



***Race Walking***  
***La Marche Athlétique***  
***Marcha Atlética***

***2010-2011***

***INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS FEDERATIONS***  
***ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEDERATIONS D'ATHLETISME***  
***ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE FEDERACIONES DE ATLETISMO***

# Race Walking A guide to Judging and Organising

*A guide for judges, officials,  
coaches and athletes*

6th Edition 2010

IAAF International Association of Athletics Federations

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### *Terms of Reference*

#### *General Role*

1. The Race Walking Committee shall provide the IAAF with general advice regarding all matters relating to Race Walking.

#### *Specific Tasks and activities*

2. The Race Walking Committee shall have the following specific tasks and activities:
  - (a) to make recommendations to the Council regarding the policy for Race Walking competitions in Athletics;
  - (b) to keep under review the Competition Rules and Regulations as they relate to Race Walking and make recommendations to the Council;
  - (c) to keep under review the technical standards of IAAF Race Walking championships and make recommendations to the Council;
  - (d) to liaise and consult with other Committees and Commissions on Race Walking matters, where appropriate;
  - (e) to propose the publishing or updating of manuals, publications and other written materials relating to Race Walking;
  - (f) to promote, foster and support the worldwide development of Race Walking.

## INTRODUCTIONS

It is many years since the first IAAF 'Guide for Walking Judges' was published and in this time the sport of race walking has developed greatly.

This updated edition of the IAAF booklet on the judging and organisation of race walking follows on from the IAAF congress in Berlin where changes to the regulations and organisation were agreed.

The International Race Walking Judges Panel now allows the leading race walking judges to experience high level international competitions. This new policy has helped the recruitment of new judges in the areas.

In the past few years it is encouraging to see how everyone has joined forces in a well coordinated effort to support race walking. A special thanks to the IAAF Council who have always supported changes to the organisation and judging of race walking events.

These achievements are the result of continuous work that has been carried out at all levels, including the IAAF MSD Educational Programme with the cooperation of the IAAF Race Walking Committee.

Personal experience, especially through direct involvement in race walking competitions at all levels, is essential to a judges panel aiming at ensuring the best control of a race walking competition while the judges' periodical evaluation and education ensures that the contact with the evolution of the discipline is not lost. Furthermore the possibility for the judges to profit from increased acting opportunities is fundamental in ensuring the necessary continuity and the renovation of the different international panels, just like their participation to educational and evaluation courses and seminars.

This book is not only for judges – it is for athletes who should have some understanding of what the judge is looking for – it is for the coach who must seek every means possible to ensure his athlete walks fairly – and it is for the committed fan of athletics who seeks to improve even more his knowledge of the sport we all love. Our thanks go to the members of the IAAF Walking Committee who have contributed with their helpful comments and guidance. This informed booklet will surely

help to improve standards of judging, thereby improving walking competitions and the sport of race walking around the world.



*Olga Kaniskina (Russia), Olympic champion 2008, World champion 2007-2009.  
(Getty Images)*

# EXTRACT FROM THE IAAF COMPETITION RULES 2010-2011

## RULE 230

### **Race Walking**

#### *Definition of Race Walking*

1. Race Walking is a progression of steps so taken that the walker makes contact with the ground, so that no visible (to the human eye) loss of contact occurs. The advancing leg shall be straightened (i.e. not bent at the knee) from the moment of first contact with the ground until the vertical upright position.

#### *Judging*

2. (a) The appointed judges of Race Walking shall elect a Chief Judge, if one has not been appointed previously.
- (b) All the Judges shall act in an individual capacity and their judgements shall be based on observations made by the human eye.
- (c) In competitions held under Rule 1.1(a), all Judges shall be International Race Walking Judges. In competitions held under Rules 1.1(b), (c), (e)(ii), (f), (g) and (j), all Judges shall be either Area or International Race Walking Judges.
- (d) For road races, there should normally be a minimum of six to a maximum of nine Judges including the Chief Judge.
- (e) For track races, there should normally be six Judges including the Chief Judge.
- (f) In competitions held under Rule 1.1(a) not more than one Judge from any country can officiate.

#### *Chief Judge*

3. (a) In competitions held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c), (d) and (f), the Chief Judge has the power to disqualify an athlete in the last 100m when their mode of progression obviously fails to comply with the Rule 230.1 regardless of the number of previous red cards the Chief Judge has received on that athlete. An athlete who is disqualified by the Chief Judge under these circumstances shall be allowed to finish the race. The athlete shall be notified of this disqualification by the Chief Judge or a Chief Judge's Assistant by showing the athlete a red paddle at the earliest opportunity after the athlete has finished the race.

