

EDITORIAL

European Athletics President Dobromir Karamarinov paid tribute to all the officials who are involved with European Athletics events in the last issue of Officials News. He also quite rightly acknowledged the officials who work so hard at our Member Federation's events that take place at national and local level.

It is this second group who I would like to focus us and say once again: "Your contribution to our sport in Europe is invaluable and very much appreciated." Our international televised events are the ones that get most of the attention from sports aficionados and the media, but national and local competitions are the bedrock of our sport.

very well-known international athlete, perhaps a medal winner at last summer's Olympic Games or someone who will climb onto the podium at next summer's Munich 2022 European Athletics Championships, will at some stage of his or her career have competed in club competitions, regional and national championships. Without this base of the competitive pyramid, the higher levels of our sport couldn't exist.

At European Athletics, we recognise this and salute everyone who officiates at these events.

I want to let you know that we are working harder than ever to develop our support structures for Member Federations, primarily in education, so that they can further develop the current and next generation of officials who are involved in national and local competitions. In addition, in conjunction with these activities, European Athletics is continuing its work promoting gender equality within the ranks of officials at all levels and is in the process of establishing initiatives that will acknowledge local officials who often serve our sport without much visible recognition other than a few words of thanks.

Jean Gracia
European Athletics First Vice President

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RULE OF THE MONTH

Lane Infringement: A step beyond

At least 34 years have passed since the first proposal was made to the IAAF Technical Committee concerning making contact with a bend, the inside line of a lane or the ground inside the kerb or any applicable border, especially in middle distance races.



Photo Source: Getty Images

The cases have followed one another over the years at a constant rate with sensational cases such as what happened during the 2018 World Indoor Championships in Birmingham or some reinstatements that took place in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, up to recent doubtful cases at the 2019 World Athletics Championships in Doha and in various continental competitions. In some cases, the interpretations of the jury have changed decisions made by the Video Referee, sometimes with questionable evaluations, considering that the rule in force until 31 October 2021 justified only the cases in which the athlete was jostled or obstructed.

Hence World Athletics' intervention in this field which represents the main novelty of the group of changes introduced from 1 November 2021. But what has the World Athletics Council ruled? And what are the questions that arise from reading the new Rule 17?

From the beginning of November, in all races run in lanes, an athlete that touches the line on their left **once**, or the kerb or line marking the inside border on a bend or, in all races (or any part of races not run in lanes),

steps once on (or completely over) the kerb or line marking the applicable border, shall not be disqualified.

Of course, this should happen without gaining material advantage and no other athlete being jostled or obstructed so as to impede their progress.

What does it mean substantially? That if an athlete in races up to 400m, including any leg of a relay run entirely in lanes, is touching with their shoe the inner line in any way on the bend (the straights are not considered for the aim of this Rule), this will not result in a disqualification, even if 90% of the shoe is over the line but 10% is still in contact.

And if the shoe is completely over and the Video Referee or the Umpires do not see any contact with the same line? In this case it's a straight DQ, no discussion about it. Some contact with the line (depicted by the outline of the relevant part of the shoe or foot) is required for this exception to apply. If this is not the case, then the exception does not apply. And for the other races, including the 800m after the break from lanes? The



new Rule shows itself more sympathetic, allowing the athlete to step once completely over the line, forgiving a possible error due to fatigue or group running. This, and the previous situation, are shown in the picture below.

In the 800m, it does not really matter if the first instance is made in the section run in lanes and the second in the part not run in lanes (or both in the part run in lanes or in the part not run in lanes), only one infringement will be allowed and any second one will lead to disqualification.

So how many times is this action permitted? Could an athlete be allowed to have more than one infringement in a race? **Definitely not!**

In races with multiple rounds, such an infringement may be made only once during all rounds of an event by a particular athlete without the disqualification of that athlete. A second infringement will result in the disqualification of that athlete whether it was made in

the same round or in another round of the same event. In the case of relays, any second step (as described in this Rule 17.4.3 and 17.4.4 of the Technical Rules) by an athlete who is a member of a team, regardless of whether it was committed by the same or different athletes, will result in the disqualification of the team whether it happens in the same round or in another round of the same event.

This means that the “wild card” expires after the first infringement and from the second one it’s no longer possible to avoid disqualification, whether you are an athlete or a team.

Something else to remember about this rule change? Yes!

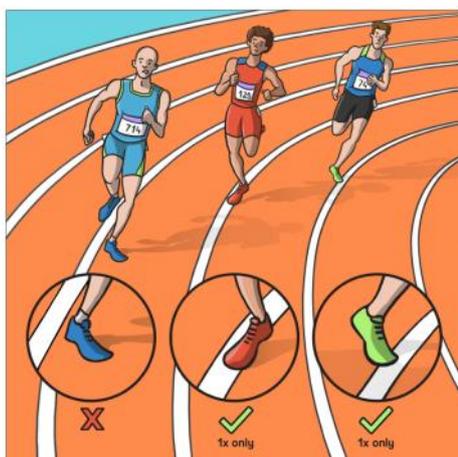
If a material advantage is gained, the athlete (or team) shall be disqualified, even if they only touched or went over once. They cannot use this bonus to receive a benefit that without it they would not have been able to obtain, such as getting out from a boxed position.

How will this affect our “technical” papers? The symbol to be used is “L” (for Lane Infringement). It should be printed in the same column where the YC and YRC go. “L” means a first infringement and no need for any special symbol for a second infringement because that constitutes a DQ. So, if two infringements are committed in the same race, we can use the “L” in the mentioned column and then the DQ at its

usual place. If it is in the following round, then only the DQ needs to be written.

The affected documents are: first round results and summaries, semifinal start-lists, results and summaries, final start-lists and results.

What happens if a record is achieved? If an athlete or relay team achieves a record time and, in that race, that athlete (or any athlete in the relay team) made a single infringement under Rules 17.4.3 or 17.4.4 of the Technical Rules, and in the case of an event with more than one round it was the first infringement in the event, the record can stand and could be recognised by World Athletics if no other issues occurred).



If the athlete or relay team achieves a record time and, in that race, an infringement occurred more than once or the athlete or relay team carried over such infringement from a previous round of the same event, the record cannot be ratified.

Keeping a record of the history of the event through the round remains crucial also for record purposes. At the end of the discussion, there are two last questions that arise spontaneously:

Will the rule change benefit the image of athletics? We can say yes, without fear of denial. In the past it has been difficult for our audience to understand how even a small mistake, without any obvious advantage, could affect a medal or even a record performance. For everyone, from fans to athletes to team members, it’s clear that a chance is given not to affect the performance of the athletes, being clear that this remains one and only one.

Secondly: will the new amendment change the way of judging these situations? We would say no. The activity of the umpires and video referees will always be based on the verification of infringements. It was just a matter of moving the bar to a higher position and allowing an infringement. Nothing changes in the evaluation of the infringements but only in the management of the process. The first practical applications in all fields around the world will tell us if further clarification is needed.

By Luca Verrascina



BEST PRACTICE 1: Tokyo Olympic Games, a personal account of being Technical Delegate

My activities for Tokyo2020 started in the spring of 2018, when I first visited Tokyo with a small team from World Athletics Head Quarters and with Luis Saladie and Frederico Nantes as experienced Technical Delegates colleagues.

The Olympic Stadium wasn't finished at the time, so we could only discuss 'on the dry' about the competition, presentation and event operations. However, we were able to inspect and give advice on the training facilities at Edogawa and Yoyogi park and the proposed marathon and race-walking courses.

Well, as everyone knows, after Doha 2019 we ended up in Sapporo with the out-of-stadium events. This strong steering by IOC also became apparent when in the run-up to the event, World Athletics had to partly concede to having several finals in the morning sessions.

By late December 2019 the Olympic stadium opening took place and we visited Tokyo again and this time also Sapporo, to start detailing the allocation of rooms and spaces, the flows, and the action at both venues.

The COVID pandemic halted everything until early 2021 when things started to accelerate through a decision by the Japanese government. Preparations and consultation between the Athletics Sport Team of Tokyo2020 and WA representatives were hugely facilitated through the by-then common practice of online sessions, supported by email exchanges of relevant documents. The Japanese team deserves compliments for this!

To be honest, the level of detail of the preparations was totally new to me. Whereas for one-day meetings and for the less large events a lot is left to the LOC, here the Olympic machinery dictated much of the production and technology used and the whole of the event branding.



A heap of cables to still be cleared from the FOP

I also detected the stark difference between the Japanese and European management styles. While Europeans tend to find out much through the trial-and-error approach, with a plan B or even C to fall back on, the Japanese tend to discuss and prepare everything in minute detail for plan A

only. A typical risk-avoiding approach contrasting with risk-accepting management. On top of that, a much stricter hierarchical approach made reaching decisions a lengthier process. One of the risk mitigating actions of WA was to enlist our colleague Chris Cohen as the Competition

Director. Another was to make sure that to facilitate communication, an assistant-CD with a good mastery of English would liaise between Chris and the Field Of Play, where most National Technical Officials did not have that level of English.

Chris' role was also of huge importance to close the gaps in the understanding of NTOs about WA compliant competition procedures, e.g. placement in the FOP, call room procedures and athlete flow to the FOP.

After successful test-events early May 2021 in Sapporo and Tokyo, both held under strict COVID protocols, by July's end we finally landed in Tokyo for 'the real thing'. The test-event had helped to straighten out many of the issues but as sure as one and one is two, new issues surfaced. As usual, a repeating chore was assuring the FOP got emptied before each session start but working together with the experienced teams from Swiss Timing and ATOS, as well as with the Finnish Television producers for OBS in the end made for great television images. Of course, COVID played a role too.

A specific replacement protocol was established relating to COVID withdrawals and a close-contacts list was circulated each day, to make sure that contact would be restricted. Anyone wanting so can still study the strict measures in the appropriate Play Books but having undergone a 6-day quarantine before the test-event I can tell you to better avoid that! The situation also asked for a different conduct of the Technical Meeting and communication with the teams. The experience of the Torun 2021 European Athletics Indoor Championships was very helpful to develop a proper approach. This time, however, not serving 51 countries but over 200! And just this week we heard that there is now a strong drive to more and better e-TIC procedures to avoid the difficulties that can arise with delivery of paperwork by the teams to the TIC.



Action pictures from the TD-room

Just imagine the transport and traffic issues that always seem to arise as a cause of late arriving papers.

Before finishing I should thank my colleague TDs Luis and Fred for all that I learned from them, Chris for his calm and thorough lead of the competitions and the World Athletics teams for all the support; some of them had a lot of work with the 'shoes rule'. And I sincerely thank and congratulate the team of ITOs, the referees, that did a tremendous job in Tokyo under the lead of Jorge Salcedo. They withstood the heat in the stadium and kept concentrated on performing their tasks as a great team. Well done!

Then, to finish my account, here's a question: 'Why did we have a one-line start of the 5000m and 10,000m in Tokyo? The answer can be found below.



By Sylvia Barlag
Technical Delegate for Tokyo 2020



Team of International Technical Officials,
 including TDs and CD

About the start of two groups at 5000m and 10,000m

The Japanese Equipment Facility Committee considers that the starting conditions for the outer and inner groups should be the same, i.e. the outer group should have the same kerb on the left hand side as the inner group. This is why the kerbs are lined up instead of cones.

- The rules state that if there is no kerb inside the first lane or if it is to be removed, cones must be lined up at intervals of no more than 4 metres to indicate to competitors.

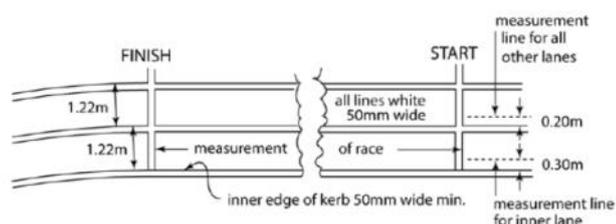


Figure TR14 (Rule 160) - Track measurements (infield view)

outside the 4-lane line. The start line is drawn from the break line at a distance equal to 1 lane.

- Strictly speaking, therefore, if the substitute kerb is to be a cone, the start line of outer group will have to be redrawn.



Photo 1

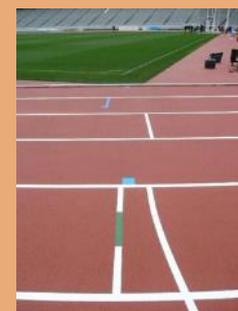


Photo 2

- For the start of long-distance races in two groups, the Japanese stadiums are designed to be lined with blocks, which are substitute kerbs.
- As the blocks are lined with a height of 5cm in place of the kerb, the distance is measured 30cm outside the kerb, as in lane 1.
- In the case of two groups separated by a cone, the start line of the outer group is measured 20cm

The first photo shows the start line for the outer group in a stadium designed for the use of cones not kerbs.

On the other hand, Photo 2 is an image of the start line for the outer group in an Olympic stadium designed for the use of kerbs.

Because of this difference, the use of cones to separate the groups would mean that the lines would have to be redrawn, which would be extremely difficult from a budgetary and work schedule point of view.

EVENT OF THE MONTH: Vertical Jumps

There are some myths in athletics that are repeated from time to time and that it might be interesting to try and clarify them.

Two of those myths have to do with the High Jump.

■ The first refers to the moment in which it is determined whether an attempt is valid or not when the crossbar is trembling, on the supports because of the action of the athlete whilst jumping.

There are athletes, and not only in grassroots categories, that in those situations in which the bar is trembling they flee the landing area with the false and erroneous belief that if the bar ends up falling when they have left the landing area, the attempt will not be considered a failure.

It should be clarified that it is independent of where the athlete is to declare the attempt as valid or a failure - what is relevant in this case is that the bar does not remain on the supports because of the action of the athlete whilst jumping (TR 27.2.1)

Going deeper into this issue, it must also be said that the Chief Judge can reconsider the decision on the validity of the attempt in cases in which they decree an attempt as valid with the crossbar still shaking by the athlete's action and finally (after having raised the white flag) the bar ends up falling to the ground. Obviously in these cases the first adopted decision must be modified. (CR 19.2)



Photo source Getty Images

■ The second myth refers to some athletes who sometimes refuse to jump because they have not measured correctly their run and when they realise that they do not have time to jump again, they pass their hand under the bar, without touching the mat, considering that this action will be decreed as a failure.

Obviously, the rules say that for an attempt to be considered as a failure, the landing area must be touched before clearing the bar (TR 27.2.2).

■ What follows is not a myth, but it is an interesting situation. It is the one that has to do with jump off.

For this we can throw the memory slightly back, it is enough to go back to last August at the Tokyo Olympics. When the two athletes are completely tied for first place and agree not to continue jumping after hearing the explanation about the status of the competition given by the Referee; which gives them both the status of Olympic champions.



This situation provoked very different opinions among supporters and detractors of the decision. International regulations already provide that this situation may occur and in fact it is expressly regulated.

This rule was born out with the intention of avoiding the repetition of situations such as those that occurred in international competitions in which athletes were dedicated to knocking the bar down or letting the time exceed to get a red flag. What caused a not very sporty situation and not recommended for the proper development of the competition and that damages the image of the sport.

Like many issues in our sport, this is a widely debated and debatable one. I consider that the rule has more advantages in general than the possible disadvantage of the two athletes who give up jumping to share the first place. In my opinion, that is always preferable than having a succession of voluntary and agreed takedowns of the crossbar in the infield by the athletes which besides does not resolve a tie.

Anyway, time to discuss is open.

By Antonio Perez

TECHNOLOGY OF THE MONTH : Head-on-camera

Most of us know how the photo finish works and how this technology helps to assign times for athletes with high accuracy and in a short lapse of time.

When races are held in lanes, even taking into account that the athletes are arriving at the finish line tighter than in races not run completely in lanes, there is some extra information that helps judges working behind the photo-finish to identify each athlete more easily.

The most prominent one is the fact that it is easy to match an athlete with the lane he or she is running in. Also, hip numbers can help in some cases to avoid mistakes in the interpretation of the lanes when they are not unstuck or hidden by another athlete.

For events not finishing in lanes, the process of the identification of the athlete can be more complicated and for many years the work from lap scorers has been crucial. For those events, there needs to be a careful check that the numbers have been allocated carefully - sometimes there is more than one athlete in the same lane.

Moreover, the modern athletics spectacle has added difficulty for the work of the judges, replacing bib numbers with names or surnames that are not easy to read and write and then to have an accurate rank of the athletes in the event.



which is a video camera synchronized with the photo-finish cameras.

Usually, this camera is installed next to the infield scoreboard that is some metres after the finish line, but other locations are sometimes used as well.

This camera records the finish line at least as far out as lane six. Judges, photographers, and others may well not be aware of the function of such a camera and may inadvertently stray into the line of vision of that camera at a critical time during the finish of a middle- or long-distance race.

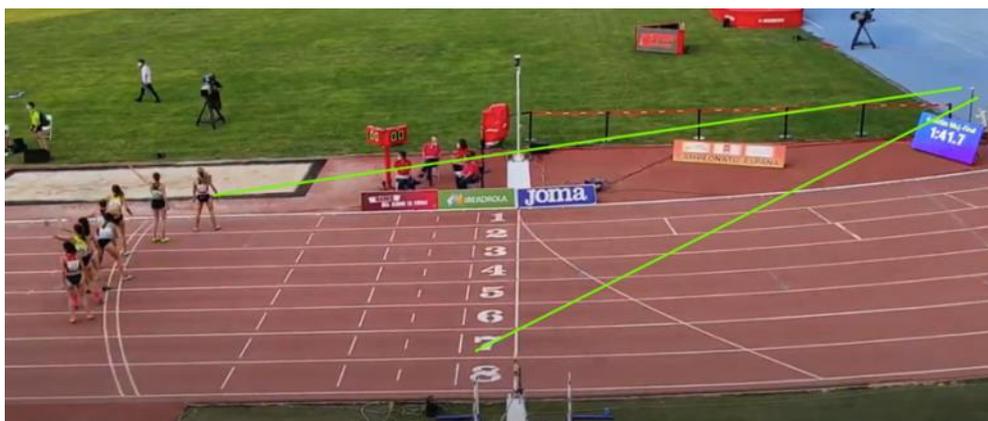
The use of this camera is not for track races only. It may be used to record changes of the baton for the final leg

of the medley relays and in the third and fourth legs in the 4 x 400m relay, (or under Rule 24.15.2 of the Technical Rules, also the second leg).

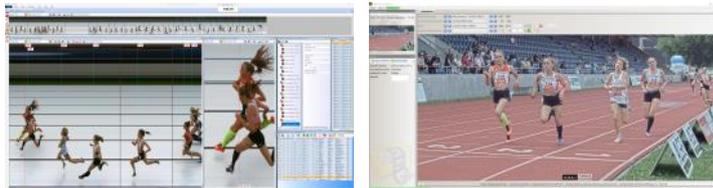
From this view below, it is easy to see if there has been an infringement of Rule 24.20 of the Technical Rules: *"The athletes running shall under the direction of a designated official, place themselves in their waiting position in the same order (inside to out) as the order of their respective team members as they enter the last bend. Once the incoming athletes have passed this point, the waiting athletes shall maintain their order, and shall not exchange positions at the beginning of the takeover zone. If an athlete does not follow this Rule, their team shall be disqualified."*



Fortunately, technology helps us in the process of identifying order synchronisation of the pictures taken from Photo-Finish with pictures obtained from a head-on camera



Screenshot of IDCam OPTIc3 (ALGE)



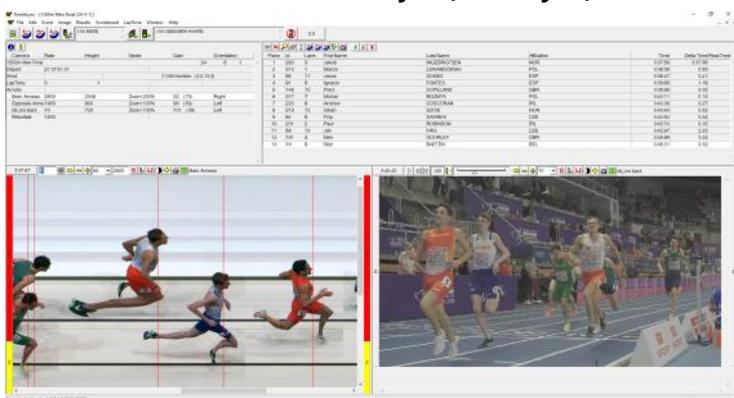
In the picture, note the fence installed from the scoreboard to the finish line to avoid people obstructing the head-on camera. This is a good practice, but sometimes not enough. Then to have somebody taking care of keeping the restricted area clear is useful.

