

CHANGES TO HORIZONTAL JUMPS TAKE OFF RULES – 1st NOVEMBER 2021

1. The key sentence in the previous rule was:

“185.1 An athlete fails if:

- (a) he while taking off, *touches the ground* (including any part of the plasticine board) beyond the take-off line with any part of his body, whether running up without jumping or in the act of jumping,”

Given the shape of shoe soles, which often curved up at the front, and the permitted length of spikes, it was possible that the front of an athlete’s shoe might be marginally beyond the take-off line without actually touching the ground.

2. The new rule, which after a delay came into force on 1st November 2021, reads:

“30.1 An athlete fails if:

- 30.1.1 they while taking off, ***break the vertical plane of the take-off line with any part of their foot/shoe***, whether running up without jumping or in the act of jumping,”

Thus, all that matters is that no part of the foot/shoe should be beyond the vertical plane of the take-off line, regardless of whether or not any contact is made with the ground beyond the take-off line.

IF THAT’S ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW, YOU CAN STOP READING AT THIS POINT!

3. **How has this affected the equipment used and the process of judging?**

- a. World Athletics, recognising that at lower levels of competition the necessary technology to review the take-off might not be available, gave two alternatives:
“29.5 The use of video technology, to assist the Judges in deciding the application of Rule 30.1 is strongly recommended at all levels of competition. *However, if no technology is available, a plasticine indicator board may still be used.*”

The angle of the plasticine was changed from 45 degrees to *90 degrees* to assist in judging under the new rule.

4. **What will athletes experience?**

- a. Our technology suppliers have confirmed that they have now developed the required video review equipment and that this will be in use at both the Diamond League in Birmingham and the UK Championships in Manchester. This will also be true for the Commonwealth Games.



- b. This means there will be a review screen available to athletes at the event site, should they protest a decision.
- c. Such equipment was successfully tested at both the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix and the UKA Indoor Championships.
- d. This means that the normal plasticine-edged no-jump indicator will be replaced by a flat board, in a contrasting colour, beyond the far edge of the take-off board.
- e. Discussions with coaches and athletes have indicated that they would prefer this to be the same wooden surface as the take-off board, though the contrasting colour may be achieved by covering it with a layer of coloured tape.
- f. We are aware that at least one well-used venue is using a solid rubber insert and we await further feedback on this.
- g. Below this level of competition, the Technical Advisory Group are recommending that a 90 degree plasticine insert should still be the norm. Existing plasticine-edged inserts can readily be adapted to the new profile.
- h. This said, in the last twelve months, a number of UKA officials have been developing and testing a number of simpler video review systems, with some success. We feel that further testing is required during the 2022 outdoor season, but it may well be that by the 2022/2023 indoor season, we are confident that we can introduce its use for all three England Area Championships.

5. **Variations in judging practices and procedures.**

- a. We initially believed that there would be a review screen only at the event site, to be used should an athlete, under Rule 8.5, make “an immediate oral protest against having a trial judged as a failure, ...”
- b. However, our Technical Delegate for the Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix, was World Athletics’ Technical Services Senior Manager, who decided that the take-off board Judge’s duties should be carried out, using a remote screen, outside the Field of Play, with a fair or foul jump being indicated by a red or green light at the take-off board.
- c. That said, we are advised by Swiss Timing, whose system has been used widely on the indoor international circuit, that they have been operating still with a judge using red and white flags at the take-off board.
- d. Thus, even at the highest levels, it is conceivable that athletes may experience different practices.
- e. At domestic level, the use of red and white flags, with a judge located opposite the take-off board, will remain the norm for the foreseeable future.



In conclusion

1. This rule change was first agreed by World Athletics in June 2019, for implementation from 1st November 2020. It was deferred for a further year until 1st November 2021. Since UKA Rules are as closely aligned to World Athletics Rules as is possible, it became effective for domestic use at that time.
2. The required video review technology will not be available for domestic use until at least the 2022/23 indoor season at Area level. Below that level the use of plasticine no-jump indicators will be the norm for the foreseeable future.
3. Even where sophisticated video review equipment is available, at the highest level, there appear to be different opinions about exactly how it should be used. A year in which there are European Outdoor Championships, World Outdoor Championships and Commonwealth Games may well lead to a clearer picture. UKA's Technical Advisory Group will continue to take a pragmatic approach.
4. Both Swiss Timing and Seiko have indicated that they will provide further information about their systems to their clients, possibly with video examples. When this information becomes available, we will circulate it widely to coaches, athletes and officials.



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