- (b) The Chief Judge shall act as the supervising official for the competition, and act as a Judge only in the special situation noted in Rule 230.3(a) above. In competitions held under Rules 1.1(a),(b),(c) and (f) two or more Chief Judge's Assistants shall be appointed.  
The Chief Judge's Assistant(s) are to assist with the notification of disqualifications only and shall not act as Race Walking Judges.
- (c) For all competitions held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c) and (f), an official in charge of the Posting Board(s) and a Chief Judge's Recorder shall be appointed.

#### *Caution*

4. Athletes shall be cautioned when, by their mode of progression, they are in danger of failing to comply with Rule 230.1 by showing the athletes a yellow paddle with the symbol of the offence on each side.

An athlete cannot be given a second caution by the same Judge for the same offence. Having cautioned an athlete, the Judge shall inform the Chief Judge of his action after the competition.

#### *Red Cards*

5. When a Judge observes an athlete failing to comply with Rule 230.1 by exhibiting visible loss of contact or a bent knee during any part of the competition, the Judge shall send a red card to the Chief Judge.

#### *Disqualification*

- 6. (a) When three Red Cards from three different Judges have been sent to the Chief Judge on the same athlete, the athlete is disqualified and he shall be notified of this disqualification by the Chief Judge or a Chief Judge's Assistant by being shown a red paddle. The failure to give notification shall not result in the reinstatement of a disqualified athlete.
- (b) In all competitions, either directly controlled by the IAAF or taking place under IAAF permit, in no circumstances shall the Red Cards of two Judges of the same nationality have the power to disqualify.
- (c) In track races, an athlete who is disqualified shall immediately leave the track and, in road races, shall, immediately after being disqualified, remove the distinguishing numbers and leave the course. Any disqualified athlete who fails to leave the course or track may be liable to further disciplinary action in accordance with Rules 22.1(f) and 145.2.
- (d) One or more Posting Boards shall be placed on the course and near the finish to keep athletes informed about the number of red cards that have been sent to the Chief Judge for each athlete. The symbol of each offence should also be indicated on the Posting Board.

- (e) For all Rule 1.1(a) competitions, hand held computer devices with transmission capability must be used by the judges to communicate all red cards to the Recorder and the Posting Board(s). In all other competitions, in which such a system is not used, the Chief Judge, immediately after the end of the event, shall report to the Referee the identification of all athletes disqualified under Rule 230.3(a) or 230.6(a), indicating the bib number, the time of the notification and the offences; the same shall be done for all the athletes who received red cards.

### *The Start*

7. The races shall be started by the firing of a gun. The commands and procedure for races longer than 400m shall be used (Rule 162.3). In races which include a large number of athletes, five-minute, three-minute and one-minute warnings before the start of the race should be given.

### *Safety and Medical*

- 8. (a) The Organising Committee of Race Walking events shall ensure the safety of athletes and officials. In competitions held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c) and (f), the Organising Committee shall ensure that the roads used for the competition are closed to motorised traffic in all directions.
- (b) In competitions held under Rules 1.1(a), (b), (c) and (f), the events shall be scheduled to start and finish in daylight.
- (c) A hands-on medical examination during the progress of an event by the official medical staff appointed by the Organising Committee and identified by armbands, vests or similar distinctive apparel shall not be considered assistance.
- (d) An athlete shall retire at once from the race if order to do so by the Medical Delegate or a member of the official medical staff.

### *Drinking/Sponging and Refreshment Stations*

- 9. (a) Water and other suitable refreshments shall be available at the start and finish of all races.
- (b) For all events up to an including 10km, water only drinking/sponging stations shall be provided at suitable intervals if weather conditions warrant such provision.
- (c) For all events longer than 10km, refreshment stations shall be provided every lap. In addition, drinking/sponging stations for water only shall be placed approximately midway between the refreshment stations or more frequently if weather conditions warrant such provision.
- (d) Refreshments, which may be provided by either the Organising Committee or the athlete, shall be placed at the stations so that they are easily

accessible to, or may be put by authorised persons into the hands of, the athletes.

- (e) An athlete who collects refreshment from a place other than the refreshment station renders himself liable to disqualification by the Referee.
- (f) In competitions held under rules 1.1(a), (b), (c) and (f), a maximum of two officials per country may be stationed behind the refreshment table at any one time. No official shall, under any circumstances, run beside an athlete while he is taking refreshment.

*Note:* Mist stations may also be arranged, when considered appropriate under certain Organisational and/or climatic conditions.

### *Road Courses*

- 10. (a) For competitions held under Rule 1.1(a), the circuit shall not be shorter than 2km and no longer than 2.5km. For all other competitions, the circuit shall be no shorter than 1 km and no longer than 2.5 km. For events that start and finish in the stadium, the circuit should be located as close as possible to the stadium.
- (b) Road courses shall be measured in accordance with Rule 240.3.

