

BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS
FEDERATIONS (IAAF)

**STRENGTHENING THE TOKYO OLYMPIC 50K
RACE WALK EVENT
BY MAKING IT
GENDER EQUAL**

**Submission in Support of the Men's And Women's
50K Race Walk Events**

Provided to the IAAF Council
At the December 3-4, 2018
Meeting in Monaco

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Dear President Coe and Members of the Council,

I had the honor to speak with most of you at the London Council meeting in April 2017 regarding retaining the Men's 50K Race Walk Event at the Tokyo Olympics.

Thank you for having done so. At the time, I requested that women 50K race walkers be included at the Olympics and World Championships. You have done so at the World Championships, with the inaugural Women's 50K World Championship race contested in London on August 13, 2017.

And what a successful start it was: the only world record broken at those World Championships was in the Women's 50K. The London field of seven grew to 32 in Taicang in May of this year at the World Race Walking Team Championships. Again, its winner posted a new world record.

Women race walkers deserve their Olympic 50K in 2020. The December 2018 Monaco Council meeting affords the perfect opportunity to make it official. The Olympic Movement's commitment to gender equality virtually assures Olympic Committee acceptance of the proposed addition, especially because the men's and women's races can be held jointly.

A joint Olympic men's and women's 50K will strengthen the 50K event overall at a critical time, when some propose to delete the 50K Race Walk Event from future major championship programs. In this booklet, I wish to share with you why it is important to keep the 50K Race Walk Event as an integral part of the IAAF's major competition program.

Thank you for your support.

Paul F. DeMeester
Race Walker
November 30, 2018

I

THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE WOMEN'S 50K

On May 5, 2018, 32 women competed in the 50K at the World Race Walking Team Championships in Taicang, China. Ever since its inclusion at the London World Championships in 2017, the quality of the Women's 50K Race Walk Event is obvious when we compare the London and Taicang competitions with the first two women's marathons at world level in 1983 and 1984.

The marathon was contested at the highest level championships exclusively by men until 1983, when the World Championships first included the women's marathon. A year onward, the Olympic Games followed suit. This provides us with two sets of data about a year apart after the initial introduction of the women's event at world level. We compare data from the 1983-84 marathons with the two Women's 50K Race Walk Events in London and Taicang.

The comparison is overly generous to the marathon. The women runners contesting the 1983 Worlds marathon had three years notice of the existence of their race, after the IAAF Congress voted in 1980 to include the women's marathon. Moreover, the event was deemed to become a permanent fixture at the major championships. The women's 50K race walk event was added to the 2017 World Championships only three weeks prior to the race. Moreover, the future of the 50K is not secure. The three-year advance notice for the 1983 marathon versus the three-week 50K notice in 2017 and the lack of future 50K event security definitely explains why only seven women walkers showed up in London 2017 versus 59 women marathon starters at the 1983 Worlds in Helsinki. Despite such caveats, given that both the marathon and the 50K race walk are endurance events, their comparison is still appropriate.

Three aspects are examined: how much longer it took the women's winner versus the men's winner to finish their particular race; how much longer it took the slowest finisher versus the winner to finish their particular race; and whether any world records were broken. In comparing men versus women, it must be borne in mind that the IAAF presented evidence in the *Dutee Chand* case before the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) that the performance difference between top male and female athletes is on average 10 to 12%. This performance difference is amply demonstrated by the difference in the London 2017 entry standards for men and women, which for running events is at its smallest for the 100m at 11.3%, and widest at 18.7% for the marathon.

Table 1

% Difference Between Women's Winning Time And Men's Winning Time

1983 Worlds Marathon	+13.8%
1984 Olympic Marathon	+12.0%
2017 Worlds 50K RW	+15.4%
2018 World Teams 50K RW	+ 9.0%

Table 2

**% Difference Between Slowest Finisher's
Time And Winner's Time**

1983 Worlds Men's Marathon	+40.8%
1983 Worlds Women's Marathon	+30.1%
1984 Olympic Men's Marathon	+33.2%
1984 Olympic Women's Marathon	+18.9%
2017 Worlds Men's 50K RW	+16.5%
2017 Worlds Women's 50K RW	+ 6.5% *
2018 World Teams Men's 50K RW	+27.0%
2018 World Teams Women's 50K RW	+27.6%

Note (*): At the 2017 London Worlds, two women were stopped for failing to meet the Time Limit of 4:17:00 at the start of the last lap, a limit set below the 4:30:00 women's entry standard but above the men's 4:06:00 entry standard.

