M/45/26
Monaco, 11 November 2026

To: **MEMBER FEDERATIONS**
Copy: Council Members
Executive Board Members
Commission Chairpersons
Area Associations
Dentsu Athletics

Re: Amendments to the Regulations for the Application and Implementation of Eligibility Rule 3.5 (Male and Female Categories) – SRY Screening Requirements for 2027

Dear all,

We would like to inform you that the World Athletics Council has approved amendments to the Regulations for the Application and Implementation of Eligibility Rule 3.5 (Male and Female Categories), following the annual review of the mandatory SRY screening requirements.

The amendments, which take effect on 1 January 2027, introduce the following key provisions:

- Mandatory SRY screening requirements at events for 2027: The same requirements as those applicable in 2026 will be maintained, covering all World Athletics Series events, the next edition of the Ultimate Championship (to be held in 2028), Diamond League meetings and finals, and World Athletics Platinum Label Marathons.

- Submission of screening results: From 2027, athletes will be required to upload their SRY screening results to the designated secure platform and have their eligibility confirmed before being permitted to compete. Athletes who have already been screened and confirmed as eligible by World Athletics either in 2026 or from the screening programme held prior to the Tokyo World Athletics Championships in 2025 will not be required to repeat the SRY gene screening.

- Compliance and enforcement: Eligibility Rule 3.5 continues to apply to all World Rankings Competitions, regardless of whether mandatory screening is required at a particular event. Athletes who are ineligible remain ineligible to compete, regardless of the list of events requiring evidence of testing, and consequences for athletes who compete knowing they are ineligible.

- The amended Regulations clarify the authority of the World Athletics Chief Executive Officer, upon the recommendation of the Medical Manager, to sanction athletes who, in the unlikely event, have competed without complying with the applicable screening requirements.

Member Federations and Area Associations are expected to continue prioritising and facilitating SRY screening for athletes seeking to compete in the female category, sufficiently in advance of events listed as mandatory in 2027 and for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.[1]

It is strongly recommended that all Member Federations and Area Associations implement an SRY gene screening programme as widely as possible for all female athletes to avoid disappointment if, and when, last minute

[1] https://www.olympics.com/ioc/news/international-olympic-committee-announces-new-policy-on-the-protection-of-the-female-women-s-category-in-olympic-sport

invitations are being considered for mandatory screening events as event organisers and World Athletics will prioritise those athletes in the World Ranking list who have been declared eligible by World Athletics.

The amended Regulations are available in the book of rules on the World Athletics website (Book C: Competition – C3.5A Regulations for the Application and Implementation of Eligibility Rule 3.5 (Male and Female Categories)).[2]

If you have any questions regarding this circular, please email: fact@worldathletics.org.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and support in implementing these requirements.

Best wishes,



Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer

[2] Note that Regulation 7 of the Regulations for the Implementation of Eligibility Rule 3.5 (Male and Female Categories) does not apply to the Olympic Games, instead the IOC Policy on the Protection of Female (Women's) Category in Olympic Sport and Guiding Considerations for International Federations and Sports Governing Bodies applies in full.