

Some of the More Pertinent IAAF Competition Rule Changes for 2008-2009

The detailed Rule changes can be found at <http://www.iaaf.org/newsfiles/41945.pdf>

- 125.2 Call Room Referee will have authority in disciplinary cases from the first Call Room up to the competition site.
- 125.2 A Track Referee appointed to oversee the starts is designated the “Start Referee.”
- 125.4–7 The wording is changed and rearranged somewhat but the intent remains the same. **“Unsporting”** has been added to **“improper conduct”** for behaviour requiring a warning (yellow) or exclusion (red).
- 143.4 Spike diameter has changed. It now reads: **“The spike will, at least for half of its length closest to the tip, fit through a square sided 4mm gauge.”**
- 144.2 **Assistance Rule** now includes a technical device with springs, wheels, etc. **“that provides the user with an advantage,”** as well as the **“use of any appliance”** that increases the dimension of a piece of equipment or that provides the user with an advantage.
- 145.2 Add: **“If an athlete is warned for a second (or subsequent) time under Rule 125.5 for acting in an unsporting or improper manner, in different rounds of one event, or in different events, he shall be disqualified from such second (or subsequent) events in accordance with this Rule.”**
- 146.4 Protests/appeals on the start of a race can now be made whether or not a false start apparatus was used.
- 146.4(a) Referee may declare a track event void and rerun only if there were no false start disqualifications.
- 146.4(b) For protests in a field event that concerns any of the first three rounds, and if that performance would have put the athlete into the final rounds, the Referee may allow the athlete to continue under protest.
- 146.7 The decision of the Jury of Appeal is final.
- 147 **Mixed competitions** in the stadium are allowed in all field events and races 5000m and longer (in events not organized by IAAF i.e. Rule 1 (g), (h))
- 162.5 If an athlete under starter’s commands **“aborts the start, for instance by raising a hand and/or standing in the case of a crouch start, without a valid reason, ..., the Referee will warn him for improper conduct.”** If the Referee deems that there was a valid (extraneous) reason for the interruption, then a green card will be shown to indicate no false start.
- 163.3 Running in lanes has been amended to include running inside or on the kerb in the bend of non-laned races.
- 163.5 Flags at the end of the 800m breakline are no longer used but small cones or prisms (different colour than the lines) **“shall be placed on the lane lines immediately before...the breakline.”**
- 166.2 The tables used to determine the number of rounds and heats and placings used in qualifying for a final have been amended but in most cases when the entry numbers are over 30.
- 166.4 From heats, the 5th and 6th ranked runners now get lanes 7 and 8 (random) and the 7th and 8th ranked runners get lanes 1 and 2.
- 169.6 Steeplechase water pits now may have a maximum depth of 50cm (previously 70cm). Recommended for all new constructions.
- 180.3 For throws from a circle one temporary marker placed on the ground and immediately adjacent to the circle may be used.

- 180.5 When the competing order is to be changed, those tying shall compete in the same order as the original draw.
- 180.7 An addition states when the judge will raise the white flag to indicate a valid trial by defining exactly when the trial is completed.
- 180.7 Allows organizers to determine the format of their vertical jumps competition including limiting total number of heights or trials.
- 180.17 Add notes: (iii) One minute only allowed for the first attempt of any athlete entering the competition. (iv) “When calculating the number of competitors remaining in the competition this should include those athletes who could be involved in a jump off for first place.”
- 181.8 (c) (i) “If it concerns first place, the athletes tying shall have **one jump at the next height, determined in accordance with Rule 181.1, after the height last cleared by the athletes**, and if no decision...”
- 183.2 “It is not a failure if the pole touches the vaulting pad...after properly being planted in the box.”
- 185.2 The old 2 is now note (v) and a new 2 is added stating that the first step outside the pit (leaving) will be farther from the board than the break in the sand.
- 187.9 Note is deleted re failure if run up is longer than 36.5m (no maximum run-up distance now).
- 187.14 (d) “...in the Javelin Throw, touches with any part of his body the lines which mark the **runway** or the ground outside.”
- 187.16 Amended but same intent.
- 187.17 Note added: “The first contact with the top of the iron band or the ground outside the circle or runway is considered leaving.”
- 187.17 Add: “**Once the implement has touched the ground, an athlete will also be considered to have left the runway, upon making contact with or behind a line...drawn across the runway four metres back from the end points of the throwing arc. Should an athlete be behind that line and inside the runway at the moment the implement touches the ground, he shall also be considered to have left the run way.**”
- 188.1 A note added that cart wheeling (I’d love to see this) techniques are not permitted in the shot.
- 191.7 Hammer handle specs changed yet again. Now, there is no maximum inside width. A new diagram is provided.