Table 3

Were Any World Records Set?

1983 Worlds Men's Marathon	-----
1983 Worlds Women's Marathon	-----
1984 Olympic Men's Marathon	-----
1984 Olympic Women's Marathon	-----
2017 Worlds Men's 50K RW	-----
2017 Worlds Women's 50K RW	WR
2018 World Teams Men's 50K RW	-----
2018 World Teams Women's 50K RW	WR

These findings demonstrate that the women's 50K race walk is holding its own by any objective quality measure. In a time span of nine months, the number of 50K starters at a world-level event jumped from seven in London to 32 in Taicang, another positive sign. The number of starters in London -- seven (on three weeks' notice) -- compares favorably with the 15 starters in the men's first Olympic 50K in 1932.

This progress has continued unabated with 2018 national Women's 50K championships having been conducted in Portugal, Greece, the United States, Spain, France, Poland, Japan, Russia (its member federation is currently suspended but its athletes may apply for world-level participation as neutral athletes), the United Kingdom, China, Italy, Ukraine, South Africa and Australia (on the weekend before the Council meeting). South America and Europe held Women's 50K Race Walk Area Championships.

The immense progress is further noticeable in the *Senior Outdoor 2018 50 Kilometers Race Walk Women* compilation posted on the IAAF website. Through October 28, 2018, 53 women 50K race walkers had posted times in 2018 below 4:52:00. (See pp. 24-25 for complete list.) The 4:52:00 time is 18.7% higher than the Men's 50K Race Walk entry standard for the 2017 London World Championships, which stood at 4:06:50. This percentage difference (18.7%) is the same as that used to differentiate the women's from the men's marathon entry standards in London last year. This year's top spot is held by Rui Liang of China, who broke the world record on her way to number one in Taicang.

Men have been able to contest the Olympic 50K Race Walk Event 19 times and the World Championships 50K 17 times. Women 50K walkers had their first opportunity at world championship level in 2017. Women walkers deserve to have their 50K become a long-established one, like the Men's 50K has been since 1932. Gender equality does not mean

that an event be organized only once or twice for women, then taken away. Since 1928, women's Olympic events have been added in all events save one -- the 50K. The World Championships attained gender equality in 2017. It would be unprecedented to reverse that course of action by abolishing the 50K when women athletes are finally welcome at the start line.

II

THE 50K GIVES CREDIT TO THE TERM *ATHLETICS*

We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard

U.S. President John F. Kennedy
September 12, 1962

JFK might as well have been talking about the 50K Race Walk Event. But let's first talk about a different event. For instance, the 100 meters. A quick burst of speed and anywhere from 9 to 20 seconds later, most of us will be done. Major championships require top 100-meter runners to contest the semi-final and final on the same day less than three hours apart.

No surprise then that there are more sprinters than marathon runners. But why are there more marathon runners than 50K race walkers? Enter the second hardship factor: the need for race walkers to adhere to technical rules. Running, on the other hand, is like freestyle swimming: anything goes; the clock is the sole judge. But a race walker has to last the distance and do so in technically correct fashion.

Technically difficult events draw fewer competitors: pole vaulting, butterfly-style swimming, figure skating, Olympic gymnastics, and of course, race walking. But only the 50K Race Walk Event faces extinction. Even though few athletes world-wide ever contest these technically difficult events in their Olympic format, these select few represent much more than their numbers would suggest.

Take gymnastics, for instance. In the USA, a country of more than 300 million people, only 79 women and 136 men

were eligible in 2009 to earn invitations to Olympic trials, even though USA Gymnastics counted 92,600 athletes in its various programs that year. (See https://usagym.org/pages/home/publications/usagymnastics/2009/32_stats.pdf.) U.S. high school gymnastics draws thousands of participants each year, even though those students do not perform all parts of the technically challenging Olympic program; and millions of Americans get up early to start their day in a gym. Olympic gymnastics represents the pinnacle of people's efforts to improve their physique gymnastically, whether for purposes of health, fitness or the competitive spirit. Those millions of early risers may harbor no intention whatsoever to perfect the pommel horse, vaulting or the uneven bars. Yet, their use of the treadmill, the stationary bike, and using the floor mat for some stretching, connect the many to that small Olympic gymnastics elite.