But sometimes the video camera frame does not show relevant information to identify the athlete, and it may be necessary to go forward or rewind to get the frame where the bib can be read. In the following pictures, there is an example of a cross-country event, and how a tight group of five athletes is identified.

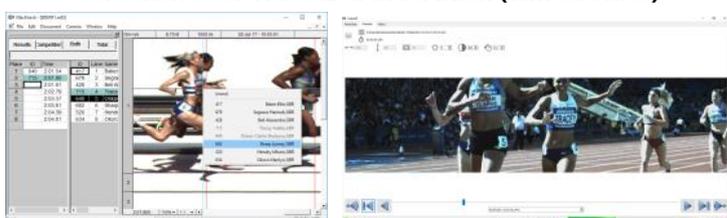
As the cursor on the image on the read computer is moved, the image from the video camera is advanced to the same elapsed time automatically. The image from this camera should be made available for scrutiny close to the screen showing the image from the main photo-finish camera.



Screenshot of IdentiLynx (FinishLynx)



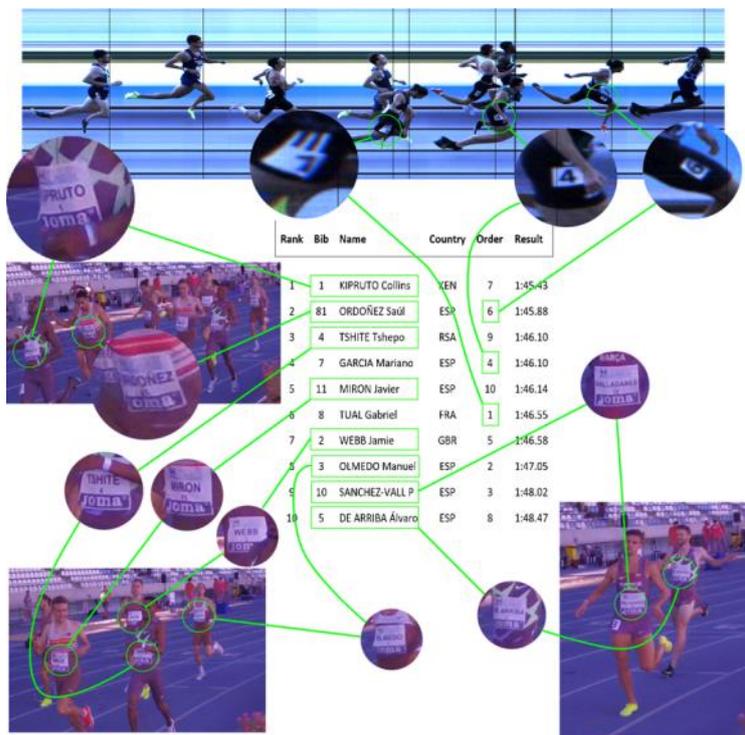
Screenshot of VideoID II MacFinish (Timetronics)



Screenshot of Scaider Camera HD Scan'O'Vision (Swiss Timing)



Things become more difficult when there are family names instead of numbers on the bibs. In case of a championship, athletes wearing hip numbers as well as name bibs can help to identify them. In the following example, there is a race in a meeting where the combination of hip numbers and bibs with family names was enough to decide the rank. Moreover when there are live results to stadium scoreboards and the internet, then it is highly recommended to judge in order of rank:



Rank	Bib	Name	Country	Order	Result
1	1	KIPRUTO Collins	KEN	7	1:45.43
2	81	ORDÓÑEZ Saúl	ESP	6	1:45.88
3	4	TSHITE Tshepo	RSA	9	1:46.10
4	7	GARCIA Mariano	ESP	4	1:46.10
5	11	MIRON Javier	ESP	10	1:46.14
6	8	TUAL Gabriel	FRA	1	1:46.55
7	2	WEBB Jamie	GBR	5	1:46.58
8	3	OLMEDO Manuel	ESP	2	1:47.05
9	10	SANCHEZ-VALL P	ESP	3	1:48.02
10	5	DE ARRIBA Alvaro	ESP	8	1:48.47

Main manufactures of photo-finish systems have head-on camera systems integrated with the main photo-finish software. This is the comparison of characteristics of the most commonly used systems in Europe:



By Iker Martinez

European Athletics Photo-Finish Judge

Characteristics	Alge	FinishLynx	Timetronics	Swiss Timing
Head-on camera name	IDCam	Identilynx XR+	VideoID II	Scaider Camera HD
Photo Finish SW	OPTic3	FinishLynx	MacFinish	Scan'O'Vision
Max resolution (px)	2592x1944	2592x1944@15fps 1920x1080@30fps	1280x1024	1920x1080
Max FPS	30	30	60	25
Synchronization with photo finish Software	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Auto-iris	Yes	Yes	Digital	Yes
Remote zoom	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Remote focus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Lens specifications	4-8mm	2.8-8.5mm f/1.2	N/S	12x zoom
Power type	PoE	PoE	PoE	PoE
Dimensions WxHxD (mm)	214x80x57	69x70.1x128.8	150x150x110	76x79x187
Weight (g)	750	165	470	485
Operating Temperature	-10° to +55°C	0° to +45°C	0° to 45°C	-5° to 45°C
Protection class	N/S	Not rated (protective case available)	N/S	IP43
Certifications	CE/UL/FCC Class A	UL, cUL, FCC Class A, CE, RoHS 2	N/S	CE and RoHS



OFFICIALS NEWS

ROLE OF THE MONTH :

The course measurer - "the invisible official"?

In this article I would like to tell something about an official you won't see performing or not doing his job at the stadium. I'm talking about a course measurer. A course measurer is an official who's not needed at the track as a track has been laid out and measured officially.

A course measurer does his or her job outside the stadium at the road races and race walk courses. Besides the fact that a course measurer isn't acting at the stadium, a measurer is acting most of the time at night or early morning when measuring courses and therefore he or she is hard to find and can not to be seen in day time...so maybe a course measurer is an "invisible official".

