



*By the USATF Race Walking Officials Committee*

## The Last 100 Meter Rule

**Key points:** Only the Chief Judge can make a last 100 meter disqualification call. Disqualifications made under the Last 100 Meter Rule are appealable and athletes are allowed to finish the race. This rule can only be used at specific competitions.

### **What is the Last 100m Rule?**

Both USATF and World Athletics (WA) have adopted rules that allow the Chief Judge to disqualify (DQ) a competitor for obviously violating the rules of race walking (as defined in USATF 232.2 and WA TR# 54.2) during the last 100m of their race. The rules that give the Chief Judge this additional power are USATF Rule 230.3.f and World Athletics Technical Rule 54.4.1.

### **Can the Last 100m Rule be used at any race?**

The Last 100m Rule can only be used at specific competitions, including WA World Ranking Competitions, USATF International Selection Competitions, USATF National Championships, and other events as determined by the appropriate Sport Committee (USATF Rule 230.3.f). In this case, the "Sports Committee" refers to the USATF National Sports Committees listed in Article 13 of the [USATF Governance Handbook](#), specifically: The Men's T&F, Women's T&F, Race Walk, Youth, and the Masters National Sports Committees.

WA World Ranking Competitions include events that have been sanctioned by World Athletics and are listed on the [WA Calendar](#). Association Sports Committees and events sanctioned by USATF that are not authorized by a USATF Sports Committee, are not eligible to use this rule unless these events are also sanctioned by WA as a World Ranking Competition.

### **Can the Last 100m Rule be used by all officials?**

The Chief Judge is the only one who can make a last 100m disqualification call. The Chief Judge cannot delegate this authority to any other official (i.e - Judges, Chief Judge Assistant(s), Recorders, Umpires, or Referees).

### **Can the Chief Judge use the Last 100m Rule at any time?**

The Last 100m Rule can only be applied under specific circumstances: At the very end of the race, in the last 100m, when an athlete is flagrantly violating the rules of race walking (USATF 232.2).

### **Can the Last 100m Rule be used instead of a full judging panel?**

The Last 100m Rule is intended to be used at higher level events and cannot be used without a full judging panel. As stated above, events that allow the use of the Last 100m Rule are sanctioned by WA. A WA sanction requires compliance with WA Technical Rules, including the required number of RW Judges (five on track and a minimum of six on road) with at least three of these officials being WA Bronze, Silver or Gold certified. Additionally, all USATF National Championships must be run with a full judging panel and qualified administrative crew. *In short - the Last 100m Rule can never be used as a substitute for a full judging panel.*

### **Is a Last 100m DQ the same as a Red Card DQ?**

Last 100m DQ's are entirely separate from Red Card DQ's. Red Card DQ's, whether with four red cards from four different judges (when a penalty zone is in use) or three red cards from three different judges (when there is no penalty zone), are never appealable (USATF Rule 230.1.a). This is because Red Cards are accrued to competitors based on the independent decisions of several judges stationed separately along the course/track and, ideally, after each judge has observed the athlete's form several times and warned them of potential violations with the appropriate Yellow Paddle(s). Last 100m DQ's, on the other hand, are appealable to the Jury of Appeals because these calls are based on the determination of a single individual at a specific time and place during the race and are treated like Umpire calls.

### **Can the Chief Judge remove a competitor from the race using a Last 100m DQ?**

No! Any competitor who receives a Last 100m DQ call from the Chief Judge must be permitted to finish the race. This is critical because the competitor has the right to appeal a last 100m DQ. The competitor shall be notified of a Last 100m DQ by being shown the Red Paddle by the Chief Judge, or Chief Judge Assistant, as soon as practical after the athlete has finished the race.

### **How does the Chief Judge make a Last 100m call?**

During the final laps of the lead competitors, the Chief Judge should station his/herself towards the middle of the final 100 meter straight, before the finish line, so they can best observe the progression of competitors through their last 100 meters of the race. If the Chief Judge observes a flagrant violation of the rules of race walking, they should make a Last 100m DQ call and note it on the appropriate form. If the Chief Judge has not previously written a Red Card on a competitor subject to a Last 100m DQ call, they shall also issue a Red Card for that competitor.

### **Do competitors need to be told that the Last 100m Rule will be used?**

The meet organizers and Chief Judge should inform the athletes in advance when the Last 100m Rule will be in use. Although each athlete should understand the rules of the events they are competing in, it is good practice for the Chief Judge to remind athletes

when unique rules, such as the Penalty Zone or Last 100m, will be in use during a race. At a minimum, this information should be shared before the race during the Chief Judge's instructions to the athletes.

### **How is a Last 100m DQ added to the results?**

The Chief Judge must report all Last 100m DQ calls, as well as their Red Cards, to the Recorder. The Chief Judge must also report all Last 100m DQs to the Referee. For WA events, the RW Chief Judge Record Form is used to document all DQs made by the Chief Judge under the Last 100m Rule as well as any Red Card DQs communicated to individual competitors. Immediately after the race, the Recorder verifies and compiles the judging panel Red Cards for each competitor as well as any Chief Judge last 100m DQ calls. The Recorder shall list all DQs, along with the applicable rule, on the RW Timer DQ & PZ Notification form (yellow card). The Timer Notification Form is reviewed by the Chief Judge then delivered to the Referee. It is the role of the Referee to inform the Timer of all DQs and their applicable rule numbers and cause this information to be added to the results. If a competitor receives DQs for both the Last 100m and Red Cards, the judging panel Red Card DQ shall prevail. The Recorder shall also add the Last 100m DQ call listed on the Chief Judge Record Form to the Judging Summary Sheet under the column labeled "Chief Judge DQ - Last 100m." See [RW judging forms](#) to find RW forms.

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