

Rule 8: Warnings and Disqualification

Bona Fide Participation, Unsporting and Improper Conduct

1. Athletes and relay teams shall participate in competitions in a bona fide manner and shall not engage in unsporting or improper conduct. Any athlete or relay team failing to comply with this Rule may be warned or disqualified.

The applicable Referee shall have authority to warn or exclude from competition, any athlete or relay team guilty of breaches of this Rule or Rules 5.4, 6, 7, 17.5, 18.17, 18.18, 24.2, 24.5, 24.19 or 49.8(h)). Warnings may be indicated to the athlete by showing a yellow card, exclusion by showing a red card. Warnings and exclusions shall be entered on the result card and communicated to the Competition Secretary and to the other Referees.

In respect of the application of this Rule 8, the Call Room Referee has authority starting from the Warm-up Area up to the competition area. In all other instances, the Referee applicable to the event in which the athlete is or was competing, shall have authority.

The applicable Referee (where practicable after consulting the Competition Director) may warn or remove any other person from the competition area (or other area related to the competition including the Warm-up Area, Call Room and coaches seating) who is acting in an unsporting or improper manner or who is providing assistance to athletes that is not permitted by the Rules.

Note (i): The Referee may, where the circumstances justify it; exclude an athlete or relay team without a warning having been given (See also Note to Rule 7.2).

Note (ii): When excluding an athlete or relay team from competition under this Rule, if the Referee is aware that a yellow card has already been given, should show a second yellow card followed immediately by a red card.

Note (iii): If a yellow card is given and the Referee is not aware that a previous yellow card was issued to that athlete or relay team at the competition, it shall, once this is known, have the same consequence as if it was a red card. The relevant Referee shall take immediate action to advise the athlete or relay team or their team of their exclusion.

COMMENT: The below Six key points are made to provide guidance and clarity in relation to the way in which cards are shown and recorded:

(1) Yellow and red cards can be given either for disciplinary reasons (refer mostly to this Rule) or for certain technical infringements that are disciplinary in nature.

(2) Whilst it is normal and usually expected that a yellow card would have been given before a red card, it is envisaged that in the cases of particularly bad unsporting or improper behaviour or failing to participate in a bona fide manner, a red card can be given immediately. It should be noted that the athlete has in any case the opportunity to appeal such a decision to the Jury of Appeal.

(3) There will be also some cases in which it is not practical or logical for a yellow card to have been issued. For example, the Note to Rule 7.2 specifically allows for an immediate red card if justified in cases covered by Rule 7.3(a) such as pacing in races.

(4) A similar situation might also follow when a Referee issues a yellow card and the athlete or relay team responds in such an inappropriate manner that it is justified to then immediately give a red card. It is not essential for there to be two completely different and distinct in time instances of inappropriate behaviour.

(5) As per Note (iii), in cases where a Referee is aware that the athlete or relay team in question has already received a yellow card during the competition and he proposes to issue a red card, the Referee should first show a second yellow card and then the red card. However, if a Referee does not show the second yellow card, it will not invalidate the issuing of the red card.

(6) In cases where a Referee is not aware of a pre-existing yellow card, and they show only a yellow card, once this becomes known, the appropriate steps should be taken to disqualify the athlete as soon as possible. Normally, this would be done by the Referee advising the athlete directly or through their team.

(7) In cases of relay events, cards received by one or more members of the team during any round of the event shall count against the team. Therefore, if one athlete receives two cards or two different athletes receive a yellow card in any round of the particular event, the team shall be regarded as having received a red card and shall be disqualified.

Disqualification resulting from an infringement of a Technical Rule (other than Rule 8.1)

2. If an athlete is disqualified in an event for an infringement of a Technical Rule (except under Rule 8.1) any performance accomplished in the same round of that event up to the time of

the disqualification shall not be valid. However, performances accomplished in a previous round of that event or other previous events shall remain valid. Such disqualification from an event shall not prevent an athlete from taking part in any further event in that competition.

Disqualification resulting from exclusion under Rule 8.1

3. If an athlete is excluded from competition under Rule 8.1, they shall be disqualified from that event. If the athlete's second warning occurs in a different event, they shall be disqualified only from the second event. Any performance accomplished in the same round of that event up to the time of the disqualification shall not be valid. However, performances accomplished in a previous round of that event or other previous events shall remain valid. Such disqualification shall prevent an athlete from taking part in all further events or rounds of events (including other events in which they are simultaneously participating and relays) in that competition.
4. When a relay team is excluded from competition under Rule 8.1, it shall be disqualified from that event. Performances accomplished in a previous round of that event shall remain valid. If the disqualification of the relay team was the consequence of (an) athlete(s) acting in a manner that would lead to a disqualification under Rule 8.1 if competing in an individual event, Rule 8.3 will be applicable to such athlete(s). Otherwise, such disqualification shall not prevent any athlete or relay of that team taking part in any other event(s) in that competition.

Nothing shall prohibit the Referee taking action against an individual in accordance with Rule 8.1 and also taking action against that athlete's relay team in accordance with the same Rule, in relation to the same or a linked incident.

5. If the offence is considered serious, the Competition Director shall report it to WPA for consideration of further disciplinary action.

COMMENT: Rule 8.3 shall be applied to an athlete whose second warning in the competition incurred in the relay race, or who had a direct exclusion in the relay race that led to the disqualification of the team.

Rule 9: Competing Outside Sport Class – Eligibility

In accordance with the IPC Classification Code, and general principles of classification, athletes will generally compete against athletes with the same Sport Class.

The competition entry, qualification and/or eligibility documentation for Recognised Competitions may identify events where more than one Sports Classes are eligible to compete together.