Before going into the tasks before and during the races it would be good to go into a very short history and method. Later I would like to share some of my experiences.

■ Calibrated bicycle method.

The measurements we do, are done by bike on which a counter, a so-called Jones counter, is mounted.



The calibrated bicycle method was invented in the 1960s by the Englishman John Jewell and US Ultra runner Ted Corbitt.

After studying several methods John Jewell concluded that the calibrated bicycle method was and still is the most accurate method to measure distances on the road. It took until 1973 before a device could be produced. In that year 30 pieces were made. The first big marathon measured with this device was the Olympic marathon of Montreal in 1976.

This Jones counter which was named after Alan and his son Clain, who invented it, is mounted onto the front axle of a bike.

The counter consists of five or six digits and registers parts of a wheel revolution.



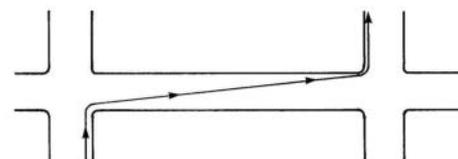
To measure with the counter you need to know what the distance of one count (one digit) represents. To find the length/distance of one count the counter should be calibrated on a laid-out course, preferably a straight line, which has been measured by EDM or a steel tape. This line/course should ideally have a length of 300 to 500 m. After riding this calibration course four times an average of the counts can be calculated for the length of calibration course. For example a 500 m has approx. 5500 counts at my bike and therefore approx. 11,000 counts for a kilometre. This means that one count is approx. 8.5-9.5 centimetres depending on the size of the wheel. To prevent a course being short at a verification measurement in case of a record we add 1m per kilometer during the initial measurement. This is called the Short Course Prevention Factor.

■ Pre-Race/preparation

Long before an event takes place a course measurer will go out on the course to measure. This will be done early in the morning. Mostly a Sunday morning when less traffic can be expected and the shortest possible line can be easily measured. The shortest line means as short as possible on the road which will be available on race day. Therefore the measurement will go "against the traffic", diagonal crossing a road and at turns 30 cm out of the curb, like the 400m line on a track. In fact the main task of a measurer is to make sure that the road course will not be shorter than the advertised distance.

Some examples of measuring the shortest line can be:

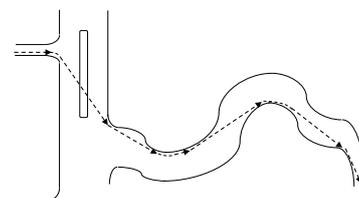
Diagonal from turn to turn:



From turn to turn 30 cm out of the curb:



Measured line on a bending road without barriers:



Find out more about measurement rules in article 240 of World Athletics Competition Rules.

To prepare the initial measurement of a race walk course or a lap course at a Championship I normally use Google Earth Pro and zoom in on the satellite images so it's possible to see the kerbs and lanes. Besides Google Earth, CAD files can be used as they are even more accurate and give a measurement with high accuracy.

With this preparation turnarounds with a specific radius can be planned and be painted on the road before measurement. As turnarounds normally occur at Championship (Race Walk) races it is easy to adjust a course. If a course or a lap is 5 metres short or long a turnaround only needs to be adjusted 2.5 metres forward or backwards.



OFFICIALS NEWS

After the measurement the blue print of the course is ready for race day.

■ At Championships

At Championships on the days before the event I go out with the local measurer and check if the course is still available as measured. We paint the planned turnarounds and/or cone positions. I have learned over the years that for the race walk events the surface is very important and therefore a course visit with the LOC, judges, TDs, athletes and coaches is normally planned and very important. During these visits we have discussions about turns, covering of drains, holes and road damage and so on, so there are no surprises.

During these visits small adjustments are common, a re-measurement is needed, and turnarounds are every now and then re-planned and painted again.

At race day the measurer goes out together with the LOC to lay-out the course and put out the cones. At least at a 1 or 2 km race walk course this can be done together. For a longer marathon loop the course and cones placement needs to be checked as there are normally more teams busy at the same time. After a course has been laid out and all cones are placed a last measurement will be done as close as possible to the start so an adjustment, if needed, can be done. If, for example a Race Walk loop is 2 metres long it will lead to 40 meter extra in the end at a 20 km race which is unacceptable and should be adjusted.

During the event I constantly check the course and cones as I have experienced that cones, especially if they are too light and small, will be blown away. This happened in the 20km race walk at at the 2019 and 2021 European Athletics U23 Championships.

As you can probably see course measurers feel responsible to make sure that a course has the length it should have. Besides this role at Championships, course measurers play an important role at, for instance, marathons where records are attacked. A course measurer should then follow the elite and validate and verify that the athlete has run the course as measured. See rule 260.20 and 260.21 of the Competition Rules.

■ Stories ...

Over the years I have been out on the streets at night to measure road races and Championships courses. During these measurements strange meetings or unexpected things happen.

In Casablanca at around 3.00am at approximately 15 kilometres we had to stop for a traffic light. While waiting a noise was heard just behind us. Two cars collided and one just missed us, passed us and came to a stand-still 50 m in front of us at the side of the road. The policemen who guided and protected us had a quick look and as the lights turned green we just went on....

In Rotterdam at 5.00am on a famous immense bridge which was free of traffic as the traffic had been stopped on both sides, you're cycling all alone against the traffic and feeling like the most important one of the town.

In Dubai at 3.00am during measuring and marking all intermediate kilometers a Hummer with two ladies going to a party passed by and drove for several minutes next to us asking all kind of questions of what we are doing. Luckily the roads are straight and we just went on doing our job and the chat didn't affect the measurement.

At the north of Lake Garda we started calibration very early morning at a cycle path. When riding the first 500 m

of the calibration course an escaped cow appeared on the path. It took quite a while to find someone to help and move the cow.

And maybe the nerdiest we did you'll see on the photo below. We had to divide the marathon course at the World Championships 2019 in Doha into two on three lanes for the up and down section. The cones needed to be placed for approximately 1500 m right in the middle of second lane so it would look nice on TV. We had a lot of cones in our golf car, and the most important thing, a stick, which was half the length of the width of a lane (approx. 1.66 m).

We drove along the white dotted line of the inner lane with the stick on this line. The other end of the stick was at the middle of middle lane and at the end of every second white dotted line I put down a cone. It looked very nice.



I hope I have given a short insight of the work of the "invisible official". I could have gone deep into the history, GPS, competitions rules but this would have made the article much too long. If anyone would like to know more about our work feel free to ask and contact me or my colleagues.

I hope to meet soon in good health.



By Maurice Winterman,

"A" grade course measurer.

