



HEEL AND TOE ONLINE

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THE RACEWALKING YEAR IS PUT ON HOLD

I don't think there is any need to keep putting in details of cancelled races. We know they are ALL cancelled for the foreseeable future as we all wait and watch developments at home and around the world.

I think especially of our young pre-school and school children and university students, our families, those who have lost their income, those who are at high risk, those who to face the virus daily in their work and those who are directly effected. The list goes on and on. We are all effected in one way or another.

Stay safe, stay sane and help those around you.

PAUL DEMEESTER TAKES AIM AT THE IOC

Thanks to USA Attorney At Law **Paul F. DeMeester** for another superb opinion piece in this week's newsletter.

Is World Athletics President Seb Coe's Recent Endorsement of Walking a Permanent Sidelining of Coe's IOC Conflict of Interest or is it Just Temporary?

By Paul F. DeMeester

Seb Coe has a problem. He badly wants to be a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Quite frankly, he should be, given the prominence of athletics at the Olympics. Coe is the sixth President of the world governing body of athletics which was established in 1912. Only one of his predecessors – who only had a five-year tenure at the helm of athletics long before term limits existed – did not serve on the IOC. Moreover, the man Coe beat in the 2015 presidential contest, Sergey Bubka, is not only an IOC member but also serves on its powerful Executive Board.

IOC officials have kept Coe on the outside, based on a supposed conflict of interest related to Coe's link to a global sports brand agency. (See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1085337/coe-set-to-finally-become-ioc-member>, dated 29 September 2019.) Keeping Coe off the IOC (IOC members select their own colleagues, a very closed and undemocratic governance system) has created a second conflict of interest, one that has come at the expense of race walking. This conflict of interest is Coe's and Coe's alone.

In order to increase revenue, the IOC has been eager to rid itself of race walking on its Olympic programme. Coe has done the IOC bidding within the athletics community, behind closed doors, to gut the 50km race walk event, and to set the stage for the future elimination of race walk events by promoting shorter distance events (remember the 2017 5000m relay proposal) that would subject our events to loss-of-contact ridicule, a precursor to eventual elimination of all race walking on the international competition programmes. In 2017, Coe wanted to cut the Men's 50K from Tokyo 2020. But a fortuitous leak led the IAAF Council to stop the plan in its tracks. Undeterred, Coe brought out the hatchet again two years later. In a closed session of the IAAF Race Walking Committee at Monaco's Hotel Novotel on 2 February 2019, Coe personally told committee members "to be brave," a not so subtle hint that the committee should vote to rid athletics of the 50K race walk events. (See Peter Marlow Letter to Seb Coe, published in Heel and Toe 2018/2019, No. 23A of 8 March 2019.) Ever since Rio 2016, Coe has warned the race walking community that the IOC would abolish Olympic race walking altogether if athletics did not make the proposed cuts.

And therein lies Coe's second conflict of interest, one much more hurtful to athletics than his branding company involvement. Coe has been turning his back on one of athletics' own disciplines in order to please an outside agency on whose board he wants to serve. Coe's actions are unfit for an athletics president but fit for a traitor to his sport. The increasing commercialization of the Olympics in particular and sports in general may need some rethinking for a reason not having anything to do with the common sense (or lack thereof) of sports officials: the COVID-19 pandemic. The world

has shut down or so it seems. Filling stadiums with crowds is no longer advisable. Travel, a necessity for top athletes and a favorite pastime of sports administrators, is out of the question right now. Will sports that thrive on person-to-person contact, like boxing, football or baseball, survive? Will there even be a Tokyo 2020 in 2021? Who knows? One thing is for certain: life, including sports, will not be the same. The IOC may need bankruptcy lawyers more than media contract negotiators.

None other than Seb Coe has come to appreciate the new reality. In an open letter to the athletics community, Coe wrote:

We should work with governments to re-establish sport in schools, rebuild club structures, incentivize people to exercise and get fit (I rather fancy more people are exercising this week – doing 15-minute exercise routines in their homes or going out for a daily walk – than they have probably done in the last month). This should and could be the new normal. We don't have to do things the same way.

(A letter from World Athletics President Sebastian Coe to the athletics community, dated 27 March 2020, available at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/iaaf-news/letter-athletics-community-sebastian-coe>; underlining added for emphasis.)

Whoa! Coe, the man who turned his back on walking because it suited him to kiss the derrières of IOC officials to promote his own political ambitions, is now promoting walking. What a reversal! But make no mistake about it. The corona virus pandemic did not destroy the financial house of cards the IOC and IAAF built up over the years. It is the dependence on revenue and media income that is the real cause for the imploding houses of cards built by sports organizations.

Coe admits as much further down in his letter:

The world will not be the same after this pandemic. It will be different and that could be a good thing. Going back to core human values, back to basics of what is important, redefining our purpose, is something we can all do on a human, business and sporting scale.

(Coe Letter of 27 March 2020 – see above reference.)

Back to basics, indeed. Nothing more basic than race walking. It represents movement that all of us undertake, unless prevented by age or disability. Parents are proud when their babies graduate to toddlers with their first step. Many more steps will follow, to school, to work, down lovers' lanes. Of course, human beings would be remiss if they did not introduce a competitive element to an activity undertaken by billions of people every day. Voilà, race walking makes basic sense. Better yet, no special venues need to be built for it. As a bonus, it is one of the few events Olympic and World Championship spectators get to enjoy for free. How much more basic can we get?

If my words about Coe sound harsh, it is because they are. Yet, I remain a fan of his. I watched him train in Richmond Park when I studied at an American college situated atop Richmond Hill in west London. I delighted watching his epic duels with Steve Ovett on live television at the Moscow and L.A. Olympics. Coe put together a wonderful London 2012 bid and Games. I strongly believe he should be an automatic IOC member as World Athletics President. But what he has done and permitted to be done to race walking is far harsher than my critical words of his actions.

Despite my criticisms of Coe, I want Coe to turn to face the race walking community and welcome us with open arms as part of the New Basic. And restore the 50K at top level while you're at it, Seb. You're welcome.

MARCIADALMONDO ROUNDUP

Marciadalmondo has 1 press release for us this week. It's going to be sparse pickings from now on.

- Tue 31 Mar - The Japanese Championships in Wajima bow to the inevitable and are cancelled http://www.marciadalmondo.com/eng/dettagli_news.aspx?id=3782

Omarchador has 1 press release of interest. It does have some older results from early March but I won't list them here. You can check them out for yourself.

