



LABEL ROAD RACES REGULATIONS

(In force from 1 November 2019)

World Athletics Labels are granted to events based on the evaluation of the previous year's edition of a road race. These regulations define the criteria that must be met in 2019 to obtain Labels for 2020.

1. Labels for Road Races

1.1. The “World Athletics Label Road Races” programme gathers the world's leading road races. A World Athletics Label denotes high standards in event organisation, full application of World Athletics Competition Rules, complete support from authorities to the event, a commitment by the organiser to the advancement of the sport, and concrete steps in the global fight to doping. The Labels also categorise the best elite races, contributing to guide athletes, fans and media towards the world's finest competitions. For events with a mass participation component, Labels also signify superior standards in safety and runner experience.

1.2. The following categories of races can apply for a Label:

1.2.1. Races over the following official distances for which World Records are recognised (see World Athletics Rule 32 of the Competition Rules (previously Rule 261 of the Competition Rules)): 5km – 10km – Half Marathon – Marathon.

1.2.2. ‘Classic races’ over standard or non-standard distances.

1.3. There shall be 4 Labels from 2020:

1.3.1. World Athletics Platinum Label

1.3.2. World Athletics Gold Label

1.3.3. World Athletics Silver Label

1.3.4. World Athletics Bronze Label

2. Elite Athletes

2.1. There are significant changes to how elite athletes can obtain their Gold/Silver/Bronze Status. Also, there are differences in how an elite field fulfils the requirements in the context of a race's Label application.

2.2. An athlete's Status is determined by how he/she ranks in the event group(s) of World Athletics World Rankings relevant to the race applying for the Label. Such event groups are:

2.2.1. For 5km, 10km, and for classic races shorter than 20km >>> event group “10,000m” and event group “Road Running”.

- a. For Half Marathons, and for classic races on distances comprised between 20km (included) and 30km (included) >>> event group “Road Running” and event group “Marathon”
 - b. For Marathons, and for classic races longer than 30km >>> event group “Marathon”.
- 2.3. *For example, an athlete with Gold Status in “Road Running” but without a Status in “Marathon” will not count as Gold Label athlete in the context of a marathon’s Label application.*
- 2.4. Points will be awarded to the athletes with the 4 fastest times.
- 2.5. In the “Marathon” event group (men and women):
 - 2.5.1. Men ranked 1-150 and women ranked 1-150 >>> Gold status
 - 2.5.2. Men ranked 151-300 and women ranked 151-300 >>> Silver status
 - 2.5.3. Men ranked 301-400 and women ranked 301-400 >>> Bronze status
- 2.6. In the “Road Running” event group (men and women):
 - 2.6.1. Men ranked 1-100 and women ranked 1-100 >>> Gold status
 - 2.6.2. Men ranked 101-220 and women ranked 101-220 >>> Silver status
 - 2.6.3. Men ranked 221-350 and women ranked 221-350 >>> Bronze status
- 2.7. In the “10,000m” event group (men and women):
 - 2.7.1. Men ranked 1-50 and women ranked 1-50 >>> Gold status
 - 2.7.2. Men ranked 51-120 and women ranked 51-120 >>> Silver status
 - 2.7.3. Men ranked 121-200 and women ranked 121-200 >>> Bronze status
- 2.8. If two or more athletes are tied for the same position, they are all given the higher Label status (for example, if 4 athletes are placed 149th in the men’s “Marathon” ranking, that means 152 men get Gold status in the marathon).
- 2.9. Athletes can have Status in multiple event groups (for example they can be Gold in the “Marathon” and Silver in the “Road Running”, or Gold in all 3 event groups).
- 2.10. All Label races must have a minimum of 6 men + 6 women (for single-gender races, 7 athletes) from the pool of athletes who have status that corresponds to the Label applied for, in the event group relevant to the race.
- 2.11. The composition of the pools of Gold, Silver and Bronze Label athletes will be fixed for the whole of 2019. No new athletes will acquire Gold, Silver or Bronze status through performances recorded after 2 December 2018.

- 2.12. There is no longer an obligation for race organisers to have athletes with Gold/Silver/Bronze status from at least 4 or 5 different countries. For Platinum and Gold Label Races there is, however, a continental quota to be filled (see below).
- 2.13. Athletes not completing a race will not count towards the International Elite Field count for that race if they have entered another World Athletics Label race in the 17 days preceding or following the race.

