

Looking forward to the New Year

It may be a year that many people would rather forget, but 2020 also produced dozens of memorable moments in the world of athletics, many of which were celebrated at the recent [World Athletics Awards 2020](#).

As the year draws to a close, there is much cause for optimism in the New Year. Not only will it be an Olympic year (albeit a rescheduled one), but two other World Athletics Series events will take place in 2021: the [World Athletics Relays in Silesia on 1-2 May](#) and the [World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi on 17-22 August](#).

And of course, throughout the year the world's leading athletes will compete in various annual series such as the [Wanda Diamond League](#), the [World Athletics Continental Tour](#), the [World Athletics Indoor Tour](#), [Label road races](#), [Cross Country Permit meetings](#), and the World Athletics Challenges for [Combined Events](#) and [Race Walking](#).

Adding in various area championships across a range of age groups and surfaces, 2021 is set to be a busy and enthralling year for the sport.

No doubt there will also be some challenges along the way, but with the resilience shown by many within the sport over the past 12 months, athletics will find ways of not only surviving, but thriving.

World Athletics headline news



Duplantis and Rojas named World Athletes of the Year

World record-breakers Mondo Duplantis of Sweden and Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela have been named the male and female World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020, a ceremony held virtually on 5 December.

Duplantis broke the world record in the pole vault twice, topping 6.17m and 6.18m on back-to-back weekends in February just a few weeks before the global coronavirus pandemic ground the sporting world to a halt. When competition finally resumed, Duplantis capped his season and produced the highest outdoor vault of all time (6.15m) and finished the year undefeated in 16 competitions.

Like many athletes, Rojas competed sparingly in 2020, but she made each of her appearances count. Rojas broke the South American indoor triple jump record in her first competition of the year, reaching 15.03m in Metz, France. In her next competition, at the World Athletics Indoor Tour

Featured news

World Athletics Council sets course for 2021 in latest meeting



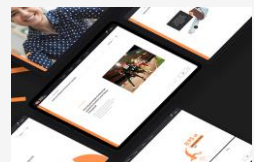
The final World Athletics Council meeting of 2020 has made a range of far-reaching decisions to guide the sport into the near-future.

Qualifying systems approved for World Athletics Championships Oregon22 and World Athletics U20 Championships Nairobi 21



The World Athletics Council has approved the qualification systems for the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 and the World Athletics U20 Championships Nairobi 2021.

New eLearning platform launched to enhance knowledge within athletics



For anyone wanting to know more about our sport, World Athletics has launched an innovative eLearning platform designed to educate everyone from newcomers to experts.

World Athletics Indoor Championships postponed from March 2021



meeting in Madrid, she leaped 15.43m in the final round of the competition to break the world indoor record by seven centimetres. [Full story](#)

It is with regret that we have agreed with the organisers of the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing (19-21 March 2021) to postpone the event to March 2023.

Other news

- [Dates confirmed for World Athletics Championships Oregon 2022](#)
- [Brand revealed for World Athletics Championships Oregon22](#)
- [Wanda Diamond League announces changes to its 2021 structure](#)
- [Tokyo to kick off 2021 World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meeting series](#)
- [La Réunion heralds start of World Athletics Challenge – Combined Events](#)
- [World Athletics signs new US media rights deal with NBC Sports](#)
- [World Athletics and Infront announce new media rights agreement](#)
- [World Athletics statement on IOC announcement about the Paris 2024 Olympic Games](#)
- [Amendment to development shoe rules in international competitions](#)
- [World Athletics response to CAS decision on RUSADA](#)
- [Heritage Plaques unveiled in Iten and Fukuoka](#)
- [Cross-country greats Lopes and Radcliffe donate kit to Heritage Collection](#)
- [Takahashi, 2000 Olympic marathon champion, donates winning bib to Heritage Collection](#)
- [A royal celebration – 100 years of the Spanish federation](#)
- [Athletics Kenya celebrates 70th anniversary, plans for virtual sports museum announced](#)
- [Milosevski, Macev and Stojoski: North Macedonia celebrates its centenary](#)

For the record

Athletes sanctioned for a doping offence

An up-to-date list is available on the [Athletics Integrity Unit website](#).

New member federation officers – recent elections / appointments

| Member federation | President | General secretary |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| GAB | Anaclet Taty (elected) | Jean-Baptiste Magambou (elected) |
| SVK | Peter Korcok (re-elected) | Vladimir Gubricky (re-elected) |
| AUS | Mark Arbib (re-elected) | Darren Gocher (re-elected) |
| IND | Adille Sumariwalla (re-elected) | Ravinder Chaudhry (elected) |
| ZIM | Tendayi Tagara (re-elected) | Cynthia Phiri (re-elected) |
| COM | Mohamadi Attoumane (elected) | Hilmy Aboud Said (elected) |
| POR | Jorge Vieira (re-elected) | Luis Figueiredo (re-elected) |
| NZL | Cameron Taylor (re-appointed) | Peter Pfitzinger (re-appointed) |
| ISR | Ami Baran (re-elected) | Gal Levi (appointed) |
| DOM | Gerardo Suero (re-elected) | Mariano Cedeno (re-elected) |
| GEO | Aleksi Akhvlediani (re-elected) | Gvansta Mikeladze (elected) |
| SLO | Roman Dobnikar (re-elected) | |
| ESP | Raul Chapado (re-elected) | Carlotta Castrejana (re-elected) |
| JAM | Garth Gayle (elected) | Marie Tavares (elected) |

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LCA | Cornelius Breen (re-elected) | Lisa Joseph (re-elected) |
| IVB | Steve Augustine (re-elected) | Stephania Russ-Penn (re-elected) |
| PLE | Mazen Alkhatib (re-elected) | |
| LUX | Stéphanie Empain (re-elected) | Steve Helmingier (elected) |
| FRA | André Giraud (re-elected) | |
| ESA | Gloria Elisabeth Ramos (elected) | Carlos Clemente (re-elected) |

The above information is supplied by the World Athletics governance, member and international relations department and represents member federation election results received since the last World Athletics newsletter.

World record watch (as at 13 December 2020)



Ratified: women's 4x1500m

16:27.02 USA/Nike Bowerman Track Club (Colleen Quigley, Elise Cranny, Karissa Schweizer, Shelby Houlihan) Portland 31 July 2020

Previous: 16:33.58 Kenya (Mercy Cheronu, Faith Kipyegon, Irene Jelagat, Hellen Obiri) Nassau 24 May 2014

All world records set and ratified in 2020

- men's 5km: 13:18 Rhonex Kipruto (KEN) Valencia 12 Jan 2020
- men's 10km: 26:24 Rhonex Kipruto (KEN) Valencia 12 Jan 2020
- U20 women's indoor high jump: 2.01m Yaroslava Mahuchikh (UKR) Lviv 18 Jan 2020
- U20 women's indoor high jump: 2.02m Yaroslava Mahuchikh (UKR) Karlsruhe 31 Jan 2020
- U20 women's indoor 1500m: 4:01.79 Lemlem Hailu (ETH) Toruń 8 Feb 2020
- men's pole vault: 6.17m Armand Duplantis (SWE) Toruń 8 Feb 2020
- men's pole vault: 6.18m Armand Duplantis (SWE) Glasgow 15 Feb 2020
- men's 5km: 12:51 Joshua Cheptegei (UGA) Monaco 16 Feb 2020
- women's half marathon: 1:04:31 Ababel Yeshaneh (ETH) Ras Al Khaimah 21 Feb 2020
- women's indoor triple jump: 15.43m Yulimar Rojas (VEN) Madrid 21 Feb 2020
- U20 men's indoor 60m hurdles (99.1cm) 7.34 Sasha Zoya (FRA) Miramas 22 Feb 2020
- women's 4x1500m: 16:27.02 USA (Colleen Quigley, Elise Cranny, Karissa Schweizer, Shelby Houlihan) Portland 31 Jul 2020
- men's 5000m: 12:35.36 Joshua Cheptegei (UGA) Monaco 14 Aug 2020
- women's one hour: 18,930m Sifan Hassan (NED) Brussels 4 Sep 2020
- men's one hour: 21,330m Mo Farah (GBR) Brussels 4 Sep 2020
- women's half marathon (women-only): 1:05:34 Peres Jepchirchir (KEN) Prague 5 Sep 2020
- men's 10,000m: 26:11.00 Joshua Cheptegei (UGA) Valencia 7 Oct 2020
- women's 5000m: 14:06.62 Letesenbet Gidey (ETH) Valencia 7 Oct 2020

Pending ratification - performances achieved in 2020

- U20 women's indoor 1500m: 4:01.57 Lemlem Hailu (ETH) Lievin 19 Feb 2020
- U20 women's indoor 60m hurdles: 7.93 and 7.91 Grace Stark (USA) College Station 28-29 Feb 2020
- women's 50km race walk: 3:50:42 Yelena Lashmanova (RUS) Voronovo 5 Sep 2020
- women's half marathon (women-only): 1:05:16 Peres Jepchirchir (KEN) Gdynia 17 Oct 2020
- men's half marathon 57:32 Kibiwott Kandie (KEN) Valencia 6 Dec 20

Rejected / unratifiable

- U20 women's javelin: 63.96m Elina Tsenggo (GRE) Ioannina 1 Aug 2020
(Doping control was not conducted until the next day)

Notable world bests

- men's 20,000m: 56:20.02 Bashir Abdi (BEL) Brussels 4 Sep 2020
- men's pole vault outdoors: 6.15m Armand Duplantis (SWE) Rome 17 Sep 2020

Obituaries

[Double Olympic medallist and former world record-holder June Foulds](#)

[1980 Olympic 50km race walk silver medallist Jorge Llopert](#)

[Ferruccio Stroppiana, co-founder of Mondo](#)

[1952 Olympic high jump champion Walter 'Buddy' Davis](#)

[1984 Olympic 20km race walk champion Ernesto Canto](#)

[Former world record-holder Mariya Itkina](#)

[1976 Olympic long jump champion Arnie Robinson](#)

[Frank Hensel, long-time German federation official](#)

[1960 Olympic decathlon champion and former world record-holder Rafer Johnson](#)

[1964 Olympic 50km race walk silver medallist Paul Nihill](#)

[Former world record-holder and European champion Maria Piątkowska](#)

To contribute to the World Athletics website or newsletter, please contact editor@worldathletics.org

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