- Sun 5 Apr - Profile of former Portuguese walker Hélder Oliveira <https://omarchador.blogspot.com/2020/04/evocando-helder-oliveira.html>

OUT AND ABOUT

- Australia's four-time Olympic race walk medallist **Jared Tallent** has confirmed he intends to put off retirement plans to compete at the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games next year. The 35-year-old had said he had been planning to retire after Tokyo 2020 this summer. See <https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1092615/tallent-tokyo-2020-delayed-retirement>.

- Well done to editor **Noel Carmody** for the latest edition of the **Race Walking Record** (Issue 894 – March 2020) which is now available at <http://racewalkingassociation.com/Archive/2020.asp>. This venerable magazine has been published for nearly 80 years now. The first edition came out on November 1941 when Great Britain was in an unprecedented struggle for survival. Today, that country (indeed all countries) faces another unprecedented struggle against a deadly foe but the RWR is still going strong.
- Coronavirus Pandemic Hobbles World Antidoping Efforts: Collectors of biological samples can't do their work in the expanding global lockdown, making it difficult to carry out effective antidoping programs. For athletes inclined to cheat with performance-enhancing drugs, the Covid-19 pandemic has presented an extraordinary opportunity. Wonderful! See <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/30/sports/olympics/coronavirus-doping-athletes-olympics.html>.
- Will Kenya go the way of Russia and end up banned from any international competition? The ongoing Kenyan drugs failure rate is the highest in the world and continues to grow. How about this for a list of over 50 athletes currently out on bans.

name	nationality	ADRV	suspended until
BETT, Kipyegon	KEN	evading, Refusing or Failing to Submit to Sample Collection, EPO	14/08/2022
BII Daniel Kipchirchir	KEN	Norandrosterone	19/06/2022
BIWOTT, Salome Jerono	KEN	Norandrosterone	04/06/2027
CHEBOLEI Daniel Rotich	KEN	Salbutamol	19/06/2022
CHEPCHIRCHIR, Sarah	KEN	Athlete Biological Passport	05/02/2023
CHEPKIRUI, Emmy	KEN	Norandrosterone	10/12/2020
CHEPKOSGEI, Shieys	KEN	Exogenous Steroids	25/12/2020
GITAU, Joseph Kariuki	KEN	GITAU, Joseph Kariuki	07/01/2021
JEPKORIR, Naum	KEN	Norandrosterone	29/01/2023
JEPNGETICH, Naomi	KEN	Exogenous Steroids after IRMS (Testosterone, Androsterone & Etiocholanolone)	01/10/2023
KAGIA, Samson Mungai	KEN	Methylprednisolone	13/10/2020
KALALEI, Samuel	KEN	EPO	03/06/2022
KANDA, Luka Lokobe	KEN	Clenbuterol	04/02/2022
KARIUKI, Emma Muthoni	KEN	Prednisone & prednisolone	28/07/2022
KARUNGU, Jedida	KEN	Norandrosterone	19/12/2022
KIBET, Edwin Kiprop	KEN	Norandrosterone	06/07/2021
KIMUTAI, Philip Sanga	KEN	xogenous Steroids after IRMS (5aAdiol & 5bAdiol)	08/10/2023
KIPCHIRCHIR, Vincent	KEN	Norandrosterone	11/11/2020
KIPLAGAT, Peter Kiptoo	KEN	Salbutamol	08/03/2022
KIPTUM, Abraham	KEN	Athlete Biological Passport	25/04/2023
KIPYEGO, Edwin	KEN	EPO	06/07/2021
KIPYEGO, Sally Chelagat	KEN	Norandrosterone	28/03/2021
KIRUI, David Kiptoo	KEN	Nandrolone	27/02/2022
KITWARA, Sammy (Kirop)	KEN	Terbutaline	16/07/2020
KORIR, Robert Kimutai	KEN	Norandrosterone	02/08/2020
KORIR, Sally Jepkemoi	KEN	Oxycodone	04/09/2020
KOSGEI, Mathew Kipchirchir	KEN	EPO	14/09/2021
KOSKEI, Philemon Kipruto	KEN	Use of EPO	28/10/2020
MAGUT, Eliud	KEN	Norandrosterone	13/07/2022
MARIITA, Lillian Moraa	KEN	Exogenous Steroids	13/08/2023
MARU, Rose Jepchoge	KEN	EPO	09/06/2022
MATAKAT, Ronald Kiptai	KEN	Prednisolone & Prednisone	16/03/2020
MIANO, VIn competition testor Wachira	KEN	EPO	02/07/2022
MORITI, Philes Nyansiaboka	KEN	Norandrosterone	06/06/2020
MULI, Sharon Ndinda	KEN	Norandrosterone	05/12/2020
MUNGUTI, Angela Ndungwa	KEN	Norandrosterone	06/10/2022
MWERESA, Boniface Ontuga	KEN	Higenamine	19/07/2020
NGANDU, Benjamin Ndegwa	KEN	Norandrosterone	16/11/2021
NGANGA, Esther	KEN	Clenbuterol	15/01/2022
ROTICH (LOBUWAN), Luka	KEN	Norandrosterone	12/04/2022
ROTICH, Joan Nancy	KEN	Norandrosterone	26/02/2023
ROTICH, Michael Koskei	KEN	Tampering & complicity	11/11/2020
ROTICH, Willy Kipkemoi	KEN	Prednisone & Prednisolone	10/12/2022
RUTTO, Cyrus	KEN	Athlete Biological Passport	03/04/2023
SIMOTWO, Suleiman Kipses	KEN	Norandrosterone	13/07/2021
SUMGONG, Jemima Jelagat	KEN	EPO; Tampering (production of forged medical document in the context of her discipli	16/01/2027
TALAM, Purity Jerono	KEN	Oxandrolone	04/02/2022
TOO, Lazarus	KEN	Furosemide	06/07/2020
WANGUI, Lucy Kabuu	KEN	Morphine	31/07/2020
WERU, Eliudmatu	KEN	Higenamine	19/06/2020
YATICH Caroline, Jepkurui	KEN	Norandrosterone	03/11/2021
YEGO, Hillary Kipkosgei	KEN	Norandrosterone	26/04/2021

TIME TO PUT THE THINKING CAP ON

Here are the answers to last week's 5 questions. Peter Ryan was the best, but no one except me got all 5 right!