BEST PRACTICE 2: Anti-doping Operations

When an event has no European Athletics appointed Doping Control Delegate, the oversight of anti-doping for that event falls to the Technical Delegate. Good preparation and planning is needed to ensure a successful outcome. It is a good idea to familiarise yourself with the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules and World Athletics Anti-Doping Protocols. More comprehensive information regarding anti-doping can be found in WADA's International Standard for Testing and Investigation, available from either the World Anti-Doping Agency website or from World Athletics website (Book of rules, Book D, Appendix 7).

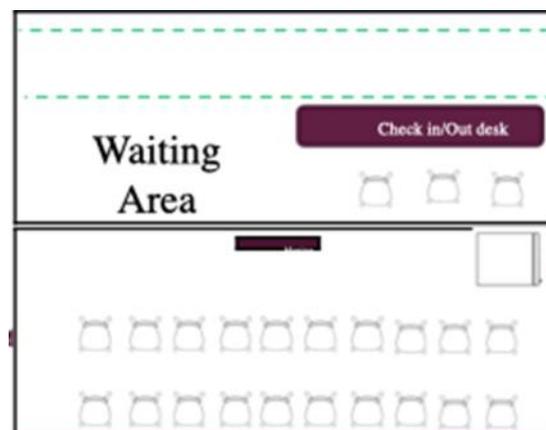
Before starting with the detail of testing at athletics events it is worth quickly reviewing the governance of anti-doping. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) set the rules and standards that all sports and Anti-Doping Organisations must comply with, WADA themselves do not conduct testing. Each country will have either a National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) or be part of a Regional Anti-Doping Organisation (RADO) who deliver anti-doping activities in their country. The Testing Authority (TA) at an event determines who is tested at a competition. The Testing Authority at European Athletics events is always World Athletics - Athletics Integrity Unit (WA-AIU) and they delegate the responsibility to European Athletics as a Delegated Third Party or Doping Control Coordinator.

This means at European Athletics events the EA Doping Control Delegate or, if none is appointed, the European Athletics Technical Delegate coordinates the doping control programme. The DCOs collecting samples at the event either work for the NADO/RADO or for a private sample collection company and must follow the instructions of the Testing Authority (in this case the EA Delegate) at an event.

Pre-Competition Planning

When discussing arrangements with the LOC you must discuss the following:

- **Facilities** - ensure that suitable facilities will be available for use as a Doping Control Station (DCS). They should comprise:
 - * Waiting area - this must have seating and be large enough to accommodate the number of athletes to be tested and their accompanying official.
 - * Drinks - sealed beverages must be provided for the athletes to rehydrate. Usually, sealed bottles of still water are best, carbonated drinks or fruit juices may also be provided. All drinks must be sealed, and it is not permitted for athletes to drink alcohol until the sample collection procedures are complete, so the drinks must be non-alcoholic.



- * Processing area - this is the area the Doping Control Officer (DCOs) work with the athlete to seal their urine sample after it has been provided. The area must be private from the waiting room and other processing areas and there should be sufficient for the number of tests being conducted.
- * Toilets - ideally, there should be a toilet for the sole use for doping control and it should be large enough to accommodate the athlete and the doping control officer. Disabled toilets are ideal.
- * Security - ensure procedures are in place to prevent unauthorised personnel accessing the DCS. Only DCOs, chaperones and athletes selected for doping control and their selected representative (if they choose to bring one) and/or an interpreter are permitted in the DCS. Depending on the location a security guard may be required.



OFFICIALS NEWS

- **Personnel** - There must also be adequate number of chaperones to notify and escort the athletes selected for doping control and Doping Control Officers (both genders) to witness and process the urine sample with the athlete. The LOC will appoint a Sample Collection Authority (SCA) (which is either a WADA compliant private sample collection company or a National Anti-Doping Organisation) who will provide the Doping Control Officers for the Competition.
- **Equipment** – Adequate amount of sample collection and processing equipment for the expected number of tests plus any extra tests, for example in the case of records, national requirements, or additional samples in the case of low specific gravity. It is always better to have more equipment than less!



Arrival on site

Once you arrive on site you should meet the person from



the LOC in charge of anti-doping and the Lead Doping Control Officer who will oversee the sample collection from the Sample Collection Authority. Together you should confirm:

- * The facilities are suitable and security arrangements are in place
- * You will also need to confirm that only authorised personnel will be given access to the Doping Control Station, depending on the location a security guard may be required.

Meeting with the Lead DCO

Whilst the Lead DCO will be very familiar with the collection of samples, they may not be familiar with the sport of athletics! You should provide the Lead DCO with a start list and explain the athlete flows, especially post-event flow. Agree a time to meet the Lead DCO before the competition starts to discuss the selection of athletes that will be tested during the competition.

European Athletics will advise you of the number of athletes to be selected for doping control and it is the responsibility of the Technical Delegate to select the athletes to be tested. This is done before the competition starts and often in the presence of the Lead DCO (but is

not a requirement). It is recommended that the athletes tested come from the various events of the programme. Usually finishing places are used as a selection policy, e.g. first in 100m final, fourth in Shot Put etc. but equally lane number could also be used. An athlete should be notified for testing at the end of their competition day, so care should be given where athletes compete in multiple disciplines. This avoids impacting the athlete's preparation for their next event, but if an athlete is notified at the end of an event and informs the chaperone that they are competing later in the programme, the chaperone must remain with the athlete and accompany the athlete during their preparations for their next event. If the athlete needs to provide a sample between events this must be collected in the Doping Control Station.

You may also be given the name of an athlete that World Athletics would like tested. This is called a target test.

You should agree with the Lead DCO what should happen if there is a dead heat – a solution in this case could be to take the athlete with a surname starting with a letter closer to A or select which of the two athletes leave the field of play first. If a targeted athlete does not finish their race they should still be tested.

Extra samples may need to be collected, for example from those athletes who break records. Any athlete who breaks a World or European record must undertake doping control for the record to be ratified. If a World or European record is broken, the Lead DCO should arrange for a chaperone to notify the athlete as they leave the field of play. You should inform the Lead DCO that National records or National Rules may also need to be tested but that it is the athlete's (or their representative) responsibility to request this test. The athlete or their representative will also be responsible for the cost for this test.

You, as the Technical Delegate, may also request additional tests for justifiable reasons, for example, an athlete withdrawing for no apparent reason. You must include the justification for the extra test(s) as part of your post event report to European Athletics.

Increasingly, Sample Collection Authorities are using paperless or electronic doping control documentation. This has advantages in that it is more accurate, legible, and is quick to synchronise with the World Anti-Doping Agency's database "ADAMS". Therefore, confirm with the Lead DCO what documentation they are planning to use. If no electronic forms are available, paper forms will be used. EA may have sent the LOC World Athletics Anti-Doping forms and if so, these should be used, but if not, the Sample Collection Authority's forms are acceptable. It is important that the Lead DCO completes the form with the following information:

- ◆ **Testing Authority – WA – AIU**
- ◆ **Results Management Authority – WA – AIU**
- ◆ **Doping Control Coordinator – EA**



World Athletics may have created a Mission Order unique for the competition, which will include a Mission Order number which must be recorded on all doping control forms. If paper forms are being used, please request that the Sample Collection Authority enter the doping control form information into ADAMS within 72 hours of the sample being collected.