3. Continental quota (for Gold and Platinum Labels only)

In addition to the 6+6 (or 7) athletes with Gold Status, Gold and Platinum Races must have a minimum of 4 and 8 athletes respectively (regardless the gender) selected from their continent's top 100 list (as of 4 December 2018) in the relevant event group. Note that this continental quota may have already been filled by athletes with Gold Status.

4. Appearance negotiations, athletes' contracts, prizes and payment terms

- 4.1. Race Directors may only conduct negotiations for the appearance and promotion of athletes:
- 4.1.1. through the Athletes' Member Federation;
 - 4.1.2. directly with the Athletes (in this case, the relevant Member Federation must be informed); or
 - 4.1.3. through duly authorized Athletes' Representatives (ARs)
- 4.2. A complete list of authorized ARs is available from World Athletics website at <https://worldathletics.org/athletes/athlete-representatives> .
- 4.3. As part of the post-race report, organisers shall provide a list of the Athletes Representatives with whom they negotiated the participation of Elite athletes together with the athletes they represent.
- 4.4. A contract established in good faith by both parties in compliance with World Athletics Rules governing International Competitions and any applicable laws of the host country of the event and outlining clearly the arrangements between the race organiser and the contracted athlete shall be signed and respected by both parties.
- 4.5. Organisers shall pay all sums due to the contracted athletes for reimbursement of expenses and appearance fees and any prize monies and bonus awards within the period of time specified within the contract which is normally 60 days after the receipt of doping control results conducted at the race. Suitable accommodation, meals and transportation shall be provided for the athletes. As a general rule all travel expenses should be paid upon the athlete's arrival at the race venue and no later than the day before the athlete's departure from the race venue.
- 4.6. The contract between the Athlete and the Organiser shall mention any withholding taxes in respect of appearance fees, prize monies or bonuses that may be levied by

the fiscal authorities of the country hosting the race. The Organiser shall in due course supply the Athlete or their AR with the relevant document from the fiscal authorities certifying that any such charges have been duly paid.

- 4.7. The contract shall stipulate that any athlete who is subsequently determined to have committed a doping offence at the time of the event or is suspended from competition due to an offence committed prior to the event resulting in his/her performance at the event being invalidated, shall be liable to refund any and all sums from the race organisers relating to his/her performance at the event. This includes any commission paid to an Athlete Representative.
- 4.8. Prize money offered to competitors, including bonuses for times achieved shall be equal for all competitors regardless of their nationality or gender – in other words prize money for places should be equal for men and women and for nationals of the host country and athletes of other nationalities. Races may offer specific incentive prizes to nationals of the host country to encourage national participation and development.

5. Application procedures

- 5.1. New applications shall only be accepted from races that have been contested for at least two editions (over the distance they are applying for) prior to the date of Application, i.e., Labels can be granted from the third edition of a race. New races applying for a Label must begin with Bronze the first year.
- 5.2. Application for Platinum Labels shall only be accepted from races that have been Gold Label for at least 3 consecutive years (2017-2019).
- 5.3. Races holding a Label for 2019 wishing to renew or upgrade their Label shall submit the “Renewal-Upgrade Form”.
- 5.4. Races holding a Bronze or a Silver Label for 2019 intending to apply for a Gold Label in 2020, are advised to contact World Athletics no later 30 days prior to 2019 race day, to allow for the appointment of an International Technical Delegate, who will attend the race and ensure that Gold Label criteria are met.
- 5.5. Races holding a Gold Label for 2019 wishing to apply for a Platinum Label in 2020 should contact World Athletics 60 days prior to 2019 race day, so that a complete review can be organised.
- 5.6. Races not holding a Label for 2019 and wishing to apply for a 2020 Bronze Label shall notify World Athletics per email no later than 30 days prior to 2019 race day. World Athletics may then appoint an International Technical Delegate at the cost of the race organiser, to assist the organisers in ensuring that the race is held in conformity with the Rules, and to provide a technical evaluation. After the event, the organiser shall submit the “Application Form for new races 2020”.

- 5.7. The acceptance or rejection of an application is at the sole discretion of World Athletics. All disputes and protests related to World Athletics Label Road Races will be considered by World Athletics.