Likewise, Olympic marathon runners represent all those who do any kind of distance running, not just those competing over 42.195K. That's millions of folks on a daily basis who, somewhere on this earth, go for a run or a jog.

But the daily total of people who skate, swim, or run is dwarfed by only one other activity: walking! Millions may run on any given day. But most of the world's 7.6 billion population have this in common: they walk. Kids going to school, people going to work, retired folks strolling in the park, soldiers marching, heart patients following the advice of their cardiologists, and the list goes on. Nowadays, people don't just wear a watch. Many carry some device that tells them not just the time but also how many steps they took that day and how much ground they covered. Unless disabled, infirm, or too young, everybody walks. Moreover, walking lends itself to longer distances. When trying to catch a bus that's arriving down the street, walking makes no sense. Instead, we'd run like heck. But think of a rail and bus strike in London on a business day, and walking

may just be the one way of getting to wherever “there” is. Billions of people walk on any given day. No other discipline can lay claim to such numbers. Just like the marathon represents any form of long distance running or jogging, the 50K Race Walk Event represents any amount of distance walking. Having 20K and 50K Race Walk Events at the Olympics and Worlds is an acknowledgment of all the walking billions of us engage in on a daily basis.

Billions walk but the same cannot be said for pole vaulting. Yet, no one is threatening pole vault’s position on the Olympic program. Nor should they. The point is that the athletics community should come together to protect its entire program, including the 50K, the 200m and the hammer throw.

Few practice the 50K Race Walk Event precisely because it is so hard to do: it involves endurance as well as speed; training is marked by long periods of solitude on the road in all kinds of weather; the event is not a road to wealth. Yet, it is the difficulty of the event, its physical hardship, which makes the event a pillar of the athletics temple.

Shorter distances lend themselves to running, not race walking. Conducting short-distance events, especially in relay format, would invariably demonstrate the vulnerability of trying to walk fast over a natural running distance: loss of contact. This would open the discipline to rightful criticism and ridicule. Walking makes sense over long distances only, which is why the 50K is a proper competitive event.

III

RACE WALKING IS A SAFE SPORT

In the discussion about whether to delete the 50K, one positive factor in favor of race walking has been ignored: safety. American football is losing youthful practitioners as U.S. parents are loath to see their kids injured. Headers in football (soccer) may be banned due to medical concerns. In athletics, the hammer, the javelin and the discus have been known to inflict fatal injuries, but not to the athlete who launched those objects. Only one athletic event incurs a high risk of serious injury to its participants pole vaulting. A 2001 study reviewed 32 catastrophic pole vault injuries in the U.S. that were reported to the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill between 1982 and 1998. Half those injuries were fatal. Six vaulters were permanently disabled. (Boden, BP et al., "Catastrophic Injuries in Pole Vaulters," *The Am J Sports Med*, 2001 Jan-Feb;29(1):50-4.) Rule changes for pole vaulting were instituted in 2003, including enlarging the minimum dimensions of the landing pad. The study's authors reviewed the impact of the changes from 2003 to 2011. Only 19 catastrophic injuries occurred resulting in one fatality, ten vaulters with major head injuries and one who was rendered paraplegic. The authors concluded that "the 2003 rule changes have markedly reduced the number of catastrophic injuries, especially fatalities, from pole vaulters missing the back or sides of landing pads; however, the average annual rate of catastrophic injuries from pole vaulters landing in the vault box has more than tripled over the past decade and remains a major problem." (Boden, BP et al., "Catastrophic injuries in pole vaulters: a prospective 9-year follow-up study," *Am J Sports Med*, 2012 Jul;40(7):1488-94.)

And that was in just one country. Again, the risk factor in pole vaulting is not an argument to try to do away with the event. It's certainly an argument for trying to make it safer.

At the recent Winter Olympics, an Austrian Olympian showed how easy it is to break one's neck in the half-pipe snowboarding event. Imagine how many kids get injured trying to emulate their snowboarding sports heroes.

At the opposite end of the injury spectrum stands race walking. Not only is walking great for a person's health; conducting it in fast fashion is incredibly safe.

IV

WE MAKE PUBLIC OUR ATHLETIC EVENTS, MEANING WE *BROADCAST* THEM WHICH DOES NOT MEAN WE STAGE EVENTS FOR THE SAKE OF BROADCASTS

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of American English defines "broadcast" as being "made public by means of radio or television." Sports officials lose the meaning of the word as well as that of "sports" by letting the medium to publicize events dictate what events should be held.

