

Queensland Race Walking Club Inc.

Building on a fine tradition of race walking, 66 years in the making.



HEEL & TOE

January 21st 2021

Tokyo Olympics to go ahead – Yes, but, maybe.....

A Japanese cabinet minister admitted Friday that “anything can happen” with the coronavirus-postponed Tokyo Olympics, becoming the first senior official to concede uncertainty about the Games as Japan and other countries battle a surge in cases.

Taro Kono, minister for administrative and regulatory reform, did not rule out the possibility of the Olympics being cancelled, with greater Tokyo and other regions currently under a state of emergency until at least February 7.

He is the first cabinet minister to deviate from Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga’s insistence that Japan is on track to hold a “safe and secure” Games, despite a state of emergency being expanded this week to cover a total of 11 regions, including Osaka and Kyoto.

“Given the coronavirus situation, anything can happen,” Kono, a high-profile former foreign and defence minister, told a press briefing. “The organising committee and the IOC must of course be thinking about back-up plans. The government is firmly preparing for the Olympics and Paralympics.”

Public support for the Olympics has plummeted in Japan, with a recent poll finding that more than 80 percent of respondents think the Games should be cancelled or postponed again.

Tokyo 2020 President Yoshiro Mori said in a speech Tuesday that another postponement was “absolutely impossible”, according to local media. Mori also said Japan will decide in the coming months whether to allow foreign fans to enter for the Games, saying: “We will have to make a very difficult decision from February to March.”

Suga has said Japan is committed to hosting the Games and believes the public mood will change when the country begins its vaccination programme, set for late February.

Local media quoted Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto saying Friday that Japan is suspending an exemption that allows foreign athletes to enter the country to train while the country’s state of emergency is in place.

Japanese athletes will still be able to re-enter Japan, but they will no longer be allowed to skip the 14-day quarantine period.

“We want to prioritise saving lives,” Hashimoto was quoted as saying. “So as a preventative measure to eliminate risk, we want to strengthen our first line of defence a level.

“We will take the infection situation at home and abroad into account and react accordingly,” she added.

The ban on non-resident foreign athletes is also likely to affect baseball and J-League football teams, who are preparing to begin their seasons.

On Thursday, Japan’s Top League rugby put its season on hold just two days before it was due to begin, after a rash of players from several clubs tested positive for the virus.

The Tokyo 2020 organising committee insisted Friday that the latest anti-virus measures would help rather than hinder preparations. “We expect that the series of measures being implemented by the government of Japan, the Tokyo metropolitan government and other prefectural authorities will help improve the situation,” it said in a statement.

“We hope that daily life can return to normal as soon as possible, and we will continue to work closely with all related parties in our preparations for holding safe and secure Games this summer.”

'You can't trust a lot of countries': The dilemma facing Tokyo Olympics

Andrew Webster The Sydney Morning Herald

It's an obvious question – and the answer is a matter of trust.

How can the International Olympic Committee guarantee the biggest sporting spectacle on the planet won't suddenly become the greatest super-spreader event of COVID-19?

Every athlete from the 206 countries competing at the Tokyo Olympics will need to return a negative test within 72 hours of flying into Tokyo.

They will need to return another negative test on arrival and then require ongoing testing every two days while they are competing. They arrive five days before their competition and must leave within 48 hours of its co There is already scepticism, though, among some officials and athletes about competitors arriving in Tokyo while carrying the virus. One of them is Australian judoka Nathan Katz. "You can't trust a lot of countries to be honest," Katz, 25, told *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. "You can't trust some of them in the slightest with drugs, let alone testing negative to COVID. It is a health concern. In some of these countries an Olympic medal changes a person's life. So, I wouldn't be surprised in the slightest if there's some shonky COVID tests."

Katz tells you this on his fourth day of quarantine at a hotel in Adelaide, having just returned from the World Masters in Doha.

"It feels like 40 days," Katz laughed. When he and his brother, Josh, 23, get out on January 30, they will return to Sydney for about 10 days before flying out for Tel Aviv for the start of a series of competitions throughout Europe over the next three months to earn qualification for Tokyo. It's the same path several Australian athletes must take, heading overseas to Europe to qualify for the Games. As it stands, only 60 per cent of Australia's 500-strong team have qualified.

He will then return to Australia, quarantine for another two weeks, before preparing to fly out for an Olympic Games that may or may not happen. The AOC resolutely says the Olympics will happen. Many are dubious. There is no deadline to make a definitive call, no fallback position, but there appears to be feeling a decision will be made in late March, early April. Katz competed at his first Olympics in Rio in 2016. He's now in his prime, ready to claim a medal. This is his window. *Should* be his window.

