



M/52/21
Monaco, 21 December 2021

To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Copy: Council Members
Executive Board Members
Commission Chairpersons
Area Associations
Dentsu Athletics

Re: World Athletics Statistics Service – 2022 update

Dear all,

It has now become an established practice to send out an annual update on our statistics service and other related topics. In this December 2021 edition, we are providing information on the following:

- World Rankings
 - Amendments to be introduced from 1 January 2022
 - Upgrading National Permit Competitions
 - World Athletics Outdoor and Indoor Scoring Tables
 - Cross Country World Rankings
- World Rankings Competitions Project
- Validity of Performances
 - Indoor Performances
 - Road Running courses measurement requirements
 - Results Manipulation
- Road to Oregon22
- National Championships Window
- Road Running Label Programme
- Big picture statistics

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our statistical service by emailing statistics@worldathletics.org

Kind regards,

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer

Appendices: Appendix A – World Rankings Competitions Framework
Appendix B – Upgrading National Permit Competitions
Appendix C – Big Picture Statistics



WORLD RANKINGS

Amendments to be introduced from 1 January 2022

General

The Competition Commission has approved the following set of amendments to the World Rankings mechanisms, which will come into force from 1 January 2022:

- Track Race Walking events of 20,000m and 35,000m to be considered as main events (like their counterparts conducted on the road) and will therefore score according to the same category for the purpose of world ranking points.
- 5km and 10km road race distances will be included as similar events in 5000m and 10,000m event groups respectively, with following adjustments:
 - 5000m (or 5km) no longer a similar event to the 10,000m
 - World Athletics Cross Country Championships no longer a similar event to the 10,000mConsequently, results will only be considered if achieved on properly measured courses for which an international measurement certificate has been issued (see later).
- Placing Scores will only be awarded if there are a minimum of 2 athletes in the event, regardless of the category of competition.

Competition Categories

Amendments to the category of some existing / new competitions have been agreed as follows:

- NCAA Outdoor Championships will now award ranking points according to category B (was C)
- NCAA Indoor Championships will now award ranking points according to category C (was E)
- Asian Grand Prix Series (one competition conducted over 2 days in 2 different venues) will award ranking points according to category C
- Mediterranean U23 Championships will award ranking points according to the following:
 - Outdoor: D category
 - Indoor: E category
- Area Permit Meetings (APM) will be incorporated into the Continental Tour (outdoor and indoor) and labelled Continental Tour Challenger Series. They will still be conducted under the authority of the respective Area Associations and will continue to award World Ranking points according to category D.
- Combined Events and Race Walking Tours – the following competitions have been upgraded to a higher scoring bracket for 2022 and will therefore award World Ranking points according to category GL (to note that they are still Gold Level meetings within their respective Tours)
 - Combined Events:
 - Hypomeeting Goetzis
 - Decastar Talence
 - Stadtwerke Ratingen Mehrkampf Meeting
 - Race Walking:
 - Grand Prix Cantones de La Coruna
 - 2022 Race Walking Tour - Taicang

Street Events

This is just a reminder that events can be taken out of the traditional athletics facility but, in order for the results to be recognised by World Athletics as valid for all intents and purposes (including for World Rankings), they have to replicate that exact same traditional facility set-up. This applies to all events – field as well as track – and a compliance form, together with a measurement survey, must be completed and submitted to World Athletics in advance for prior approval.

As an example, should a middle-distance event be taken from the track to the street, (e.g. a 5000m or a Mile), this can only be considered towards the statistics and world rankings if the street conditions replicate the 400m standard oval track. Otherwise, it will be considered as a road event (in the example as a 5km or Mile road race).

Upgrading National Permit Competitions

As customary, we remind you of the option for Member Federations to recognise those local competitions (one-day meetings or other competition formats) which appeal to, and attract, quality participation and to propose them for upgrade to World Rankings Category E (instead of standard category F).



The quotas distribution for 2022 (in Appendix B) remains unchanged from 2021 and, in any case, each Member Federation has the right to propose at minimum one such competition.

As always, proposals must be submitted to statistics@worldathletics.org using the excel form attached. Deadline is ideally 31 January 2021, but applications will also be accepted with at least two months' notice. It will also be possible to submit applications as part of the World Rankings Project (see later) through the online platform.

Starting from 1 January 2023, only competitions held on a World Athletics Certified Facility will be accepted for upgrade to E category.

In the absence of indications from the Member Federation, except for the National Senior Championships, all National Permit competitions will be processed according to Category F.

World Athletics Outdoor and Indoor Scoring Tables

As customary after every Olympic Games year, we are in the process of reviewing the World Athletics Scoring Tables (both Outdoor and Indoor). Changes will be highlighted in the introduction of the new book which will be ready for publication by mid-January on our website here: <https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information> (see Scoring Tables).

Please note that a hard copy of these Tables is no longer published, only a pdf.

Cross Country Rankings

World Athletics has launched the Cross Country Tour and, in parallel, has introduced the inaugural Cross Country World Rankings, which are now available in the World Rankings section of our website.

Due to the different nature and distances of Cross Country running, World Ranking points are awarded based on performance scores (which are dependent on the finishing positions only) and the corresponding tables are available in the Cross Country Tour Regulations (and soon also in the World Rankings Rules section). Athletes are able to score for the Cross Country World Rankings at any of the following competitions divided into four categories:

World Rankings Category	Competitions
GW	World Athletics Cross Country Championships
GL	Area Cross Country Championships Cross Country Tour meetings (Gold level)
A	Cross Country Tour meetings (Silver level)
B	World Athletics Cross Country Championships – U20 races Cross Country Tour meetings (Bronze level) National Cross Country Championships Other International Cross Country competitions (Pan Am, FISU, Balkan, etc.)

NB: only senior races score for the World Rankings with the only exception being the U20 races at the World Athletics Cross Country Championships.

WORLD RANKINGS COMPETITIONS PROJECT

General

World Athletics has been mindful since December 2020 to address developing a proposal for the review of the formal definition of “International Competition”, this being the common wording which identifies the correlation to World Athletics Rules and Regulations for competition. This definition is appropriate for competitions sanctioned by World Athletics or Area Associations but the majority of those conducted at National level would not necessarily be covered by this definition, while the results are, presently, still processed by World Athletics for all its intents and purposes.

The World Athletics Council has approved the introduction of the concept of “World Rankings Competitions”, an over-arching category of competitions which will include all worldwide competitions, and at all levels, capable of delivering events in full compliance with World Athletics Rules and Regulations. A basic overview is provided below while a more comprehensive operational framework is attached.



Key principles

- World Athletics will only recognise as being rule-compliant, and therefore only process results for, those competitions for which an application is made as per pre-defined procedures and timelines.
- Applications will be required for all types of competitions (championships and invitational) across all disciplines:
 - Stadium Outdoor
 - Stadium Indoor
 - Combined Events
 - Race Walking
 - Road Running
 - Cross-Country
- The results of such competitions will be valid for:
 - World Rankings
 - Top Performance Lists
 - Entry Standards
 - World Records
 - Qualification to major Championships and Olympic Games
 - Any other World Athletics statistical purpose
- The results of any competition, even if conducted in compliance with World Athletics Rules and Regulations, for which an application has not been submitted, will not be recognised by World Athletics.
- This application process is not required for competitions sanctioned by World Athletics or by an Area Association (for which there is already an established and dedicated application procedure).
- This finite list of competitions which comply with World Athletics Rules and Regulations and which are eligible for World Rankings, will be published on the World Athletics Global Calendar.

Application benefits and fee

By adhering to the project, competitions will enjoy the following benefits:

- Publication on the World Athletics Global Calendar showing:
 - Competition name
 - Venue
 - Date
 - World Rankings category
 - Additional information (link to competition website, contact information, events staged, etc.) subject to IT developments in the course of the pilot year
- Use of World Rankings Competition label for use on official website, documentation and promotional material
- Processing and publication of the full results (at present only selected results are processed by World Athletics depending on internal limits and standards)
- Evaluation of the competition through the Competition Performance Rankings
- Athletes' profiles created and updated as required (based on the full competition results)
- Awarding of World Ranking points according to the corresponding category to all participating athletes
- Opportunity to upgrade a limited number of competitions (based on established quotas per country) to the higher World Rankings category level (from F to E).

An application fee of 100 USD per competition will be charged to cover the administration costs. The fee is to be intended at the charge of the organiser and it will be possible for payments to be made individually. It will also be possible for Member Federations to make bulk payments for all or part of their domestic competitions and claim the fee from their organisers. No fee will be charged for official National Championships.

Pilot year

The project will be launched in 2022, which will be considered as a pilot year. During this year, those Member Federations which intend to adhere to the project, will have the opportunity to submit applications (either directly or through their respective competition organisers and comprehensive of the mentioned fee), for National Permit Competitions to be considered by World Athletics and to enjoy the above-mentioned benefits.



For the purpose of submitting applications, a dedicated online platform is being finalised. The platform will be ready on 1 April 2022 and, consequently, applications during the pilot year can only be received for the outdoor season.

To be noted that, throughout the pilot year, World Athletics will continue to process results even for those Member Federations which do not adhere to the project (but without the above benefits being available).

Details on the operation of the online platform will be shared in due course.

Year 2023

It is currently envisaged, after reviewing the pilot year, that full implementation will start from 1 January 2023 with applications becoming compulsory for the results of any National Permit Competition to be considered by World Athletics.

VALIDITY OF PERFORMANCES

Validity of Indoor Performances

As from 1 November 2021, an amendment to the Competition and Technical Rules has been introduced which concerns how World Athletics considers performances achieved in oversized indoor tracks – see below extract from TR11).

Performances in events conducted indoors or in an otherwise fully or partly covered venue where the length or other specifications of the facility do not comply with the rules for indoor competition shall be valid and recognised as if they were achieved outdoors, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:

11.3.1 the relevant governing body as provided in Rules 2 to 3 of the Competition Rules has issued a permit for the event;

11.3.2 a qualified panel of National Technical Officials are appointed to and officiate at the event;

11.3.3 where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used;

11.3.4 in the case of an oval track, its length is greater than 201.2m (220 yards) but no greater than 400m; and

11.3.5 the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which, if held on a temporary facility, a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10 of the Technical Rules.

In practice when a result is achieved on a complying facility with no advantage gained and all related rules observed, the fact that it happened at a covered competition site does not prevent a result being listed among the outdoor equivalent distances (and scored according to the outdoor scoring tables) and used for any statistical purpose (e.g. performances on covered 400m tracks and straights). The current practice that results made in indoor tracks shorter than 200m count towards the indoor 200m does not change.

Road Running course measurement

It is an already established practice that World Athletics only recognises results achieved on properly measured road courses which hold an International Measurement Certificate. Until now, this has been a requirement for all the events (Road Running or Race Walking) which score towards the World Rankings. The only exceptions have been events which only score towards the generic Road Running Event group: 5km, 10km, 15km, 10 miles and 20km (in these cases, an International Measurement Certificate was not necessarily required for results processing).

However, with the 5km and 10km now scoring as similar events towards the track 5000m and 10,000m and with the introduction of the World Rankings Competitions (see earlier), courses will need to be measured by an “A” or “B” grade World Athletics/AIMS approved measurer as follows:

- From 1 January 2022: all 5km and 10km courses
- From 1 January 2023: events held over all other road running distances (*Mile*, 15km, 10 miles, 20km) for which an application for World Rankings Competition has been made

Results manipulation

In the lead up to the Tokyo Olympic Games, World Athletics and the Athletics Integrity Unit have received 17 referrals for investigation of suspicious qualifying performances. The referrals were from 16 countries and included 31 athletes and five relay teams. As a result of the AIU’s investigations, eight qualifying performances for the Olympic Games were not recognised by World Athletics and the relevant athletes denied a place at the Games.



World Athletics and the AIU will continue to investigate into any suspicious result, and this is a reminder that anyone can report any form of misconduct. This can be done by contacting World Athletics directly or anonymously, by submitting an online reporting form available on the AIU website (<https://www.athleticsintegrity.org/make-a-report>).

ROAD TO OREGON22

In line with what was done for the 2020 Olympic Games, we will be providing a qualification monitoring tool for the World Athletics Championships Oregon22. The tool will operate in a very similar way to that of Tokyo 2020 while incorporating the additional qualification opportunities available for the World Athletics Championships such as:

- Wild Cards (2019 Defending Champions, 2021 Diamond League winners, etc.)
- Top 10 finishers at Platinum Label Marathons
- Area Champions (subject to certain conditions)

This will be published on our website in the Oregon22 section.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WINDOWS

Starting from 1 January 2022, World Athletics will enforce respecting the globally agreed National Championships Windows which, for 2022 and 2023 are as follows:

- 26-27 February 2022 National Indoor Championships
- 25-26 June 2022 National Outdoor Championships
- 18-19 February 2023 National Indoor Championships
- 8-9 July 2023 National Outdoor Championships
- 29-30 July 2023 National Outdoor Championships

Should there be Member Federations which are unable to respect the above dates, they are invited to contact the Global Calendar Unit (calendar@worldathletics.org) as soon as possible in order to discuss alternative options and avoid the risk of incurring into any sanctions.

ROAD RUNNING LABEL PROGRAMME

The 2022 Road Running Label programme will feature three levels, awarding World Rankings Placing Scores according to the following categories:

Label	Marathon	Other distances
World Athletics Elite Platinum Label	GW	GL
World Athletics Elite Label	A	B
World Athletics Label	E	

As of 14 December 2021, the 2022 Calendar encompasses 189 competitions.

- 89 “World Athletics Label” races (granted based on rules and guidelines compliance, no obligation for elite field)
- 88 “Elite Label” races (with requirements in place for elite competition and minimum prize money)
- 12 “Elite Platinum Label” races

It is expected that more races will join the series early in 2022, bringing the total to around 200.

At present, World Athletics Label Road Races are staged in 46 Member Federations, in all 6 Areas.



BIG PICTURE STATISTICS

As a supplement to the World Athletics Statistics annual circular, some big picture statistics are provided in Appendix C for information. We look forward to receiving your feedback as well as suggestions for other data which might also be of interest.