Suffice it to say that if broadcast interest was the norm for determining what sports events to organize, all of us in athletics might as well become ushers at football games, the Super Bowl or F1 races.

In early 2016, race walking officials were told that broadcasters really didn't want the 50K because they felt the event is just too long to hold all but hard core interest. Of course, this was stated prior to the Rio Olympics, at which the 50K turned out to be an exciting bit of television. The race had it all: an early lead by the world record holder, lead changes throughout the race, chase packs from start to finish, a courageous come-back from the early leader, a collision for bronze near the finish line, and only 18 seconds separating gold from silver. This margin of victory compares favorably to the 9 second and 1:10 gaps between gold and silver in, respectively, the women's and men's marathons in Rio. One of you on the Council said it best when confronted with the broadcast argument: "But did you watch the Rio 50K?"

Of course, the 50K is far from the only worry that broadcasters have. The advent of the digital age has left its downward mark on broadcast viewership. The 2008 Beijing Olympics had 4.4 billion television viewers, a figure that

went down to 3.6 billion for each of the next two Olympics. Hard to blame that on the 50K. We wish we had that kind of impact. The Olympics are not alone in having to contend with declining television viewership. Formula One car racing lost one-third of its worldwide audience from 2008 to 2016. The FIFA World Cup audience number was stagnant from 2010 to 2014.

Walking by its very nature is a long distance sport. Doing anything over a long period of time can be boring to the spectator. That applies to the 50K, marathons and long distance swimming alike. But precisely because so much athleticism and endurance are required, any 'sports' organization worth the appellation ought to put such events on a pedestal.

In 2008, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) added the 10K open water marathon swim which takes a little under two hours. That pales in comparison with the Argentinian Santa Fe-Coronda Marathon swim race (57K which takes about eight hours), Australia's Rottnest Channel Swim (20K), and Switzerland's Lake Zurich Marathon Swim (26K) but it definitely represents long distance swimming. Similarly, the 50K Race Walk Event represents all long distance walking, whether done for health or a memento medal in the many walkathons throughout the world or competitively over any long distance. These ventures are noble endeavors in their own right. Long distance competition should be encouraged by sports officials, not cut because some broadcaster thinks that showing lengthy races eats into ad revenue.

Besides, broadcasters do not necessarily have to show an entire long-duration race. Tour de France stages and major bicycle races are often telecast starting when the riders approach the final part of that day's mileage. No broadcaster has suggested truncating those race days to less than an hour to accommodate some perceived broadcast

need. Moreover, broadcast profit margins are not rights spelled out in the Olympic Charter but the practice of sport *is* one of the Olympic Fundamental Principles.

The term *athletics*, derived from Greek words denoting “combatants in public games,” “prize” and “competition,” ended up in more modern times describing sporting competitions based primarily on human physical feats, a perfect description of the 50K Race Walk Event, which deserves the support of the Council.

V

MONEY ISN'T EVERYTHING, SOMETIMES, AS IN THE CASE OF THE 50K, IT'S ABOUT SPORTS AND ATHLETICISM, NOT JUST BUSINESS

Watching the race walks in Rio, London, or Taicang was a treat: free of charge. Granted, Usain Bolt and Nafi Thiam fill stadiums with paying customers, whereas race walkers do not produce such a revenue stream.

Televising sporting events has made a world of difference. Bernie Ecclestone of Formula One auto racing understood that and became a billionaire. The IOC is right up there with him. The 1984 Los Angeles Olympics were a triumph of profit and a roadmap for the IOC on how to capitalize on its exclusive property. The Olympic Movement has been a cash producer since, maybe not to local organizers and host cities, but certainly to the IOC. The IAAF, responsible for the prime Olympic athletics program, benefits from this revenue stream. The Olympic success has also served as a model to the IAAF, which has added new competitions to offer a veritable menu of options compared to the number of competitions in decades past: the World Athletics Championships, the World Indoor Championships, the World U20 Championships, the World U18 Championships, the Continental Cup, the World Cross Country Championships, the World Race Walking Team Championships, the World Half Marathon Championships, the World Relays, the Diamond League, the Label Road Races, the Combined Events Challenge, the Race Walking Challenge, the Hammer Throw Challenge and the Cross Country Permit Series.

