

not mean standing outside the Call Room. The technical regulations for the Competition may outline any Call Room procedures which must be followed.

For the avoidance of doubt, a “DNS” designation as a result of this Rule shall not affect any results obtained by the athlete at the same Competition in events prior to the event in which they received the “DNS” designation.

## **Rule 6: Clothing, Shoes, Athlete Bibs, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Eye mask, Tether, Non-compliance on Equipment and Helmets**

### ***6.1 Clothing***

- 6.1.1 In all events, athletes and guides must wear clothing that is clean, and designed and worn so as not to be objectionable. The clothing must be made of a material which is non-transparent even if wet. Athletes must not wear clothing that could impede the view of the Judges.
- 6.1.2 Any athlete who removes an article of clothing inappropriately, such as taking off their top after the finish of an event to expose their torso, shall, for a first offence in that Competition, be warned by the Referee in accordance with Rule 8.1. For a second offence in that Competition, the Referee shall disqualify the athlete in accordance with Rule 8.1.
- 6.1.3 Where appropriate, athletes shall participate in the uniform clothing approved by their national governing body. The Victory Ceremony and any lap of honour are considered part of the competition for this purpose.

*Note (i): In Seated Throwing Events clothing must be close fitting, and not loose, so that the view of the judges is not impeded.*

**COMMENT:** Prior to entering the field of play Officials in the Call Room may require an athlete to change their clothing if it is deemed to be in-appropriate or objectionable. If an athlete refuses to follow the requirements of the Call Room Judges, the relevant Referee shall warn the athlete and issue a yellow or red card as deemed appropriate.

Athletes may be asked by Officials to adjust their clothing to make it easier for the Officials to observe their form, such as in a Seated Throwing Event.

## ***6.2 Shoes - General***

- 6.2.1 Athletes may compete barefoot or with footwear on one or both feet. The primary purpose of shoes for competition is to give protection and stability to the feet and a firm grip on the ground. They must not give athletes any unfair assistance or advantage.
- 6.2.2 Any shoe which appears on the World Athletics list of approved competition shoes, updated and published from time to time by World Athletics, may also be used in corresponding events in WPA Competitions. Any shoe not on such list must comply with all other terms of Rules 6.2 - 6.7 of these rules in order to be used in WPA Competition.

**COMMENT:** For example, if a shoe is listed on the World Athletics list of approved competition shoes in the category “track from 800m”, athletes may also use this shoe for World Para Athletics track events of 800m or longer.

- 6.2.3 Any type of shoe used must be reasonably available to all in the spirit of the universality of athletics. A shoe that meets the criteria set out in this Rule 6.2 may be customised to suit the characteristics of a particular athlete’s foot. However, one-off shoes made to order (i.e., that are only ones of their kind) are not permitted.
- 6.2.4 Where WPA has reason to believe that a type of shoe or specific shoe technology may not comply with the letter or the spirit of Rules 6.2 – 6.6, it may refer the shoe or shoe technology for detailed examination and it may prohibit the use of such shoes or technology in competition pending examination.

## ***6.3 Shoes - Number of Spikes***

The sole of the shoes and/or prosthetic(s) (including the part beneath the shoe) may be so constructed as to provide for the use of up to 11 spikes. Any number of spikes up to 11 may be used but the number of spike positions shall not exceed 11.

## ***6.4 Shoes - Dimensions of Spikes***

That part of each spike which projects from the sole or the heel shall not exceed 9mm except in the High Jump and Javelin Throw, where it shall not exceed 12mm. The spike must be so constructed that it will, at least for the half of its length closest to the tip, fit through a square

sided 4mm gauge. If the track manufacturer or the stadium operator mandates a lesser maximum, or prohibits the use of certain shaped spikes, this shall be applied and the athletes notified accordingly.

*Note: The surface must be suitable for accepting the spikes permitted under this rule.*

**COMMENT:** The revised spike length requirement would normally be outlined in the Team Manual or technical requirements for the competition and athletes should be aware that due to modern track construction, the maximum spike length is likely to be shorter than the maximum permitted by these rules.

