

2016 IAAF Race Walk Committee Report – Maryanne Daniel Rome- Spring meeting/ Council decisions/ IAAF RW Strategic Plan

IAAF Race Walking Committee

Chairman: Mr Maurizio DAMILANO (ITA)

Members:

Mr Khaled AMARA (TUN), Mr Jean-Pierre DAHM (FRA), Ms Maryanne DANIEL (USA)

Mr Fumio IMAMURA (JPN), Mr Robert KORZENIOWSKI (POL), Mr Peter MARLOW (GBR), Mr Fausto Nicanor MENDOZA CAJAS (ECU) (Jefferson Perez sat in for him) Mr Miguel Angel RODRIGUEZ (MEX), Mr Luis SALADIE (ESP), Mrs Jane SAVILLE (AUS), Mr Shande YANG (CHN)

I still don't know what to make of it, probably shouldn't be surprised. I thought we would be voting on many items, instead just talk and relegating many items to a working group of three. Most of the group just nodding heads as the Chairman, Maurizio Damilano spoke, he did however ask us what we thought at certain points. On several items, I voiced my opposition. I opposed the Pit Lane, everybody else thought it was great, wanted it to be used at Jr AND Sr levels, then after I spoke, they compromised to using it at the Sr level only in WTC because it might allow more teams to finish. The glaring problem, as Gary has often voiced, is the “elephant in the room” - our judging inconsistencies. These issues aren't being addressed, all of these reactionary things, like the Pit Lane and the Loss of Contact Device are band aids for our inconsistent judging. When they didn't want to recommend Brian Hanley's biomechanical research for IAF funding, (something that could be used to determine, at the very least, if many athletes are truly bent kneed) I was incredulous and probably sounded irate but I didn't care, by that point I had been in contention for many items. I was surprised they then decided to recommend it...even though no one else said anything, maybe it was just lip service to keep me quiet???. Jane Saville, the other woman on the committee, was wonderful to get to know, very enthusiastic, gave a great presentation on connecting RW to healthwalking but when it came to Pit Lane or pushing a women's 50K she was happy with status quo.

Apparently, there are no minutes that will be produced but a Chairman's report that should come out in July. Any decisions/ recommendations would then have to be approved by the Council meeting (around Olympics timeframe) So consequently, any of the items that I will give you info on, may not be what the final outcome is.

1- **Prize Money.** For the WTC it was agreed to push for more prize money given to the teams and a possible reduction in individual \$. Help Jr Development, possibly have three score instead of two.

2- **Discussion of Rio course.** It was explained that initially the course was going to be shared with another event and in a great place but then that fell through and now the course is off the beaten track in a residential area. The IAAF argued to have it elsewhere but there was nothing that could be done. The road is only three lanes wide. The far turn looks fairly sharp. Apparently there is little or no drainage from the surface, so if wet, it can get slippery. They were looking remedy this.

3-WC London 2017. They want to have it on the 2012 course (plus an extension at one end) on the Mall but can only close it to traffic once on a Sunday. The initial thought was to have two races there and another in the park along the Serpentine. We discussed the possibility of having all three races on the same day. Standards are: 20K- Men 1:24, Women 1:36, 50K 4:06

4- Women's 50K. Initially this seemed to be talked about delicately with many eyes shooting in my direction, then the acting General Secretary, Jean Garcia, spoke frankly and said at the Council meeting this decision of letting women into the 50K was forced and he felt was not in the best interest of having it be seen as a High Performance event with just one woman. Damilano explained that they need to have greater number of quality performances before putting it in and more countries need to show interest by having a National Championship. I spoke up saying that there is often a catch 22 situation, if you don't have the carrot of a World competition many of the better athletes are not going to show interest, sometimes the pot has to be stirred and a forceful push before there is change. This was an important step for the equality that has to happen. I asked what could be done for the development of a women's 50K. The answer is that the Areas must hold Championships and while the RW Committee can encourage, it can't demand that they do. It was decided that having a Women's 50K World Record and encouraging Countries and Areas was good for the time being. This sparked another discussion - that just like the decision for allowing women into the 50K was handed to the RW Committee, so too might be decisions about the 50K in general. The broadcasters really don't want the event, they feel its just too long to hold all but hard core interest... all tied into to marketing and the almighty dollar. We talked of going to the marathon distance so more people can relate to it but they thought still too long...a 30K ? too close to a 20K, have just one event 30K? round and round we went . This topic elicited the most comments from the most people. It was then decided to have a working group look at it.