Most of these involve some type of bidding process and media rights, although it is doubtful that the race walking and hammer throw events are making the IAAF accountant

laugh all the way to the bank. Let's face it, not only does race walking not put gate money in the coffers of the IAAF, but the 20K and 50K just don't give the IAAF negotiators much leverage in broadcast rights deal-making compared to the likes of Usain Bolt.

It wasn't always that way. Back in the 1870s and 1880s, "pedestrianism" was the most popular sport in the United States. Madison Square Garden first gained fame when full houses watched men and women walk hundreds of miles for up to six days straight. The winners would take home purses of up to U.S. \$425,000 in today's currency. Matthew Algeo described the history of these early long distance walkers in his book *Pedestrianism, When Watching People Walk Was America's Favorite Spectator Sport* (2014 Chicago Review Press). Two decades later, this heyday was over. What contributed to its eventual downfall, according to Algeo, was that the sport "had no central governing authority." (Id., at p. 217.)

It is ironic that in today's climate, the central governing authority is being asked to eliminate the 50K. The marriage of sports and commerce has something to do with it. Abolishing the 50K would be unthinkable if Yohann Diniz, Inês Henriques or Rui Liang were as popular as Usain Bolt. Critics contend that the 50K is not a good fit for the modern sports business environment; that the broadcast and entertainment industries don't care for it; or that the 50K is not commercially viable, with no place in today's sports marketplace.

Without gate receipts or huge broadcast and ad contracts, the 50K appears to be left out of the marriage of sports and commerce. The 50K is all about sports and athleticism. Unfortunately, the business model of sports doesn't have much use for that anymore, unless it fills the coffers. The Olympics and the World Championships have become big business.

Left out of the discussion about money is how little race walking actually costs athletes and organizers alike. A 50K does not need a stadium, a building that often turns into a white elephant after the Olympians pack up and leave. The biggest equipment expense for the walker is shoes. Televising race walks is much easier than filming the marathon as race walks are conducted on a course of 2K or less. Moreover, the sport translates easily to a handy skill in daily life: getting from one place to another on foot. It's a discipline that can be practiced anywhere in the world by young and old. Jesús Angel García Bragado walked the 50K at seven Olympics (1992-2016) and 12 World Championships (1993-2015). Earlier this year, at age 48, he still climbed on the podium at the Spanish National 50K Championship; in May he was 18th at the World Race Walking Team Championships 50K race. At the other end of the age spectrum, the two Chinese women who won silver and bronze at the inaugural Women's 50K World Championships in London last year, Yin Hang and Yang Shuqing, were only 20 when they medaled.

Major championships should provide athletes with opportunities for excellence and showcase athletics to a wider audience through spectator attendance, media broadcasts and an online presence. When we let our athletic events serve the commercial side of sports instead of the other way around, we run the danger that, in the end, only a few short-duration athletic events will be part of a support act at some future FIFA World Cup or Monaco Grand Prix. This is not what athletics is all about nor should it ever be.

Certainly, in our sport, we must engage future generations and promote our events. Athletics federations can do both when it comes to race walking. The U.S. Olympic Women's 20K Team at Rio consisted of two walkers who got their start in high school race walking in the State of New York, the only U.S. state that has race walking on its high school athletics program. Ironically, New York does not offer race

walking for high school boys. No surprise then that the U.S. had no male 20K Olympians in 2016.

Federations at all levels can do more to promote a full menu of athletics in school sports. Promotions are not restricted to students, however. Many a competitive race walker started out in the Dutch *wandeltochten*, the German *Megamarsches* or the Isle of Man's *Parish Walks*, often receiving a nice medal as a memento for finishing. Medical and heart associations can be approached regarding promoting what is undoubtedly some of the best cardio exercise around, to wit: walking. Local athletic competitions could add power walks next to race walk events, as a way to attract the curious, the novice or those who cannot physically attain the stringent judging standards.

Commercial aspects are not to be overlooked. Walkers need shoes; the longer the distance, the more shoes are needed. Weather gear, easy to carry high energy foods, fluid bottles, and fancy timing and distance devices all suggest marketing tie-ups. There is nothing wrong with having a commercial side to sports. But commerce should serve sports, not the other way around.

VI

DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN

The Men's 50K Race Walk Event has been part of the Olympic athletics program since 1932, with one exception: the 1976 Montreal Olympics, when the event was not held. But the IAAF, the Race Walking Committee (then called the "Walking Committee"), and the Soviet 1980 Olympic organizers insisted on its reinstatement.

