

ATHLETICS NEW ZEALAND

Proposed 20km Road Walk Championship Event

A proposal has been received from Race-Walking New Zealand and Race Walking Auckland for three changes to Regulation **C9.2** in relation to Road Walk Championship event distances. Future changes to Regulation **C14** - Long Distance Race Walking Championships – are also flagged. This proposal follows on from the replacement of the Road Walks by 10,000 m Track Walks at the NZ Track and Field Championships in March 2019.

Proposed changes to Regulation C9.2:

1. Increase the Senior Men and Senior Women 10 km Road Walk event distance to 20 km.
2. Increase the Men Under 20 and Women Under 20 5 km Road Walk event distance to 10 km.
3. Introduce a 5 km (Non-Championship) Road Walk for Boys Under 16 and Girls Under 16.

Comment:

No change is proposed at this stage for the Men Under 18 and Women Under 18 grades or for the Masters Men or Women. Athletes could be polled at the 2019 Championships as to preferences for future events. The 20 km event for Senior Women and 10 km event for Women Under 20 would be removed from Regulation **C14**. The Under 16 events for Boys and Girls would have the same status as the corresponding Road Running events for these grades in Regulation **C9.1**.

Background:

The structure of the event distances for race walking events is currently out of line with training programmes and race events overseas. A better structured calendar goes from the shorter and builds up to the longer distances. With the 10,000 m event now held in March, it is proposed to hold the 20 km event in September, with the 30 km or 50 km event (the distance yet to be decided by the IAAF) to follow in October to December. The proposal fits into the review on walks completed by John Bowden, Out of Stadia event group coordinator for Athletics NZ, which focussed on the distances and timing of the events.

Conclusion:

The Rules Committee seeks comment on these proposals before making any recommendations to the Board.

For the Rules Committee:

Rod Syme (Convenor), John McBrearty, Don Mackenzie, Andrew Orme

3 June 2019