

From: Alison Campbell <alison.campbell@athletics.org.au>
Date: 12/04/2017 04:16 PM
Subject: RE: UPDATE: 50km Walk at Tokyo 2020

Good afternoon all,

Ahead of the IAAF Council Meeting later this week, we wanted to update you on the information that we have been able to obtain regarding the discussions about possible changes to the Tokyo 2020 athletics program and the 50km walk.

It is our understanding that the IAAF Race Walking Committee met in Monaco approximately six weeks ago. At this meeting they were advised that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had indicated it was not happy with the current walks program and that there was a need for urgent change. Faced with this, the Committee reacted by looking at alternative events and formats, rather than challenging the advice provided regarding the reported position of the IOC. Their discussions have formed the basis of the paper that is to now be considered by the IAAF Council.

Our understanding is that the IAAF Race Walking Committee was uncomfortable at the time at being put under pressure to recommend alternative formats and that they have expressed these concerns to the IAAF since the meeting.

Clearly here are a number of areas for concern here. A change to the athletics program at this stage impacts significantly on those already in training. Our understanding is that the 2020 organisers are already committed to running the current athletics program in 2020, including the 50km Walk.

There has been a complete lack of consultation with the National Federations and the broader athletics community. This is a matter of particular concern to Athletics Australia. We have and will continue to make this point clear. The IOC does not direct International Federations to change their programs and does not make changes to programs themselves. Given that athletics is the core sport of the Olympic Games, we consider that the IAAF is better placed than most International Federations to make its' own decisions regarding the competition program, free from any influence by the IOC.

Our efforts are now focused on ensuring any decision is delayed, leaving the Tokyo 2020 athletics program unchanged, but committing to a full and proper review, engaging all relevant stakeholders for Olympic Games that follow.

This may lead to changes in 2024, but these would be introduced in good time so as not to impact those already preparing for the current events offered.

We will keep you updates as we can.

Kind Regards,

Alison Campbell | Acting High Performance Director | Athletics Australia