

**ARTICLE V  
RECORDS**

**RULE 260  
WORLD RECORDS**

1. The recognition of World Records is within the jurisdiction of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). IAAF Rule 260 sets forth the conditions for the recognition of World Records. This Rule 260 is intended only as a helpful summary of some of the important provisions and not as an official source.
2. Under IAAF Rule 260, there are three (3) categories of world records, as follows:
  - (a) World Records
  - (b) World Junior Records
  - (c) World Indoor Records
3. World Record Application Forms can be downloaded from the IAAF's web site (<http://www.iaaf.org/downloads/RecAppForms/index.html>). When a World Record is claimed, the application must be completed without delay and forwarded to the National Office of USATF or to the Chair of the Records Committee. If, after due investigation, the Chair of the Records Committee is satisfied that no reasonable doubt exists as to the validity of the record, the Chair shall so inform the Chief Executive Officer of USATF, who shall have the authority to endorse the application and forward the same to the IAAF. If there are grounds for reasonable doubt as to the validity of the record, the Records Chair shall so inform the Chief Executive Officer, and any communication to

the IAAF shall disclose those grounds and shall advise that the application shall be reviewed and ruled upon at the next Annual Meeting of USATF.

4. The application must be accompanied by:
  - (a) The printed program of the meet,
  - (b) The complete results of the event,
  - (c) In case of a track record, the photo finish picture and the zero control test where fully automatic timekeeping was the official recorder of the event,
  - (d) The reaction times, where available, shall be provided in all races where a crouch start and the use of starting blocks is compulsory. Effective January 1, 2009, for records up to and including 400 meters under IAAF Rule 261 and IAAF Rule 263, starting blocks linked to an IAAF-approved false start control apparatus under Rule 161.4 and Rule 162.17 must have been used and have functioned correctly so that reaction times were obtained.
  - (e) In the case of a field event record, the complete results sheet,
  - (f) In the case of the first application on behalf of an athlete for a Junior record, an official document that confirms the date of birth (a copy of the athlete's passport or birth certificate),  
**NOTE:** *Except for the One Mile Run, World Records are recognized only in the metric running events listed in IAAF Rules 261, 262, and 263.*
5. Each athlete who sets a World Record shall submit to a doping control at the end of the event, to be conducted in accordance with IAAF Rules and Procedural Guidelines currently in force. The sample(s) collected shall be sent for analysis to a WADA-accredited laboratory and the results sent to the IAAF to be added to other information required for the ratification of the record. If such testing results in a doping violation, or is such testing is not conducted, the IAAF will not ratify this record.
6. Where relevant, the requirements of World Masters Athletics (WMA) shall be complied with to assure appropriate ratification of records recognized by that organization.

## RULE 261 NATIONAL RECORDS

1. There shall be six (6) categories of national records as follows:

- (a) An American Record, which shall be the best performance made by an American citizen or relay team composed entirely of U.S. citizens in an athletics event held within the United States or abroad.
- (b) An American Junior Record, which shall be the best performance made by an American citizen or relay team composed entirely of U.S. citizens who are Juniors. (See Classifications preceding Rule 1.)
- (c) An American Masters Record, which shall be the best performance made by an American citizen or relay team composed entirely of U.S. citizens. Separate records may be established for each of the age bands listed in Rule 320, and such records shall be kept separately for men and women.
- (d) An All-Comers Record, which shall be the best performance made in the United States by any competitor or relay team.

**NOTE:** *For American Records and All-Comers Records in Men's and Women's Track and Field and in Men's and Women's Race Walking, there shall also be American Indoor Records and All-Comers Indoor Records.*

- (e) A Masters All-Comers Record, which shall be the best performance made in the United States by any competitor or relay team in any Masters Division.
  - (f) An American Youth Athletics Record, which shall be the best performance made by an American citizen or relay team composed entirely of U.S. citizens in Youth Athletics meets sanctioned by USATF. The record application must include the athlete's current USATF membership number.
2. When a national record is to be claimed, the Association, club, or organization sponsoring or conducting the competition at which the performance was made shall take all necessary steps to have the record applied for, including:
- (a) Completing and submitting the appropriate record application form. Track and field record applications (including race walking events on the track) should be sent to the National Records Chair or the appropriate sport committee Records Chair. Road record applications and all long distance record applications should be sent to the Road Running Information Center at 5522 Camino Cerralvo, Santa Barbara, CA 93111.
  - (b) All Masters and Youth Athletics record applications must be accompanied by proof of birth date. Acceptable forms of proof include a birth certificate, passport, certified baptismal record, driver's license, or US government identification or equivalent proof. Letters from civil, military, or academic officials are not sufficient. In Masters Athletics, the birth certificate must be certified and a driver's license is not acceptable.