### **6.5 Technical Requirements for Shoes - The Sole**

6.5.1 The sole of the shoe (including the part beneath the heel of the shoe) may have grooves, ridges, indentations or protuberances, provided these features are constructed of the same or similar material to the basic sole itself. The maximum thickness of the sole of the shoe is set out at Rule 6.6.

6.5.2 *The thickness of the sole shall be measured at the centre of the forefoot and the centre heel of the shoe as the distance between the inside top side and the plane of the outside under side at the centre of the forefoot and heel respectively. This measurement includes the above-mentioned features. See Figure (1) below:*

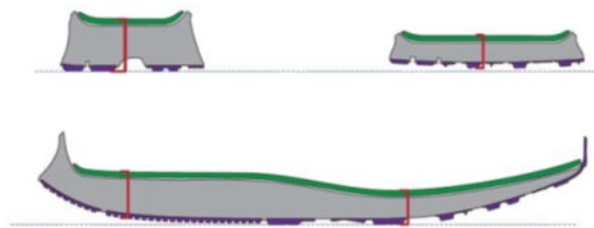


Figure 1 – Measuring the thickness of the sole

6.5.3 *The centre of the forefoot of the shoe is the centre point of the shoe at 75% of its internal length. The centre of the heel of the shoe is the centre point of the shoe at 12% of its internal length. See Figure (2), below. For a standard sample unisex size 42 (EUR), the centre of the forefoot of the shoe will be the centre point of the shoe approximately 203mm from the inside back of the shoe, and the centre of the heel of the shoe will be*

*the centre point of the shoe approximately 32mm from the inside back of the shoe. The thickness of the sole outside of these points is not relevant for the purposes of meeting the requirements of these Rules.*

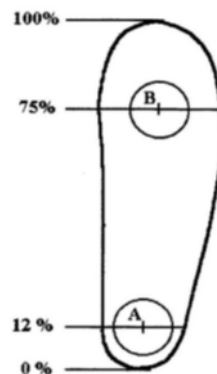


Figure 2 – Location for measurement of the centre of the forefoot and heel

6.5.4 *WPA acknowledges that a shoe above that standard sample size might contain a marginally thicker sole than that of a standard sample size shoe of the same make and model, which marginal increase in sole thickness is only attributable to the larger size of the shoe. Such marginal increases will be disregarded for the purposes of confirming compliance with these Rules.*

6.6 Until further notice, unless in exceptional circumstances and specifically agreed by WPA in writing, any shoe used in competition:

- a) (except where Rule 6.6(c) applies) must not contain more than one rigid structure (e.g. plate, blade etc.) whether that structure runs the full length of the shoe or only part of the length of the shoe;
- b) the one rigid structure referred to in Rule 6.6(a) may be in more than one part, but those parts must be located in one plane (i.e. must not be tacked above each other, must not overlap);
- c) may contain one additional rigid structure or other mechanism (e.g. plate, blade etc.) only where used solely to attach spikes to the outer underside of the shoe. For the avoidance of doubt, the additional rigid structure to attach spikes cannot be a

- continuation of the rigid structure referred to in Rule 6.6(a);
- d) must not contain any embedded ‘sensing or intelligent’ technology whatsoever. This does not prevent heart rate or speed distance monitors or stride sensors carried or worn personally by an athlete pursuant to Rule 7.4(d);
- e) must have a sole with a maximum thickness as set out in the table below.

