Sent on behalf of IAAF Race Walking Committee Chair, Maurizio Damilano

To: IAAF Member Federations

Re: Race Walking Programme Proposals

Date: January 10, 2019

Following extensive consultations and input, the members of the IAAF Race Walking Committee have refined their options for proposed change. At this time, we would like your assistance in circulating the following request for input to athletes and coaches within each Member Federation. The changes will be discussed by the IAAF Race Walking Committee at its upcoming meeting on February 2, 2019.

Rationale:

The IAAF Race Walking Committee wants to ensure growth and development of the discipline and considers that, for various reasons as outlined in our previous communications, now is the time for radical changes to support this objective.

Proposals:

1**) Maintain four individual events**(two male and two female to ensure gender equality) on the Championships programme for the foreseeable future with options for innovative formats that align with the IAAF’s attempts to adapt to the changing world marketplace for participants, spectators, media and sponsors.

2) **Introduction of the Race Walking Electronic Control System (RWECS)** for use in competition by 2021\* to increase credibility of the discipline and facilitate the feasibility of different distances. Without this technology, we strongly advise against changing the current distances.

3) Along with changing the way in which the discipline is judged, to make it more attractive in the marketplace, major championships distances must also evolve. **The senior championship distances currently under consideration are: 10km (or 10,000m); and 30km.** Distances will be the same for both men and women. The distances recommended for U-20 and younger developing athletes would be adapted as well to ensure the younger athletes remain race walking through these formative years.

4) **The above changes will be effective as of January 1, 2021\*.**

\***Successful introduction & distribution of insole (RWECS) must be in place by 2020 for this to occur. All dates are subject to confirmation as research and development enters its final stage this year of testing and finding commercial partners.  But 2021 is the aim.**

In order for the Race Walking Committee to be able to discuss input from athletes and coaches at its February meeting, please send any feedback on the above proposals to Luis Saladie (luis.saladie@iaaf.org) by January 28.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.