1. **Lots of Australian racewalkers regularly break World Masters records but only a few have broken Open World Records. Who was the most recent Australian walker to break a racewalking open world record - name, year, venue and time?**

Victorian walker **Nathan Deakes** broke the World record for the 50km Race Walk in Geelong, on Sunday 2nd December 2006. Deakes recorded a time of 3:35:47 to take 16 seconds off the World record previously set by Poland's World and Olympic champion Robert Korzeniowski at the 9th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Paris, France in 2003 (3:36.03). Read the A.A. report at <https://www.worldathletics.org/news/news/deakes-destroys-world-record-for-50km-race-wa>. Read my Heel & Toe newsletter report at <http://www.vrwc.org.au/newsletters/heelandtoe-2007-num10.pdf>. It is the best walk I have ever witnessed in person.



2. **The 100m rule allows for a walker to be disqualified by the Chief Judge in the last 100m of a race. Did you know that in one major championship, this was done, the athlete lodged an appeal and it was successful, allowing the walker to take the bronze medal? Details please.**

The men's 20 kilometres walk event at the 2007 World Championships in Athletics took place on August 26, 2007 in the streets of Osaka, Japan. The event featured a very controversial finish as **Paquillo Fernández**, who finished second after overtaking **Hatem Ghoula** in the final straight, was disqualified after the race for lifting. However, following an appeal by the Spanish team the same day, video evidence was examined and Fernández was found to have walked in compliance with the rules. He was thus awarded the silver medal. The gold went to 33 year old Ecuadorian **Jefferson Perez** who clinched an unprecedented hat-trick of world titles with a flawless demonstration of his physical and tactical superiority.

The Jury of Appeal Decision announcement read as follows

26 August 2007 - Osaka, Japan - A protest was presented by the Spanish Team concerning the disqualification of Francisco Fernandez in the 20km Race Walk at the 11th IAAF World Championships in Athletics, Osaka 2007

The disqualification occurred in the last metres of the race, under Rule 230.3 (a) Chief Judge

In competitions held under Rule 1(a), (b), (c), (d), the Chief Judge has the power to disqualify an athlete inside the stadium when the race finishes in the stadium or in the last 100m when the race takes place solely on the track or on the road course, when his/her mode of progression obviously fails to comply with the paragraph 1 above regardless of the number of previous Red Cards the Chief Judge has received on that athlete. An athlete who is disqualified by the Chief Judge under these circumstances shall be allowed to finish the race.

After examining the video of the race and discussing with the Chief Judge, the Jury of Appeal decided unanimously that the mode of progression of the Spanish athlete did not merit a disqualification.

The Jury of Appeal in its decision noted that the purpose of Rule 230.3 (a) is to prevent athletes from improving their position in the closing strages of the competition by obviously failing to comply with the mode of progression defined as Race Walking

The appeal of the Spanish federation is upheld and the athlete reinstated.

It is to be noted that Mr. Odriozola, a member of the Jury, did not participate in the decision.

Alas, slightly blurry but fast forward right to the end of the following youtube video and you can see the finish, with Ghoula slowing and Fernandez digging deep. I did not see it in person so I should not comment. We have to go with the official decision. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVsD8HxOHo4>.



3. **One for our long distance walkers. How many Australians have qualified as British Centurions? Names and years please.**

Easy if you are an Australian Centurion (<http://www.centurions.org.au/index.shtml>) but a bit harder otherwise. There are 6.

Geoff Hain	C1051, 2006
Mark Wall	C1069, 2009
Carol Baird	C1071, 2009
John Kilmartin	C1137, 2015
Justin Scholz	C1173, 2017
Sharon Scholz	C1174, 2017

4. **Which is the oldest racewalking club in Australia? When was it formed and what was its original name?**

Race walking has been part of Track & Field competitions in Australia ever since athletic clubs were founded in the 1890's. For instance, the first Victorian Track and Field Championships were conducted on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1892, with a 1-mile walk and a 3-mile walk included.

The first specialist walking club, **the Melbourne Amateur Walking and Touring Club (MAWTC)** was set up by Mr. A. O. Barrett who gathered together a few athletically minded friends at the Port Phillip Club Hotel in Flinders Street on Friday 26th October 1894. The first race conducted by the club was held on Sunday 25th November 1894, starting at St. Kilda at 11 a.m., and finishing at Brighton, "or as the members wish". The yearly fixtures initially included racewalks and bush walks but, by the beginning of the new century, it was noticeable that there was a growing appreciation by club members of the beauties of the countryside, and of the great scope which the State had to offer for more leisurely and contemplative outings off the beaten track. Within a few years, racing events had entirely disappeared from the club fixture, and competitive walkers had to look elsewhere for their races.

In 1911, a breakaway group formed the **Victorian Walkers and Field Games Club** which soon had a membership of some 40 walkers keen on racing. The MAWTC continued on, with its now undivided emphasis on bushwalking and it still exists nowadays as the Melbourne Walking Club (<http://www.melbournewalkingclub.org/the-club>).

1911 saw another specialist racewalking club, named the **NSW Walking and Field Games Club**, formed in Sydney. The date of that club's formation was 3rd February 1911, so it probably predated its Melbourne based counterpart by a few months. The meeting resolved to obtain a copy of the rules of the MAWTC for guidance in drawing up their own rules. Sadly, the Sydney club folded within a year, due to an edict from the N.S.W.A.A.A which did not allow an athlete to be a member of more than one club. Walkers were not keen to give up their own existing club affiliations, so the new club folded through lack of numbers. Once that restrictive rule was removed, another group met on 10th April 1913 and created a new club called the **NSW Amateur Walkers' Club**. By the end of the 1913-14 season, the club had 47 members and was making very good progress.

Alas, with the First World War taking centre stage almost immediately, V.A.A.A. and N.S.W.A.A.A. ceased competition and the Victorian Walkers and Field Games Club and the NSW Amateur Walkers' Club went into recess, with most if not all of their executives enlisting in the war.

After WWI ended, the NSWAWC resumed activities but the Victorian Walkers and Field Games Club did not reappear.

It was not until 1921 that a Melbourne based group met to reform the Victorian Amateur Walkers and Field Games Club that had disbanded in 1915, and to adopt as set of rules similar to the NSW Amateur Walkers' Club. The new club was called the **Victorian Amateur Walkers's Club (VAWC)**.