Shoe Sole Thickness Table – in force until 31 October 2024

Event	Maximum thickness of the sole (as per Rule 6.6)	Further Rule Requirement/Note
Field Events (except Triple Jump)	20mm	Applies to all Throwing Events for ambulant athletes and Jumping Events except the Triple Jump. For all Field Events, the sole at the centre of the athlete’s forefoot must not be higher than the sole at centre of the athlete’s heel referred to at Rules 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 (i.e., at centre point of the shoe at 12% and 75% of the shoes internal length).
Triple Jump	25mm	The sole at the centre of the athlete’s forefoot must not be higher than the sole at centre of the athlete’s heel referred to at Rules 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 (i.e., at centre point of the shoe at 12% and 75% of the shoes internal length).
Track Events up to but not including 800m	20mm	For relays the rule applies to the distance of the leg being run by each athlete.
Track Events from 800m and above	25mm	For relays the rule applies to the distance of the leg being run by each athlete.
Road Events	40mm	

### New Sole Thickness Table – in force from 1 November 2024

Event	Maximum thickness of the sole (as per Rule 6.6)	Further Requirement/Note
Track Events	20mm spike shoe or non-spike shoe	For relays, the rule applies to the distance of the leg being run by each athlete.
Field Events	20mm spike shoe or non-spike shoe	For all Jumping Events, the sole at the centre of the athlete’s forefoot must not be higher than the sole at centre of the athlete’s heel referred to at Rules 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 (i.e., at centre point of the shoe at 12% and 75% of the shoes internal length).
Road Events	40mm	

Important notice: from 1 November 2024 an existing shoe whose sole is greater than the maximum thicknesses set out in the above table is no longer approved and cannot be worn in competitions.

#### ***6.7 Shoes - Inserts and Additions to the Shoe***

Athletes may not use any appliance, either inside or outside the shoe, which will have the effect of increasing the thickness of the sole above the permitted maximum, or which can give the wearer any advantage which they would not obtain from the type of shoe described in the previous paragraphs.

**COMMENT:** Please refer to the further rules on shoes set out at Rules 6.9 (Non-Compliance) and Rule 6.6 above.

#### ***6.8 Athlete Bibs***

6.8.1 Every athlete shall be provided with two bibs, which during the competition, shall be worn visibly on the breast, back and/or on their competition equipment (i.e., racing chairs, Running frames and throwing frames), as set out in the table below. Either the athletes' names or other suitable identification will be allowed instead of numbers on any or all of the bibs. If numerals are used, they shall correspond with the number allocated to the athlete on the start list or in the programme. If track suits are worn during the competition, bibs shall be worn on the track suit in a similar manner.

### Bib Allocation Table

	Track Events	Throwing Events	Jumping Events
Ambulant Athletes	1 bib on back <u>and</u> 1 bib on breast	1 bib on back <u>and</u> 1 bib on breast	1 bib on breast <u>or</u> back
Seated Throws		1 bib on back of throwing frame <u>and</u> 1 bib on breast	
Wheelchair Racing	1 bib on back of the racing chair <u>Optional:</u> 1 helmet number <u>and/or</u> 1 bib on side of the frame		
Frame Running	1 bib on back of the athlete <u>Optional:</u> 1 helmet number <u>and/or</u> 1 bib on side of the frame		

- 6.8.2 The bibs shall be visibly displayed in accordance with the bib allocation table above.
- 6.8.3 Athletes must not wear any bibs on their leg instead of on their breast or back.
- 6.8.4 These bibs must be worn as issued and may not be cut, folded or obscured in any way. In long distance events, the bibs may be perforated to assist the circulation of air, but the perforation must not be made on any of the lettering or numerals that appear on them.
- 6.8.5 Where a Photo Finish System is in operation, the LOC may require athletes to wear additional number identification of an adhesive type on the side of their shorts or lower body as determined by Call Room or other Technical Officials.
- For athletes competing in all individual and team track and road wheelchair and Frame Running races, these additional number identifications shall be worn on the helmet.
- 6.8.6. No athlete shall be allowed to take part in any competition without displaying the appropriate bib(s) and/or identification.

### ***6.9 Non-Compliance in relation to clothing, shoes and bibs***

If an athlete does not follow any part of any of the Rules 6.1 – 6.8 to and:

- a) refuses the direction of the relevant Referee or other official to comply; or
  - b) participates in the competition,
- they shall be disqualified.