### *Race Conduct*

11. In events of 20km or more, an athlete may leave the road or track with the permission and under the supervision of an official, provided that by going off course he does not lessen the distance to be covered.

12. If the Referee is satisfied on the report of a Judge or Umpire or otherwise that an athlete has left the marked course thereby shortening the distance to be covered, he shall be disqualified.



*Alex Schwazer (Italy), Olympic champion 2008 (Photo Getty Images)*

## JUDGING

A Race Walking Judge's role is to ensure that a competitor is allowed to complete a race complying with the specified definition of Race Walking in IAAF Rule 230. Each Race Walking Judge must watch every competitor, ensuring that they are in a viewing position to be satisfied that the competitor is walking fairly. If, in the opinion of the Judge, based on their own observations, any competitor looks likely to violate Rule 230, then that Judge should caution the competitor. In other words, if the Judge believes that a competitor is likely to lose contact with the ground, or that a competitor may be in danger of not straightening the advancing leg as required by Rule 230, then the Judge should caution the competitor with a yellow paddle showing the offence.

A Judge can caution each competitor only once for each offence, i.e. for loss of contact or for not straightening the advancing leg from the moment of first contact with the ground until in the vertical upright position. The individual judge shall record all cautions given; showing the competitor's number, offence and the time the caution was given.

Should the Judge decide that any competitor is definitely not walking according to the definition in Rule 230, the Judge shall record the offence on a red card and send the red card to the Recorder for posting. Once a Judge has issued a red card on a competitor, then that competitor is no longer in the race, as far as that Judge is concerned. The Judges cannot send a red card on a competitor a second time and they cannot caution a competitor after they have given the athlete a red card.

The Judge, when sending a red card on a competitor, is not allowed to directly communicate this decision in any way to the competitor concerned. The Judge shall complete a red card showing the event, date, time that the card is being completed, competitor's number, Judge's name and number, the offence (i.e. loss of contact or bent knee), and finally their own (the Judge's) signature. This card should be given as quickly as possible to the Recorder.

Judges should keep a record of all red cards they send in. Judges, apart from the Chief Judge, should take note of the following points:

- (a) A Judge shall only judge in the area assigned to them by the Chief Judge.
- (b) A Judge must not converse with others, except with the Chief Judge, on matters concerning the judging of the competitors in the race.
- (c) A Judge should not leave their post without permission and should not assume the race is over until the last competitor has completed the race.
- (d) A Judge should arrive at least 45 minutes before the event and report to the Chief Judge.
- (e) After the completion of the race, Judges should hand their completed records to the Chief Judge who will inform the Judges when they can leave. This is necessary as there may be a need for an individual Judge to give evidence in cases of dispute.
- (f) It should also be made clear that a Judge should when ever possible give a competitor a caution before issuing a red card.

The number of Judges required for races is as follows:

Indoors            200 metres track-up to five (including the Chief Judge).

Outdoors         400 metres track-up to six (including the Chief Judge).

Road Courses    1 km – 2.5 km course – depending on the size and shape of the course, a minimum of six and a maximum of nine (including the Chief Judge).

As a guide, in track races, the Judges should be placed one on each bend and one/two in each straight. On a road circuit a similar system would be used. In all races it is sound policy to have the Chief Judge and an adequate number of other Judges making their way to the finishing straight, or at least in the last 100 metres. All judging is done on an individual basis and Judges must never be placed in pairs.

## SUMMARY OF JUDGE'S DUTIES

- (a) To be available at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start.
- (b) To meet and elect a Chief Judge, if not otherwise decided, at least 30 minutes prior to the start.
- (c) To follow the instructions received from the Chief Judge.
- (d) To caution a competitor who is in danger of breaking the rules and to record that caution.
- (e) To issue a red card on any competitor who is breaking the rules.
- (f) To complete the Judging Card accurately and to pass it on to the Chief Judge or Recorder.
- (g) To report to the Chief Judge after the event and confirm that all red cards have been received.
- (h) To be available after the race to answer any questions from the Chief Judge.



*Yellow caution paddles and Red disqualification paddle.*

## **JUDGING POSITION**

A Judge should take up a position that presents a clear view of the legs of the competitors. In a track event, the ideal position is in the outside lanes where the raised inner kerb will not block, the view of the competitor's feet. For a road event, the Judge should where possible, move to a position where they can clearly see the contact with the surface of the road. Another good judging position is at an angle of 45 degrees from the competitor as they are moving towards the Judge. The key danger areas, where a competitor is especially likely to be illegal, are:

- (a) during the acceleration at the start,
- (b) while passing another walker,
- (c) during the finishing sprint, and
- (d) in the middle of a group.

## **ROAD JUDGING POSITIONS**

The judging positions indicated on the following map, are recommended for a 2km or 2.5km circuit course where eight Judges are required to cover the race adequately. The specific number of Judges to properly judge the course depends upon the course layout. The Judges positions are indicated by the number 1-8( or letters ) and CJ for the Chief Judge.

The road areas that are very important to observe are:

1. Turning areas
2. Hill areas
3. Sharp turns
4. Aid and refreshment areas.



*IAAF World Championships, Osaka 2007.  
 Map of the circuit and road judging position*

## **DO'S AND DON'TS OF JUDGING**

- (a) If in doubt, give the benefit to the competitor.
- (b) Do not believe that the proof of a good Judge lies in how many red cards they write. A good Judge can assist more competitors to finish by judicial use of a caution before an infringement of the rules takes place.
- (c) If you form an opinion, act on it immediately.
- (d) When cautioning a competitor, make sure that they see your yellow paddle.
- (e) Do not judge from a moving vehicle.
- (f) Remember, what competitors may do today may not be what they do next time. If a competitor is disqualified today, do not pre-judge them for the next race.
- (g) Do not be influenced by outside opinions. You are in control of your section of the course or track, so make your own decisions.
- (h) Avoid getting into conversations during the race with other Judges or spectators. You are required to act independently.
- (i) Do not take active interest in the positions or placing of members of any particular team.
- (j) Do not convey to any competitor information as to the progress of the race.
- (k) Act impartially according to the IAAF code of ethics
- (l) Mark your red card clearly, so there is no confusion when received by the Chief Judge or Recorder.
- (m) In track races, judge from the outside position where possible.
- (n) Do not let your judging become unprofessional by running alongside the competitor.
- (o) Do not judge by lying down on the track or road.
- (p) Do not use any communication devices (e.g. mobile phone/camera or video), during the competition unless specifically issued for the event.

## THE CHIEF JUDGE

The first task for the Chief Judge is to ensure that they have everything required to carry out their pre-race and race duties. Before the race, the course must be examined with suitable positions found for each Judge. Judges' Record Cards, Judges' Red Cards and Judging Summary Sheets must be prepared.

The Judging Panel must be informed of the important technical aspects of the events especially those that affect judging. This is done at a suitable time before the race, allowing sufficient time for Judges to take up their positions prior to the start of the race. Judges should be given a number, which will correspond to their position on the racecourse. This number will also help to identify each Judge on their red cards and on the Judging Summary Sheet.

Each Judge should be supplied with a map of the course and all the information for the officials involved in the Race Walking event. All Judges should be prepared with their necessary equipment, i.e. uniform, badge or armband, record cards, red cards, yellow paddles and a suitable pen or pencil. In inclement weather, they should also have the means of keeping themselves and their documentation dry.

The Judges should be introduced to the Recorder and card collectors if used and know the location of the Recorder during the race. The Chief Judge should then report to the Referee to confirm that all is in order with the judging panel.

Normally, the Chief Judge will be positioned at or near the finish line during the race, particularly on a loop course. Much will depend on the type of communication system used between the Chief Judge, Chief Judge's Assistants and Recorder.

There are several ways in which communications between the Chief Judge and Judges can be carried out. Without any doubt, the important factor is the delivery of the red cards from the Judges to the Chief Judge and Recorder. This must be done with the utmost speed. Nothing is worse than having to disqualify a competitor after they have crossed the finish line. The most effective means of communication is with the chief Judge and Recorder in a fixed position, with each individual Judge having a runner/cyclist/skater to deliver the cards to the Recorder as they are filled out. After delivering the cards to the Recorder, the "runner" should return immediately to the individual Judge. On receipt of the red card, the Recorder must first examine the card to see that it is correctly completed. If the card is not correct, as to the athlete number, time, reason, and identification of the Judge, it should be returned to the Judge from whom it came. The Chief Judge should take no action until a correct card is received.

Having checked that a red card has been filled in correctly, the Recorder will enter the information on the Judging Summary Sheet. The Recorder will immediately inform the Chief Judge when three red cards are recorded against any particular competitor. The Chief Judge or Chief Judge's Assistants should then, at the earliest possible moment, disqualify that competitor.

Before this notification takes place, the Chief Judge should receive the cards (at least three) back from the Recorder to check the following points:

1. All cards are correctly completed.
2. All cards are for the same competitor.
3. No two cards are from the same Judge.

As the competitor to be disqualified approaches the Chief Judge, the Chief Judge should make his actions clear by holding the red DQ sign at shoulder height in front of the offending competitor. Care should be taken not to obstruct any other competitors.