So in summary, the NSWAWC (now called the NSW Race Walking Club (see <http://www.nswracewalkingclub.com/>) is our oldest Australian racewalking club. There are arguments as to whether its start was 1911 or 1913, and I favour 1913 as the start date. Its Victorian counterpart (now called the Victorian Race Walking Club - see <http://www.vrwc.org.au/>) is still going strong and dates its origins to 1921.

5. Which male walker has the most appearances in the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships? Name and years.

No surprises here, with that honour belonging to 50 year old Spanish racewalking legend Jesús Ángel GARCÍA. He has 13 consecutive appearances, starting from 1993, all of them in the 50km discipline. He would have been competing in the 2020 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships in Minsk next month to take his count to 14, if those championships had not been postponed. Hopefully a post-corona date can be found for him and all the other walkers.

1993	16 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	2	3:52:44	Monterrey
1995	17 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	4	3:41:54	Beijing
1997	18 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	1	3:39:54	Podebrady
1999	19 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	4	3:40:40	Mézidon - Canon
2002	20 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	DQ		Turin
2004	21 st IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	6	3:50:33	Naumburg
2006	22 nd IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	6	3:46:11	La Coruña
2008	23 rd IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	14	3:52:31	Cheboksary
2010	24 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	5	3:55:41	Chihuahua
2012	25 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	7	3:48:15	Saransk
2014	26 th IAAF World Race Walking Cup	50km	18	3:55:38	Taicang
2016	27 th IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships	50km	DNF		Rome
2018	28 th IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships	50km	18	3:53:48	Taicang

And now to this week's questions – some details needed, not just a name. Back up your claim!

- 6. Which Australian walker has the most appearances in the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships?**
- 7. Which Australian walker has broken the most number of official world records?**
- 8. Who was the first Australian walker to have a performance recognised as an official World Record?**
- 9. Which Australian walker has the most medals from major championships (Olympics, World Champs, World Team Champs, Commonwealth Games)?**
- 10. What are the longest standing and the most recent Australian racewalking records?**

Forward your answers to me at terick@melbpc.org.au. I will give the answers next week and pose 5 further questions.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF RACEWALKING IN AUSTRALASIA: 1890-1920

With no races on which to report, I have been busy on a few background projects, one of which is taking shape below. I hope you enjoy the read.

I am indebted to Athletics Australian statistician **Paul Jenes** for much of the information in this potted history of the early Australasian Track and Field Championships. His monumental tome *Fields of Green Lanes of Gold*¹, published in 2001, tells the story in great detail. My short piece focuses on the racewalks and tries to place them in the wider context.

All results are taken from the website *A History of Athletics in Australia*,² compiled by and maintained by Paul Jenes, Peter Hamilton, David Tarbotton, Fletcher McEwen.

The earliest record of athletics in Australia occurred in 1810 in Hyde Park, Sydney, where Dicky Dowling, the acknowledged fastest runner in the colony, ran 50 yards carrying 14 stone (89kg) whilst his opponent ran forwards and backwards over the same distance.

The 19th century belonged to professional athletics (pedestrianism), the early years dotted with incredible feats, wagers and 'stories'. The meetings were a mixture of events which included backwards running, carrying weights coach rolling, running with sacks of potatoes and greased pole climbing, to name a few. Large crowds watched and much money was wagered.

Races between runners or walkers were common, with money on the outcome. Professional running boomed with the 'Gold Rushes' of the 1850s in NSW and Victoria. The Stawell Gift, first held in 1878, is the oldest professional footracing meet in Australia, and is still contested in the Victorian country town of Stawall each Easter weekend, with races still handicap based.

Many people objected to the commercialism of athletics, especially the betting, and as the 19th century drew to a close, amateur athletics started to gain in popularity. Amateur Athletics Clubs started to pop up in the major cities. In NSW, the first club to be formed was the Sydney Amateur Athletic Club in 1872, but it was not until 1887 that the Amateur Athletic Association of NSW (AAANSW) was formed, to take over the management of amateur athletic sport in that colony.

The next colony to form an association was Victoria. The first club to be formed there was the Melbourne Harriers in 1890. The following year, the Melbourne Harriers, Melbourne University, Hawthorn Harriers, Melbourne Grammar School and Wesley College met and formed the Victorian Amateur Athletic Association (VAAA). From 1892, Victorian held annual Track & Field Championships which included 1 Mile and 3 Mile walks.

Across the Tasman, the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association had been formed in Canterbury in August 1887.

Inter Colonial Meet - 1890

Moore Park, Sydney, 31 May 1890

The Inter-Colonial meeting held in 1890 is in some ways the first unofficial Australasian Championship. Certainly, winners came away recognised as Australasian champions. The meeting was held at Moore Park, Sydney, on 31 May, on a dull day and soft track. The Colonial Governor and a good crowd attended whilst the Naval Volunteer Artillery Band performed throughout the afternoon. The NZ team won 7 of the 11 events, with **E. McKelvey** taking the honours in the 1 Mile and 3 Mile walks.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 31 May 1890				
1	E. McKelvey	NZL	6:59.0	
2	A. Bullock	NSW		6 inches
3	W. Spring	NSW		
	J. Ranger	NSW	DNF	
3 MILES WALK - Men - 31 May 1890				
1	E. McKelvey	NZL	24:18.8	
2	J. Giltiman	NSW		440 yards
3	R. Smyth	NSW		

Australasian Championships - 1893-94

Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 9 & 11 November 1893

It became obvious that an Australasian Championship was required, so in 1893 a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the Amateur Associations of NSW, New Zealand and Victoria to hold 'Australasian Championships' every two years, the venue being rotated between the three associations.

1 Fields of green, lanes of gold : the story of athletics in Australia / Paul Jenes, Caringbah, N.S.W. : Playright Publishing, 2001

2 See https://athletics.possumbility.com/aust_tf/index.htm

These first championships were unofficial, as no overall governing body existed to sanction them. But they did serve two historic purposes. They brought the best athletes of Australia and New Zealand together in friendly rivalry. In addition, the championships were the seedbed for the formation of the Amateur Athletic Union of Australasia which was to do so much in nurturing talented athletes, giving them the opportunity to compete locally and internationally.

The first unofficial Australasian Championships were held at the MCG on 9 and 11 November 1893. With 7 victories, NSW finished ahead of Victoria and New Zealand. One of the notable winners was [Edwin Flack](#) who won the mile in 4mins 44.0secs. Flack was to become Australia's first Olympic competitor and double gold medallist at the 1896 Olympic Games.

