



M/44/20
Monaco, 16 October 2020

To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS

Copy: Council Members
Executive Board Members
Commission Chairpersons
Area Associations
Dentsu Athletics

**Re: Clarification – Application of Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs)
World Athletics Technical Rules**

Dear all,

On 28 July, with our Circular Letter M/30/20, we provided you with the approved amendments to Rule 5 (Clothing, Shoes and Athlete Bibs) of the Technical Rules ('the Rule') as the Rule applies to athletic shoes. The amended Rule 5 of the Technical Rules (Book C, Chapter 2.1 of the Book of Rules) can be found on the World Athletics website ([here](#)). We also refer to Circular Letters M/35/20 and M/37/20.

1. We want to take the opportunity to remind everyone of the rationale for implementing the changes to the Rule.
 - a. The core principle of permitting participation in the spirit of fair play.
 - b. Not compromising the health and safety of athletes and allowing athletes to adjust to the rules in this year where competitions globally are impacted by the pandemic but within the framework of the Rules.
 - c. Keeping the Rule as simple as possible whilst the Working Group develops its recommendations for the long-term future of the Rule.
 - d. Drawing a line under the current technology in the marketplace until after the Tokyo Olympic Games.
 - e. Ensuring that there is as much consensus as possible amongst the sports' key stakeholders.

2. As part of the ongoing feedback and questions we have received, we want to clarify the application of the Rule by Member Federations. The Rule must be applied at International Competitions as defined in our Competition and Technical Rules (the definition can also be found ([here](#)) in the Generally Applicable Definitions section). Member Federations must also apply the Rule at both Senior and Junior National Championships level. If a shoe is not on the published list of approved shoes on our website, then athletes may not compete at International Competitions or National Championships using a non-approved shoe. The list of approved shoes can be found on the World Athletics website (see "Manuals & Guidelines" section [here](#)). As stated in Circular M/37/20 the list does not contain every shoe and is a list of shoes athletes propose to wear in International Competitions.



3. The Rule is not intended to cover competitions at club, school or masters level. Our strongest recommendation is that the Rule is not applied at competitions below Senior or Junior National Championships and such competitions need not follow the shoe rules as these events are not usually recognised through World Athletics' official statistics and results.

We will be grateful if you could share this information with your athletes, officials and meet organisers and we are available to answer questions sent to rules@worldathletics.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Ridgeon'.

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer