



WORLD ATHLETICS LABEL ROAD RACES

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO RACE ORGANISERS

On 29 November 2020, the Chinese National Marathon Championships were held in Nanjing. At that road race pacemakers were used in breach of the World Athletics Technical Rules (Rule 6 – Assistance to Athletes) and Label Road Race Regulations.

In an investigation facilitated by the Chinese Athletics Association (CAA), the Athletics Integrity Unit identified, in the elite men's field of the marathon, two pacemakers who did not start the race. The breach was admitted and accepted. To improve the awareness of race organisers of the need to abide by the rules, CAA will formulate a level system for road race referees, organise the development of the training syllabus, compile training materials and conduct training and studies to prevent such instances happening again.

While it is understood that, with the best of intentions, race organisers want to create the best competition conditions, genuine competitive tension among athletes and better performances, they cannot use methods that breach World Athletics Rules and Regulations.

Such incidents serve as a reminder to all Race Organisers and Member Federations that the awarding of a World Athletics Label is conditional upon complying with and applying World Athletics Rules and Regulations. Any alleged breach of these rules will be investigated by the Athletics Integrity Unit and, where there is a breach, action will be taken. In this case, results, which were Olympic qualifying times, for four athletes from the elite race were annulled and a fine of USD\$20,000 was imposed on CAA. The fine has now been paid and CAA has since written to all road race organisers in China concerning this specific case which is a positive step forward and welcomed.

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