**COMMENT:** This Rule 6.9 prescribes the sanction if any aspect of any of the Rules 6.1 – 6.8 is not followed. It is expected however that where possible the relevant officials should request and encourage the athlete to comply and to advise them of the consequence if he they do not. But where an athlete does not follow an aspect of the Rule during competition, and it is not practical for an official to request compliance athletes should note that disqualification may follow. It is a responsibility of the Starters Assistants and Umpires (for Track and Out of Stadium Events) and the Judges (for Field Events) to be vigilant on these matters and report any apparent breaches to the relevant Referee.

### ***6.10 Referee directions as to shoes***

6.10.1 If the Referee has a reasonable suspicion that a shoe worn by an athlete in a competition might not comply with the letter or spirit of the Rules, the Referee (or other official as directed by the Referee) may request and the athlete must immediately hand over the shoe to the Referee or such other official at the conclusion of the event for further investigation by WPA.

However, where it has already been declared that a shoe does not comply with the spirit of the Rules, the relevant Referee shall immediately act in accordance with Rule 6.9.

6.10.2 When shoes have been handed over by the athlete under this Rule and the athlete intends to subsequently compete in later rounds of the same event or in other events during the same competition, the Referee or other official shall ensure the shoes are available to the athlete to use in each such subsequent event. How, when and on what conditions the shoe is made available to the athlete during the competition is at the Referee's discretion.



### ***6.11 Exceptions to Rules 6.2, 6.5, 6.7 or 6.6***

- 6.11.1 If an athlete presents with an anatomical limitation (for example leg length difference or foot deformity) that prevents adherence to the requirements of Rule 6.2, 6.5, 6.7 or 6.6, then an assessment shall be made by WPA in advance of the event and an exception may be granted.
- 6.11.2 The shoe worn by the athlete on the other non-impaired foot and/or leg must comply with the requirements of Rules 6.2, 6.5, 6.7 and 6.6.
- 6.11.3 WPA may establish a process for applications under this Rule to be considered.

### ***6.12 Prostheses***

- 6.12.1 Athletes in Sport Classes T/F61-64, with lower limb deficiency and leg length difference (meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria Sec. 2.1.4.1 and Sec. 2.1.7 of appendix one of the WPA Classification Rules and Regulations) may wear lower limb prosthetic device(s) in order to ensure both legs are balanced and to allow for symmetric movement during Competition. Such prosthetic device(s) shall not provide any other assistance to the athlete or breach any of the fundamental principles outlined in Part B – 7.1.
  - a) In Track and Road Events, athletes in Sports Classes T61-64 shall compete with lower limb prosthetic device(s) and shall complete the race with such device(s). Prostheses are considered an extension of the athlete’s body. If the athlete finishes the race without the prosthetic device(s), the athlete shall be disqualified.
  - b) In Field Events, athletes in Sports Classes T/F61-64, shall compete with lower limb prosthetic device(s). They shall complete all trials from start to finish with such device(s). If the athlete does not, such trial(s) shall be considered a failure.
- 6.12.2 For Sport Classes T/F61-62 the actual height of an athlete in their Competition leg prostheses shall not exceed their Maximum Allowable Standing Height (MASH) in accordance with WPA Classification Rules and Regulations. The height of athletes shall be measured at the Call Room by Call Room Judges. If an athlete exceeds their MASH then the athlete will not be permitted to start the event and shall be shown in the results as “DNS” in accordance with Rule 6.16.

**COMMENT: World and Regional Records - For the purpose of record ratification, all World and Regional Records achieved by athletes in Sport Classes T/F61-62 must comply with Rule 51.10 Note (i).**

6.12.3 For athletes in Sport Classes T45-47 and F45-46 with upper limb deficiency (meeting the Minimum Impairment Criteria Sec. 2.1.4.2., 2.2.1.1, and 2.2.2.1. of appendix one of the WPA Classification Rules and Regulations), the use of upper limb prosthetic device(s) is optional.

