



SUMMARY OF JURY OF APPEAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES 21JUL2018

The **Jury of Appeal or in its absence, the Technical Delegate** is the highest authority at a track and field competition for resolving disputes after the Referee has decided. Its role is to ensure that the World Athletics Rules are correctly applied while protecting the rights of athletes and teams. The Jury does **not** re-officiate the competition; it reviews whether the Referee's decision was correct based on the evidence and the rules. ([World Athletics](#))

Composition of the Jury

Under the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules:

- The Jury should normally consist of **3, 5, or 7 members**.
- One member serves as **Chairman**.
- Another serves as **Secretary** (who may not be a voting member).
- **Members must withdraw from deliberations involving athletes from their own Member Federation to avoid conflicts of interest.**
- For Race Walking appeals, at least one member should be a World Athletics-qualified Race-Walking Judge. ([World Athletics](#))

Standard Procedure for a Jury of Appeal

1. Protest to the Referee

A Jury of Appeal only becomes involved **after** the Referee has made a decision.

The sequence is:

1. Incident occurs.
 2. Protest is submitted to the Referee.
 3. Referee investigates.
 4. Referee issues a decision.
 5. If the team disagrees, they may appeal to the Jury.
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2. Filing an Appeal

The appeal must:

- Be submitted **in writing**
 - Be signed by:
 - the athlete,
 - someone acting on the athlete's behalf, or
 - the official team representative or delegate
 - Be submitted within **30 minutes** of:
 - the official announcement of the amended result, or
 - notification of the Referee's decision if no result changes.
 - Include the required appeal deposit (USD 100 under World Athletics rules, or the equivalent amount if adopted by the organizing body). The deposit is forfeited if the appeal is unsuccessful. ([World Athletics](#))
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3. Review of the Appeal

The Jury should immediately:

- Review the written appeal.
 - Confirm it is admissible.
 - Verify that it was submitted on time.
 - Identify exactly which rule is involved.
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4. Gather the Evidence

The Jury should obtain all available evidence, including:

- Referee's report
- Judge's reports
- Umpire reports
- Chief Judge's report
- Video footage
- Photo Finish images
- EDM measurements
- Wind readings



- False start data
- Shoe inspection reports
- Equipment inspection reports
- Athlete statements
- Team representative statements
- Medical reports (when relevant)

The Referee is normally interviewed unless the Jury intends to fully uphold the Referee's decision without further discussion. ([World Athletics](#))

5. Hearing

The Chairman should:

- Explain the issue.
- Allow the appellant to present the case.
- Allow the Referee to explain the decision.
- Allow witnesses if necessary.
- Permit questions by Jury members.

The hearing should remain orderly and impartial.

6. Deliberation

Only Jury members participate.

During deliberations they should:

- Review the applicable World Athletics Rules.
- Examine all evidence.
- Decide whether the Referee correctly applied the rules.
- Avoid introducing evidence not presented during the hearing unless independently obtained.

If the evidence is inconclusive, the Referee's decision should generally stand. ([World Athletics](#))

7. Decision

Possible outcomes include:

- Appeal denied (Referee's decision stands).
- Appeal upheld.
- Result amended.
- Athlete reinstated.
- Athlete disqualified.
- Event rerun (only when permitted by the rules).
- Other corrective action authorized by the rules.

The decision should include:

- Rule(s) applied.
 - Facts established.
 - Reasoning.
 - Final ruling.
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8. Notification

The decision should be communicated immediately to:

- Technical Information Centre (TIC)
- Competition Secretary
- Results Management
- Referee
- Team representative
- Competition Director (if necessary)

Official results are updated if required.

9. Finality



The decision of the Jury of Appeal is **final** within the competition. There is no further appeal under the competition rules. ([World Athletics](#))

Note: If new evidence is presented, the Chairman may accept it if conclusive and present it to the members of the Jury, but it must be before the awards ceremony.

Principles Every Jury Should Follow

A Jury should always:

- Be impartial.
 - Apply only the published rules.
 - Base decisions on evidence.
 - Give both parties an opportunity to be heard.
 - Avoid conflicts of interest.
 - Maintain confidentiality during deliberations.
 - Reach decisions promptly to avoid delaying the competition.
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Practical Example

Scenario: An athlete is disqualified in the long jump for wearing non-compliant shoes.

1. Technical Official reports the violation.
2. Referee confirms the shoes exceed the maximum sole thickness and disqualifies the athlete.
3. Team submits a written appeal within 30 minutes.
4. Jury reviews:
 - shoe measurements,
 - manufacturer's specifications,
 - inspection report,
 - applicable shoe regulations,
 - statements from the Referee and the athlete.
5. Jury deliberates.
6. If the measurements confirm the shoes were illegal, the appeal is dismissed.



7. If the measurements were incorrect or the shoe complied with the regulations, the disqualification is overturned.

Best Practices for Major Championships

For competitions such as the Olympic Games, World Athletics Championships, Continental Championships, or NACAC Championships, many experienced Jury members follow this checklist:

Step	Action
1	Receive written appeal
2	Confirm time limit and admissibility
3	Identify applicable rule(s)
4	Collect all reports and evidence
5	Hear the appellant
6	Hear the Referee
7	Review video and technical data
8	Deliberate in private
9	Vote if consensus is not reached
10	Prepare a written decision with reasons
11	Notify TIC and Results Management
12	Archive all documentation

This structured process promotes fairness, transparency, and consistency in applying the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules.

This summary is based on World Athletics rules and procedures done in regional championships such as CARIFTA Games and CADICA Championships.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Michal A. Serralta'.

Michal A. Serralta
NACAC Competition Director