At the August 1974 Walking Committee meeting held in conjunction with the European Athletics Championships in Rome, the Committee expressed its regret at not having stopped the 50K abolition effort:

The Committee agreed that at its Munich 1972 meeting, it had failed to plead the case for retention of both Walking Events in the Olympic Games strongly enough.

(Minutes, IAAF Walking Committee, August 28, 1974, p. 1 - see p. 26.)

The Committee then unanimously passed the following resolution to be put before the IAAF Congress three days later:

The Walking Committee at its Rome meeting discussed the deplorable exclusion of the 50 Km. Walk from the Olympic programme. The reasons for this exclusion cannot be accepted. The Two Walking Events are traditional and popular within the Athletics Programme. We feel it is not reasonable on the one hand to accept the principle that every nation may enter one athlete in every event and on the other hand to see the deletion of highly qualified athletes, namely the world's top Walkers, from the programme in order

to cut down the number of athletes. We feel strongly that the I.O.C. and the Montreal Organising Committee would respect a decision from the I.A.A.F. to maintain the number entered for athletics as our sport is the centre piece of the Games.

I do hope that you will give these comments your very serious attention and the I.A.A.F Walking Committee will continue its work towards maintaining both the 20Km and the 50Km. Walk inside the Olympic Programme.

In order to support the Council, we ask this Congress, as the highest authority of our Governing Body, the most important Olympic International Federation to vote and say 'Yes' to the retention of both Walking Events inside the Olympic Programme.

(Minutes, IAAF Walking Committee, August 28, 1974, pp. 1-2 - see pp. 26-27.)

By 1980, the 50K was back, thanks to the resolve of the IAAF and its Walking Committee. Even though the IAAF had been discussing staging World Championships separate and apart from the 50K issue, it chose to conduct the first ever World Championships solely for the Olympic-excluded 50K in 1976.

Race walking is not alone in having been nominated for elimination at one time or another. The triple jump, the 200m and the 10,000m have also been mentioned for Olympic deletion. The IOC is eager to expand the number of sports at any given Summer Games but without increasing the total number of competitors (aim is for 10,500). Additional sports mean more revenue for the IOC but increasing the number of participants strains the ability of local organizers to put on the Games. Hence, the need for cuts among existing sports.

What should the IAAF do in light of these Olympic realities and pressures? This brings to mind the vote faced by the governing body of the Amateur Athletic Association in England two decades after its 1880 founding. A proposal had been made to eliminate the hammer throw from the Championship program. The vote in 1902 was close, 19 to 16. The hammer throw survived, fortunately. (*Fifty Years of Progress 1880-1930*, Amateur Athletic Association (London 1930), p. 45.)

We don't have to be hammer throwers to support the event. Same for the pole vault, the triple jump or the 400m hurdles. Or race walking. As members of the athletics family, we should all support one another. When an outside force -- such as the IOC -- threatens one of our events, we should all rise together and protect all of our events.

If the IOC Executive Board forces the IAAF to reduce its Olympic footprint, the IAAF should reduce the number of athletes per event, as opposed to cutting events. We can all live with only 50 runners in the men's 100m as opposed to 60. Fifty female race walkers in the 20K instead of 70 is better than losing a single athletics event, be it race walking or any other.

But regardless of what happens at the Olympic Games, why should the IAAF even consider changing our own World Championships competition program just because of what the IOC may want? Even if the Olympics were to cut the 50K, or the 20K, or the 200m, no reason exists for the World Championships to be conducted without those events. The Council should confirm the 50K Race Walk Events for the 2021 World Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

VII

CONCLUSION

We are close to achieving gender equality in athletics. Adding the Women's 50K Race Walk Event to the Tokyo Olympic program will close the gap.

Beyond Tokyo, the athletics family should support all of its events. The 50K is demanding and technical. All the more reason that it belongs at major competitions in athletics.

The Men's 50K has been walked at the Olympic Games since 1932 (save 1976) -- 24 years before the advent of the 20K Race Walk Event. The *Progression of IAAF World Records* (2015 ed.) lists the first 50K Race Walk World Record as having been set on March 17, 1895, the year before the first modern Olympics and 17 years prior to the founding of the IAAF.

It is not fair to give women athletes a taste of an event that they have been excluded from forever, only to yank it away from them once they have proven their excellence in their new event.

