

ANOTHER WORD ABOUT WIND

Ratingen, New Balance....USA Next

Hello Again...The topic of wind reading keeps cropping up (as it did again this weekend at the IAAF CE Challenge meet in Ratingen, Germany) so we will offer an final word. Recall that in 2010 the IAAF (unexpectedly and without any consultation with the CE community) announced a new “wind reading” rule for CE competitions. In short: any score with an average of 2.0mps constituted a windy score. There was such an uproar that a year later the IAAF rescinded the rule and made that rule applicable only for world record applications. The older version (Rule 260.27) of “wind aided” (meaning average of over 2.0mps *and* at least one mark over 4.0mps) has been in place and is used for, among other things, qualifying for the current IAAF World champs in Moscow.

Thus IAAF CE Challenge representative Octavio Castelinni (last Month in Götzis) provided this *final* statement by the IAAF:

“The Council confirmed that the amendments approved by the Berlin Congress to Rule 260.27[*IAAF Competitions Rules 2010-11*] are valid and will be implemented as they pertain to World Records. The Council also confirmed that, with regard to wind conditions for the purpose of qualification to Championships in Athletics, Olympic Games, etc...], the text of Rule 260.27 which was published in the previous edition [*IAAF Competitions Rule 2009*] shall be enforced.”

That’s pretty clear. A wind-aided score is defined as one in which one mark has a wind reading over 4.0 mps and the average of the 3 marks is greater than 2.0 mps. But the issue came up again this weekend in Ratingen, Germany where an IAAF CE Challenge meet was conducted and a nice trailing breeze in the 100m turned into a gale for the 3rd section (seeded with all the main characters) and measured +5.4mps. Whoa. After the long jump most of the main contenders were already over the +6.0mps (or average of 2.0mps). The question advanced at the end of day #1 was, should the hurdles tomorrow be run into the wind to pull the average wind reading to 2.0mps or under, thus making the score legal? Or, more technically,

could some of the athletes opt to run into the wind while others run in the opposite direction? What’s fair?



Or should hurdles be seeded according to their aggregated wind readings before the event? Or.....well, you get the idea. What the heck does “fair” mean?

As it

turned out the German organizers dodged a bullet when the 2nd place finisher Rico Freimuth, with a wind-aided final 8488 PR score which would **not** have counted as a Moscow qualifier, already had the “A” standard score (8200) from 2012. In fact 5 of the top 7 scores in Ratingen ended up “wind aided” under the current interpretation.

But this presents vexing questions for meet organizers. For example, one must ask what is the primary purpose of a decathlon meet? If it is to select qualifiers for, say the world championships, then direction and force of the wind becomes an issue and should be taken into consideration.

And how about this? The upcoming USATF nationals in Des Moines both serves as both a qualifier for the World Champs and is simultaneously an IAAF CE Challenge meet (where the intent is to max scores for a payday regardless of the wind). What to do if there is significant wind?

Here’s one suggestion from a notable coach: check wind velocity 60-30 minutes before the 100m, and if you have winds in the 4 to 5 mps range, consider turning the race around. This won’t help *max* scores but it would help *protect* them. But that wind would have to be *awfully strong* to take this measure and, we have not seen those types of winds at Drake from the last 2 NCAA title meets (2011, 2012).

This is tricky and something we all should be aware of as we head to Des Moines.

And this is not an easy issue. The IAAF should have left well enough alone and not apply wind conditions to qualifying (as we do for the IAAF CE invite challenge meets). Moral: trying to apply too many rules can make for a mess.

What's neat (and w/o being condescending) is that Ashton Eaton has his own rule, since, conceivably for a few years, the new WR rule would likely apply only to him.

The Ratingen meet results are presented here (see below) so the reader can see the windy conundrum.

And next up is the 94th USA National decathlon in Des Moines. The field is a terrific one and here are the top 18 qualifiers.