Immediately after the race and as soon as the Chief Judge is satisfied that no further cards will be coming in, the Chief Judge and Recorder should check the Judging Summary Sheet and all disqualifications reported to the Referee. The result of the race should not be declared final until this has happened.

Shortly after the race, the Chief Judge and the other Judges should meet to discuss the race. The Judges' record cards should be collected, and a check carried out to ensure that no red cards have been mis placed or not recorded.

In competitions held under rules.1(a), (b), (c), (d), the Chief Judge has the power to disqualify a competitor in the last 100m of the race, when their mode of progression obviously fails to comply with paragraph 1 of Rule 230, regardless of whether or not the athlete has received any previous red cards.

In competitions held under IAAF Rule 1 (a), (b) and (c), two or more chief Judge's Assistants should be appointed. The Chief Judge's Assistant(s) are to assist with the notification of disqualifications only and shall not act as Race Walking Judges.



## **SUMMARY OF THE DUTIES OF THE CHIEF JUDGE**

- (a) Conduct a pre-race meeting to assign the Judges to their respective judging areas and Explain the judging procedure to be used during the race.
- (b) Make sure all the Judges have correct judging materials.
- (c) If using Chief Judge's Assistants to assist with the notification of disqualifications, assign them to strategic positions on the course and make sure they are in constant communication with the Chief Judge and Recorder during the race. When a Chief Judge's Assistant notifies a disqualified competitor, this information must be communicated as soon as possible to the Recorder and Chief Judge.
- (d) Work closely with the Recorder to ensure that all red cards are completed and recorded correctly.
- (e) Notify competitors of their disqualification as soon as possible, after verifying that three different red cards from three separate Judges have been recorded.
- (f) Ensure that the Posting Board is used correctly during the race. The third red card should be posted on the board even if the Chief judge or Chief Judge's Assistant has not notified the athlete of their disqualification.
- (g) Check with the Referee of the race to ensure that the official results are correct and ensure the Judges Summary Sheet is available to all teams.
- (h) Conduct a post-race meeting of the Judging Panel to review the race, present the Judging Summary Sheets for analysis and discuss any problems.
- (i) A report of the competition that includes as a minimum, the Judging Summary Sheets and Judges' evaluation form, should be sent to the headquarters of the appropriate governing body (i.e. IAAF for IAAF Rule 1.1 (a) Competitions).

<b>Judge's Red Card</b>			
<b>Distance:</b>	<b>km.</b>		
<b>Men/Women</b>			
<b>Judge's No.:</b>			
<b>Bib Number</b>			
<b>Reason:</b> <small>(fill the time when the card)</small>		Hour	Minute
		Hour	Minute
<b>Judge's Signature:</b>			

JUDGES RED CARD

## **RECORDER**

The Recorder is important to the Chief Judge, especially during a major race. The main functions of the Recorder are to receive all cards from the Judges and to record them on the race Judging Summary Sheet and to ensure the cards appear on the posting board. The Recorder informs the Chief Judge when a competitor has received three red cards from three different Judges. The Recorder should show the three (or more) red cards when informing the Chief Judge of the disqualification. The Chief Judge should not discuss the competition with the Recorder.

The Judging Summary sheet is the official score sheet of the judging of the race. ACCURACY IS ESSENTIAL. At the end of the race, the individual Judges' record cards are collected and all the cautions and red cards are added to the Judging Summary Sheet. It is important to indicate the time that each red card was issued and where applicable the time that any competitor was disqualified. The Judging Panel should receive a copy of the Judging Summary Sheet. In addition the Summary Sheet should be distributed to other relevant people such as Technical Delegate, LOC, Media through the TIC.



*Recorders area at the IAAF World Championships - Berlin, 2009*



## **SUMMARY OF THE DUTIES OF THE RECORDER**

- (a) Collect the Judges' red cards and record the information on the Judging Summary Sheet.
- (b) Notify the Posting Board operator of red cards.
- (c) Immediately notify the Chief Judge and Assistants, where appropriate, when three red cards from three different Judges have been received.



*Women's 20kms IAAF World Cup 2010. (Getty Images)*

## THE POSTING BOARD

The Posting Board is commonly referred to as the Disqualification or DQ Board.

The purpose of the board is, primarily, to keep competitors informed about the number of red cards that have been received by the the Recorder for each competitor.

In practice, the board can only be used on a lap course or track where the board can be placed in such a position that all competitors can easily see and read what is on the board each time they pass.

The structure of the board is simple: a column or series of columns of competitors' numbers, each with three blank spaces beside the number. The board must be placed in a position readily accessible where all competitors can easily see the whole board and its contents. As red cards are received by the Recorder, and after they have been cleared by the Chief Judge/Recorder and entered on the Judging Summary Sheet, a symbol of the offence is placed in the first blank space beside the offending competitor's number. When the second card comes in on that particular competitor, a second symbol is placed in the second space, and so on. When three symbols appear against a competitor's number it means that the competitor has been disqualified.