The 50K will be strengthened by fully including women at top level. This Council has included them for London, Taicang and Doha. The meeting in Monaco is the most opportune time to include Tokyo 2020 and Eugene 2021 on that list, thereby strengthening the 50K overall.

Thank You.

2018 WOMEN'S 50K PERFORMANCE LIST

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Competitor</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Race Venue</u>
1	4:04:36	Rui Liang	China	Taicang
2	4:09:09	Hang Yin	China	Taicang
3	4:09:21	Inês Henriques	Portugal	Berlin
4	4:09:33	Claire Tallent	Australia	Taicang
5	4:12:44	Alina Tsviliy*	Ukraine	Berlin
6	4:12:56	Paola Viviana Pérez	Ecuador	Taicang
7	4:13:04	Júlia Takács	Spain	Burjassot
8	4:13:28	Faying Ma	China	Taicang
9	4:14:25	Mária Czaková	Slovakia	Dudince
10	4:14:28	Johana Ordóñez	Ecuador	Taicang
11	4:14:46	Klavdiya Afanasyeva	Russia	Cheboksary
12	4:14:47	Maocuo Li	China	Taicang
13	4:18:00	Anastasiya Yatsevich	Belarus	Taicang
14	4:18:31	Nadzeya Darazhuk	Belarus	Taicang
15	4:18:50	Valentyna Myronchuk	Ukraine	Ivano-Frankivsk
16	4:18:56	Ainhoa Pinedo	Spain	Burjassot
17	4:19:04	Magaly Bonilla	Ecuador	Taicang
18	4:20:36	Erika Jazmine Morales	Mexico	Hauppauge
19	4:20:46	Khrystyna Yudkina	Ukraine	Berlin
20	4:22:36	Aleksandra Bushkova	Russia	Cheboksary
21	4:23:15	Vasylyna Vitovshchuk	Ukraine	Berlin
22	4:27:13	Olga Shargina	Russia	Cheboksary
23	4:28:30	Mayra Pérez	Guatemala	Taicang
24	4:28:58	Maria Juarez Gallardo	Spain	Berlin
25	4:29:45	Serena Sonoda	Japan	Takahata
26	4:30:43	Dušica Topić	Serbia	Berlin
27	4:31:41	Mariavittoria Becchetti	Italy	Berlin
28	4:32:43	Tiia Kuikka	Finland	Berlin
29	4:32:47	Agnieszka Ellward	Poland	Dudince
30	4:35:39	Ivana Renić	Croatia	Berlin
31	4:37:43	Maria Larios López	Spain	Taicang
31tie	4:37:43	Lyudmyla Shelest	Ukraine	Taicang
33	4:38:23	Kseniya Radko	Ukraine	Taicang
34	4:38:48	Nair Da Rosa	Brazil	Sucúa
35	4:39:01	Nami Kumagai	Japan	Wajima
36	4:40:00	Aleksandra Ovsyannikova	Russia	Cheboksary
37	4:41:39	Viviane Santana Lyra	Brazil	Bragança
38	4:41:44	Nikolitsa Andreopoulou	Greece	Dudince
39	4:42:17	Meijiao Chi	China	Xi'an
40	4:42:37	Jocy Caballero	Peru	Sucúa
41	4:42:58	Bianca Maria Dittrich	Germany	Aschersleben
42	4:43:03	Yuki Yoshizumi	Japan	Takahata

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Competitor</u>	<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Race Venue</u>
43	4:43:26	Kaili Xia	China	Xi'an
44	4:43:46	Inès Pastorino	France	Aschersleben
45	4:43:48	Ioanna Bemowska	Poland	Dudince
46	4:44:45	Natsumi Kurahara	Japan	Wajima
47	4:46:12	Mariela Sánchez Terán	Mexico	Santee
48	4:46:33	Maeva Casale	France	Aschersleben
49	4:47:50	Katie Burnett	USA	Santee
50	4:48:00	Natalie Le Roux	South Africa	Taicang
51	4:48:08	Lucie Barritault	France	Taicang
52	4:48:46	Chiaki Yamato	Japan	Wajima
53	4:49:33	Nadezhda Mokeyeva	Russia	Cheboksary

Note (*): Tsviliy was provisionally suspended on September 4, 2018 under the IAAF's anti-doping rules.

Source: <https://www.iaaf.org/records/toplists/race-walks/50-kilometres-race-walk/outdoor/women/senior/2018?regionType=world&page=1&bestResultsOnly=true>; accessed on October 31, 2018.