Honours in the walks were shared, with **A. Bullock** (NSW) winning the 1 Mile and [Arthur Barrett](#) (VIC) winning the 3 mile event.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 11 November 1893				
1	A. Bullock	NSW	7:13.4	
2	G. Galloway	NZL		20 yards
3	T. Challinor	NSW		
	E. Miller	NSW	DNF	
	H.R. Burton	NSW	DNF	
	Arthur Barrett	VIC	DNF	
	Francis Garner	VIC	DNF	
	G. Wilkinson	VIC	DNF	
	H.H. Pounds	VIC	DNS	
	G.F. Elkington	VIC	DSQ	
3 MILES WALK - Men - 9 November 1893				
1	Arthur Barrett	VIC	24:00.2	
2	G. Galloway	NZL		220 yards
3	G. Elkington	VIC		150yds
	E. Miller	NSW	DNF	
	H. Burton	NSW	DNF	
	A. Bullock	NSW	DNF	
	G. Wilkinson	VIC	DNF	
	T. Challinor	NSW	DNF	
	H.H. Pounds	VIC	DNS	
	H. Vere-Hodge	VIC	DNS	
	Francis Garner	VIC	DNS	

Australasian Championships - 1895-96

Lancaster Park, Christchurch New Zealand, 2 & 4 January 1896

The second unofficial Australasian Championships, held in January 1896 in Christchurch, New Zealand, saw the host nation winning 11 of the 15 events. **Frank Creamer** won both walks, with significantly faster times than in the 1890 Championships.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 4 January 1896				
1	Frank Creamer	NZL	6:58.8	
2	Harry Goodwin	NSW		50 yards
3	Arthur Barrett	VIC		80 yards
3 MILES WALK - Men - 2 January 1896				
1	Frank Creamer	NZL	22:51.4	
2	Harry Goodwin	NSW		350 yards
3	Arthur Barrett	VIC		
	J. Holt	VIC	DNF	

As an addendum to these championships, the first modern Olympic Games were held in Athens between 6 and 15 April 1896. In those days, athletes simply entered themselves and Edwin Flack, then working in London, entered the 800m, 1500m, marathon and tennis. He was the only Australian to compete there. History shows he won the 800m and 1500m, failed to finish the marathon and lost to Greek players in both the doubles and singles tennis. His own family in Australia was surprised at his victories and most Australians were unaware that he was in Athens because very little was reported in the press.

Australasian Championships - 1897-98

Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney, 2 & 4 October 1897

The third of the unofficial Australasian Championships were held at the SCG in October 1897. During the meet, representatives of the Amateur Athletics Associations of NSW, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand held a conference at the Amateur Sports Club in Sydney and signed Articles of Agreement to form the Amateur Athletics Association of Australasia.

Victorian **Arthur Barrett** had won the 1896 Victorian 1 Mile Championship in an Australasian best of 6:42.0. He and New Zealand walker **Dave Wilson** battled out the 1 Mile walk at the 1897 Australasian Championships, with Wilson winning by 1 yard and breaking Barrett's Australasian best with his time of 6:41.5. He then backed up for a win in the 2 Miles walk.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 2 October 1897				
1	Dave Wilson	NZL	6:41.5	
2	Arthur Barrett	VIC		1 yard
3	A. Golding	NSW		
4	Peter Corrigan	QLD		
5	A. Greig	NZL		
3 MILES WALK - Men - 4 October 1897				
1	Dave Wilson	NZL	22:37.2	
2	A. Greig	NZL		50 yards
3	Peter Corrigan	QLD		50 yards
4	A. Golding	NSW		

Australasian Championships - 1899-1900 Bowen Park, Brisbane, 9 & 11 November 1899

The actual formation of the Amateur Athletics Association of Australasia occurred at the conference at the Carlton Hotel in Brisbane during the first official Australasian Championships in November 1899. At this conference, the constitution was adopted and regulations for competitions were passed.

The top walkers were absent so the winning times of **C. McAffar** (6:59.0) and **Peter Corrigan** (23:28.0) were slower than in past championships.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 9 November 1899				
1	C.McAffar	NZL	6:59.0	
2	Peter Corrigan	QLD		
3	Reg Purbrick	VIC		
	C.Field	NSW		
	A.Wilcox	QLD		
	D.Corrigan	QLD		
3 MILES WALK - Men - 11 November 1899				
1	Peter Corrigan	QLD	23:28.0	
2	C.Field	NSW		
3	C.McAffar	NZL		
4	Reg Purbrick	VIC		
5	D.Corrigan	QLD		
	A.Wilcox	QLD		DNS

The 1900 Olympics came and went, with only 1 Australian athletics representative in the person of sprinter Stanley Rowley.

January 1st 1901 was a hugely significant date for the Australian colonies as they collectively became states of the Commonwealth of Australia. Before this date, those who lived in the colonies could identify at 'Australians' at a conceptual level. Now they could state with certainty that they were Australians.

This did not spell the end of the Australasian Championships which continued until 1930, at which time Australian and New Zealand athletics finally went their own separate ways.

Australasian Championships - 1901-02 The Domain, Auckland, 20 & 21 December 1901

The Australasian Championships went across the Tasman in 1901, being held in Auckland in December of that year. The second Biennial Conference of the Athletics Union was held concurrently at the Auckland Sport Club (between 16 and 23 December). Amongst the agenda items was the need to establish formal rules to govern the walk. Arthur Barrett, the 1893 3 Mile winner, together with fellow Victorian [R. H. Croll](#), submitted a series of propositions which were adopted as the formal rules governing racewalking.

1. *That a racing walker must have contact with the ground with one foot during a stride, and with both feet at the end of a stride.*
2. *That the heel of the front foot must touch the ground before the back foot leaves it.*
3. *That as the heel of the front foot touches the ground the leg must not be bent, its knee must be locked.*
4. *That the body and head must be kept upright*

These rules stayed in effect in Australia for the next 55 years and the current racewalking rules have changed little in essence from this initial interpretation.

New Zealander **Dave Wilson**, the 1897 walks winner, set a new standard of excellence in the walks, setting a new Australasian record of 6:38.2 in the 1 Mile and winning with a meet record of 22:21.0 in the 3 Mile event. Again, his main opposition came from Victorian **Arthur Barrett**. They were clearly the top two Australasian walkers.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 21 December 1901				
1	Dave Wilson	NZL	6:38.2	
2	Arthur Barrett	VIC		
3	J.Dickey	NZL		
4	Reg Purbrick	VIC		
	C.Barr-Brown	NZL	DNF	
3 MILES WALK - Men - 20 December 1901				
1	Dave Wilson	NZL	22:21.0	
2	Arthur Barrett	VIC		
	C.Barr-Brown	NZL		
	Reg Purbrick	VIC		
	J.Dickey	NZL		

Australasian Championships - 1903-04

Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne, 30 January & 1 February 1904

No further Australasian Championships were scheduled until 1904, but athletics continued throughout the country. Victoria had the most regular state championships, which were held annually and alternated between the Melbourne and St Kilda Cricket Grounds.

The 1904 Australasian Championships in Melbourne saw local Victorian walker **Arthur Barrett** finally break through to win both the 1 Mile and 3 Mile walks. Barrett retired from active competition in 1905, leaving an enviable record, with wins in the 1894 3 Mile and the 1904 1 Mile and 3 Mile, second placings in the 1897 1 Mile and in the 1901 1 Mile and 3 Mile, along with third placings in the 1896 1 Mile and 3 Mile - 8 championship medals in total.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 1 February 1904				
1	Arthur Barrett	VIC	6:43.8	
2	Francis Ross	NZL	6:53.0	
3	J. Penny	NSW		100 yards
	Peter Corrigan	NSW	DNS	
	L. Pomeroy	NSW	DNS	
	Harry Sanneman	VIC	DNS	
3 MILES WALK - Men - 30 January 1904				
1	Arthur Barrett	VIC	22:53.6	
2	J. Penny	NSW		550 yards
3	Francis Ross	NZL		
	L. Pomeroy	NSW	DNS	
	Peter Corrigan	NSW	DNS	
	Harry Sanneman	VIC	DNS	

The 1904 St Louis Olympic Games were a disappointment, with only 13 countries in attendance and 85% of the athletes from the USA. Australia's only two athletics entrants were hurdlers Corrie Gardner and Leslie MacPherson.

Australasian Championships - 1905-06

Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney, 11 & 13 November 1905

The Australasian Championships of 1905 were held at the SCG in Sydney and saw **L Pomeroy** of NSW win both walks.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 11 November 1905				
1	L. Pomeroy	NSW	6:45.0	
2	Harry Sanneman	VIC		40 yards
3	Francis Ross	NZL		
	J. Penny	NSW		
	F. Allen	NSW		
	B. Harrop	VIC	DQ	(2nd)
	C.R. Allen	NSW	DNS	
	E.C. Ryan	VIC	DNS	

3 MILES WALK - Men - 13 November 1905				
1	L. Pomeroy	NSW	22:22.4	
2	Francis Ross	NZL		10 yards
3	Harry Sanneman	VIC		
4	J. Penny	NSW		
	B.E. Harrop	VIC	DNF	

After the disastrous Olympics in 1900 and 1904, the IOC agreed to hold an Interim Olympics in Athens in 1906 to revive the movement. The decision to send a team was taken at the 1905 conference, held alongside the Australasian Championships in Sydney, but only 3 athletes (Nigel Barker of NSW, Greg Wheatley and George Blake of Victoria) and 1 swimmer went.

1905 also saw the formation of the South Australian Amateur Athletics Association and September 1906 saw South Australia holding its first state championships. But no South Australians competed at the Australasian Championships until 1914.

Australasian Championships - 1907-08
Hobart Cricket Ground, Hobart, 29 February & 2 March 1908

The 1908 Australasian Championships were held in Hobart in February of that year, with some 2000 people in attendance on the first day. The two athletes who would become the first New Zealand Olympians as part of Australasia's team in 1908 were [Harry Kerr](#) who won both walks and [Henry St Aubryn Murray](#) who won the 440 yards hurdles.

Born at Waipuku in 1879, Kerr was regarded as an exceptional athlete, excelling at shooting, rugby and most track and field events. However, he was particularly attracted to walking, a sport he pursued as a professional. He competed at major professional events such as the New Year's Day meet in Dunedin, where his reputation caused him to concede massive handicaps.

Deciding to turn amateur at the end of the 1904 season, Kerr was required to stand down from all competition for two years and he spent that time building the strength of his 1.93-metre (6ft 4in) frame, clearing bush on his family's farm at Tariki. Returning to the track, he won both the 1 Mile and 3 Mile walks in Hobart, thus confirming his Olympic selection.

1 MILE WALK - Men - 29 February 1908				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL	7:23.6	
2	P. Stubberfield	NZL		10 yards
3	H. Smith	NSW		
4	C. Rose	TAS		
	F. Rose	TAS	DNF	

3 MILES WALK - Men - 2 March 1908				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL	23:55.6	
2	P. Stubberfield	NZL		
	C. Rose	TAS	DNF	
	H. Smith	NSW	DNF	



Harry Kerr – 1908 Olympic silver medallist for Australasia

The 1908 Olympic Games, though successful, were punctuated by controversy over the officiating, which was all done by local officials. Australasia had a combined team, with 9 athletes competing in Track and Field.

Family historians say Kerr's athletics were a considerable drain on the family farm. Very much the gentleman, his travel and accommodation during the six-week sea journey to the Olympics, as he pursued his strictly amateur Olympic goals, were at his quite considerable expense. Despite almost missing the start of his race at the Olympics, he strode in a comfortable third, followed two places back by fellow Kiwi Arthur Rowland. For his efforts he received a tiny bronze medal, about a third the size of a modern Olympic medal, presented in a small box engraved "*Olympic Games, third prize 3500 Metres Walk, London 1908*". Although he qualified easily for the final of the 10,000m race, he was forced to withdraw because of bruised feet, caused by the cinder track which many grasstrained athletes were unused to.

Kerr returned to New Zealand a national celebrity and kept faith with his supporters by winning the Australasian one and three-mile titles again in 1909 at Brisbane and in 1911 at Wellington. He won three New Zealand titles in 1911 and 1912 and his time of 21:36.6 for the three-mile race at Wellington remained the national record until 1946.

Australasian Championships - 1909-10 **Bowen Park, Brisbane, 18 & 21 August 1909**

The 1909 Australasian Championships in Brisbane saw New Zealander **Harry Kerr** win both walk events again, with championship best times of 6:33.8 (and I suspect this was probably an Australasian record) and 22:02.4.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 21 August 1909				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL	6:33.8	
2	J. Harley	NSW	6:49.0	
3	H. Winters	NSW	7:03.0	
4	W. Corben	NSW		
5	D. Corrigan	QLD		
6	R. Brown	QLD		
3 MILES WALK - Men - Wednesday 18 August 1909				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL	22:02.4	
2	J. Harley	NSW	22:33.6	
3	H. Winters	NSW		
	D. Corrigan	QLD		
	R. Brown	QLD		
	W. Corben	NSW		

The first Australasian Cross-Country Championships were held in Hobart in September 1910.

Australasian Championships 1911-12 **Basin Reserve, Wellington, New Zealand, 26 & 27 December 1911**

The 1911 Australasian Championships in Wellington were dominated by the local team, with NZ winning all the track events. Australian athletes did at least win all the field events to prevent a clean sweep. **Harry Kerr** retained his two walk titles for the third time in a row. His 3 Mile walk was a championship best of 21:36.6 (just outside Arthur Barrett's Australasian best of 21:36.2, set way back in 1896) but sadly his winning 1 Mile walk time is unknown.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Tuesday 26 December 1911				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL		
2	William Murray	VIC		
3	D. Cashman	NZL		
4	J. Harley	NSW		
	W. Ellis	TAS	DQ	6:32.8
	J. Bennett	NZL	DQ	
3 MILES WALK - Men - Wednesday 27 December 1911				
1	Harry Kerr	NZL	21:36.6	
2	D. Cashman	NZL		30 yards
3	W. Ellis	TAS		
4	J. Harley	NSW		
	J. Bennett	NZL	DQ	
	William Murray	VIC		

Victorian walker **William (Bill) Murray** finished in second place in the 1 Mile walk. Murray was a late starter to the sport of racewalking, coming to the attention of people in 1911 with wins in the Victorian 1 mile (6:40.8) and 3 mile (22:38.6) walks. He

followed his second placed finish to Kerr with repeat wins in the 1912 Victorian 1 Mile and 3 Miles championships with truly astonishing times of 6:22.8 (a World Record) and 20:56.0 (an Australasian record).

These 2 performances were so ahead of their time that they withstood all challenges over the next 36 years. When the last Victorian 1 mile and 3 mile walk championships were held in 1948, they still stood as championship records. George Knott walked 21:29.0 to win the 3 mile in 1940 and walked 6:23.2 to win the 1 mile in 1948 – close to but not as good as Bill’s 1912 performances. On top of that, his 3500m walk time of 14:49.4 in another race had bettered G. E. Larner’s 1908 Olympic and world record.

The 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm were well organised, with a record 28 countries participating. The Australasian athletics team was once again a very small one, with 1 New Zealander and 4 Australians. **Bill Murray** was one of those Australians, and went in as one of the favourites. For whatever reasons, Kerr did not compete in Stockholm and he retired in 1912 from athletics.

History shows that Murray was disqualified in his Olympic 10,000m walk heat but there is more to the story, as he elaborated in later years

The Australian team struggled from the time it landed in Europe. We had to fend for ourselves and were not properly fit. We were not there long enough to become fit. There were no Olympic Villages. You had to find your own accommodation and eat in cafes.

There was even more to the disqualification than he acknowledged. He was one of 3 walkers disqualified in his heat, and in the final only four walkers finished, three being disqualified and another three retiring mid race. Judges had the right to unilaterally pull anyone off the track without previous warnings and the overall standard of judging was almost certainly overzealous.

Racewalking, in only its second Olympic Games, was being issued with a red card. After further controversies in the 1920 and 1924 Games, the Olympic fraternity finally lost patience with this troublesome sport and the International Amateur Athletic Federation voted to exclude walking from future Olympic programmes (9 votes to 8), the French representative expressing the hope, in view of the difficulties experienced by judges at former Games, “*that the event would be omitted for ever from the programme of the Olympiad*”.

Australasian Championships 1913-14

Amateur Sports Ground Melbourne, Victoria, 24 & 26 January 1914

The 1914 Australasian Championships, held in Sydney in January of that year, were to be the last for 6 years. The First World War would take centre stage in August 1914, putting paid to the careers, and in many cases, the lives, of our top athletes. NSW walker **Alfred Pickard** won both walks, holding off title holder Bill Murray in each race, winning by 12 yards (1 Mile) and 3 yards (3 Miles) respectively. This was the only time his name appears in Australian championship results. He was a new walker on the block and his budding career was cut short by the coming war.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 24 January 1914				
1	Alfred Pickard	NSW	6:54.8	
2	William Murray	VIC		12 yards
3	Lloyd Cox	VIC		20 yards
4	R. Stokes	SA		
5	C. Cockett	NSW		
	Len Matthews	SA		
	N. Dooley	VIC		
	D. Cashman	NZL	DQ	
3 MILES WALK - Men - Monday 26 January 1914				
1	Alfred Pickard	NSW	22:16.8	
2	William Murray	VIC		3 yards
3	Lloyd Cox	VIC		
4	Len Matthews	SA		
	C. Cockett	NSW		
	D. Cashman	NZL		
	R. Stokes	SA		
	N. Dooley	VIC	DNS	

World War I cost the lives of many athletes as well as many potential athletes who had yet to make their marks on the sporting world. Competition did continue in Australia during the war years although it was more about school meetings and local carnivals. There were no championships in Victoria after 1915, South Australia after 1913 and NSW after 1916.

Australasian Championships 1919-20
Sydney Sports Ground, Sydney, NSW, 31 January & 7 February 1920

Athletics resumed in 1919 and the ninth Australasian Championships were held in Sydney in January 1920. The effects of the First World War were starkly highlighted by the letter from the West Australian Association to the Biennial Conference, advising that 95% of its members had enlisted in the Great War and nearly all of them had been either killed or wounded.

With the Olympics to be held later that year in Antwerp, athletes were looking for good results. The top two Australian racewalk contenders were 29 year old [Ernie Austen](#) and 23 year old [George Parker](#), both Sydneysiders.

George (Geo) Parker had only taken up amateur athletics in 1918, joining the Western Suburbs A.C.C. He showed promise as a distance runner, performing prominently in a 5 mile run from Bondi to Sydney. As a high jumper he cleared 6' 6" which would have earned him a place in nearly any championship. He exuded power in everything he did. At 6 feet in height and weighing in at 12 stone 10 lbs when fully fit, he physically intimidated his rivals and could have excelled at most sports.

In the latter part of 1918, he joined the N.S.W. Walking and Field Games Club and started his career as a racewalker. He soon came to the attention of Austen who took him under his wing. At the 1919 Metropolitan Championships at the Sydney Sports Grounds, he was runner-up to Austen in both the 1 mile and the 3 mile walk events.

Parker and Austen were both selected as NSW representatives to compete in the 1920 Australasian championships but Austen was expected to dominate proceedings. Parker proved the surprise of the championships with wins in both walks. On the opening day, he won the 3 mile event in 22:45.4 and, on the final day, he demonstrated his marked superiority by winning the 1 mile in 6:49, his nearest opponent being 60 yards away.

1 MILE WALK - Men - Saturday 7 February 1920			
1	George Parker	NSW	6:49.0
2	Ernest Austen	NSW	
3	R. Stokes	NSW	
4	A. Sievwright	NZL	
	Joseph Mackay	VIC	
	A. Sievwright	NZL	
3 MILES WALK - Men - Saturday 31 January 1920			
1	George Parker	NSW	22:45.4
2	R. Stokes	NSW	140 yards
3	A. Sievwright	NZL	400 yards
4	P. McNamara	SA	
	Ernest Austen	NSW	DNF
	W. Pitt	Qld	DNF
	Thomas Terrell	SA	DNS
	Joseph Mackay	VIC	DNS

For the first time, Australia competed separately from New Zealand in the 1920 Olympics. On the basis of his performances, Parker was selected in the small Australian team of 13 but Austen missed out. His turn would come in 1924.

The Australian team, unable to afford the hotel they were first allocated, boarded in a castle about five km from the Olympic Stadium. Other teams were put up in schools and accommodation was generally austere, in keeping with the circumstances of post-war Belgium.

At the opening ceremony, where the Australian team led the procession of 26 nations, per alphabetical order, Parker was the flagbearer. He was also the best performer in the small Australian team, finishing second in Antwerp to the famous Italian walker [Ugo Frigerio](#) in the 3000m walk in an estimated time of 13:19.6. He also competed in the 10,000m walk, failing to finish in the final after qualifying third in his heat, which was a lap short.



George Parker was the flag bearer for Australia in the 1920 Olympic Opening Ceremony

It was to be another 40 years before Noel Freeman won Australia's next Olympic walking medal, a silver in the 20km at Rome 1960. It was then a further 44 years before Nathan Deakes and Jane Saville won the next Olympic walking medals, both bronzes, at Athens in 2004.

These initial years of Australasian racewalking had produced a series of wonderful champions which included

Dave Wilson	NZL
A. O. (Arthur) Barrett	AUS
Harry Kerr	NZL
William (Bill) Murray	AUS
George Parker	AUS

Many more would follow in their footsteps in the next 100 years.

Tim Erickson
Tuesday 7th April 2020

DATES...DATES...DATES

As usual, I finish with a list of upcoming events on the local, national and international fronts. Let me know of any errors/omissions. It is changing quickly as a result of COVID-19 issues.

Australian/Victorian Key Dates – 2019/2020

Apr 10-13, 2020	Australian Masters T&F Championships, Brisbane (CANCELLED)
Apr 18-19, 2020	Australian Little Athletics T&F Championships, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Apr 18-19, 2020	Australian Centurions 24 Hour Qualifying Walk, Coburg, Victoria (CANCELLED)
Apr 25 (Sat), 2020	VRWC Winter Season Roadwalks at Middle Park (Season Opener) (POSTPONED)
Jun 7 (Sun), 2020	54 th LBG Racewalking Carnival, Canberra (CANCELLED)
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Masters 20km Championships, Adelaide
Aug 30 (Sun), 2020	Australian Roadwalk Championships (and RWA Carnival), Melbourne

International Dates

Apr 12 (Sun), 2020	104 th Japan Athletics Championships, Wajima, Japan (POSTPONED)
Apr 18 (Sat), 2020	International Race Walk Meeting, Zaniemysl, Poland (OBVIOUSLY POSTPONED OR CANCELLED)
Apr 19 (Sun), 2020	Hungarian 20km Race Walk Champs, Békéscsaba (OBVIOUSLY POSTPONED OR CANCELLED)
May, 2-3, 2020	29th World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships , Minsk, Belarus (POSTPONED)
May 16 (Sat), 2020	International Racewalking Meet, Naumburg, Germany (20km men and women) (CANCELLED)

May 20 (Sat), 2020 Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain
 May 24 (Sun), 2020 Finnish Race Walk Championships, Lapua, Finland, (30km Men, 20km Women)
 May 30 (Sat), 2020 Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain
 Jun 5 (Fri), 2020 46th International RW Festival, Alytus, Lithuania
 Jun 14 (Sun), 2020 Polish National Championships, Mielec, Poland (20km)
 Jun 28 (Sun), 2020 Canadian Olympic T&F Trials, Montreal, Canada (20km)
 July 17-20, 2020 **18th World Athletics U20 T&F Championships**, Nairobi, Kenya (POSTPONED)
 July 24 – Aug 9, 2020 **32nd Olympic Games**, Tokyo (POSTPONED TILL 2021)
 July 20 – Aug 1, 2020 **23rd World Masters T&F Championships**, Toronto, Canada (CANCELLED)
 Sep 26-28, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China

2020 World Athletics Racewalking World Challenge

May 2-3, 2020 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships, Minsk, Belarus (POSTPONED)
 May 20 (Sat), 2020 Gran Premio Cantones de La Coruña, La Coruna, Spain
 Aug 6-7, 2020 Olympic Games, Sapporo, Japan
 Sep 26-28, 2020 Lake Taihu Tour, Suzhou, China

Jan 17-23, 2021 **Oceania Masters Championships**, Norfolk Island
 Apr 6-13, 2021 **9th World Masters Indoor T&F Championships**, Edmonton, Canada
 Aug 8-19, 2021 **World University Summer Games**, Chengdu, China
 Aug 6-15, 2021 **18th World Athletics Championships**, Eugene, USA (POSTPONED TILL 2022)

July 27 - Aug 7, 2022 **XXII Commonwealth Games**, Birmingham, GBR.
 Aug 7-17, 2022 **24th World Masters T&F Championships**, Gothenburg Sweden

Aug 2023 (TBC) **19th World Athletics Championships**, Budapest, Hungary

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