The 2011 IAAF Race Walking Committee meeting took place on March 12, 2011 at the IAAF headquarters in Monaco. The main items of discussion are reported below.

**IAAF Race Walking Rule 230**

**Rule Change Proposals**

In 2010, the Committee had already discussed possible amendments to Rule 230 in an effort to clarify the interpretation and application of the Rule. These were finalized during the meeting and submitted to the IAAF Council as part of the Technical Committee Report. One of these proposals was an amendment to Rule 230.4, changing “caution” to “yellow paddle”.

**“Pit Lane” Rule Proposal**

Race Walking is the only athletics discipline where athletes can be subjectively disqualified by judges for not complying with the rules before the end of the race, without the possibility to appeal (except in the case of a disqualification by the Chief Judge in the last 100 meters of the race).

The Committee is aware that this does cause the following problems, some of which have undermined the credibility of Race Walking in the past:

- A clear discrepancy with the other disciplines where athletes can finish the race and appeal.
- Sometimes a great number of disqualifications with respect to the number of starters resulting in a negative image of the event.
- Judging ability is not consistent throughout the internationals panels so the “quality” of the judging panels unfairly becomes a determining factor in the athlete’s possibility to succeed or fail in a race.
- A lack of understanding from the general public and loss of support for the discipline.
- The possibility of disqualifications being notified after the race, with negative consequences.
- Discourages grass-roots athletes from trying Race Walking.

The Committee has often looked at ways of improving the situation and although steps forward have been made, some Committee members have worked on a proposal aimed at introducing some sort of a penalty instead of the disqualification following three red cards. The penalty being proposed would be a time penalty where an athlete would be
stopped during the race in a “pit lane”, after receiving three red cards. The Committee did not unanimously support this idea. Some members pointed out the obvious problems in trying to manage such a system during races, and the lack of knowledge as to actual placings during these races. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed that some testing of this concept should be conducted in order to explore the practical application of this proposal.

The Committee recommended that the IAAF Council support a testing program. A detailed competition format proposal would be sent to those Member Federations with a tradition in Race Walking and potentially interested in conducting such test events. The findings would be reviewed by the Committee in 2012.

The IAAF Council did support this recommendation.

**International Race Walking Judges (IRWJ) Education & Certification System**

**IRWJ Evaluation System**

One of the recommendations from the IRWJ Seminar in Metz 2009 to achieve an improvement of the judging consistency was the monitoring and appraisal of the work of the IRWJ. The Committee was therefore given the mandate to develop a new form of evaluation, to be conducted by the Chief Judge. This appraisal form, to be developed, will be circulated to all IRWJ Panel members, who will be asked to evaluate their colleagues whenever they act as Chief Judges. Whenever possible, the same form should be used to evaluate Area Race Walking Judges (ARWJ). In all cases, the Judging Summary Sheets must be part of the report, together with the judging positions along the course. The conclusions of the appraisals should then be sent to the IAAF Office and reported to the Race Walking Committee for action, and if required, to the IAAF Council. These appraisals are to be eventually used as part of the judge’s evaluation at the time of establishing the new International Panel (2014).

**Level II Lecturers Refresher Seminar**

A Level II Lecturers refresher seminar is to be held (and was) in Sesto San Giovanni, Italy on the occasion of the IAAF Race Walking Challenge competition on April 30th and May 1st. In addition to the current panel of 9 lecturers, the Committee proposed to extend the invitation to other potential lecturers in order to cover all geographical areas properly. Two new members to the panel are Joseph Ochieng (KEN) and Gary Westerfield (USA). An age limit of 70 is to be imposed for inclusion into the panel, starting in 2014. The IAAF Member Services Department, with the help of the Committee members, is given a mandate to approach new and younger potential lecturers, especially in Oceania, South America and North America.
ARWJ Panels
The Committee would like to see an age limit imposed on potential Level II candidates for ARWJ panels and for staying on that panel. The current age limits for the ITWJ Level III Panel is 60 years for entry into the panel and 70 years for continuing to be a member. The Committee recommended an age limit of 55 years to be a candidate for the ARWJ Panel and 70 years for continuing to be a member of the ARWJ Panel. The IAAF Council supported these recommendations.

IAAF Race Walking Challenge
The Committee made a review of the 2010 season, with the support of a thorough statistical analysis prepared by Luis Saladie. The Challenge remains a great opportunity for athletes, but also for judges who have the chance to officiate at high level competitions outside of the IAAF World Athletics Series. However, in 2010, the following problems continued to be observed:

- Some top athletes still do not participate, especially from Russia.
- Still very limited local promotion and media coverage.
- In most cases – mediocre organization.

2012 Calendar of Events
March 3       Chihuahua, Mexico
March 29-31   Taicang, China
April 14      Rio Major, Portugal
May 12,13     IAAF World RW Cup, Saransk, Russia
May 26        La Coruna, Spain
June 2        Sesto San Giovanni, Italy
Sept. 15      IAAF Challenge Final, Erdos, China

World Athletics Series
Time Limit at World Race Walking Cup
Based on a Committee recommendation from 2009, the concept of “Time Limit” was tested at the World Cup in Chihuahua in 2010. Athletes unable to start the last 2Km within a certain time from the start of the race, were stopped by the competition officials and prevented from continuing. This experimental introduction was considered to be positive. Therefore the Committee recommended that Time Limits be continued but with the amendment that those stopped at the start of the last 2Km be awarded their corresponding finishing position, so that their participation would still count towards the team score. The IAAF Council approved this recommendation.
International Recorders and Assistants to the Chief Judge
The Committee reviewed the current IAAF selection policy for the appointment of Recorders and Assistants to the Chief Judge at WAS Competitions [WCh, OG & WRWCup] and concluded that while Assistants to the CJ can be a local official (ideally an ARWJ), the appointment of at least one international experienced Recorder is essential. However, this person could also be a local official. Additionally, depending on the course, one Assistant could be sufficient. The IAAF Council approved these recommendations.

Qualifying Race Walk Competitions
The Committee was informed that, in some cases, Member Federations do not necessarily apply for the results of national permit competitions to be valid towards the entry standards for the World Championships and Olympic Games, as required by the current Regulations. This can be due to an administrative error and result in performances, achieved in perfectly valid circumstances (measured courses and required judges), cannot be considered as valid for the purpose of entry standards. The Committee continues to support the need for the IAAF to establish a list of qualifying competitions subject to compliance with the requirements and the receipt of the duly completed application form. However, it did raise the following concern: Athletes should not be penalized for administrative errors of their Member Federations. The Committee therefore recommended that the IAAF Office evaluate and resolve any cases in which the above contradiction exists, keeping in mind the athlete’s interests. The Committee also suggested that the IAAF Office explore ways in which the current procedure for the identification of qualifying competitions could be streamlined for a better understanding by the Member Federations and a more effective implementation. The IAAF Council supported these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Bowman
Member, IAAF Race Walking Committee