

RW Judging Overview

The Judge's "primary role is to act as an impartial judge and perform with accuracy, consistency, objectivity and the highest sense of integrity."

(WA RWJudge Training)

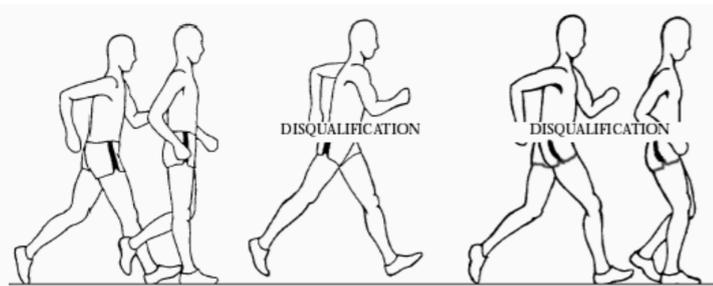
Rules

Race Walk Judges watch for 2 issues:

Contact & Knees - See USATF Rule 232.2

Contact. Requires that the athlete's feet do not lose contact with the ground simultaneously for long enough to be seen by the human eye. There must be no observable loss of contact (lifting) where both feet are off the ground as seen by the eye (not cameras or video).

Knees. Requires the knee of the leading leg to be straightened (not bent) upon contact and to stay straightened until it passes under the body. This requires different mechanics than "walking" and "running." Race walkers land with the leg just in front or under the body, keeping the knee generally straight until it has passed under the body and then bending the knee to roll off the toe.



Correct Technique

"Loss of Contact"

"Bent Knee"

Judging Dos:

- View a **PROGRESSION OF STEPS** - Not just one mis-step but 2 or more consecutive steps.
- Act **INDEPENDENTLY** - Don't be influenced by what you see or hear from other judges or anyone else.
- Be **DECISIVE** - Act quickly to show a Yellow Paddle, or write a Red Card when you **KNOW** you see a violation.
- Be **CERTAIN** - That the your calls are based on the definition of race walking, not other details that catch your attention. (*Benefit of doubt goes to athlete.*)
- Be **DISCRETE** - Athletes should not know which judge wrote Red Cards during the race.
- Be **CONSISTENT** - 1st violation = Yellow Paddle, 2nd time = Red Card. (*Go directly to Red Card if the violation is flagrant or in the last lap.*)

RW Judging Procedures

Assignments:

The Chief Judge is the administrator of the race. They assign judges to their judging areas/zones, prepare the paperwork, secure equipment and other materials. They also explain the procedures followed during the race and manage activities of the crew.

Judging Positions:

RW Judges are placed to judge the athletes' technique for rule violations. They monitor a judging zone. Judges move within their zone and do not judge athletes outside their zone or outside their viewing area.

Viewing Area:

Judges position themselves for a clear view of the athlete's legs and only judge from the side. Judging from the front or the back is not accurate. For track events, judging is typically from the outside lanes but judges should move to the inside of the track to get an alternate view occasionally or confirm a bent knee before making a call.

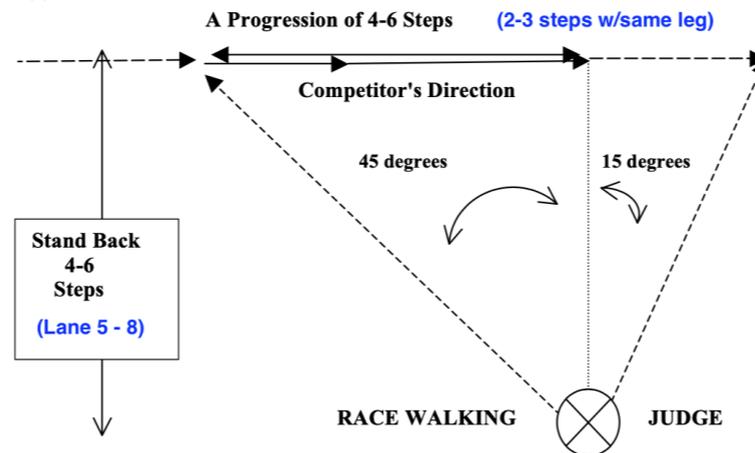


Illustration 4. The Race Walking Judge's Viewing Area (G. Westerfield)

Making Calls:

- First look for contact, then for straightening of the leg at heel strike. If you **THINK** or **KNOW** you see a violation -step forward and show the athlete the appropriate Yellow Paddle. Move into lane 2 or inside the track to make sure the paddle is seen by the intended athlete.
- If, after you have shown a Yellow Paddle to an athlete, you **KNOW** you again see the same violation - write a Red Card. Signal a Red Card Collector (Runner) to deliver the card to the Recorder.
- Call what you see. A single Red Card does not DQ an athlete. It takes Red Cards from 3 separate Judges to disqualify an athlete (4 with a penalty zone).

RW Judging Tools

Yellow Paddles

Judges use Yellow Paddles to inform athletes they are close to violating the rules. One paddle for each potential violation: [Contact ~](#) or [Knee >](#)

Yellow Paddles are shown before writing a Red Card to give the athlete an opportunity to correct their form. Each Yellow Paddle can only be shown once to each athlete; however, a Judge can show an athlete a paddle for each type of violation.

Red Cards

Judges write a Red Card when they observe an athlete violating the rules: [Contact ~](#) or [Knee >](#)

A Red Card is written as a final decision on an athlete's legality after showing them a Yellow Paddle(s). If a violation is flagrant, or near the end of the race, a Judge can write a Red Card immediately after showing the Yellow Paddle or write a Red Card without showing a paddle.

Judge Record / Tally

Judges:

- Record on their Tally sheet the Yellow Paddles shown to athletes and the Red Cards they write.
- Use real time, not race time, to note when they take an action.
- Fill in the Tally sheet accurately as they take actions during the race so that the Red Cards received by the Recorder match the Tally sheet.

(See over for how to fill in Red Cards & Tally sheets)

Posting Board

Notice of Red Cards received from the Judges are marked/displayed on the Posting Board which is placed along the finish stretch of the track/course where it is visible to athletes and spectators.

Judges must not allow the marks on the Posting Board to affect their judging decisions.

Judging Summary

At the end of the race all of the Judge's Tally sheets are delivered to the Recorder who lists all the judging actions on a Judging Summary.

The Summary shows all calls made by each Judge and is part of the official record of the race.

Also see RW BP Equipment, Venue & Assignments, and Officials Duties.

To watch race walking videos and help improve your judging eye go to: tinyurl.com/walk2020.