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION

MINUTES OF THE WALKING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28TH AUGUST 1974,
EXCELSIOR HOTEL, ROME, ITALY

Present:

P. Lassen (Chairman)	-	Denmark
B. Fehervari	-	Hungary
G. Frister	-	G.D.R.
A. Fruktov	-	U.S.S.R.
A. Libotte	-	Switzerland
G. Oberweger	-	Italy
F. Pryor	-	GB & NI
H. Stahl	-	Germany
J. Tigerman	-	U.S.A.

Apologies for Absence: were received from Mr Eriksson and Mr Nishida.

Before opening the meeting, the Chairman asked members to stand in tribute to Mr Porta, Italy, an international walking judge who had recently died.

1. Members approved the report submitted by 4 Walking Committee members present in Lugano at the Lugano Trophy Meeting 1973.
2. European Championships - 20 Km. and 50Km. Walks:

The Chairman stated that he had seen the course where both events would be held (4 and 11 circuits respectively). The circuit was near the Olympic Stadium and enabled many spectators to watch the races and was fully satisfactory.

The Committee noted and approved the names of judges to officiate, and it was noted that a postal ballot had not been taken on this occasion.

The Chairman confirmed that communications and agreements reached between himself, the E.A.A. and FIDAL had been fully satisfactory.

3. Walking Events in the Olympic Games:

The Committee agreed that at its Munich 1972 meeting, it had failed to plead the case for the retention of both Walking Events in the Olympic Games strongly enough.

The following conclusion to be put before the Congress on 31st August 1974 was approved unanimously:

"The Walking Committee at its Rome meeting discussed the deplorable exclusion of the 50 Km. Walk from the Olympic Programme. The reasons for this exclusion cannot be accepted. The two Walking Events are traditional and popular within the Athletics Programme. We feel it is not reasonable on the one hand to accept the principle that every nation may enter one athlete in every event and on the other hand to see the deletion of highly qualified athletes, namely the world's top Walkers, from the programme in order to cut down the number of athletes. We feel strongly that the I.O.C. and the Montreal Organising Committee would respect a decision from the I.A.A.F. to maintain the number entered for athletics as our sport is the centre piece of the Games.

I do hope that you will give these comments your very serious attention and the I.A.A.F. Walking Committee will continue its work towards maintaining both the 20Km and the 50Km. Walk inside the Olympic Programme.

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In order to support the Council, we ask this Congress, as the highest authority of our Governing Body, the most important Olympic International Federation to vote and say 'Yes' to the retention of both Walking Events inside the Olympic Programme."

4. Lugano Trophy 1975:

It was agreed that by the November European Calendar Congress, offers to stage the Zone Rounds and the Final would be known and that the Honorary Secretary and the Chairman would decide on the most suitable venues having regard to entries and offers received. (Note: This was subsequently done).

5. Judges for the International Panel:

After a study of applications submitted, the following judges were added to the Panel:-

Nicola Marrone (Canada); Helmuth Berndt (Germany); Henri Dahm (Luxembourg); Donald B. Chadderton, Charles E. J. Cook, Leslie F. Gerrie and Graeme Harvie (New Zealand); Witold Kirkor (Poland).

Additional Applications:

Hugh T. Devine (Eire): Official application form not submitted - this will be obtained and Mr Devine's name will be submitted at the first opportunity.

Ross Pilkington (New Zealand): This application was not approved as no precise birth date was given. This will be obtained so that the application may be further submitted.

Adam Markowski (Poland): The official application form will be obtained and Mr Markowski's name submitted.

6. Walking Judges Booklet:

It was agreed that no modification of the booklet was necessary before Montreal. Mr Pryor stated that he still recommended an official I.A.A.F. book on the administration and control of Walking Competitions, and invited suggestions from Member Federations.

7. International Walking Judges at Matches between I.A.A.F. Members:

It was agreed that in Walking Matches under I.A.A.F. Rules, there should always be at least one international judge present. As all judges were expected to be unbiased when judging, the judges present need not be from a neutral country.

8. Project by C. Silcock (U.S.A.) for list of full names and addresses of Panel Judges:

The Committee expressed dissatisfaction with Mr Silcock's proposal, well-intentioned as it may have been, as it felt that such matters should pass through the I.A.A.F. Secretariat.

The Chairman offered to express to Mr Silcock the thanks of the Committee and an offer to take over officially the task of registering all International Panel Judges.

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