3. When an Open or Junior Men's or Women's national track and field record has been equaled or bettered in a USA National Championship, Olympic Trials, or other meet conducted by USATF, or in the Olympic Games, IAAF World Championship, IAAF World Cup, or other meet conducted by the IAAF or sanctioned as a Grand Prix or Permit meet by the IAAF, that record may be ratified based on the official results of the meet without the need for a formal record application. However, an application and/or other appropriate documentation shall be required by the Records Committee whenever it has received information creating some reasonable doubt as to the correctness of the official result.

**RULE 262**  
**RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL RECORDS**

1. The Records Committee shall investigate every performance submitted for record approval and shall recommend approval or rejection to the appropriate sport committee.
2. No record shall be accepted unless it has first been approved by the appropriate sport committee. No application for a record shall be recommended for approval by the Records Committee unless the committee has received all pertinent required information, as called for by the application or by these rules.
3. Credit for Records:
  - (a) No record shall be acceptable unless it is made in a bona fide scratch running competition, or a bona fide handicap or scratch competition in a field event, open to two or more clubs, schools, colleges, or other organizations, which has been fixed and advertised before the day of competition, and which is included in the printed program together with the names of the entrants for the events. A record may be accepted in a handicap race, provided the performance is set in a race in which (1) all competitors start from the same line, (2) no one has started before the competitor claiming the record, and (3) the race is timed in accordance with Rule 165.4. At least three competitors, and in relays at least two teams, shall be bona fide and have participated in the event in which the record purportedly was established. In field events, a handicap competition may be combined with the scratch competition. In Men's and Women's Track and Field, Long Distance Running, Race Walking and Masters Track and Field, no record shall be acceptable unless it was made in an event that had been sanctioned by USATF, a member organization of USATF or another member Federation of IAAF by competitors eligible to compete under IAAF Rules.
  - (b) For track events over 10,000 meters and road events up to and including the Marathon, multiple events may be contested simultaneously. The ath-

lete must complete the distance entered in order for any intermediate time to be considered as a record.

- (c) For races longer than the Marathon, an athlete may compete at a distance shorter than the stated race distance but longer than the Marathon distance. The athlete shall be eligible for records of any standard distance that is completed, even if the stated race distance is not completed. Similarly, a race director may offer several ultramarathon options within the same race with each being considered a bona fide scratch competition.

**NOTE:** *In meets within allied members of USATF or other recognized organizations, marks made in competition open to two or more athletic organizations may be considered for record listing.*

#### 4. Wind Reading Requirements:

- (a) For all outdoor records up to and including 200 Meters and 200 Meter Hurdles (Youth Athletics) and for the Long Jump and Triple Jump, the component of the wind velocity in the direction of the running shall be measured by an approved mechanism that accurately determines such component. This wind information shall be provided on the record application. If the average velocity of the wind, measured in the direction of the running behind the competitor, exceeds 2.0 meters per second the record will not be accepted, except in the combined events, as per subparagraph (b) below.
- (b) The conditions for recognizing a Combined Events record shall have been complied with in each of the individual events, except that, in events where wind velocity is measured, at least one of the following conditions shall be satisfied:
  - i. The velocity in any individual event shall not exceed plus 4.0 meters per second.
  - ii. The average velocity (*i.e.*, the sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2.0 meters per second.

5. No record shall be accepted unless the course, distance, or height has been checked with a certified steel tape or bar graduated in centimeters, or by an approved scientific apparatus. In the case of road records, the course must be certified before the race and must meet certification standards as stated in USATF Operating Regulation 6. Those standards may include the requirement of a steel tape measurement.

6. No performance shall be recognized as a record if it has been accomplished in

or during a mixed competition of men and women, except track events longer than 10,000 meters or in road races

**NOTE:** *For Masters exception, see Rule 320.8.*

7. Records made in heats or qualifying trials, in deciding ties, in any event which is subsequently decreed void under the provisions of Rule 125.9 or Rule 146.5, or in individual events in the combined events will be accepted.
8. In track events of 10,000 meters or less and in field events, when two or more contestants record the same performance during a single competition, each such contestant shall be entitled to the record. In road races or races over 10,000 meters on the track, only winning contestants are entitled to the record.
9. When a competitor is disqualified or otherwise is not entitled to a record performance in that competition, another competitor may be given credit for the same record if he/she was not disqualified and was in all respects (including conformity with the appropriate rules of timing and/or measurement) entitled to such record.

## **RULE 263**

### **RULES APPLICABLE TO TRACK EVENTS**

1. Outdoor track records may be made only on a track which is not banked and which is composed of a substance on which normal running spikes can be used. Indoor running and walking records may be made on any type of surface provided it is indoors. Indoor Records may be made on tracks of wooden composition and/or banked tracks. Other records may not.
2. No record claimed for any event in which time is taken shall be allowed unless it has been timed in accordance with Rule 165. For manual times, the watches of the Official Timers shall be exhibited to the Chief Timer and/or the Referee for confirmation of the time recorded. Times recorded by approved fully automatic timing devices shall be in accordance with Rule 165.11.
3. When the time taken for a longer distance is better than, or as good as, the record for a shorter distance, the time for the longer distance shall be recognized as the record for the shorter distance.
4. An athlete may set and obtain credit for any number of records in the same race. An athlete shall not, however, be credited with a record at a shorter distance if he or she did not finish the race over the full distance for which the race had been scheduled, except as provided in Rule 262.3(c).
5. For races up to and including the 440 yards, only performances timed by an approved fully automatic timing device shall be approved as records.

6. The record must be made on a track of which the radius of the outside lane used does not exceed 50m, except where the bend is formed with two different radii, one of which may exceed 50m as long as it does not account for more than 60 degrees of the 180-degree turn.
7. For outdoor records, in track events of 200 meters or longer, the track must not exceed 440 yards in circumference, and the race must have started on some part of the circumference, except in the Steeplechase event where the water jump is placed outside a normal 400m or 440 yd. track.
8. For indoor records, in track events of 200 meters or longer, the track must not exceed 220 yards in circumference. A performance made indoors on an 11 laps-to-a-mile track may be listed in addition to a record made on a longer track, providing it is so designated.
9. No record may be accepted where the runner in a race run in lanes has run on or inside the inner curved border of the lane.
10. (a) Records for 10,000 meters or a shorter distance contested on a track can be set only on a track which either:
  - i. complies with Rule 160.3, or
  - ii. has been measured 20cm from the white line in accordance with Rule 160.2, provided that the curves have been marked with cones or flags complying in size and placement with Rule 160.3.
- (b) Records for distances longer than 10,000 meters may be accepted as track records provided the inside of the track is marked with a white line and with cones or flags complying with Rule 160.3(b).
- (c) Records for distances longer than 10,000 meters made on tracks that do not comply with Rule 160.3 may be accepted as road records provided they meet all the requirements of Rule 265, including those pertaining to course measurement.
11. For Open Men's and Women's relay events, records shall be recognized in two categories. The first shall be for Olympic, Pan American, and National teams officially representing the USA in international competition, and teams composed of US citizens competing in sanctioned domestic or international events. Records shall also be recognized for the same distances established by relay teams representing a single athletic club or school team. However, where the single club or team record is a superior mark, that record alone shall be recognized.

**NOTE 1:** *For Masters relay record requirements, see Rule 332.2(g)*

**NOTE 2:** Pursuant to IAAF Rules, a World Record in a relay may be made only by a team whose members are citizens of a single member country of the IAAF.

## **RULE 264**

### **RULES APPLICABLE TO FIELD EVENTS**

1. No record claimed for the Hammer, Discus, Shot, Javelin, or Weight shall be allowed unless it has been made with an implement that complies with the specifications for the official implements adopted by the IAAF and USATF. The implement must be certified as to weight, measurement, and material on the date of competition. The implement shall be impounded and re-certified as legal as soon as possible following the throw except in Combined Events.
2. Measurements for records in field events shall be made by three field judges, including the Chief Field Judge of that event, under the supervision of the Field Event Referee or Head Field Judge and shall be made using a certified steel tape, certified graduated bar in centimeters or approved scientific measuring device and submitted in meters and centimeters in accordance with Rule 148.
3. Indoor Records may be set on runways and circles of wooden composition. Other records may not.
4. Records may be credited for more than one performance in a competition, provided that each record so recognized shall have been equal or superior to the best previous performance at that moment.

## **RULE 265**

### **RULES APPLICABLE TO LONG DISTANCE RUNNING EVENTS**

1. (a) No non-winning performance in a road race shall be accepted as a record unless it can be verified (independently of the primary timing systems) that a specific time was recorded for that particular runner. If it cannot be verified that such a time was recorded for the runner, the next slower recorded time that can be verified as being recorded after that runner finishes may be assigned to that runner.  
  
(b) No performance shall be accepted as an Open American record unless it was timed in accordance with Rule 165. Net timing provided by a transponder system shall not be accepted for any record set in road events, except as described in Rule 265.10.
2. A winning performance in a race shall be timed in accordance with Rule 165. The winner of each sex division shall be considered to have a winning performance.
3. Road running performances will not be accepted if a remeasurement shows that

the actual course distance was shorter than the stated record distance. Course remeasurement is mandatory for a record to be accepted.

4. For track records at distances longer than 10,000 meters, lap sheets must be kept. Such lap sheets must record the total elapsed time for the record applicant for each lap. Only laps for which a time was recorded will be counted as having been completed. Each time entry must be initialed by the recorder, the lap sheets must be verified and signed by the race director, and a legible photocopy (NOT the original copy) of the lap sheets must accompany the record application.
5. For all road records:
  - (a) The course must not have a net decrease in elevation from start to finish exceeding 1 part per thousand (*i.e.*, 1m per km).
  - (b) The start and finish of the race must lay no more than 30% of the race distance apart as measured along the straight line between them, except when it can be shown that the average component of the wind direction at the head of the race (the lead runner) did not constitute a significant tailwind.  
**NOTE:** *A tailwind shall be deemed to be significant if it prevails consistently throughout more than 50% of the course during the race.*
6. For all women's road running records, except Masters records, separate records shall be kept for women-only and mixed competition.
7. In all events that are defined by time, distances will be measured to the nearest lesser full yard or meter only.
8. A national or world's best open class performance must be validated as follows:
  - (a) Witnesses to the actual race must provide to the Validation Chairperson of the Road Running Technical Council of USATF, or a designee, a complete and precise map or description of the shortest possible route that was available to the record claimant during the race and must verify that the course measured was the course covered.
  - (b) The actual course must be evaluated and approved as accurate by an expert designated by the Validation Chairperson of the Road Running Technical Council.
9. For road records, a complete set of lap sheets must be kept for any event that is run in three or more loops of the same course. The maintenance and disposition of such lap sheets shall be the same as indicated in paragraph 4, above.
10. Properly rounded net times provided by transponders may be used for Masters

LDR age group records provided: the competitor wins his/her division; the transponder mat defining the start time is placed completely before the start line; and the transponder mat defining the end time is placed completely after the finish.

**RULE 266**  
**RULES APPLICABLE TO RACE WALKING EVENTS**

1. Race walking performances may be accepted as records only if made in competition limited to race walkers.
2. Separate records shall be kept for track and road courses. Records set on a track shall meet all standards applicable to track running events. Records set on road courses shall meet all standards applicable to road running events, including standards pertaining to the measurement and certification of courses. The maximum circuit length shall be the same as those applicable to Championships. See Rule 232.5(a).
3. For records, track races require five Judges and road races require a minimum of six judges, as prescribed in Rule 230.1(e). At least half of these judges shall have National or higher certification, and at least one of these judges must have Master or IAAF certification.

**RULE 267**  
**EVENTS IN WHICH RECORDS ARE RECOGNIZED**

National records shall be recognized only in the events listed in this rule. The events are set forth here by sport committees.

**Men's Track and Field**  
**OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**Track Events**

100 Meters	1500 Meters	110 Meter Hurdles
200 Meters	2000 Meters	400 Meter Hurdles
400 Meters	3000 Meters	3000 Meter Steeplechase
800 Meters	5000 Meters	1 Mile
1000 Meters	10,000 Meters	

**Field Events**

High Jump	Triple Jump	Shot Put	Discus Throw
Long Jump	Pole Vault	Hammer Throw	Javelin Throw
		56-lb. Weight Throw	

**Combined Events**

Decathlon	Pentathlon	Weight Pentathlon
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### **Relay Events**

400 Meters (4x100)                      3200 Meters (4x800)  
800 Meters (4x200)                      6000 Meters (4x1500)  
1600 Meters (4x400)                      440 Meters Shuttle Hurdles (4x110)  
1600 Meters Sprint Medley (400-200-200-800 or 200-200-400-800)  
4000 Meters Distance Medley (400-800-1200-1600 or 800-400-1200-1600  
or 1200-400-800-1600 or 1200-800-400-1600)

## **INDOOR EVENTS**

### **Track Events**

50 Meters	400 Meters	1500 Meters
55 Meters	500 Meters	2000 Meters
60 Meters	600 Meters	3000 Meters
200 Meters	800 Meters	5000 Meters
300 Meters	1000 Meters	1 Mile
50 Meter Hurdles	55 Meter Hurdles	60 Meter Hurdles