6. Observers and Technical Delegates

- 6.1. World Athletics may nominate one Observer or International Technical Delegate (TD) to applicant or Label events. The Observer / TD will ensure compliance with the Rules and World Athletics Label Road Race Regulations and may also be available to assist the race organisation if such assistance is requested by the Race Director.
- 6.2. The race organisation will provide all necessary passes, accreditation and assistance to give to observers and TDs access to the requested operational areas and pre-race meetings, and generally facilitate their work.
- 6.3. World Athletics will send to the Race Director a copy of the report completed by World Athletics Observer/TD whenever relevant.
- 6.4. For visits in 2019, the race organisation shall pay the following for one designated Observer or TD: economy class travel, on-site accommodation for a maximum of three nights, meals and local transport.

7. Technical, Safety and Runner's Experience

- 7.1. Races shall be organised in accordance with World Athletics Competition Rules.
- 7.2. Courses must hold a World Athletics/AIMS international measurement certificate valid at least through race day.

8. Before race day

- 8.1. It is mandatory to organise a pre-race technical meeting with the elite athletes and their representatives, where all arrangements for the race (warm-up schedule, desired, configuration of refreshment stations, how to reach the finish line in case of drop-out; etc.) must be communicated, and the pacemakers introduced to the athletes. If the technical meeting is conducted in a language other than English, English translation should be provided.
- 8.2. The Referee must be present at the technical meeting.
- 8.3. A check of the athletes' race kits shall be organised for the eve of the competition (or, for afternoon/evening competitions, no later than the morning of the race day) to ensure compliance of the elite athletes' race kits with World Athletics Advertising Regulations. Only elite athletes with World Athletics-compliant kit should start the race from the first corral. In an effort to make all athletes more recognisable, it is strongly recommended to provide personalised bibs with names the elite athletes, for them to wear on race day.
- 8.4. Organisers shall permit athletes to provide their own refreshments, in which case the athlete shall nominate at which stations they shall be made available to him.

Refreshments provided by the athletes shall be kept under the supervision of officials designated by the Organisers from the time that the refreshments are lodged by the athletes or their representatives. Those officials shall ensure that the refreshments are not altered or tampered with in any way.

9. Transport to the start

Transport of all runners to the start must be efficient. For events with a mass race, transportation arrangements must factor in the field size and the proximity of accommodations to start line.

10. Before the start

There must be adequate means to control access to secured areas (ID accreditation or similar). Sign-posting in start areas shall be clear and sufficiently informative. There shall be adequate, safe and well-lit space for elite runners to warm up. Separate men/women changing facilities must be provided. If wheelchair or hand-bike races are held with the event, there must be toilets for disabled people. Efficient baggage drop-off service must be provided for both the elite and, if applicable, the mass race. Starting corrals (or waves) must be seeded by pace / expected finish time.

11. Road Closures

- 11.1. The whole course must be closed to vehicular traffic, with the exclusion of official vehicles, for the duration of the event until the published cut-off time. The start will be traffic free until the last runner has started and the finish will be traffic free until the last runner finishes or the cut-off time is reached.
- 11.2. In the case of dual carriageways, only the carriageway on which the participants will run needs be closed to vehicular traffic. Whenever possible, for safety reasons, all carriageways should be closed to vehicular traffic. In Platinum Label races, the route shall be free of all traffic other than event vehicles.
- 11.3. The safety of all runners is paramount; therefore, police and/or traffic controllers must be present at all intersections.

12. The Race

- 12.1. The original Course Measurer or other suitably qualified official designated by the Course Measurer with a copy of the documentation detailing the officially measured course shall ride in the lead vehicle during the competition to validate that the course run by the athletes conforms to the course measured and documented by the official Course Measurer. In the case of separate men and women races, a certified Measurer or other suitably qualified person should be in the lead vehicle for each race. All intermediate timing points shall be measured and marked by the Course Measurer and included in the course map. Mile and/or kilometre markers shall be installed, prominent and easy to see.

- 12.2. Each Label Race shall be started independently of races on any other distance. Exception to this rule can be made only if the buffer between the elites taking part in the Label competition and the participants of other races is ample enough to prevent disruption to the elite race. Once the race is started, it is essential that elite athletes participating in the Label race do not enter in contact with persons not participating in the same race, as this would result in a violation of World Athletics Rule 6 of the Technical Rules (previously Competition Rule 144) on assistance.
- 12.3. There shall be a lead vehicle preceding the lead runners to direct the runners around the course and that shall also include a time clock indicating the time elapsed since the start of the race. Where it is safe to do so, in mixed races, a lead vehicle shall precede both men's and women's race leaders.
- 12.4. The Referee, or designated person, shall have the possibility follow the leading groups of a road race closely, on a motorbike or bicycle, if he or she so determines. The Referee can give warnings in case of rule violations and, for particularly serious cases, disqualify athletes.
- 12.5. In Platinum and Gold Label races, a photo-finish device shall be utilised to determine the placings in case of close finishes.