2013 USATF Decathlon Field



Name	dob	affiliation	q	2013
Ashton Eaton	88	Ore e TC		9039
Trey Hardee	84	Nike		8671
Jeremy Taiwo	90	Washington		8239
Gunnar Nixon	93	Arkansas		8136
Isaac Murphy	90	Texas		8086
Curtis Beach	90	Duke		8011
Dakotah Keys	92	Oregon		8001
Gray Horn	90	Florida		7954
Wesley Bray	88	unat-Houston		7932
Jack Szmanda	90	Minnesota		7862
Austin Bahner	91	Wichita St		7847
Terry Prentice	89	Arkansas		7813
Dan Gooris	89	N Iowa		7780
Dominic Giovannoni	90	UCLA		7726
Ryan Harlan	81	unat		7715
Miller Moss	88	unat		7712
Corbin Duer	88	unat		7705
Matt Johnson	89	unat		7697

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Meet Results:

6/15-16 IAAF CE Challenge, Erdgas, Ratingen, GER

8514	Behrenbruch, Pascal/GER	10.73+5.4
694-0.5	1589 197 48.60 14.17+0.9 4825 500 6759 4:30.26	
8488w	Freimuth, Rico/Hallesche LAF-GER	10.36+5.4
755+0.5	1497 194 48.46 13.85+0.5 4903 480 5761 4:34.69	
PR		
8396w	Knobel, Jan-Felix/LG Eintracht-GER	10.85+5.4
736 +1.0	1582 191 49.19 14.59 +0.949.21 500 7161 4:51.68	
PR		
8350w	Kazmirek, Kai/LG Rhein/Wied-GER	10.61+5.4
751+0.2	1305 209 47.26 14.36+0.9 4469 510 5445 4:40.46	
PR		
8315w	Coertzen, Willem/RSA	10.74+5.4
729+2.0	1310 203 48.81 14.38+0.9 4361 450 6687 4:25.70	
8215	Prey, Matthias/SC Rönnaun-GER	11.03+1.2
788+0.8	1566 176 49.98 14.36 +2.2 50.63 450 6364 4:43.85	
PR		
8179w	Müller, Norman/Hallesche LAF-GER	10.69+5.4
752+2.9	14.09 212 49.51 14.79+0.9 4244 460 5607 4:27.08	
7900	Spinner, Patrick/LG Ortenau Nord	11.05+1.2
757+0.4	1408 191 49.84 14.96+1.9 3960 450 6827 4:38.95	
PR		
7864	Gilde, Max/LG Hannover-GER	11.15+1.2
753+0.4	1349 191 50.04 14.53+2.2 3907 480 6090 4:35.55	
PR		
7626	Strauss, Rene/LAV Tübingen-GER	11.09+0.5
709-0.2	1452 215 52.24 15.90+1.9 4243 450 5757 4:50.90	
PR		
7611	Scherfose, Patrick LG Weserbergland	11.03+0.5
714+1.6	1358 185 50.63 14.59+2.2 4332 480 4779 4:34.78	
PR		
7574	Heinke, Lars/TSV Bayer Leverkusen	11.08+0.5
723+1.7	1243 185 50.24 15.17+1.9 4208 490 5531 4:41.52	
7524	Querin, Gael/FRA	11.22+1.2
696-0.5	1227 197 49.12 15.93+2.2 3844 500 4955 4:23.59	
7319	Büker, Nils/TSV Bayer Leverkusen	11.05+0.5
683+1.6	1357 194 51.25 15.51+1.9 3954 440 5685 4:49.70	
7043w	Hechler, Simon/LA Team Saar-GER	10.54+5.4
792+2.4	1377 191 50.69 14.66+2.2 3806 nh 5939 4:57.90	
7001	Germain, Jahrmal/GBR	11.30+1.2
662-0.3	1190 188 50.37 15.12+1.9 3266 410 5482 4:32.28	

Dnf: Hanssler, Luis/TV-Ratingen-Memphis-GER [11.08+0.5 722+0.3 1117 nh 50.00 15.05+1.9 3757 430 withdrew] 20s,16f