needed to solve it. This will be easier when an IAAF certified start information system is in use.

Rule 125

Referees

If not, and if the Referee will not have time to place himself in line with the finish line after the start procedure (as in 100m, 100/110m hurdles and 200m), and foreseeing the possible need for the Referee to decide placings, a good solution may be to have the Start Coordinator (who should have an extensive experience as a starter) being appointed to also act as Start Referee

Rule 125

Referees

2. Referees shall ensure that the Rules and Regulations ...
The Referee shall not act as a Judge or Umpire but may take any action or decision according to the Rules based on his own observations and may overrule a decision of a Judge.

It should be carefully noted that it is not necessary for a Referee to have received a report from a Judge or Umpire in order to make a disqualification. He may act at all times by his own direct observation.

Rule 125

Referees

5. The applicable Referee shall have authority to warn or exclude from competition ...

... in cases where a Referee is aware that the athlete in question has already received a yellow card during the competition and he proposes 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.

START REFEREE

Summary of suggestions

- if more than one Referee for races → convenient to appoint one of them as Start Referee
- if appointed Start Referee → he/she will exercise all the powers of the Referee in relation to the starts
- if only one Referee for races → he/she must be positioned in the start area (at least in crouch starts)
- if no Start Referee or Referee for races not in the start area → good solution that Start Coordinator (large experience as starter) takes the place of Start Referee

START REFEREE

Summary of suggestions

- Start Referee must act by his/her own direct observation
- Start Referee has to receive information of yellow cards shown before by other Referees
- In case of yellow card to an athlete which received another yellow card in prior events → red card (DQ)
- Procedure: first > yellow card, and then > red card

(if Referee has not knowledge of a yellow card for the warned athlete in prior events → not showing a red card will not invalidate the Referee's decision)

START COORDINATOR, STARTER AND RECALLERS (START TEAM)

Rule 129 No amendments, **suggestions** (*summary*):

- All members of the start team must know how the rules should be interpreted
- All members must have clear the procedures to follow when implementing the rules
- All members must understand the respective duties and roles of each member of the team (incl. Starter and Start Referee)
- Meeting the whole start team after “0-Gun test” to remind all those matters, and before start the competition

START COORDINATOR, STARTER AND RECALLERS (START TEAM)

Rule 129 No amendments, *suggestions (summary):*

- Primary responsibility of Starter and Recallers → that the start was fair and equitable for all competitors
- Starter's commands: athletes must heard them clearly and cleanly (not shouting neither low voice)
- Starter (Start Referee too) has to determine is start is fair or not → **Starter takes that decision (not SIS)**
- Recaller may recall a start but has not the above power → must report his/her observations to the Starter → Starter will decide

START REFEREE

Powers

- Start Referee has exactly the same powers that any other Referee but its jurisdiction is ONLY over the starts
 - decide on any fact related to starts if not agree with start team's decisions → Start Referee may overrule Starter's decisions
 - in cases where SIS is in use, and informs a false start which seems not real → has to determine if that information provided by the SIS is inaccurate or not, and, consequently, NOT VALID or VALID
- >> *necessary to have large experience as starter*

START REFEREE

Rule 146.4 Protests and Appeals

- **Immediate oral protest against being charged with a false start:**
 - Referee may – if he/she is in any doubt - allow the athlete to run “under protest”
 - Not allow to run “under protest” if false start indicated by SIS (except in cases where is evident that information provided by SIS is inaccurate)

START REFEREE

Rule 146.4 Protests and Appeals

- Protests based on the failure of Starter to recall a false start or, under Rule 162.5, to abort a start:
 - may be made **only** by athlete who has completed the race

- If the protest is **UPHELD**:
 - athlete who committed false start → DISQUALIFIED, or
 - athlete responsible for the start being aborted → WARNED

START REFEREE

Rule 146.4 Protests and Appeals

- **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
 - ✓ part of the event be held again - if in his/her opinion justice demands it - (in those cases, excluding the disqualified athlete, if it was any)