13. Pacing

- 13.1. Pacemakers are authorised and should be clearly identifiable through a distinctive uniform or similar. To better promote the image of all athletes, a pacemaker's main bib shall include his name. If a pacemaker has no distinctive uniform, it is allowed to have the word "PACE" together with his name on the bib, or on a second bib to be placed either on the chest or on the back of the athlete.
- 13.2. No more than three pacemakers may be engaged to run at any given pace.

14. Drinking/ Sponging and Refreshment Stations

- 14.1. Drinking/Sponging and Refreshment stations adequately staffed by competent personnel shall be available on the course in accordance with Rule 55.8 of the Technical Rules (previously Rule 240 of the Competition Rules).
- 14.2. Umpires shall be present at all refreshment stations, to ensure the treatment provided to all elite athletes is fair, and to report any violations.
- 14.3. Elite athletes may only take water or refreshments at the official stations provided by the race organisation.
- 14.4. Refreshments can be shared between competitors, including pacemakers. However any continuous support from any athlete to one or more others may be regarded as unfair assistance and warnings and/or disqualifications may be applied. In mixed-gender races, the handing of a refreshment from a male to a female athlete may result in the disqualification of the latter if a situation of unfair assistance is noticed.

15. Timing Data Processing and Results

- 15.1. Races must provide fully electronic timing by transponders to all finishers. Real time splits and final results which shall include the official time based on the “gun time” should be made available to media, spectators and on the official race website within the shortest possible time. Where available, split times shall be properly recorded and made available for statistics, records and judging purposes.
- 15.2. Races shall email the official results of the competition for the top 20 male and top 20 female finishers to World Athletics immediately following the completion of the competition in a PDF file containing both men and women results. As per the Note of World Athletics Rule 19.24 of the Technical Rules (previously Rule 165.24 of the Competition Rules) with “official time” it is meant “...*the time elapsed between the firing of the starting gun (...) and the athlete reaching the finish line...*”.

16. Insurance

- 16.1. Race Organisers shall subscribe to an appropriate third-party liability insurance policy to cover the risks for which the race organisation may be held liable, including any accident which might occur to athletes and officials.

17. Additional criteria for Platinum Label

- 17.1. The following additional criteria, in event operations, safety and runner’s experience, must be met by races applying for a Platinum Label.
 - 17.1.1. The event must be accessible to athletes with a disability who are able to participate within the specific regulations of the relevant event.
 - 17.1.2. A dedicated, identifiable Event Safety Officer is required.
 - 17.1.3. In the year preceding that for which the Platinum Label is sought, the event must have had at least 15,000 finishers (10,000 if shorter than the Half Marathon) in the distance for which the application is submitted. At least 5% of finishers must come from countries/territories other than the one where the race takes place.
 - 17.1.4. Event cancellation insurance is required, enabling the organizer to refund all entry fees in circumstances of cancellation.
 - 17.1.5. The porta-toilet to runner ratio at the start must not exceed 1:62. If wheelchair or hand-bike races are held with the event, at least 1 every 40 portable toilets must be for disabled participants.
 - 17.1.6. Under normal conditions, the event must start within 1 minute of the advertised time.
 - 17.1.7. There must be no parked cars on the race route.

17.1.8. There must be capability to communicate real-time on-site to all the participants (“mass notification”)

17.1.9. The runner density in the starting corrals and after the finish line must not exceed 0.25 per square metre.

18. Medical

18.1. The availability of medical services shall be commensurate with the number of participants in the race and the prevailing weather conditions. A Medical Director shall be identified, and his/her contact details transmitted to the TD should World Athletics appoint one for the race.

18.2. Race organisers should fully comply with World Athletics Competition Medical Guidelines in the organisation of the medical services provided to participants. As part of the post event report, Medical Directors will be required to share with World Athletics anonymised, aggregated data on medical encounters. Continuing medical education of Medical Directors is highly recommended, and will become mandatory from 2020 for the Medical Directors of all Label Races. World Athletics Health and Science Department will publish on <https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/health-science> a list of recognised courses.