- a) In Track and Road Events, athletes in Sport Classes T45-47, that choose to compete with the upper limb prosthetic device(s), shall complete the race with such device(s). Since the use is optional, the athlete may decide whether or not to use the upper limb prosthetic device(s) in the next race (e.g., in the semi-final or final in 100m). Prostheses are considered an extension of the athlete's body. Once the race starts, athletes running with upper limb prosthetic device(s) must reach the nearer edge of the finish line with such device(s). If the athlete finishes the race without the prosthetic device(s), the athlete shall be disqualified.
- b) In Field Events, athletes in Sport Classes T45-47 and F45-46, the use of upper limb prosthetic device(s) is optional. Prior to the start of each round of the Event, the athlete shall notify the relevant Official of their intention. If an athlete decides to compete with the prosthetic device(s), they shall complete all trials from start to finish with such device(s). If the athlete does not, such trial(s) shall be considered a failure.

**COMMENT: In the case that the athlete decides to use the prosthetic device(s) (e.g., in High Jump or Long Jump), the relevant Official shall ensure that Rule 25.7 and Rule 27.14 are observed.**

The phrase "round of trials" instead of "rounds" is designed to ensure a clear difference between a "round of trials" within a Field Event competition and a "round of the competition" (i.e., a Qualification Round or a final).

### **6.13 Orthoses**

- 6.13.1 For athletes in Sports Classes T32-34/F31-34, T/F35-38, T/F42-44 and T51-54/F51-57 with Lower Limb Impairment with two anatomical limbs, the use of orthotic device(s) is optional.
- 6.13.2 In Sport Classes T32-34/F31-34, T/F35-38, T45-47/ F45-46 and T51-54/F51-57, athletes with Upper Limb Impairment, the use of orthotic device(s) is optional.
- 6.13.3 For athletes with lower and/or upper limb impairment the use of assistive devices other than those permitted in Rule 6.12 or this Rule 6.13 to facilitate running is not allowed.

**COMMENT:** Up until 01 January 2018, Sport Classes T/F42-44 included both athletes who competed with a prosthetic device(s) and athletes who did not. Recent findings indicate that the use of prosthetic device(s) may provide a performance advantage in Track Events.

### **6.14 Eye mask**

- 6.14.1 Athletes in Sport Classes T/F11 must have their eyes/eye cavities completely covered by gauze patches or an equivalent material and must wear approved opaque glasses or an appropriate substitute during all track and/or field events. These opaque glasses or their substitute must completely cover the eyes of the competitor and must be checked and approved by the responsible technical official and must in their opinion be effective in blocking out all light. These opaque glasses or their substitute may be inspected again at any time, including immediately before the start and/or after finish.
- 6.14.2 It is the responsibility of the athlete to provide the eye patches, eye masks / opaque glasses and to ensure that these eye patches, eye masks and opaque glasses or appropriate substitute meet the requirements set out in 6.14.1. If an athlete arrives at the call room and a) does not have eye patches, and/or an eye mask/opaque glasses/appropriate substitute, or b) the eye patches, an eye mask/opaque glasses/appropriate substitute fails to comply with this Rule 6.14, Rule 6.16 shall apply.
- 6.14.3 Eye patches and eye masks / opaque glasses or appropriate substitute must be worn from the time the athlete leaves the Call Room until the end of the event (after the athlete has crossed the leading-edge of the finish line in track events or after the end of the athlete's final trial in field events) or after an athlete has retired from an event. Save

for where Rule 6.14.4 applies, any athlete who removes their eye patches and/or eye mask/opaque glasses before the end of the event or before retiring from an event shall, for a first offence, be warned by the Referee in accordance with Rule 8.1. For a second offence in that Competition, the Referee shall disqualify the athlete in accordance with Rule 8.1.

6.14.4 In field events an athlete may temporarily remove the eye mask / opaque glasses (but not eye patches) between trials in the event.

6.14.5 It is not required for athletes to wear eye patches and masks during road races.

**COMMENT:** It is important for ITOs to remember that as Referees they must ensure that inspection of eye patches and eye masks must be conducted in the Call Room (see Rule 2.24) and that athletes wear proper eye patches and masks during the events for which they are intended to be worn. Where an athlete wishes to remove the eye patches or eye mask, they must ask for permission to do so. This shall not be unreasonably withheld by the Referee or Chief Judge of the event.

While in a Track Event the eye patches and eye masks are normally in place at the starting line and remain for the duration of the event; however, in some Field Events an athlete may remove their eye mask/opaque glasses between attempts. If they do so, the Judges and Referee need to observe that they are replaced by the athlete or their assistant prior to their next attempt.

Failure to wear the eye patches and eye masks correctly will result in disqualification of the athlete. This may include where the eye patch or eye mask falls off during a Track Event.

### **6.15 Tether**

6.15.1 When competing with a guide-runner, athletes in Sport Class T11 and T12 shall be guided through a tether which shall be supplied by the athlete and shall comply with Rule 6.15.4. If such an athlete arrives at the call room and a) does not have a tether, or b) the tether is not in compliance with Rule 6.15.4, Rule 6.16 shall apply.

6.15.2 Only one tether shall be used between an athlete and their guide-runner(s) during a race.

6.15.3 If during a race their tether breaks then the athlete shall be disqualified.

**COMMENT:** It is the responsibility of the athlete to ensure that their tether is durable and serviceable and that, in the event that the tether breaks during a race, they will be disqualified under Rule 7.9.

6.15.4 The tether shall be made from non-elastic material and shall not store energy and/or offer a performance gain to an athlete. It shall consist of two closed holding loops and a middle section with a fixed stopper of 1cm length at each end.

- a) For track events, the maximum length between the two furthest points of the holding loop at the full extension of the tether shall not exceed 30cm. For road events, the maximum length between the two furthest points of the holding loop at the full extension of the tether shall not exceed 50cm. Each tether shall be measured in the Call Room at its full extension when the tether is not being worn.
- b) The holding loops shall not incorporate any mechanism that allows the loops to open. The holding loops may incorporate a locking mechanism, which can be easily operated by the athlete and that allows the size of the loops to be adjusted and locked. This adjustable locking mechanism shall not in any way be extended beyond the two fixed spherical stoppers and shall not shorten the middle section. The middle section shall be a minimum of 10cm in length and shall be measured at its full extension from the closest points of the two spherical stoppers. The middle section shall be of a distinctive colour and be distinguishable from a distance to the rest of the tether. The stoppers shall be sphere-shaped (or spherical) and a minimum of 1cm in diameter.

