

# Sport Terminology

Terminologie du sport

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| Area | The geographical areas [Africa (AFR), Asia (ASI), Europe (EUR), North America, Central America and the Caribbean (NAM), Oceania (OCE), South America (SAM)] described in the Annexure to the Constitution. |
| Area Association | The association of Member Federations and other members in an Area established and operating in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules.<br>The six Area Associations are: Atletismo Sudamericano, Confederation of African Athletics (CAA), Asian Athletics Association (AAA), European Athletics (EA), North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletic Association (NACAC), Oceania Athletics Association (OAA). |
| Association of International Marathons and Distance Races | A member-based organisation of more than 475 of the world's leading distance races from over 120 countries and territories. |
| Bib Number/ Athlete Bib | An athlete's number, name or other suitable identification during the competition. |
| Book of Rules | New, restructured online home of all World Athletics Rules, Regulations and Guidelines. |
| Call Room | A room or area where the athletes report and undergo certain checking procedures prior to their event. |
| Combined Event | An event comprising several Track and Field Events in which an athlete scores points for their performances (e.g. Decathlon, Heptathlon). |
| Commentator Information System | Competition Data Information Monitor or web service. |
| Competition and Technical Rules | New format of the former rules handbook extracted from the Book of Rules. |
| Disqualification | A ruling by officials that an athlete or team has broken the rules of the sport and cannot be considered for placing in the competition. |
| Entry Standard | A performance which needs to be achieved in order for an athlete to qualify for entry to a championship. |
| Event Entry System | World Athletics' internet-based entry system where Member Federations submit final entries for a specific WAS event. |
| False Start | Starting a race before the starter's gun is fired or with a reaction time of less than 0.100s (see TR 16). |
| Field | Collective term for the athletes within any particular event. |
| Field Events | Jumping and Throwing Events of an athletics programme. |
| Final | The ultimate stage of an event. |



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| Heat | An individual race within any stage of an event other than the Final, or a Combined events race. |
| International Association of Ultrarunners | Governing body for Ultradistance Running. |
| International Trail Running Association | Governing body for Trail Running. |
| International Paralympic Committee | The international governing body of the Paralympic Movement. |
| Local Organising Committee | A group or entity responsible for the organisation of an event in the host city. |
| Master | Any athlete who has reached his/her 35th birthday. |
| Medal Ceremony | The ceremony of presenting medals to the top three placed athletes or teams. |
| Member Federation | National governing body for the sport of Athletics in a Country or territory which has been admitted to membership to World Athletics. |
| Milliseconds | Shown when more competitors finish with the same time down to hundredths of a second (0.xxx). |
| Mixed Race | See TR9. |
| Progression | Track and Field progression through preliminary rounds.<br>The pre-determined sequence of heights to be attempted in a High Jump or Pole Vault competition (height progression). |
| Qualifying Conditions | The conditions which need to be achieved in order for an athlete to progress to the next stage of an event. |
| Qualifying Group | Identifies the athletes competing in one of the two groups of a Field event qualification. |
| Qualifying Standard | A performance which needs to be achieved in a Qualification of a Field event for an athlete to immediately progress to the Final. |
| Race Walking | Track or Road events in which the athlete must fulfil World Athletics' definition of Race Walking (see TR 54). |
| Rank | Placing in an event. Athletes are ranked according to World Athletics Rules. |
| Reaction Time | The time taken between the start signal and athlete's reaction according to sensors in their starting blocks. |
| Relay | A Running or Race Walking event contested by teams of four or more athletes who each run successive Relay legs. Can be a 2 x 2 distance relay with 2 athletes running alternatively 2 legs each. |



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| Relay Leg | The section of a Relay run by one team member. |
| Road Events | Events contested largely or entirely on the road. |
| Round | A stage of a Track or Field event. |
| Round of Trials | The segment of a Horizontal Jumping or Throwing event where each athlete in turn takes a trial or the segment of a Vertical Jumping event where each athlete in turn takes their trials (max 3) at a specific height. |
| Round 1 or Round One | The opening stage of a multi-round Track event (unless a Preliminary Qualification Round is held). |
| Session | A sequence of events in a timetable held on one particular part of the day. |
| Start Information System | Start Information System device. |
| Splits | Intermediate times taken during a race or the time taken by an athlete to complete their Relay leg. |
| Standings | The order of athletes during a Field event or Combined events competition. |
| Start List | A document showing the athletes confirmed to start in a particular event and the order in which they are to compete. |
| Track Event | Event contested on a running track. |
| Under-18 Men / Women | An athlete (male or female) aged 16 or 17 on December 31 of the year of the competition. |
| Under-20 Men / Women | An athlete (male or female) aged 18 or 19 on December 31 of the year of the competition. |
| Wind Speed | The average wind velocity over a period of time during an outdoor running race of up to 200m or an outdoor horizontal jumping event. |
| Women-Only Race | Term used in Road events when Women have a separate start so that pacing by Men cannot happen. |
| World Athletics Season Top Lists | Best legal performances in the year in a single event compiled by World Athletics. |
| World Athletics Series | The Championships organised directly by World Athletics in the four-year official competition programme. |
| World Masters Athletics | Governing body for Masters athletics. |
| World Mountain Running Association | Governing body for Mountain Running. |

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| World Rankings | A global ranking system created by World Athletics where athletes score points based on the combination of result and place depending on the level of competition in a defined period of time. |

**Note:**
For further information please consult: www.worldathletics.org