

# **ATHLETICS OMNIBUS – PROCEDURE TO RATIFY RECORDS**

From the Athletics Omnibus of Richard Stander, South Africa

## **1 How can an athlete set an Athletics Record?**

- 1.1 Application for the ratification of an Athletics Record may be made only on behalf of an athlete or athletes who are under the jurisdiction of a club, province or country, e.g. a licensed athlete.
- 1.2 An athlete who lives in the region can set an Athletics Record in an event, held under the rules of the club, province or country.

## **2 Who to ratify an Athletics Record?**

The President and CEO/General Manager of the club, province or country are authorised to recognise the relevant Athletics Records. If they are in any doubt whether or not the record should be accepted, the case shall be referred to the relevant Committee for decision.

## **3 How will an athletics record be acknowledged?**

A certificate will be issued to an athlete every time the athlete sets a new record.

## **4 Where can a Provincial Athletics Record be set?**

An athlete is entitled to set a club, provincial or national record in South Africa or abroad on condition that the organisers of the meeting certify it to the satisfaction of by the representative body.

## **5 In which categories can an Athletics Record be set?**

- 5.1 The following categories of Athletics Records for men and women are accepted as official:
  - 5.1.1 Senior records
  - 5.1.2 Junior records (19 and younger)
  - 5.1.3 Youth records (17 and younger)
  - 5.1.4 Sub Youth Records (15 and younger)
- 5.2 Members such as Schools, Forces, Services, etc. shall keep a list of the records of their own jurisdiction.

## **6 What records must be recorded?**

- 6.1 The following records will be regarded as official records:
  - 6.1.1 National athletics records
  - 6.1.2 Provincial athletics records

## **7 What to do when a record is set in a competition?**

- 7.1 When an Athletics Record is set by an athlete or a team, the organizer of the event will collect, without delay, all the information required for ratification of the record
- 7.2 The member will inform the relevant athletics authority within 30 days after the record was set. No performance shall be regarded as an official record until it has been ratified by the relevant authority.

## **8 What must be done to apply for the ratification of an Athletics Record?**

- 8.1 The organizer must send the Athletics Record application form to the relevant authority. The following documents must be attached to the application form:
  - 8.1.1 The printed programme of the meeting.
  - 8.1.2 The complete results of the relevant event.
  - 8.1.3 The wind meter reading of the event where relevant
  - 8.1.4 The photo-finish photograph of the event in the case of a track record where fully automatic timekeeping was in operation.
  - 8.1.5 For Junior Records, unless the athlete's date of birth has been previously confirmed by the relevant athletics authority, the first application on behalf of that athlete shall be accompanied by a copy of the athlete's birth certificate or similar official document which confirms the athlete's date of birth.

## **9 Under what conditions can an Athletics Record be set?**

- 9.1 The Athletics Record shall be set in a bona-fide competition, which has been duly arranged, advertised and authorised before the day of the competition, by the Organizer.
- 9.2 The event with the names of the competitors taking part shall have been mentioned in the final starting list. The final starting list must be available before the start of the event.
- 9.3 The record shall be better than, or equal to the existing Athletics Record for that event.
- 9.4 Records set in heats or qualifying competitions, in deciding ties and in individual events in combined event competitions, regardless of whether the athlete completes the whole Combined Events competition or not, may be submitted for ratification.
- 9.5 No record set up by an athlete will be recognised if it has been accomplished during a mixed gender competition.
- 9.6 A record set while competing against older athletes, provided that all athletes competing are from the same gender, will be recognised.
- 9.7 For Junior and Youth Records, the application on behalf of that athlete shall be accompanied by a copy of the athlete's ID document, passport, birth certificate or similar official document that confirms the athlete's date of birth.
- 9.8 A race shall be stated to be over one distance only and all competitors shall compete at that distance. A race based on the distance covered over a given time may be combined with a race over a fixed distance (for example, 1 hour and 20000m).
- 9.9 It is permissible for the same athlete to accomplish in the same race any number of records.
- 9.10 It is permitted for several athletes to accomplish different records in the same race. However, it is not permissible for an athlete to be credited with a record at a shorter distance if he did not finish the full distance of that race.

## **10 Technical specifications required when setting an Athletics Record?**

- 10.1 An Athletics Record will only be ratified when set in an accredited athletics facility.
- 10.2 Running and walking records can be set only on a track, which is non-banked.
- 10.3 The track must have a raised border, marked, and flagged in accordance with the provincial rule.
- 10.4 For individual events, at least three competitors and for relay events at least two teams must participate in the event.
- 10.5 Running and walking records must be timed by accredited Timekeepers, or by a fully automatic timing device accredited by the province. For races up to and including 400m, only performances timed by an approved fully automatic timing device and / or a video-based system shall be accepted.
- 10.6 For every Athletics Record set, the Organiser should provide a photograph of the relevant film, or a paper copy of the print from a video-based system in order that the time read by the Chief Photo-finish Judge can be confirmed before the official announcement of the result. The same shall apply for all track events in a Combined Events competition.
- 10.7 A Relay record can be set only by a team, all of whose athletes are registered with the same Member.
- 10.8 The time achieved by the first runner in a relay team may not be submitted as a record.
- 10.9 For any record at any distance of 200m or more to be recognised, the track on which it was made must not exceed 400m and the race shall have started on some part of the perimeter. This limitation does not apply to the Steeplechase events where the Water Jump is placed outside or inside a normal 400m track.
- 10.10 The record must be made on a track, the radius of the outside lane of which does not exceed 50m.
  - For all records up to and including 200m, wind meter readings measured by the province's accredited Technical Officials must be submitted. If the wind velocity measured in the direction of running averages more than 2 metres per second, the record will not be accepted.
- 10.11 In a race run in lanes, no record will be accepted where the runner has run on the inner curved border of the lane dedicated to the athlete.
- 10.12 For walking records at least two Judges from the Panel of Athletics Race Walkers shall be officiating during the competition and shall sign the application form.
- 10.13 Records in Field Events shall be measured either by three Field Judges using a calibrated and certified steel tape or bar or by an approved scientific measuring apparatus, the accuracy of which has been confirmed by a qualified Measurement Judge.
- 10.14 In the long Jump and Triple Jump, wind meter readings measured by accredited Technical Officials must be submitted. If the wind velocity measured in the direction of jumping averages more than 2 metres per second, the record will not be accepted.
- 10.15 In Field Events, Athletics Records may be credited for more than one performance in a competition, provided that each record so recognised shall have been equal or superior to the best previous performances at that moment.

10.16 In a Combined Events Competition, the conditions imposed for recognising records in individual events must have been complied with in each of the events, except that, in events where wind speed is measured, the speed must not exceed 4 metres per second.

#### **11 Is a performance enhancing drug allowed when setting an Athletics Record?**

- 11.1 The use of illegal substances to enhance the performance of an athlete is seen as a serious offence and can lead to the athlete being banned from athletics for life.
- 11.2 The relevant athletics authority reserves the right to request a dope test prior to recognition of an Athletics Record.
- 11.3 The list of illegal substances is updated on a daily basis. The most recent list can be found on the Drug Free Sport web site: [drugfreesport.org.za](http://drugfreesport.org.za) or The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) website: [iaaf.org](http://iaaf.org).

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASA Domestic Rule Book, Athletics South Africa, Athletics House, P O Box 2712, Houghton, 2041  
IAAF Rule Book, IAAF 17, rue Princesse Florestine, B.P. 459, MC 98007, Monaco Cedex