5-Pit Lane. I was literally all alone in voicing that I didn't think the Pit Lane was a good idea for Jrs- problems with illegal form should be dealt with in the developing stage, not given leeway at the Championship level. With 5 judges at a track race (I think many people just think of 8 judges at a road race situation) a 4th Red Card for disqualification takes a high concurrence. It complicates our already difficult to understand event and requires more personnel and set up, not to mention, do we have anything like it in other Jr events? we don't give an extra jump if someone fouls out just to not discourage them. I think it sends a wrong message. If we believe athletes are unnecessarily disqualified, lets improve our judging! This was met with how wonderful it was at this WTC Jr woman's race, that a Polish athlete who was in the Pit Lane then got to finish the race allowing her team to finish 11th. It was presented that we now use it on all levels. I opposed this and then it was decided only for the WTC where it could help teams finish. Much discussion of the Pit Lane times and how to make the Pit Lane better. Some felt they need a long enough time in the Pit Lane so that they would not finish in the medals, others thought it would enhance spectator interest if that was a long shot possibility. Then, for simplification, they came up with these Pit Lane Times:
10K and under 1 min
20K 2min
50K 5min

These would not come into effect until after Nov 2016

6-Technology. Electronic System for Loss of Contact was essentially tabled as the contract for design and testing was brought to a halt when the Universities' contract had not been renewed /reviewed by IAAF lawyers in the wake of all that was happening in the fall. A system for electronic transmission of Red Cards by smart phones is being investigated.

7- Competitions. 2018 WTC until decided otherwise is listed as being in Cheboksary Russia.

Challenge races will be looked at to see if arranged together in an area will allow athletes one travel to several races. A look at how to get more participation. In Mexico they want to hold a second race linked to the Juarez Challenge race in Monterrey. This was met with approval.

8-IRWJ. Much talk about the Areas having a more strict assessment of the Judges they send to take the level III test. A universal form for all Areas with a section on a listing of high level races that they have judged. More uniform Area Judges seminars. A notice to the International Judges that they will be evaluated after races and it was inferred further placement to different races might depend on this. New and better videos for future testing.

9- Brian Hanley's' scientific and educational support for Race Walk Judges. The Chairman stated there was a request for RW Committee support for this project before it could be submitted for IAF funding. It was felt that there are many biomechanical studies and that we really don't need another one. One member spoke about how Brian Hanley and Leeds University are top notch but yes, we really didn't need another study. I sat aghast and then spoke about how useful this could be! If we are saying that we have a problem with judging, especially too many bent knee calls this could be used as a fantastic educational video, much harder to evaluate loss of contact it was argued but I thought at least we could learn tolerance levels. After saying more about why having athletes from different countries flown into his lab and the type of study that they would be doing would be so useful, I asked...so if we support this, is it taking away from some other project you'd like IAF to support? the answer was no and I asked- well, what do we have to lose? they decided to support it.

10-The future of Race Walking. Jane Saville gave an excellent PowerPoint on improving image and awareness. We need to tap into the world of health walking join with organizations like America Walks, use social media, push our IAAF marketing and communications to open up new opportunities. Perhaps get the Diamond league to showcase a shorter Race Walk event. Use "Spikes" IAAF media to have a Race Walking page, tap into "Athletics For a Better World". It was decided that Maurizio, Jane and Robert Korzeniowski would form a working group and make a visit to the IAAF Marketing and Communications dept.

Remember keep in mind these items have to be approved by the Council and could change, this is just so you have an idea what went on at the meeting.

It was seen as a positive that Sebastian Coe showed for the beginning of the meeting

and seems to have more interest in Race Walking than the previous President. We were asked to come up with a vision and mission statement and thanked for our time.

IAAF Council decisions Aug 2016

Race Walking Committee Report – 9 May 2016, Rome (ITA)

Maurizio Damilano, assisted by Paul Hardy presented a summary of the Race Walking Committee meeting that was held on 9 May 2016 in Rome and made the following recommendations for approval to the Council:

In respect of the IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships Prize Money the Council AGREED with the following recommendations that should be referred to the Competition Commission's Prize Money Review Working Group to be included in the work on the review of the overall prize money structure & financial support (see under item 8.3):

- Increase the proportion of the overall prize money going to the teams
- Reduce the proportion of the overall prize money going to the individual awards (in principle still to the top 6)
- Increase motivation of team participation with more funding (senior and junior) – similar to what has been proposed for the WXC.

With respect to the race walking strategic plan, the Council APPROVED:

- The creation of a working group to develop a strategic plan for race walking, with the following members: Maurizio Damilano, Robert Korzeniowski, Jane Saville and Luis Saladie.

The IAAF Council APPROVED to extend the Pit Lane to senior events and recommends that this be done, for the moment, under the following circumstances:

- The times in the pit lane after the third red card will be the following, depending on the distance:
 - o Up to 5km: 30 seconds
 - o Up to 10km: 60 seconds
 - o Up to 20km: 120 seconds
 - o Up to 30km: 180 seconds
 - o Up to 40km: 240 seconds
 - o Up to 50km: 300 seconds
- From 1 November 2016, allow National and Area competitions to use the pit lane
- Introduce the pit lane at the IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships from 2018 and involve the IAAF Timing Partner so that adequate technology support is given to the pit lane management

respect to the Race Walking Challenge 2017, the IAAF Council APPROVED to:

- Include a second Challenge event in Mexico in Monterrey sharing the programme of events with Ciudad Juarez (included in the 2017 Calendar approved under item 4.1)
- Introduce in the 2017 Regulations an obligation for all organisers to exploit the potential of social media by:
 - o Creating a hashtag for IAAF Race Walking Challenge e.g. #IAAFRWC17
 - o Introducing live streaming (Dudince and La Coruña do this already)

With respect to the Race Walking electronic detection system (Electronic sole), the IAAF Council APPROVED:

- To confirm its recommendation that the project led by the University of Barcelona continues in its second phase and that the contract has to be signed as soon as possible.

With respect to the International Race Walking Judges Education and Certification System, the IAAF Council APPROVED:

- Area Associations to schedule their Evaluations so they take place before the IAAF Evaluation
- Area Associations to take responsibility in identifying the most suitable candidates by:
 - o Requesting candidates' judging records
 - o Conducting their own evaluation throughout the judges' mandates (using guidelines and forms to be provided by IAAF)
 - o Requesting that candidates have at least 3 years' experience at the Area level before being proposed as candidates for the IAAF panel
 - o Appointing someone in charge of regulating the judging lists and creating an Area and National judging database
- The IAAF TOECS Working Group to:
 - o Develop guidelines and a form for an internal evaluation of the Judges at both IAAF and Area levels, to be compiled by the Chief Judge, and used towards the 2018 Evaluation (and relevant Area Evaluations). In addition to highlighting eventual faults, the form should also award bonuses for the best judges.
 - o Update the panel of Race Walking Judges' Lecturers so that all Areas have the possibility to conduct the necessary courses.

A seminar be held in London (August 2017) between athletes, coaches and judges at a time and place to be determined.

With respect to the Leeds University project, the IAAF Council APPROVED:

- The Application for IAF Grant submitted by Leeds University for a project having the aim of:
 - o Conducting scientific research on race walking with regard to judging
 - o Providing educational support to the IAAF for race walk judges, coaches and Athletes

STRATEGIC PLAN IAAF RACE WALKING 2016

Vision

To develop Race Walking in an innovative and collaborative manner to fit the global, modern sports market whilst observing the core values of the IAAF.

Mission

To establish a world-wide structure for growing Race Walking at every level, from grass roots to the international level.

Including:

Effectively communicate and promote Race Walking to enhance global knowledge and awareness.

Work with all stakeholders to make Race Walking the most recognised form of walking worldwide and leveraging the popularity of walking for health and recreation as means to develop race walkers.