### **Field Events**

High Jump	Triple Jump	Shot Put
Long Jump	Pole Vault	35-lb Weight Throw

### **Combined Events**

Pentathlon                      Heptathlon

### **Relay Events**

800 Meters (4x200)                      3200 Meters (4x800)  
1600 Meters (4x400)                      6000 Meters (4x1500)  
1100 Meters Sprint Medley (400-200-200-300)  
4000 Meters Distance Medley (400-800-1200-1600, 1200-400-800-1600,  
or 800-400-1200-1600)

## **JUNIOR RECORDS (All Outdoors)**

### **Track Events**

100 Meters	800 Meters	3000 Meters
200 Meters	1500 Meters	5000 Meters
400 Meters	1 Mile	10,000 Meters
110 Meter Hurdles	400 Meter Hurdles	3000 Meter Steeplechase

### **Field Events**

High Jump	Triple Jump	Shot Put	Discus Throw
Long Jump	Pole Vault	Hammer Throw	Javelin Throw

### **Combined Event**

Decathlon

## Relay Events

400 Meters (4x100)

1600 Meters (4x400)

## Women's Track and Field

### OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### Track Events

100 Meters

1500 Meters

100 Meter Hurdles

200 Meters

2000 Meters

400 Meter Hurdles

400 Meters

3000 Meters

2000 Meter Steeplechase

800 Meters

5000 Meters

3000 Meter Steeplechase

1000 Meters

10,000 Meters

1 Mile

#### Field Events

High Jump

Triple Jump

Shot Put

Discus Throw

Long Jump

Pole Vault

Hammer Throw

Javelin Throw

#### Combined Events

Decathlon

Pentathlon

Heptathlon

Weight Pentathlon

## Relay Events

400 Meters (4x100)

3200 Meters (4x800)

800 Meters (4x200)

6000 Meters (4x1500)

1600 Meters (4x400)

800 Meters Sprint Medley (100-100-200-400)

1600 Meters Sprint Medley (400-200-200-800 or 200-200-400-800)

4000 Meters Distance Medley (400-800-1200-1600 or 800-400-

1200-1600 or 1200-400-800-1600 or 1200-800-400-1600)

## INDOOR EVENTS

#### Track Events

50 Meters

400 Meters

1500 Meters

55 Meters

500 Meters

3000 Meters

60 Meters

600 Meters

5000 Meters

200 Meters

800 Meters

1 Mile

300 Meters

1000 Meters

50 Meter Hurdles

55 Meter Hurdles

60 Meter Hurdles

#### Field Events

High Jump

Triple Jump

Shot Put

Long Jump

Pole Vault

20-lb Weight Throw

#### Combined Event

Pentathlon



### **Junior Outdoor Track Events**

3000 Meters	15,000 Meters	25,000 Meters
5000 Meters	20,000 Meters	1 Hour
10,000 Meters		

### **Junior Outdoor Road Events**

5000 Meters	15,000 Meters	25,000 Meters
10,000 Meters	20,000 Meters	

### **Men's Long Distance Running**

### **Women's Long Distance Running**

### **Masters Long Distance Running (Men and Women)**

#### **Track Events**

15,000 Meters	100,000 Meters	100 Miles
20,000 Meters	200,000 Meters	1 Hour
25,000 Meters	10 Miles	2 Hours
30,000 Meters	20 Miles	12 Hours
50,000 Meters	50 Miles	24 Hours

#### **Road Events**

Road Mile	15,000 Meters	100,000 Meters	
5000 Meters	20,000 Meters	10 Miles	Half-Marathon
8000 Meters	25,000 Meters	20 Miles	Marathon
10,000 Meters	30,000 Meters	50 Miles	12 Hours
12,000 Meters	50,000 Meters	100 Miles	24 Hours
Men's and Women's LDR only:	Marathon Road Relay (5 member)		
	Marathon Road Relay (6 member)		

### **Road and/or Track Events**

1000 Miles	48 Hours	144 Hours
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### **Masters Track and Field**

1. All events listed in Rule 331
2. All events listed in this rule for Men's Race Walking.
3. Additional event for Indoor Track and Field: Mile.
4. Additional events for Outdoor Track and Field: Mile, 3000 Meters.

**NOTE:** See Rule 320.8 for additional requirements.

### **Youth Athletics**

All events listed in Rule 301

### **RULE 268**

### **NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCES**

1. A performance may be recorded as a "Noteworthy Performance" if so approved by the appropriate sport committee.

2. A performance made indoors on a track measuring more than 220 yards, if otherwise eligible for indoor record listing, and if it is equal to or better than the American or All-Comers Record in such event, may be listed as a Noteworthy Performance, if so approved by the appropriate sport committee.