At the Technical Meeting mention that Doping Control will be conducted at the competition and any athlete selected for doping control has the responsibility to provide photographic identification, for example, National ID card, passport, driving licence etc.

If you get time during the competition, but importantly at the end of the competition please visit the Doping Control Station to see if all is going well. Ensure that the selected athletes have transport available to return to their accommodation once their test is complete.

One area that occasionally generates a question from DCOs is regarding specific gravity (which is how watery a urine sample is). Acceptable specific gravity (SG) readings are 1.005 for volumes 90mls-149mls and 1.003 for volumes over 150mls. Should a reading be below the acceptable

range the athlete is required to provide an additional sample. The reason a reading is low is usually because an athlete is very hydrated. For athletics, an athlete is required to keep providing samples until a sample is provided with an acceptable SG reading. The only justifiable reason for not collecting an additional sample is if logistical reasons (e.g. shortage of doping control equipment or closure of the venue and nowhere to relocate to) prevent an additional sample being collected.

Thank you for your help in ensuring the standard of anti-doping is consistently high at European Athletics events.



By Richard Driscoll
Member of the EA Medical and Anti-doping Commission



TRIVIA QUIZ

1. What movie about Steve Prefontaine starred Billy Crudup as Pre?
2. Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. Which event did he win first?
3. This male athlete broke the 18 meters mark in triple jump at the 1995 World Championships twice. Who is he?
4. Paula Radcliffe won three IAAF World Championships (in 2000, 2001, and 2003) with the following times respectively: 1:09.07, 1:06.47, and 1:07.35. In which event did these performances occur?
5. The 100 metres is the first event on day one of the decathlon. Which is the first on day two?
6. "I am an American discus thrower born in 1936. At the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne I won the gold medal. I would go on to win the gold medal in the next three Olympics as well. What is my name?"
7. Which Kenyan athlete broke four separate world records in one year, but never competed at the Olympic Games?
8. At the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo, Mike Powell (USA) set a new world record with a jump of 8.95 meters. In 1950, this record was held by Jesse Owens. How far did Jesse Owens jump?
9. How many hurdles are in a standard hurdles race?
10. Who held the world record for longest throw, with the old rules javelin before it was changed in 1986? How far did he throw?
11. Jamaica is well known for producing some of the best male sprinters to grace the world of athletics; and in the 200 metres at the London 2012 Olympics they had a clean sweep of the medals. Which of these athletes was NOT one of the three medallists? Usain Bolt; Warren Weir; Yohan Blake; Asafa Powell
12. Which Ethiopian athlete won double gold (5000 metres and 10,000 metres) at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow?
13. Who had the Olympic record in the Men's Discus throw before Lars Reidel broke in the 1996 games in Atlanta?

OFFICIALS NEWS

Developing the generic skills of officials

Effective communication with competitors, their representatives and your fellow officials.

The key purpose for the Sport Official is to enable participants to compete within the spirit of the sport through the impartial application of the rules/laws and ethics of the sport.

Establishing and maintaining effective relationships with competitors and their representatives is crucial to achieve this mission and using established methods of communication will especially help you communicating clearly with them, thus creating the conditions for the success of the competition.

Whilst upholding the rules/laws and ethics of the sport in all communications with competitors and their representatives, sport officials shall use language and other forms of communication which are sensitive to social and cultural differences.

We tend to think that our main form of communication between ourselves is through what we say but in fact, communication is far more complex than simply speaking or making sounds. We are actually capable of communicating very complex Non-Verbal messages just by our behaviour – for example, the way we dress sends messages to those who observe us, whether we sit or stand and how we do so also sends messages, whether we fidget in our chair or play with our pens in certain situations, smiling, the position of our heads etc. are all ways of communicating.

Identifying the different forms of communication will help us defining how they could be used effectively and positively to communicate with others:

- Verbal – tone of voice
- Body language
- Gestures / signals
- Eye contact / gaze
- Active Listening
- Appearance
- Written / social media / e-mails

Non-Verbal communication are non-conscious parts of our behaviour which is a deeply rooted part of our entire makeup, in fact, it is the most basic part of our personality. This refers to things we do that we do in our body language that we are not conscious of such as mannerisms and the way we react to different situations. It is something we have been born with or the way we have been brought up (reference filters communication model - Interests, beliefs and values, culture, experiences, assumptions.)

If an individual's body language is seen as negative, we can make them aware of it in order for them to modify their behaviour, but we can never actually eliminate it.

The effects of communication and in particular non-verbal can send a strong message. The tone of your voice, its pitch, volume, quality, and speed effects what you say but your body language can among others:

- Repeat the message your words are saying
- Contradict what your words are saying
- Be a substitution for your verbal message
- Add to the meaning of your message
- Accent or make the message stronger
- Enable you to get on well with others in a productive way.
- Promote good positive communication skills

Below some tips to evaluate the impact of communication skills and how you can improve them.

It is indeed worth asking yourself:

- Whether you are portraying what you want to say or something completely different?
- what is your body language saying

about you?

- Was the message positive/negative, how did you recognise it?
- Could the message be interpreted in a different way?
- How could it be improved?



Developing your communication skills will thus help you to:

- Display confidence and authority while consistently striving to maintain the cooperation with competitors and their representatives
- Demonstrate respect for competitors and their representatives by treating them fairly and equitably
- Resist pressure from competitors and their representatives to influence decisions
- Act within the limits of your own authority.

If we look briefly at each form of communication and just think about how we can use it when we are officiating, with an example of each, it may be useful.

Verbal

When we first meet the athletes, especially if that is when we arrive in the Call Room to brief them, some will be very nervous, some quite confident, at least outwardly. We should approach them as a group, so that none feel left out and make as brief an introduction as possible, remembering that they will just want to move out to the field of play. Say as little as possible, clearly and simply. Some



won't hear the words you use, but should be comforted by the tone and confidence you show by making that short speech so easily.

If an athlete is questioning a false start and wants to see the evidence. Look the athlete in the eye, listen to their concerns and be as open as possible. Assure them you will show them the evidence, whilst making it clear that the decision you made was the correct one. Explain the rule to them and show them the evidence. Explain clearly and slowly how you and your colleagues came to the conclusion you did.

Body Language

We should always let the athletes know that we are in a position of authority, not by saying or doing anything that makes them feel inferior, but by standing confidently, smiling when appropriate and looking as though you know what you are doing.

In our call room situation, that means walking in and standing up straight in front of the athletes, not sitting down or slouching, introducing yourself and looking as efficient as possible.

Gestures / Signals

Many athletes won't speak English confidently, and some of us sometimes don't feel confident in doing so when under pressure, so there are lots of opportunities to use gestures or signals when trying to get information across to athletes, or even local officials.

This could be to let an athlete know they are next to throw, or perhaps that they need to be quicker preparing for the start of the race, but there are lots of simple gestures we can use to do so, without being aggressive in any way, but still making it clear that you need them to follow your instructions.

If you need to send a stronger message, this can still be done in a non-threatening way. If an athlete spends too long with their coach or attempts to take the i-pad from them to check video, one method I have been known to use is to slap my own wrist theatrically, making it clear they are doing something they shouldn't. The

response is usually a sheepish look at a return to what they should be doing correctly.



Eye contact / Gaze

I am sure we all have examples of when we have made sure we have the attention of an athlete just by looking at them. It could be something as simple as making sure they know they are next to throw, which could be accompanied by a hand signal, pointing to them, perhaps. In high jump warm-up, it helps by looking straight at the athlete you want to jump next, whilst holding out an arm to block off the runway from anyone on the other side of the approach.

Active Listening

Along with listening, rather than merely hearing what is being said, active listening is also exemplified by body posture, eye contact, smiling at appropriate moments and eye contact, all things already mentioned.

By responding during the conversation, reinforcing the ideas put forward, asking questions and asking for clarification, it shows active listening.

An example may be a local official asking why you made a particular decision. Ask them what decision they may have made and explain why you made the decision you did. If they want to discuss further, do so at a time when you can do so outside the competition area. Give them your full attention, so that they understand the outcome better and are more likely to agree with it because you have listened and reacted to their comments and concerns.

Appearance

We've already mentioned the need to show appropriate body language. This can be extended to talk more about general concepts of appearance. When we are on duty, we should look as though we are on business, even though we are volunteers. If we are given a uniform we should make sure it is clean and tidy. Although one of the last items in the list, it is the first appearance that leaves the biggest impression on athletes, coaches and other officials. On a site visit, we should appear as professional as possible. That doesn't mean wearing a shirt and tie, but does mean dressing appropriately.

Written / Social Media / Emails etc.

The simple answer to all these areas is: take the greatest of care when writing anything on social media or when writing to colleagues, whether by email or in another way. It is so easy to say something political or insulting about other officials that could easily be shown to imply bias or could create a difficult situation with colleagues, either current, past or present. It's very easy when watching athletics on TV to react immediately to something you see by questioning the decision of the official who was at the stadium. Take care though, that what you say is constructive about the situation, rather than suggests what was decided was incorrect. Remember, you weren't there so you don't know the circumstances behind the decision. Better to send a direct message and ask what the decision was and why it was taken. If a colleague was involved, they will explain the background of the decision. If it was an incorrect decision, lessons can be learned by all concerned, whereas, if you post something on Facebook or elsewhere for all to see, it gives a poor impression of your colleagues, but worse than that, it gives a poor impression of you for making the claim without the full information. Best to avoid all comments about decisions made at competitions whether you are there or not.

**By Chris Cohen
& Sandrine Glacier**



NEWS IN BRIEF

European Athletics Congress

Dobromir Karamarinov from Bulgaria has been elected unopposed as European Athletics President at the 27th European Athletics Congress. Dobromir Karamarinov has served as Interim President since March 2020 after Svein Arne Hansen was unable to fulfil his duties following a stroke.

In addition to the European Athletics President's election, Jean Gracia (FRA) was elected Vice President as will serve as First Vice President alongside Cherry Alexander (GBR) and Libor Varhanik (CZE), both of whom were elected to serve full four year terms at the 2019 European Athletics Congress in Prague.

The two vacant positions on the European Athletics Council were filled by Juergen Kessing (GER) and Henryk Olszewski (POL).

The European Athletics Congress also approved the following changes: In the programme at the Munich 2022 European Athletics Championships the 35km race walk will replace the 50km. There are also plans to include race walking events into the European Championships in Olympic years, including in 2024 in Rome.

European Athletics Events

The Italian town of Rieti will be the host of the 2026 European Athletics U18 Championships, following a decision made at the European Council meeting held in Madrid.

Another key decision made was to harmonise the distances contested at the SPAR European Cross Country Championships between the genders from 2023. The Council accepted a proposal from the European Athletics Event and Competition Commission, who supported the request from the Swedish Athletics Association and endorsed by other Member Federations, to establish equal distances for men and women.

FIRST EVER EUROPEAN ONLINE SURVEY OF FEMALE SPORT OFFICIALS

**ALL SPORTS
ALL COUNTRIES
ALL LEVELS**



Deadline for completing the survey: 15 December 2021

WINS
Raising the growth and participation of female sport officials in Europe

Coordinator
eose
EUROPEAN OBSERVATORY OF SPORT AND EMPLOYMENT

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

Research Lead
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH








Officials education

The appointments for all European Athletics Events will, from now on, be managed through the European Athletics virtual TIC platform. Individual access and credentials will be sent together with your next appointment's proposal.

The upcoming webinars have been scheduled as follows:

- 15 December 2021 - Officials' Christmas Party
- 26 January 2022 - Wave forms reading / interpretation
- 11 May 2022 - Protest & Appeals

WINS Project

European Athletics is one of the nine partner organisations of a project funded through the Erasmus+ Sport programme of the European Union and entitled "WINS - Raising the growth and participation of female sport officials in Europe".

The aim of the WINS project which started on 01 January 2021 and will last until 31 December 2023 is to

address gender equity in sport officiating by undertaking comprehensive research into the issues affecting female sport officials. This includes a European Compendium of good practice case studies on recruitment and retention of female sport officials, an innovative online toolkit for recruitment and retention of female sport officials as well as a targeted mentoring and leadership legacy guide for female sport officials in Europe.

You can visit the project web page for further information. Click [here](#).

Please also note that a survey of Female Sport Officials was launched on 1st November 2021 and will be open until 15th December. Thanks in advance for your participation and/or disseminate the link to your network.

[European Survey of Female Sport Officials](#)

Officials News Editorial Group

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Please do not hesitate to send us any questions or suggestions for topics you would like to be discussed in the next issue.

Contact: sandrine.glacier@european-athletics.org

Answers to the Trivia Quiz (p7)

1. Without Limits
2. 100m
3. Jonathan Edwards (GBR)
4. Half Marathon
5. 110m Hurdles
6. Al Oerter
7. Henry Rono
8. 8.13m
9. 10
10. Uwe Hohn - 104.87m
11. Asafa Powell
12. Miruts Yifter
13. Juergen Schult