Objectives

Development

1. Increase the Appeal and Participation of Race Walking

1.1 Evaluate whether changing standard race walking distances at major championships will improve image, recognition and understanding. Research the pros and cons of 'Race Walking Half Marathon' and 'Marathon' for men and women as standard distances or other relatable distances.

1.2 Utilise the popular appeal of walking as leisure sport & healthy activity that 99% of the population can participate to develop connections with community mass participation events in various forms; fitness, nordic, health etc ... alongside traditional race walking events.

1.3 Explore opportunities for new competition formats for example the Whuzong multi race day event, that involves not only the top athletes but the entire community.

1.4 Promotion by IAAF of World Walking Day on May 8 each year.

1.5 Designate a community "Walking Day" in host cities during major championships (WC or RWWTC) to promote walking and its benefits for health and the environmental. Opportunity to leverage IAAF: Athletics for a Better World.

1.6 Encourage with MF and AA to engage with local governments to leverage walking and race walking in their health and environment policies, for example: "Active Transport"

2. Development through collaboration

2.1 Organise a seminar with athletes, judges and coaches every two years during a major championship (e.g. World Championships) to discuss race walking issues.

2.2 Enhance collaboration and engagement with RDC & MF especially in areas like Africa and Oceania who do not have a tradition of race walking in majority of their MF.

2.3 Improve Race Walk coaching education at grass roots level in all AA and MF.

2.4 More direct communication with AA and MF and provide assistance on how they can include race walking events at grass roots and youth level,

PROMOTION

3. Improved Communications

3.1 Develop a formal strategy with the IAAF Communications Department to boost knowledge and understanding of Race Walking in a fun and innovative way.

3.2 Ensure Race Walking is recognised as a discipline of athletics in all communications at IAAF, AA and MF.

3.3 Develop a guide for host cities of RWC and RWWTC on how to best organise and market their events to help them leverage commercial viability of walking for general population, i.e. Mass participation.

3.4 Introduce streaming broadcasts for international competitions especially for RWC and RWWTC and promote through AA and NF.

3.5 Increase the onscreen information in championship broadcasts, similar to road cycling tours e.g. current leader, time difference, placings etc.

3.6 Improving integration of race walking discipline on IAAF online presence, for example: SPIKES website section titled Race Walking or Walking, just like Throw, Jump and Run.

3.7 Take advantage of the facts that walking is fun, natural and healthy with minimum injury to

promote it to the masses

3.8 Utilise celebrities to promote race walking and it's quirky and fun technique. A celebrity (pop stars, politicians etc) 1km Race Walk at street meets would be an entertaining attraction for media and spectators

COMPETITION

4. Create equal opportunities for both male and female race walkers in major competitions.

4.1 Ensuring, in the long term, there are two distances for both men and women at major competitions.

5. Revitalize the IAAF Race Walking Challenge

5.1 Focusing on increasing participation and geographical distribution of the races aiming for at least one B competition in each Area.

5.2 Collaborate with stakeholders, especially athletes in a more formal manner to develop an improved format and point scoring system in annual reviews

5.3 Propose new, innovative formats and possible collaboration with one day athletics meets.

6. Strengthening the IAAF RW Team Championship

6.1 Communicate and emphasise the importance of the new team formula directly to each MF and race walking stakeholders in each country.

6.2 Encourage selection of a host cities that is walking friendly or has a walking policy to provide synergies to the event.

6.3 Encourage all AA to have a specific Team Championship and to link these to the WRWTC through formulas rewarding the winners countries.

JUDGING

7. Improve judging

7.1 Fast track the research into the creation of an electronic system to detect the loss of contact to reduce the subjectivity of judging as much as possible.

7.2 Research any current wearable technologies that could be utilised by race walking and pursue any possible collaborations.

7.2 Develop a workable education and evaluation programme to ensure IAAF is producing the highest quality judges and co-ordinate with all levels from MF to AF to IAAF.

7.3 Ensure the selection of judging panels for international events is carefully managed and transparent in order to provide consistent and quality judging.

7.4 Continue to monitor and utilise the Pit Lane in youth competitions and in some team competitions. Remembering, the Pit Lane is currently used as a transitional tool, with the long term view of moving to predominantly electronic judging system.also modernization and indispensable tool.