

Comments to Race Walking Seminar for Ljubljana

The seminars holding in Riccione during the WMA, August 4, 2007 shows great interest in problem of bent knee. There were about 150 participants from athletes, coaches, team leaders etc.

There were clear visible an attempt to keep the rule 230 IAAF Race Walking fro all age categories from athletes themselves. The proposal reduces the rule on walking definition, without bent knee DQ for older age groups was rejecting. The reason was to continue in the same discipline like on Olympic Games etc.

On the other hand, race walking judges were still asked to use the other measurement for every age category, there were asking for toleration of bent knee. Representative of WMA was satisfied with the results of no changes IAAF Rules in terms of technique. In fact we have plenty of changes in veteran's athletics, but according WMA there are no changes of technique of disciplines. I am convinced this situation is not sustainable. Every responsibility will be on toleration or not of Race walking judges, but anyway the definition of straight leg from the firs contact with the ground will be not keeping in regular form. I personally am for the tolerance, but there must be some limits braking race walking motion. In fact RWJ has not so much possibilities to DQ people going very slowly, nothing to do with RACE walking.

There are three core questions:

- If somebody is not able to do any kind of sport, is he able to do RACE walking? I am sure not.
- If somebody walks instead of run, even on 400m running and/or even shorter distance - is it running discipline? I am sure not.
- What we want to have in veteran's athletics? Exhibition of unreasonable people competing without any ability of walking, running, jumping, throwing? Or do we want to encourage masters and champions?

Solution: Use transparently rights of the safety judge. Give a safety judge more rights also for cases of unhandled techniques and moving. We need develop the duty of safety judge, may be in cooperation with Referee. Safety judge could control not only medical fitness, but also physical fitness to do competitions. This is what is missing in fact in rights of other judges in field, track and road.

Aim of veteran's athletics is to be open for everybody in fair play competition. This fair play requires fair play application of IAAF Rules for everybody. EVAA could show the line how to do it.

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Ceske Budejovice September 24. 2007