The size of the board required will depend on the number of competitors in the event. It is ideal to have all competitors' numbers displayed on the board prior to the start and in numerical order, so that competitors know where to look. With very large fields, however, it is better to work the board by putting up numbers only when red cards come in (i.e. if a competitor's number is not on the board, no red cards have been received for that competitor).

The boards must be completed by the Recorder, or by an assistant appointed to carry out that duty.

72	311	598	813
77	328	643	837
105	424	646	842
124	425	650	872
144	460	695	877
154	466	701	889
157	484	721	941
189	515	726	980
230	548	742	
241	550	746	
288	578	749	
294	596	811	



*Posting Board: Manual and electronic, Berlin 2009.  
(Photo Maurizio Damilano)*

## ELECTRONIC DATA COLLECTION AND POSTING BOARD

For all IAAF Rule 1.1 (a) competitions, hand held computer devices with transmission capability must be used by the judges in communicating all red cards to the Recorder and electronic Posting Board(s).

### The system comprises:

- (a) Quantity: 8 hand held terminals for use by the Judges. These are linked wireless or cable to each other and then back to the data collector computer.
- (b) An electronic Posting Board.
- (c) A computer that acts as a “Data Collector”.
- (d) Red Card printer

### Description of operation

Each Race Walking Judge, at their position on the course, has access to a hand held terminal.

This terminal, normally operated by the Judge’s secretary, enables the Judge’s proposal for disqualification (red card) to be electronically transmitted to the control point.

### Judge’s terminal

The judge’s secretary enters;

- (a) The Judge’s number (1 – 8)
- (b) The competitor’s bib number, up to a maximum of 4 digits.
- (c) The Red Card Proposal
  - i. bent knee
  - ii. loss of contact
- (d) Confirmation of the details already entered.

This information is then transmitted to the data collector situated at the control point, where the details are checked for accuracy.

### Control point

At the control point, the “data collector” will automatically log and time stamp ALL data that is received from the Judges and will then:

- (a) Check to verify that that bib number is valid. If not, then an error message is sent to the Judge’s terminal that originally sent the data. If the proposal for disqualification is a duplicate from that Judge, then no error message is given. However, the information is logged but not acted upon.
- (b) If the information received is valid, then:
  - i. A “RED CARD” is printed at the control point.
  - ii. The RPosting Board is updated by adding the symbol of the offence to the respective bib number on the board. If this is the first red card received for an athlete, then the athlete’s number is added to the board underneath the last bib number displayed. Note that the bib numbers are NOT displayed in a numerical sequence BUT ordered according to the athletes that first received red cards. That is to say that the bib numbers will remain in the



*Judges' hand-held terminal. (Photo Maurizio Damilano)*

same position on the board throughout the whole of that particular race (experience has show that the athletes prefer to see their bib number displayed in the same position on the board, thus eliminating the need to “scan” the board in a short time).

- iii. The Judge receives an acknowledgement.
- iv. The results company is sent the validated information.



*Leading group in the Men's 50kms at the IAAF World Championships - Berlin 2009.  
(Photo Maurizio Damilano)*

## **INTERNATIONAL RACE WALKING COMPETITIONS MAJOR TECHNICAL ASSIGNMENTS/AREAS**

### **(1) Course Selection & Measurement**

The success of any international Race Walking competition is greatly dependent on the proper selection and measurement of the course. IAAF Rule 230.10 (a) is the general requirement for the selection of the maximum course length for the standard international distances of 10 km, 20km and 50 km.

The following guidelines offer greater detail in the selection of suitable courses:

- (a) Traditionally the race walk courses at Olympic Games and World Championships started and finished in the main stadium. However, a start and finish entirely outside the stadium is now accepted with the approval of the IAAF.
- (b) An up and back course is only acceptable if held on a divided road wide enough to prevent tight turns. The course should have turns of a radius of at least 7.5 metres.
- (c) The recommended distances for 10 km, 20km and 50 km event courses is as follows:

Distance	Up & Back Course
10 km	1 km
20 km	2 km
50 km	2 km
- (d) The courses shall not be too steep in grade, especially downhill sections. The road surface should be smooth and free from potholes and loose gravel.
- (e) Courses should not be located farther than 1 km from the stadium for the Olympic Games and World Championships in Athletics if finishing in the Stadium.
- (f) There should be adequate space along the course for medical, refreshment and sponging/drinking stations. Also space for lap counters, timekeepers, judges, umpires and marshals and a posting board should be made available.