At the Paralympic Games and WPA Championships (see Part B - 3.1.2 (a) and (b)), the grouping of the Sport Classes shall in principle be in accordance with the Classification Hierarchy Table(s) in Appendix 2.

This rule will not apply to Recognised Competitions taking place after the adoption of this version of WPA Rules and Regulations where entry criteria have been committed to prior to the date of adoption.

Where more than one Sports Class competes together in Field Events the Raza Points System may be used to determine placings (as shall be determined by the LOC and the TD, depending on whether the event is organised as a ‘single class event’ or a ‘combined class event’). When using the Raza Points System, the numbers after the decimal place should be rounded down. E.g. 1000.501 and 1000.499 would both be 1000pts. Only in the case of a tie would the numbers after the decimal place be considered.

In exceptional and limited circumstances WPA shall be entitled to permit the grouping of Sport Classes that do not satisfy the Classification Hierarchy Table(s) in Appendix 2.

COMMENT: The changes made to the Classification Rules and Regulations in relation to the new Sport Classes T61-64, have been reflected in the Classification Hierarchy Table(s) in Appendix 2.

Rule 10: Surveying and Measurements

1. The accuracy of the markings and installations for athletics facilities under Rules 3, 11.2, 11.3 and 39 shall be checked by an appropriately qualified surveyor who shall furnish appropriate certificates together with details of any check measurements made to the relevant body and/or the facility owner or operator. They shall be given full access to

stadium plans and drawings and the latest measurement report for the purpose of this verification.

2. For Track and Field Events in the Paralympic Games and WPA Championships (see Part B - 3.1.2 (a) and (b)) all measurements shall be made with a calibrated certified steel tape or bar or with a scientific measuring device. The steel tape, bar or scientific measuring device shall be manufactured and calibrated according to international standards. The accuracy of the measuring equipment used in the competition shall have been verified by an appropriate organisation accredited by the national measurement authority.

Other than at the Paralympic Games and WPA Championships (see Part B - 3.1.2 (a) and (b)) fiberglass tapes may also be used.

Note: Concerning acceptance of World and/or Regional Records, see Rule 51.19.a.

COMMENT: It should be noted that when the electronic measurement equipment is obviously not working properly all measurements need to be made using a calibrated steel tape or bar.

Rule 11: Validity of Performances

1. No performance accomplished by an athlete will be valid unless it is accomplished at a WPA Recognised Competition (see Part B - 3.1.2).
2. Performances in events normally conducted in the stadium, made outside traditional athletics facilities (such as those held on a temporary facility in town squares, other sporting facilities, beaches, etc.) or on a temporary facility built within a stadium shall be valid and recognised for all purposes, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:
 - a) the relevant governing body as provided in Part B – 3. has issued a permit for the event;
 - b) a qualified panel of National Technical Officials are appointed to and officiate at the event;
 - c) where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used; and
 - d) the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10 on the day of the event.

COMMENT: When a competition described in under Rule 11.2 is held over more than one day, the survey should be made on the day of the first event. In either case if the surveyor

can be satisfied that there will be no movement of or alteration to the facilities being surveyed, the survey may be completed up to two days prior to the day of the first event.

3. Performances in events conducted indoors or in an otherwise fully or partly covered venue where the length or other specifications of the facility do not comply with the rules for indoor competition shall be valid and recognised as if they were achieved outdoors, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:
- a) the relevant governing body as provided in Part B – 3. has issued a permit for the event;
 - b) a qualified panel of National Technical Officials are appointed to and officiate at the event;
 - c) where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used;
 - d) in the case of an oval track, its length is greater than 201.2m (220 yards) but no greater than 400m; and
 - e) the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which, if held on a temporary facility, a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10.

COMMENT: When a result is achieved on a complying facility with no advantage gained and all related rules observed, the fact that it happened at a covered competition site does not prevent a result being listed among the outdoor equivalent distances and used for any statistical purpose (performances e.g. on covered 400m tracks and straights).

Rule 12: Video Recording

In the Paralympic Games and WPA Championships (see Part B - 3.1.2 (a) and (b)) and, whenever possible, in other competitions, an official video recording of all events to the satisfaction of the Technical Delegate(s) shall be made. It should be sufficient to demonstrate the accuracy of performances and any violation of the Rules, including the WPA Classification Rules and Regulations.

COMMENT: The appointment at any competition of a video Referee will significantly affect the practical oversight of many aspects of those competitions at which sufficient video collection and replay systems are available. The video Referee will generally be able to act proactively in

respect of the track events (e.g., the start, running inside the lane line around the curve, jostling and obstruction, breaking from lanes too early, relay changeovers). If the amount of cameras and equipment is sufficient to play a similar role for some or all of the field events, they can undertake a similar role, but usually in a more reactive fashion when the on-field Referee requests further examination or review of a specific incident. In the case of the Track Events, the Video Referee will observe the races on one or more screens in the video room and then based on either their own observations or upon referral from a Referee or Chief Umpire in the competition area, examine one or more particular issues by looking at any replayed footage that might be available. If it is clear as a result that there has been an infringement of the Rules, then they should take the appropriate decision and convey it to the Track Referee and the Chief Photo Finish Judge. Similarly, if an umpire or trackside Referee has reported a potential infringement, it should be checked by the video Referee and the appropriate advice provided and decision taken. In addition, official video footage will as in the past continue to be used to assist in dealing with protests and appeals. It is becoming common for experienced companies to provide an existing service for competitions rather than the LOC setting up their own. However, either option can be used.

Rule 13: Scoring

In a match where the result is to be determined by the scoring of points, the method of scoring shall be set out in the entry and eligibility documentation.