START REFEREE

Rule 146.4 Protests and Appeals

- if protest or appeal based on an incorrect exclusion from an event due to a false start and it is upheld after the completion of the race:
 - athlete should be afforded to run on his own to record a time and, if applicable, be advanced to subsequent rounds

No athlete should be advanced to a subsequent round without competing (unless Referee or Jury of Appeal determines otherwise under particular circumstances of the case)

START REFEREE

Rule 146.4 Protests and Appeals

Oral protests at the start: factors to be considered

1. Referee's own visual judgement
2. consult information provided by SIS
3. consult with Starter and Recallers if something unfair has been observed by them
4. **take the decision related to that protest**

Rule 161

Starting blocks

- Starting blocks shall be used for When in position on the track, no part of the starting block shall overlap the start line or extend into another lane, **with the exception that, provided there is no obstruction to any other athlete, the rear part of the frame may extend beyond the outer lane line.**

Interpretation:

(a) no part of the frame/footplates can overlap a starting line

(b) the frame only (but not any part of the footplate) can extend into the outer lane provided there is no obstruction.

Starts on bend: athletes placing their blocks at an angle to run the most direct line after the start.

Rule 162 The Start

162.1 No amendments, suggestions:

- ✓ in order to efficiently complete the start procedures and to appropriately introduce the competitors in the race the athletes, when assembled, should be standing and facing in the direction of the race.

Rule 162 The Start

162.2 No amendments, suggestions:

- ✓ Starter must not initiate the start procedures before checking that: timing team, finish judges and Wind Gauge Operator (races up to 200m) are ready → if Start Coordinator appointed, he/she is the responsible for that checking.
- ✓ Communication process between start area – finish area – timing, varies according to the level of competition

Rule 162 The Start

162.3 No amendments, suggestions:

- ✓ Races using a crouch start, as soon as athletes are steady in their blocks:
 - 1) Starter shall raise his/her arm in which he holds the gun
 - 2) then, he/she shall say “Set”
 - 3) he/she shall wait then for all the athletes to be steady
 - 4) then, he/she shall fire the gun
- ✓ Starter must not raise his arm too early (especially when manual Timekeepers). He/she should raise his/her arm only when he/she feels about to give the command “Set”.

Rule 162 The Start

162.3 suggestions (follows):

- ✓ There is no rule to determine the time elapsed between the commands “On your marks” and “Set”; same between the command “Set” and the gun shot.
- ✓ Starter shall let the athletes go once they are all motionless in the correct starting position → sometimes the gun can be fired quickly, but some times, it is necessary to wait longer to make sure that athletes are all steady in their starting position.

Rule 162 The Start

162.4 No amendments

162.5

- Where an athlete in the judgement of the Starter,
 - (a) after the command “On your marks” or “Set”, and before the report of the gun ... ; or
 - (b) fails to comply with the commands ... ; or
 - (c) after the command “On your marks” or “Set” disturbs other athletes in the race through sound, **movement** or otherwise,the Starter shall abort the start.

Rule 162 The Start

162.5

- The Referee may warn the athlete for improper conduct (disqualify in case of a second infringement of the Rule during the same competition), according to Rules 125.5 and 145.2. **A green card shall not be shown.** However, when an extraneous reason was considered to be the cause for aborting the start, or the Referee does not agree with the Starter's decision, a green card shall be shown to all the athletes to indicate that a false start was not committed by any athlete.

Rule 162 The Start

162.5 suggestions:

- ✓ The division of the start Rules into **disciplinary matters** (under Rule 162.5) and **false starts** (Rules 162.7 and 162.8) ensures that the whole field was not penalised for the actions of a single athlete. It is important in order to maintain the integrity of the intention of this division and that Starters and Referees are as diligent in the application of Rule 162.5 as well as in detecting false starts.
- ✓ Such conduct, whether wilful or unintentional perhaps through nervousness, should cause Rule 162.5 to be applied although where the Starter is of the view that it was unintentional, the application of Rule 162.2(c) only **may be appropriate**.

