



**P O Box 2199 Kokopo, ENB, Papua New Guinea**

Telephone: +675 79435934 Email: [png@mf.iaaf.org](mailto:png@mf.iaaf.org) President: Tony Green

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**54<sup>th</sup> National Track & Field Championships  
Lae 17 – 19 April, 2015**

**COMPETITION RULES**

1. The Competition will be conducted in accordance with the Rules as set out in the latest IAAF. Competition Rules Handbook **with the exception of the false start rule as per 6 below**. There will be an Open Competition in all events in both men's and women's divisions. There will be an Under 18 competition in all events, both men and women. For the U16 division, the program will include the following events: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, long jump, high jump and Javelin. Sprint events will be offered in the Under 14 division (100m , 200m and 400m) for both boys and girls
2. Team Managers must reconfirm the names of athletes competing in track events no later than one hour before the scheduled start time. This will allow time for heats to be redrawn or even cancelled if necessary. Track events will then be called 30 minutes before the start time and competitors must report to the Call room at that time. For the athletes, **THERE WILL BE ONE CALL ONLY**. Athletes must remain in the call room from where they will be escorted to the start. Any athlete scratched for failing to report will not be permitted to compete in a later round in the same event. This rule applies to all events and the attention of team managers is drawn to the possibility of heats for the Open and U18 men's 800m event. Heats are scheduled for Friday and no more than eight competitors can be accommodated in Sunday's final. Last minute entries will not be accepted for the final
3. In order to be eligible for the Under 18 division, athletes must still be under 18 on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. Only athletes born in 1998 or later are eligible for the U18 division. Only athletes born in 2000 or later are eligible for the U16 and born in 2002 or later for Under 14. Athletes will be disqualified if, after the event it is discovered that they competed in an event for which they were not eligible to take part
4. Competitors will be escorted from the Call Room to the start area by a Marshall's assistant. When a field event is called competitors should report first to the MARSHALS and NOT to the place where the event is to be conducted. As with track events, athletes will be escorted to the field of play
5. In sprint events, where there are not enough entrants to run heats, the final will still be run at the time scheduled for the final. However for the Under 14; Under 16 and U18 division 400m only, if no heats are necessary, finals will be run on Friday. This is in order to enable the athletes to compete in other events such as 100m and relays on Saturday. In events of 800m and longer, combined races may be run where there are only a small numbers of competitors in each division. In these cases the officials will treat the event as one race and athletes will be ranked later according to their age division
6. Progression from heats to finals will be as per IAAF Rules and will be explained at the Technical Meeting which will be held at the competition venue at 12:00 hrs on Friday, 12 July. It is the responsibility of athletes and team leaders to familiarize themselves with the rules. If there are three heats, the first two finishers in each heat plus the two fastest of all the other competitors will progress to the final. If only two heats then the first three finishers in each heat will progress to the final plus the two fastest of all the other competitors  
All athletes must be familiar with the false start rules. Only one false start per race is allowed and any athlete who is subsequently adjudged to have made a false start will be disqualified. In sprint events, at the end of the race, athletes should remain in their lanes until the finish judges have finalized placing

7. In field events other than high jump, if there are less than eight competitors they shall advance straight to the finals and have six attempts each. Where there are more than eight then all shall have three attempts and then the top eight only will have three further attempts
8. Athletes must stay outside of the competition arena except when competing
9. At the Technical Meeting team managers may withdraw athletes previously entered where it is known that the athlete will not compete. The purpose of this meeting is to **confirm entries** and allow organizers to distribute start lists before the competition begins. Late submission of entries delays the start of competition and inconveniences everyone, including the athletes, and the co operation of all teams is requested in this matter
10. Athletes who qualify for the final in a sprint event, **MUST** run in the final. If an athlete qualifies for the final and fails to report then unless the athlete has a properly documented medical reason, he or she will not be eligible to take any further part in the competition. Disrespect for this rule can result in the disqualification of relay teams
11. Athletes may compete only in one age division in a particular event. This will normally be their correct division according to their age. However athletes aiming for selection to the team for the Pacific Games must compete in the Open Division
12. Normally there are only a small number of competitors in the women's jumps and throwing events and we have the Open and U18 athletes compete together. Separate result sheets are maintained by the officials and medals awarded to the winner of each division. This policy will be reviewed when all entries have been received and if considered necessary the U18 and Open events will be conducted separately. Athletes should note rule 11 above
13. In the Octathlon event, athletes must compete in all eight events (and make a genuine attempt to register a legal performance in each) in order to register a score. For example three fouls in the long jump or a no height in the high jump means no points in that event but it does not disqualify the athlete from the rest of the competition. For the jumping and throwing events in the Octathlon the competitors are allowed only three trials, not six. Athletes are awarded points according to their performance in each event. The winner of the event is the athlete with the highest accumulated points total
14. **Province of Representation.** Disputes often arise with different teams claiming the right to national athletes who move from one centre to another. In order to minimize the possibility of such disputes arising, Athletics PNG wishes to set down the following criteria. As a general rule, athletes must represent the Province in which they currently reside. It has traditionally been accepted and understood that if an athlete has resided in a particular centre for three months or more immediately prior to the Championships, then he or she represents that Province at the National Championships. This policy does not apply to athletes on short term training programs preparing for the Pacific Games but it does apply to those who have relocated on a semi permanent basis

Different rules apply for the PNG Games, where athletes have the right to choose between representing their Province of birth or the Province in which they reside

**Medals:** For relays, medals will be presented to the winning teams only. For individual events, where there are less than four competitors, the following rules will apply

- Three competitors medals will be awarded to first and second place only
  - Two competitors only the winner will be presented with a medal
  - One competitor the athlete may still participate but no medal will be awarded
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