

## IAAF World Rankings – Frequently Asked Questions

### Where can I access the rankings?

[www.iaaf.org/worldrankings](http://www.iaaf.org/worldrankings)

### How frequently are they updated?

Updated weekly, every Wednesday

### How does the rankings system work? What are the Rules?

The World Rankings is a global Ranking System where athletes score points based on a combination of result and place depending on the level of the competition in which the result is achieved. The ranking is then based not on a single result but on their average score over a certain number of competitions in a defined period of time (see below).

World Rankings are available, for both men and women, in all individual athletics events of the IAAF World Championships programme. In addition, there is a Road Events Ranking. There is no ranking for relay events.

The full set of ranking rules is available on the World Rankings website at: [www.iaaf.org/worldrankings](http://www.iaaf.org/worldrankings)

### How many competitions count towards the rankings and over what period of time?

For most events, the ranking period is 12 months with a minimum of 5 performance scores required in order to accumulate a ranking score.

For those events where athletes cannot compete as often, the ranking period is 18 months and / or fewer performance scores are required in order to accumulate a ranking score as detailed below:

Event	Ranking period	Performance scores
3,000mSC and 5,000m	12 months	3
10,000m	18 months	2
Marathon	18 months	2
Road Running	18 months	3
Race Walk 20km	18 months	3
Race Walk 50 km	18 months	2
Combined Events	18 months	2

Note: when an athlete competes over multiple rounds (eg at a Championships) they will be awarded a performance score every time, but points for the placing score are awarded only in the Final (in the other cases there will be only the result score).

### How does categorisation of competitions work?

The World Rankings will bring clarity to the international competition structure and, through the placing score points system, will help to enforce a hierarchy which sees IAAF competitions at the top of the pyramid followed by Area and then National permit events.

The wide-ranging level and number of competitions included provides athletes every opportunity to be ranked. Placing scores are awarded to the best finishers at any competition but these differ depending on the quality of the competing field. Higher points are awarded to finishers at more challenging competitions and vice versa, and competitions are categorised in a hierarchy accordingly, and as set out below:

Category	Competition type	Details
OW	Olympic Games	
	IAAF World Athletics Championships	
DF	IAAF Diamond League Finals	
GW	IAAF World Athletics Series (senior events)	WIC, WRW, WXC, WHM, ICC
	IAAF Diamond League Meetings	
GL	IAAF Hammer Throw, Race Walking and Combined Events Challenge	IAAF Permit Meetings only
	IAAF Gold Label Marathons	
	Area Senior Outdoor Championships	
A	Major Games	All-African Games, Asian Games, European Games, Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games
	IAAF World Challenge Meetings (and Non Diamond Disciplines of the IAAF Diamond League Meetings)	
	IAAF World Indoor Tour Meetings	
	IAAF Gold Label Road Races	Not including Marathons
	IAAF Silver Label Marathons	
	Area Senior Indoor Championships	
	Area Senior Race Walking Championships	
B	IAAF Silver Label Road Races	Not including Marathons
	IAAF Bronze Label Marathons	
	Regional Games and Championships	Pacific Games, Universiade, Francophone Games, Ibero-American Championships, CAC Games, Balkan Championships
	Area Permit Meetings - top tier (senior only)	Includes Race Walking
	Area second tier Championships	European Team Championships Super League, European Combined Events Team Championships Super League
	National Senior Championships	Outdoor T&F/CE, Marathon and Race Walking (20km and 50km)
C	IAAF World Athletics Series (U20 events)	WU20, WXC, WRW
	IAAF Bronze Label Road Races	Not including Marathons
	Area third tier Championships	Area U23 Championships, European Team Championships 1st League, European Combined Events Team Championships 1st League, European Throwing Cup, European 10,000m Cup
	Area Permit Meetings - second tier (senior only)	
	Other Regional Games and Championships	Pan-Arab Games, Mediterranean Games, CISM World Games
	NCAA Div. I Outdoor Championships	

Category	Competition type	Details
D	Other Regional International Championships, Games and Cups	First and senior division only
	Area Permit Meetings - Indoor and third tier	
	Area fourth tier Championships	Area U20 Championships, Continental Club Championships (first division only), European Team Championships 2nd League
	Traditional International Meetings	subject to application and Area approval (e.g.: Finnkampen, Baltic Countries Championships)
	Other National Senior Championships	Indoor and in Similar Events
	Youth Olympic Games	
E	International Matches	Subject to IAAF / Area Permit
	Designated (national permit) meetings and competitions	Subject to MF/IAAF approval
	Other International Marathons	If measured and certified
	Other International Half Marathons and Road Races	If measured and certified
	NCAA Div. I Indoor Championships	
	Area U18 Championships and Games	
F	National Permit Meetings	

Further details on placing scores and the full categorisation of competitions can be found in the ranking rules at [www.iaaf.org/worldrankings](http://www.iaaf.org/worldrankings)

### How are the competition results gathered and verified?

At the core of the World Rankings is the need to ensure that results from all worldwide competitions enter the IAAF database and can be used to compile each athlete's individual ranking score. In a typical calendar year, the IAAF processes results from around 10,000 competitions and ranks over 67,000 athletes.

