



M/35/20
Monaco, 10 August 2020

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

Re: Clarification - Amendments to Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs) World Athletics Technical Rules

Dear all,

On 28 July, with our Circular Letter M/30/20, we provided you with the approved amendments to Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs) of the Technical Rules ('the Rule') as the Rule applies to athletic shoes. The amended Rule 5 of the Technical Rules (Book C, Chapter 2.1 of the Book of Rules) can be found on the World Athletics website ([here](#)). We want to clarify certain aspects of the rules based on questions we have received:

1. The amendment to Rule 5 of the Technical Rules was approved by Council 15 July 2020. However, the date the amendment to Rule 5 of the Technical Rules came into force is 28 July 2020. This was the date when the rule amendment was notified and published.
2. Can athletes wear shoes (with or without spikes) above the limits stated in the table after 28 July? No, the only exception is for Field Event athletes as per point 5 below.
3. What is the position on results if Rule 5 of the Technical Rules has not been complied with?

Given we are in a transition period, we will process all results achieved in our database but will review them, and mark any individual athlete's result as 'Uncertified' ('TR5.5'), should it be reported that the athlete was wearing non-compliant shoes. We must stress that, in the case of National Championships and other domestic competitions, for results to be validated and recognised by World Athletics for statistics purposes, such competitions must be held under World Athletics Technical Rules and Competition Rules. This means that Rule 5 of the Technical Rules must be applied in full for the competition results to be recognised by World Athletics as valid. To preserve the integrity of national records and statistics, the responsibility is on the Member Federation to ensure that all athletes, officials and competition organisers are fully aware that Rule 5 of the Technical Rules will be applied in full.

If a Member Federation or competition organiser permits athlete(s) to compete in non-compliant shoes, then the athlete(s)' individual results from the competition will be marked in World Athletics' records and statistics as 'Uncertified ('TR5.5') i.e. invalid. In some cases, this may apply to the entire race.

4. Results achieved before 28 July where an athlete has worn a shoe above the limits are valid provided the results were achieved in shoes that complied with the sole thicknesses in the previous rule. For example, if an athlete wore 40mm non-spike shoe on the track or 30mm spike between the 31 January 2020 and the notification and publication of change of rules on 28 July 2020, then the competition result is valid.
5. Note (ii) to the "Shoe Sole Thickness Table": The intention of footnote (ii) is to accommodate Field Event athletes who have already been wearing shoes over the limits stipulated in the table to give them time to adjust. This is where Field Event athletes have known medical issues with their foot/feet (i.e., which can be proven) or where the Field Event athlete is sponsored but does not have a discipline specific shoe.



For clarity “Field Event” has been included in Note (ii) that reads as follow: *Note (ii): To assist Field Event athletes adjusting from their current shoes that do not meet the sole thickness heights set out in the table to Rule 5.13.3, the date for compliance is 1 December 2020.*

6. Provided an athlete’s shoe complies with the stated sole thickness either spikes and non-spikes shoes can be worn for the events listed in the table to Rule 5.13.3. So, for example, it does not prevent a road running shoe from being worn on the track but the road running shoe **must** comply with the sole thickness limits set out in the table. A 40mm road running shoe cannot be worn on the track for events from 800m and above (including Steeplechase) because the limit is 25mm.

The list of shoes that were submitted to World Athletics by manufacturers for assessment, those shoes that are approved will be communicated by a separate circular.

We will be grateful if you could share this information with your athletes, officials and meet organisers and we are available to answer questions sent to rules@worldathletics.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Ridgeon".

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer