

Remit to Athletics New Zealand AGM 2022

From: Egmont Athletics

REMIT:

“ANZ and NZMA adopt the option of B grades walks for Master Men and Women 65yrs and over for all New Zealand race walking championships.

RATIONALE:

There are a growing number of older athletes who, through age and/or injury who find compliance difficult or impossible. We face a very serious threat of losing these people to unaffiliated ‘walking groups’ as there is nothing tangible holding them in our sport.

By introducing the B grade walk, New Zealand Masters Athletics will be offering them an incentive to stay in the sport. This has the potential to be a major growth area for New Zealand Masters, Centres and Clubs.

Allowances for age in other events are:

Throws – lighter implements

Hurdles – lower height, less distance in between hurdles, shorter race distance

Blocks – no longer compulsory

DEFINITION OF B GRADE:

The “B” category would require the athlete to have one foot in contact with the ground at all times. The athlete must make a bonafide attempt to have his/her leg as straight as is physically possible. If both of these requirements are met, it would be accepted that the athlete is deemed to be walking.

The B grade walker would be judged in the same manner as the current rules except for the bent knee ruling. The B grade walker **would not be judged** on this.

All other rulings would apply.

Only if the athlete is blatantly running, would a disqualification occur.