19. Anti-Doping

19.1. Two weeks prior to race day, organisers shall submit to the Athletics Integrity Unit by email (to the address: virginie.ocquidant@athleticsintegrity.org) their most up-to-date provisional entry lists, as well as details on the official hotel where the elite athletes are to be accommodated.

19.2. All tests shall be conducted in accordance with World Athletics Anti-Doping Regulations at the expense of the race organiser. The minimum number of samples to be collected shall be:

19.2.1. Platinum Label: 12 samples for mixed races (6 men and 6 women) or 6 samples for single gender races. At least 6 samples must be tested for EPO. Additionally, there shall be systematic pre-competition blood tests in the context of the Athlete Biological Passport for all elite field athletes.

19.2.2. Gold Label: 12 samples for mixed races (6 men and 6 women) or 6 samples for single gender races. At least 6 samples must be tested for EPO.

19.2.3. Silver Label: 10 samples for mixed races (5 men and 5 women) or 5 samples for single gender races. At least 5 samples must be tested for EPO.

19.2.4. Bronze Label: 6 samples for mixed races (3 men and 3 women) or 3 samples for single gender races. At least 3 samples must be tested for EPO.

19.3. Races applying for a Label upgrade must collect the number of samples corresponding to the level of the Label applied for. This also applies to races not holding a Label for 2019 and applying for a Bronze Label for 2020.

- 19.4. The doping samples shall be analysed by a WADA accredited laboratory.
- 19.5. Additional doping tests shall be conducted:
- 19.6. Systematically when a World Record is broken or equalled;
- 19.7. When requested by any athletes who has broken an Area or National Record (costs to be borne by the athlete's Area Association or Member Federation respectively).

20. Communications

20.1. On-site Video Screen

- 20.2. All Platinum and Gold Label Races must provide in the finish area at least one giant video screen to allow spectators to follow the race.

20.3. Media Services

- 20.4. Appropriate media services shall be provided to the press and photographers which shall include the following minimum requirements:

- 20.4.1. Individual delivery of results of top 20 men and women

- 20.4.2. Dedicated website with at minimum start-lists and results in English. For Gold and Platinum Label Races, a fully-functional website in English is required.

- 20.4.3. TV monitors + high-speed Internet connection

- 20.5. In Gold and Platinum Label races, there must be at least one post-race elite athletes' press conference, with English translation provided.

21. International Broadcast Requirements

- 21.1. Label Races must ensure the following.

- 21.1.1. Platinum Label Races:

- a. In the host country/territory: full live coverage on at least 1 country-wide TV network
 - b. International: full live coverage on TV or web-streaming in at least 20 countries/territories.

- 21.1.2. Gold Label Races:

- a. In the host country/territory: full live coverage (TV or web-streaming)
 - b. International: full coverage (either live or delayed) on TV or web-streaming in at least 10 countries/territories.

21.1.3. Silver Label Races:

- a. In the host country/territory: full coverage (either live or delayed) on TV or web-streaming.

21.1.4. Bronze Label Races:

- a. In the host country/territory: race highlights on TV or web-streaming.

21.1.5. For Platinum and Gold Label applications, media reports in English might be requested by World Athletics.

22. TV Coverage to World Athletics

- 22.1. Each World Athletics Label Road Race shall provide World Athletics with the full race footage (“Dirty International Feed”), in the form of a web-link to a video-sharing website (YouTube, Vimeo, YouKu, etc.) or a digital file. This is for reviewing purposes only, and World Athletics will NOT re-distribute, or have any rights on any of this footage.
- 22.2. Upon request of World Athletics, the organiser shall provide a broadcast-quality record of the competition (“Clean Feed”), allowing World Athletics to use, free of charge, up to five minutes of footage, unless existing media rights contracts prevent the organiser from doing so.

23. World Athletics Branding and Promotion

- 23.1. All Label Road Race organisers are required to:
 - 23.1.1. Produce and display, at their cost, at least two World Athletics boards (or banners) in the finish area within the final 100 metres and/or prominently display World Athletics Road Race Label logo on the finish gantry. Layouts are to be supplied by World Athletics. As part of the post-race report, organisers shall be required to provide photographs of World Athletics Road Race Label recognition.
 - 23.1.2. Display the relevant World Athletics Road Race Label logo on the homepage of the race website.
 - 23.1.3. Include the relevant World Athletics Road Race Label logo on all printed material (i.e., brochures, leaflets, official programme, start lists, results). Logo artwork is to be provided by World Athletics.