Area Associations and Member Federations will need to submit to the IAAF the results of their competitions in an accurate and timely manner in order to ensure that the World Rankings published every Wednesday are accurate and up to date. Should you need any support or see that results from your Area or Member Federation are not coming through as they should, please contact: [statistics@iaaf.org](mailto:statistics@iaaf.org)

### What is being done to develop quality competition opportunities in each of the six Areas?

In order to expand quality competition opportunities, Area Associations have been encouraged to develop, in cooperation with the IAAF, one-day meetings continental programmes and to structure them according to a three-tier pyramidal permit system that matches the corresponding world ranking categorisation (B, C or D). The Area Permit meetings across the three categories have been compiled and are included in the World Rankings Competition Calendar (see below).

### What about National Permit Competitions?

The annual editions of all National Senior Outdoor Championships are all in category B and the corresponding Placing Scores are awarded to national athletes only. If National Championships in specific events are held within the frame of another competition (e.g. during a Label Marathon/Half Marathon, an Area Permit Race Walking competition, etc.)

IAAF must be informed in advance in order to process the results correctly and apply the correct categorisation.

Other National Permit competitions are generally in category F. There is, however, an opportunity for those local competitions which appeal to, and attract, quality participation, to be upgraded to category E. Based on the observation of the results from past editions of these local competitions, quotas have been established for each Member Federation to propose their best meetings (or other competition formats) to be included in this category. Each Member Federation has the right to propose at minimum one such competition.

The quotas distribution for 2019 can be found in Appendix B and proposals must be submitted to [statistics@iaaf.org](mailto:statistics@iaaf.org) using the Excel form under separate cover. Deadline is 31 March 2019. In the absence of indications from the Member Federation, the IAAF will decide which National Permit competitions are upgraded to category E (within the said quotas).

### **What is the World Rankings Competition Calendar?**

A 2019 calendar of all International and Area competitions (Championships and one-day meetings) which score for the World Rankings across all individual events has been compiled. For every competition, the corresponding category has been indicated. 2018 competitions which fall into the Doha 2019 ranking period have also been included (10,000m, road events and combined events) for information.

The calendar currently includes competitions in categories: DF, GW, GL, A, B, C, D and E and is available at: [www.iaaf.org/worldrankings](http://www.iaaf.org/worldrankings)

Please notify [statistics@iaaf.org](mailto:statistics@iaaf.org) of any changes in the competition dates and / or venues.

### **How is the IAAF planning to ensure there is fair access to competitions, particularly one day meetings?**

One-day meetings, at all levels, are where athletes will be earning most of the points towards their ranking score. There is concern for fair and legitimate access (based on ranking positions) to IAAF and Area level meetings, where organisers are seen as having too much discretion over which athletes they invite. IAAF and Area Associations are addressing the issue with their respective meeting organisers by introducing regulations aimed at ensuring that the entry process be more transparent and respectful of athletes' ranking positions. There will be quotas established for ranked vs domestic athletes and a reporting system for abuse. Additionally, IAAF Athlete Representatives are being advised of the same.

### **How do the World Rankings impact on qualification for major championships?**

The World Rankings will not be used for qualification for the IAAF World Athletics Championships – Doha 2019, and the IAAF Council will determine at its March 2019 meeting if the World Rankings should be used, and if so to what extent, as the qualification mechanism for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

From the 2021 World Athletics Championships onwards it is envisaged that the World Rankings will be used as the basis of qualification.

In advance of utilising the World Rankings for major championships qualification, it is important to provide tools which offer Athletes, Coaches, Member Federations and Areas an understanding of how they would perform as a qualification mechanism.

#### *Simulation from 2017-2018 World Rankings*

Based on the Doha 2019 target numbers, a list of athletes hypothetically qualified through the 2017-2018 World Ranking period has been compiled. This list shows, for every individual event, the athletes who would be within the said target numbers understanding that only a maximum of three per country may be selected for entry. In many events this means that, to

reach the target number, it is necessary to go further down the World Ranking List. The list is provided in Excel format for easier viewing and filtering and is available in Appendix C (under separate cover).

