



M/37/20  
Monaco, 13 August 2020

**To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS**  
Copy: Council Members  
Executive Board Members  
Commission Chairpersons  
Area Associations  
Dentsu Athletics

**Re: Clarification - Amendments to Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs) World Athletics Technical Rules – List of Approved Shoes**

Dear all,

Further to our Circular Letter M/35/20, we provided you with clarification concerning Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs) of the Technical Rules ('the Rule') as the Rule applies to athletic shoes. In that circular we said that we will publish a list of approved shoes. The list of approved shoes can be found on the World Athletics website (see "Manuals & Guidelines" section [here](#)). It is important the following points be noted in respect of the approved shoes:

1. The list does not contain every shoe ever worn by an athlete. The list has been compiled following introduction of the requirement on 31 January 2020 (being the date of the first amendment to Rule 5 of the Technical Rules) that any new shoe that an athlete proposes to wear in International Competitions needed to be assessed by World Athletics.
2. Whilst it is not a complete list of all shoes that have ever been worn by athletes there are some older models of shoes that manufacturers sent to World Athletics for assessment by its independent expert. The position with older shoes that are not on the list is that they still need to comply with the rule going forward. So, as with any other rule which an athlete needs to comply with, the athlete will need to ensure their older shoe complies with Rule 5.13 and the maximum sole thicknesses referred to in the table to Rule 5.13.3 of the Technical Rules. If there is doubt about a shoe then see points 4 and 5 below.
3. Under Rule 5 of the Technical Rules, athletes (or their representative) have the responsibility to provide World Athletics with specifications of the new shoes the athlete proposes to wear in competition. World Athletics accepts shoe specification and samples submitted by manufacturers for further examination.
4. If there is doubt about a shoe (particularly shoes that no other athlete has) then athletes, officials and meeting organisers should first refer to the approved list. It may be of assistance to get athletes to complete a shoe declaration form in advance of competition. We have provided a sample athlete shoe declaration form which can be found on the World Athletics website ([here](#)). If the athlete declaration is not clear or reveals information that requires follow-up then the athlete should be permitted to compete and the Referee will need to take action under point 5 below.
5. Under Rule 5.12 of the Technical Rules if the Referee has a reasonable suspicion that shoe worn by an athlete might not comply with the Rules then at the conclusion of the event, the Referee may request the shoe be handed over for further investigation by World Athletics. We have provided a template receipt form for shoes that are taken by the Referee for investigation for use after the athlete has competed. Please see the World Athletics website ("Manuals & Guidelines" section [here](#)).



We will be grateful if you would, as a matter of urgency, share this information with your athletes, officials and meeting organisers and we are available to answer questions sent to [rules@worldathletics.org](mailto:rules@worldathletics.org)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Ridgeon'.

Jon Ridgeon  
Chief Executive Officer