Rule 162 The Start

162.5 suggestions:

- ✓ Conversely, there will be instances in which an athlete is entitled to request a delay of the start **for legitimate reasons**. It is therefore vital that the Start Referee (in particular) pays attention to the environment and conditions surrounding the start, especially in relation to factors of which the Starter may not be aware because he is focussing on preparing himself for the start and/or wearing headphones.

Rule 162 The Start

162.5 suggestions:

- ✓ In all such cases the Starter and Referee must act **reasonably** and **efficiently** and **clearly indicate their decisions**. If appropriate, the reasons for the decisions can be announced to the athletes in the race and if possible or desirable also to the announcers, television team etc. through the communication network.
- ✓ **A green card shall not be shown in any case when a yellow or red card has been issued.**

Rule 162 The Start

162.6 *False Start*

When an IAAF certified Start Information System is in use, ...

- *Note: When an IAAF certified Start Information System is in operation, the evidence of this equipment shall ~~normally be accepted as conclusive by the Starter~~ be used as a resource by the relevant officials to assist in making a correct decision.*

162.7 *False Start*

An athlete, after assuming a full and final starting position, shall not commence his start **until after receiving the report of the gun**. If, in the judgement of the Starter (including under Rule 129.6), he does so any earlier, **it shall be a false start**.

Rule 162 The Start

162.7 False Start

Note (i): Any motion by an athlete that does not include or result in the athlete's foot / feet losing contact with the foot plate(s) of the starting blocks, or the athlete's hand / hands losing contact with the ground, shall not be considered to be the commencement of his start. Such instances may, if applicable, be subject to a disciplinary warning or disqualification.

However, if the Starter determines that prior to receiving the report of the gun an athlete initiated a movement that was not stopped and continued into the commencement of his start, it shall be a false start.

Rule 162 The Start

162.7 *False Start* suggestions:

- ✓ Generally, no false start should be charged if the athlete has not lost contact with the ground or foot plates. For example, if an athlete moves his hips up, but then moves them down without his hands or feet losing contact with the ground or foot plates at any time, it should not result in a false start. It **may be** a reason to warn (or disqualify if there has been a previous warning) the athlete for improper conduct under Rule 162.5.

Rule 162 The Start

162.7 *False Start* suggestions:

- ✓ However in cases of a “rolling start” where the Starter (or Recaller) is of the opinion that an athlete has effectively anticipated the start through some continuous movement even if he did not move his hands or feet before the gun sounded, the race **should be recalled**. This can be done by a Starter or Recaller but it will be the Starter who is in the best situation to judge such a case as only he will know the position of his finger on the gun trigger when the athlete began his movement. In these cases where the Starter is sure that the athlete’s movement began before the report of the gun, a false start **should be awarded**.

Rule 162 The Start

162.7 *False Start* suggestions:

- ✓ In accordance with Note (ii) Starters and Referees should avoid being over-zealous in the application of Rule 162.7 to those events started from a standing position. Such instances are rare and usually occur unintentionally as it is easier to overbalance from a two-point start. It is not intended that same should be unduly penalised.
- ✓ If such a movement was considered to be accidental, Starters and Referees are encouraged to first consider calling the start “unsteady” and proceed according to Rule 162.2(c). However repeat practices during the same event may entitle the Starter and/or Referee to consider applying either the false start or disciplinary procedures, as might best be applicable in the situation.

Rule 162 The Start

162.8 No amendments

162.9 No amendments, suggestions:

- ✓ It is recommended that the size of the diagonally halved cards be **A5** and that they be **doubled sided**. Note that the corresponding indication on the lane marker(s) may remain yellow and red as previously, in order to avoid unnecessary expense in modifying existing equipment.

162.10 No amendments, suggestions:

- ✓ The reference to a fair start does not relate **solely** to cases of a false start. This rule should also be interpreted as applying to other situations such as blocks slipping, a foreign object interfering with one or more athletes during a start etc.