### **(2) Schedule of Events**

According to IAAF Rule 230.8 (b), all Road Race Walking events shall be scheduled to start at a time that ensures that the walkers start and finish in daylight. All events should be scheduled at a time of day that avoids maximum temperature and extreme weather conditions.

### **(3) Course Diagram (Map)**

The course map is an important tool used to educate everyone involved in the competition as to the location of all the key functional areas such as the drinking/sponging stations, start/finish line, toilets, medical services, etc. The map does not need to be drawn to scale but it should show the correct location of these technical functions. The map should be distributed to all competition officials, teams (coaches & athletes), press/media, etc. The map is also used during the Technical Meeting



Map of the IAAF Race Walking Circuit  
IAAF Race Walking Cup, Chihuahua 2010.

orientation discussions held prior to the competition.

#### (4) Course Security

Per IAAF Rule 230.8 (a), the course should be closed to spectators and vehicles well in advance, barricades, ropes, cones etc, should be used for this purpose.

Marshals and police are used to further enforce the security of the course, adjacent warm-up areas, doping control area, etc. It is especially important to keep spectators and television vehicles from blocking the view of the judges and interfering with the walkers. Moving television cameras are only permitted on the course if a vehicle does not emit petrol fumes and kept in front or at the rear of the walkers. The finish area should also be kept clear of everyone except finish line officials. No one should be allowed to stand in front of the Posting Board. The refreshment and drinking/sponging stations should be kept clear of everyone except the officials in charge of these areas and permitted team officials.



#### (5) Judges' Co-ordinator

This person is responsible for organising logistics of the judging team including all judges, the Recorder, card collectors, etc. This includes providing the caution and disqualification paddles, red cards, judging summary sheet, individual judges' record cards and maps of the course. This person should also arrange the pre-race and post-race judges' meetings.

*2009, World Championships  
in Berlin.  
Cones on Race Walking Circuit.  
(Photo Maurizio Damilano)*

#### (6) Card Collectors

Card collectors on bicycles/skaters or other systems may be used on road courses to pick up the judges' cards during each race. They are to take the cards immediately to the Recorder, who is usually stationed near the Posting Board. Enough card

collectors should be assigned to the competition to adequately cover the course in a timely manner. The maximum number would be one per judge with a minimum being half that number depending on the physical layout and length of the course. Special arrangements should be made to cover the return to the stadium part of the course. Card collectors whether on bicycles or skates must exercise extreme care not to interfere with the athletes.

Note: An electronic recording system has been developed to improve the communication system between officials for IAAF Rule 1 (a) competitions; however, the bicycle system will still be used for most other competitions.

#### 7) Judges & Recorder

The IAAF selects the Judges for IAAF Rule 1.1(a) competitions from the IAAF Panel of International Judges. Their duties, as well as those of the Recorder, are described in the section on Judging in this booklet.

#### (8) Posting Board Operator & Assistant

These people will be responsible for the operation of the Posting Board during



*Lap counters officials at the World Championship, Berlin 2009.  
(Photo Maurizio Damilano)*

each race. This includes assuring that the board(s) are at the proper location on the course along with the necessary supplies (copies of athletes' numbers or black ink markers depending on the type of board used, red markers, table & chairs, etc.). The best location for the board is usually a short distance (i.e. 100 metres) before the finish line. During the races, the board operator works closely with the Recorder to assure the correct and timely posting of red cards on the board after the Recorder has recorded the proper information on the Judging Summary Sheet.

#### (9) Lap Counting Supervisor & Lap Counters

This is one of the most important technical assignments that directly affect the success of the competition. The lap counters should be located just prior (i.e. 50 meters), to the finish line. Each lap counter should be assigned a maximum of six walkers, preferably from the same country so the walkers are easier to identify. Each lap counter will record the cumulative time by lap on a recording sheet that lists each athlete by bib number. The Lap Counting Supervisor(s), one per five lap counters, will help identify the athletes for the counters if necessary. The Supervisor(s) will also be responsible for signaling to the finish line officials which walker are finishing from those who have laps remaining.

#### (10) Finish Line Officials

Separate from the timing crew are start and finish line officials who handle the start of the race functions (assembling the walkers on the start line based on a random draw); and the challenging job of notifying each walker as to the correct laps remaining and when they are finishing. This last function is extremely important and requires close coordination with the Lap Counting Team. A spotter should be used to help with this task. As soon as the race leader(s) enter the last lap, this person will take up a position approximately 100 meters prior to the finish line. As the spotter reads the number of each walker they signal the athletes number to the lap counting team. The use of walkie-talkies may help with this process. The appropriate lap counting supervisor then informs the finish line officials that this walker is either finishing or has laps remaining. A separate finishing lane should be marked off with cones to aid in separating those walkers who are finishing from those who have laps remaining.

When transponders are used by the athletes, the number of lap counters and finish line officials may be decreased.

#### (11) Drinking, Refreshment & Sponging Stations (10, 20 & 50 km)

As per IAAF Rule 230.9, drinking and sponging stations shall be provided at suitable intervals. They shall be located on the course so that they are easily accessible for the walkers. The best arrangement for the drinking stations(s) is to have the drinking cups half full and placed on tables approximately 1 metre high. The walk-



*Refreshment Area at the World Championship in athletic, Berlin 2009.  
(Photo Maurizio Damilano).*

ers can then simply swing by the tables and seize the cups. Attendants keep the cups full and remove discarded cups from the course. A large trash barrel should be used to dispose of used cups. The best arrangement for the sponging station(s) is to have medium size sponges taken from large buckets of water by attendants and placed on tables approximately 1 metre high for easy reach by the walkers.

As per IAAF Rule 230.9, refreshments, which may be provided either by the Organizing Committee or the athletes, shall be placed on tables that are identified with the athletes' country name (or 3 letter country code). They shall be placed so that they are easily accessible to, or may be put by authorized persons into the hands of competitors. Athletic officials should be assigned the duty of supervising the refreshment station to ensure that a maximum of two people from each country are stationed behind each country's refreshment table. Under no circumstances may someone run beside the walkers while giving out refreshments. Care should be taken while attendants pick up discarded bottles from the course in order not to interfere with the walkers.

## (12) Computer Operations & Results

A computer software program should be used to generate a printout of race interval times and a final results summary. This should be done as soon as possible after each race. The final results printout should contain final times and placings for each athlete including disqualified athletes (DQ) and athletes who did not finish the race (DNF) listed last. If a team competition is part of the event, a separate



*Mat for Transponder System.  
(Photo Luis Saladie)*

calculated team results printout should be part of the results summary. In Race Walking Cup competitions, team scoring is as follows (Competition regulation 717.5, approved by IAAF Council in June 1998):

- Each race shall be scored separately.
- Three competitors shall score in each race (two in Junior races).
- The team results shall be decided by the aggregate of places recorded by the scoring competitors of each team.
- The team with the lowest aggregate of points will be judged the winner. If a team fails to finish with a complete scoring team, the walkers finishing shall be counted as individuals in the race result.
- No adjustment to the scoring places of the finishing teams shall be made in respect of any non scoring team walkers or of individual entries
- Any tie will be decided in favour of the team with the best-placed competitor.

This is duplicated below

### (13) Timing

The timing of Road Race Walking competitions should be done according to IAAF Rule 165.23. For all races, the times shall be read in 1/100th second and shall be converted to the next longer whole second, i.e. for the men's 20km walk, 12:44.32 shall be recorded as 1.22.45. Times for all finishers shall be recorded .Interval

times should be recorded for the men's and women's 20km races at 5km, 10km and 15km; and for the men's 50km race at 10km, 20km, 30km and 40km.

#### (14) Technical Meeting

Prior to the first day of competition, a Technical Meeting shall be held for the purpose of reviewing the technical aspects of the competition. Each team or federation entered in the competition are normally allowed a maximum of two (2) representatives (and, if necessary, an interpreter) to attend this meeting. All team delegations shall be given due notice of the place and time of the meeting. The IAAF Technical Delegate and/or Technical Director for the competition should chair this meeting. Team leaders should submit questions regarding the technical aspects of the competition at least 3 hours prior to the meeting if not addressed in the Team Manual.

#### (15) Doping Control

Doping control shall be conducted in accordance with the IAAF Procedural Guidelines for Doping Control. The Organizing Committee/Host Federation must provide the necessary equipment and personnel to conduct the number of controls decided by the IAAF or appropriate governing body.

#### (16) Other Important Arrangements

Other important technical arrangements include event presentation facilities – audio system, music, announcers, medical services, warm-up area, toilets, spectator/VIP seating, jury, (protest forms), refreshments or officials and medal ceremonies.

#### (17) World Race Walking Records

At least three judges who are either IAAF Panel of International Race Walking Judges or are Area Level shall be officiating during the competition and shall sign the application form.

The course must be measured by 'A' or 'B' IAAF/AIMS Approved Measurer as per IAAF Rule 260.29(a).

The course must be certified and validated according to IAAF Rule 260.29(b) and (c) and the distance of the course shall meet the requirements of Rule 260.29(b). The course must be re-measured within two weeks preceding the race, on the day of the race or as soon as practical after the race preferably by a different 'A' or 'B' measurer from the one who did the original measurement as per IAAF Rule 260.29(d).