#### *World Rankings specific listing for World Athletics Championships Doha 2019*

A dedicated page will be available to show the athletes who would qualify for the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019 through the World Rankings. For each event there will be a list showing only those athletes with performance scores in the applicable ranking periods and the possibility to filter a maximum of three per country in order to have, at any time, the live picture of the theoretical qualifying situation. A link to this page will be available on the World Rankings section starting in April 2019.

### **What has been the process to develop the World Rankings?**

#### **Timeline**

3 November 2017	IAAF announces intention to introduce a World Ranking System largely based on that which has been used by Elite (All-Athletics) since some 20 years. The purpose is to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find a more effective way of identifying the best athletes in each event by rewarding:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ consistency of performance during the season</li><li>○ competition against stronger opponents</li></ul></li><li>• Bring clarity to the competition structure by:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Helping to establish and consolidate a hierarchy of competitions from national through to area and up to global events</li><li>○ stimulating the best athletes to support the best competitions</li></ul></li></ul>
February 2018	Appointed Working Group reviews the All-Athletics model with some adjustments to the ranking mechanism, to the competition categories and to the placing scores table.
5-6 March 2018	IAAF Council approves introduction of World Rankings in a testing mode
30 March 2018	IAAF Circular letter M/14/18 on World Rankings and publication with amended rules on a preview / testing site
Until Oct 2018	Feedback from Athletics family and stakeholders
October 2018	Working Group examines, addresses and discusses feedback and concerns received throughout the rankings testing and preview period and makes final proposals for the revision of the system prior to official launch in respect of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ranking rules and mechanisms</li><li>• Categorisation of competitions</li><li>• Area permit competition programmes</li><li>• Use of the system as qualification method for major championships</li></ul>
26 February 2019	IAAF World Rankings go live on iaaf.org

## What changes were made to the ranking system during the testing phase (since March 2018)?

Below is a summary of the key adjustments introduced to the original ranking mechanism:

- Only results achieved in competitions conducted according to IAAF Rules enter the World Rankings, including:
  - o the need for properly measured and judged road events (marathons, half marathons and race walks)
  - o the need for "street" athletics' facilities to be properly certified
- Adjustment (points reduction) in the following events means that results otherwise considered "illegal", count for the World Rankings:
  - o downhill marathon and half marathon courses
  - o wind assisted marks in sprints and horizontal jumps (including CE)
  - o if the best legal jump delivers a better result score than the adjusted wind-assisted mark, it is considered for the World Rankings
- Ranking period extended to 18 months for: Marathon, Race Walks, CE and 10,000m (as well as road races) and, in these cases, no points deducted for old results.
- Results from last Area Senior Outdoor Championships always contribute to the athletes' Ranking position (if among the best required performance scores) regardless of the date
- Placing points awarded to deeper fields in top event categories as follows: top 16 (OW) and top 12 (DF, GW and GL).

The following changes were made to the original World Rankings competition categorisation:

- Diamond league Finals in a separate category - DF
- Diamond League meetings raised to same level as World Athletics Series (other than World Athletics Championships) - GW
- All Senior Outdoor Area Championships now on same level and upgraded - GL
- Major global and continental Games (Commonwealth, Pan-Am, All-African, European, Asian, etc.) on same level - A
- All National Championships upgraded and on same level - B
- Introduction of a three-tier Area Permit competitions structure - B, C and D
- Enforcement of a category for National Permit competitions with international reach - E



World Rankings - National Permit Competitions  
 Quotas for upgrade from Category F to Category E



Member Federation	Number of Competitions
Algeria	2
Argentina	2
Australia	6
Austria	4
Bahamas	2
Belarus	2
Belgium	4
Brazil	6
Bulgaria	2
Canada	6
Chile	2
Chinese Taipei	2
Colombia	2
Croatia	2
Cuba	4
Czech Republic	6
Denmark	2
Estonia	4
Ethiopia	2
Finland	4
France	8
Germany	8
Great Britain & NI	8
Greece	4
Guyana	2
Hungary	4
Iceland	2
India	4
Ireland	4
Israel	2
Italy	6
Jamaica	4
Japan	6
Kazakhstan	2
Kenya	4
Korea	4
Latvia	2
Lithuania	2
Malaysia	2
Mexico	2
Morocco	2
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	4
Nigeria	2
Norway	4
Philippines	2
Poland	6
Portugal	4
PR of China	6
Romania	2
Russia	8
Serbia	2
Slovak Republic	2
Slovenia	4
South Africa	6
Spain	8
Sweden	4
Switzerland	4
Trinidad & Tobago	2
Turkey	4
Ukraine	4
United States	15
Uzbekistan	2



## Simulation from 2017-2018 World Rankings

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