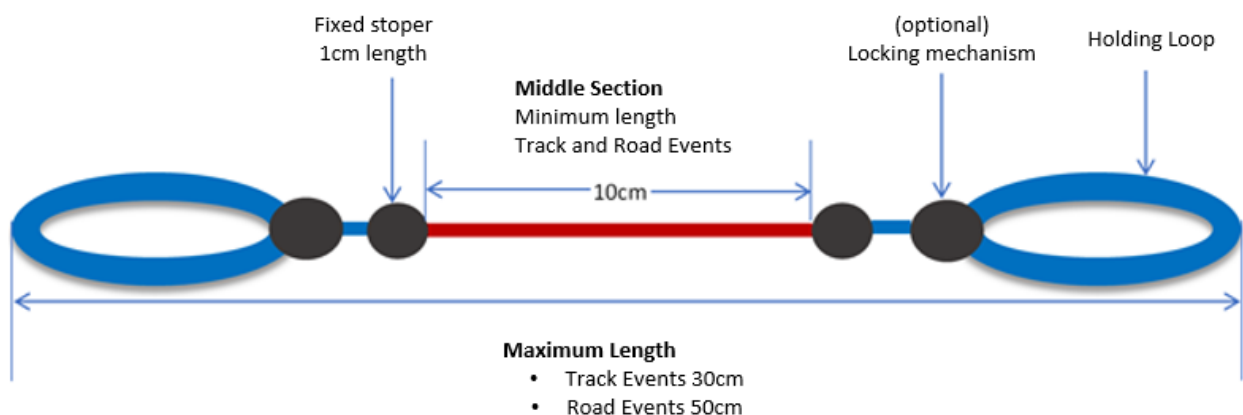


Figure 3 – Tether features

**COMMENT:** The above Figure 3 shows the minimum and maximum length that must be observed and respected at all times during the races for Track and Road Events. The Call Room Judges will conduct the appropriate inspection and will ensure that the length of the tether complies with the above Rule 6.15.1 and Rule 6.15.4.

## **6.16 Non-compliance on equipment**

- 6.16.1 An athlete (and in the case of a relay, their team) may be excluded from participation in any event in which their competition equipment (i.e., racing chairs, Running frames, throwing frames, prosthetic device(s), helmets, tethers and eye masks) is not compliant with the rules. In such circumstances, the Call Room Referee (or other appropriate referee) must issue the athlete with a yellow card.
- 6.16.2 If the athlete is able to make the necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with the rules or is able to obtain the missing equipment (e.g. borrowing a tether from the LOC), prior to the scheduled exit from the Call Room, they shall be permitted to compete, but the yellow card awarded will stand. No event shall be delayed while an athlete makes adjustments to their equipment.
- 6.16.3 If an athlete fails to comply with this Rule, then the athlete (and in the case of a relay, their team) will not be permitted to start the event and they (and in the case of a relay, their team) shall be shown in the results as “DNS”. A reference shall be made in the official results to the Rule that has been infringed (for example, DNS + YC 6.12.2). In such circumstances, the athlete shall not be excluded from participation in further events of the competition under Rule 5.5.
- 6.16.4 If the athlete’s equipment is non-compliant for any subsequent event, then they shall also be excluded from that event. In such circumstances, the Call Room Referee (or other appropriate referee) shall show the athlete a second yellow card followed immediately by a red card and in such circumstances the athlete shall be excluded from participation in further events of the competition.
- 6.16.5 The provisions of this Rule 6.16 relating to the issuing of a yellow card and/or red card by the appropriate Referee will also apply in circumstances where an athlete, having started or completed an event, is subsequently disqualified from that event for having competed using non-compliant equipment.

**COMMENT:** Under such circumstances where the athlete's equipment is non-compliant with the rules and in order to be consistent with the application of the rules, it is recommended that the Call Room Referee keep a written record of the yellow and red cards that have been issued.

### ***6.17 Helmets***

Helmets for Sport Classes T31-34, T51-54 and T71-72.

- 6.17.1 The wearing of helmets is compulsory in all track and road Wheelchair races and Frame Running races. The helmet shall be a hard-protective shell that has a recognised international safety standard e.g.: Snell b-84/90/95, BSI 6863, EN 1078.
- 6.17.2 If an athlete arrives at the Call Room and a) does not have a helmet, or b) the helmet is not in compliance with Rule 6.17.1, Rule 6.16 shall apply.
- 6.17.3 The helmet must be worn from the time the athlete leaves the Call Room until the end of the race. Any athlete who removes their helmet during this time, shall, for a first offence in that Competition, be warned by the Referee in accordance with Rule 8.1. For a second offence in that Competition, the Referee shall disqualify the athlete in accordance with Rule 8.1.
- 6.17.4 The purpose of this Rule 6.17 is to ensure the safety of all athletes while on the track and is not intended to punish the temporary removal of a helmet for genuine reasons. For example, should an athlete need to briefly adjust their helmet while stationary, this shall not require disciplinary action.

**COMMENT:** For safety reasons, athletes covered by this Rule are advised to wear a helmet on the track at all times (i.e. including after the race.)

### ***6.18 Urine Storage Devices***

Athletes must ensure that urine is not allowed to drain from storage devices such as leg bags onto the competition or warm-up areas. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.