"I'm mindful about bitching and moaning because a lot of people are doing it tough. The tennis guys are coming across pretty badly, and fair enough," Katz said. "But it's a rollercoaster at the moment.

"We've got a lot of support and encouragement from the AOC, saying that the games are going ahead. But when you turn on the news and hear there are 4500 new cases in Tokyo it's a concern. There are a lot of reports that Japan doesn't want the whole world coming for the Olympics and I understand that. The Australian public isn't taking too well to the idea of the Australian Open."

at may or may not go ahead.

Which brings us to the other obvious question.

If the Australian Open is struggling with the burden of welcoming 1200 players, coaches and officials into a relatively COVID-free country, how problematic will it be for the Tokyo Olympics to welcome no less than 15,000 athletes and support staff into a country that's tracking about 6000 new cases per day? Into a city where the hospitals are overflowing and elderly sufferers are dying in their beds? The grim reality of today might not be the case on July 23, when the Olympics are due to start.

"But what's happening with the Australian Open gives us a chance to learn," Australian team chef de mission Ian Chesterman said. Chesterman says rapid testing could be so efficient by July that anyone coming into Tokyo will have their results within minutes. But the IOC is yet to provide detail about what happens to those who return a positive test – whether they will be

dispatched back to their respective countries or placed in quarantine – but it promises the athletes' village will be COVID-free. The "safest place" in Tokyo. Again, it will be a matter of trust for those within that area to do the right thing.

"The first event last year happened in Budapest, but we couldn't get insurance and Judo Australia wasn't prepared to

"The Italian team apparently had two negative tests in Italy but when they arrived in Budapest, three of the athletes tested positive. It's suspicious that half of them picked it up at the airport. "But then Katz says something might sound strange to you and me, but not those who chase Olympic glory. "It might sound irresponsible, but the risk of infection isn't the No.1 concern. I'd hate to have a negative impact on anyone in our circle if I contracted it. But I'd do anything to get to the Games this year."

QRWC Judging Seminar Brisbane Saturday February 20th

The QRWC Race Walking Judging Seminar will be held in Brisbane on Saturday February 20th. This is the ideal time for volunteers, athletes, coaches and parents to become a qualified race walk judge, upgrade or refresh qualifications or just to come along to the seminar to learn about the rules of race walking and more importantly, how they should be applied. Please pass on information about this seminar to anyone at your athletics club or Little Athletics club who may be interested.

The seminar is to both prepare for professional development as well as enabling current judges to undertake the current AA Racewalk Judging exams (Level 1, 2 and 3). I understand that Judges that have their current Level 1 and 2 are required to undertake at least one seminar as part of the Athletics Australia Education Scheme before they can proceed to the next Level (i.e. Level 1 to 2, Level 2 to 3). This seminar will count towards this.

Zoe Eastwood-Bryson from South Australia has been invited to present the seminar. Zoe was head judge at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, has been re-appointed to the World Athletics International Race Walk Judges' Panel, officiated at the 2019 Taicang World Walk Challenge and was Chief Walk Judge at the Oceania Championships.

Zoe has conducted numerous Racewalk Judging seminars in Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne. She was also lecturer and examiner for the RWJECS Level II Course in 2018 on behalf of Oceania Athletics and IAAF.

Details of the day to follow when finalized but indications are that it will start around 9am. Queensland Athletics have scheduled the race walk events (3/5km) at the Shield Meet on that day to commence at 3pm to allow new judges to stand with a qualified judge during a race.

Register your interest by emailing peter.bennett@live.com

Results Results Results

Queensland Masters Athletics

January 16th QSAC

3,000 Metre Race Walk Championships

Kirwin, Roslyn	W32 23:06.27 (23:06.28 50.13%)
Gannon, Brenda	W46 17:54.79 (16:34.19 69.91%)
Woodward, Erika	W54 17:51.78 (15:51.21 73.07%)
Stuckey, Jennifer	W55 21:36.86 (18:20.00 63.18%)
Jimenez Solis, Ignacio	M55 14:31.65 (12:09.05 86.61%)
Bennett, Peter	M65 17:32.61 (13:17.36 79.19%)
McKinven, Noela	W78 24:51.35 (16:24.59 70.59%)

Some Championship snapshots

*Jenny and Roslyn having too much fun during the steeplechase not long after their 3,000 metre walk .
Noela a picture of concentration during the championship race
Who is that masked man? Is it Iggy Jimenez?*



This Week

This Saturday morning (January 23rd) there are two walk events at the Qld Masters meet at QSAC. At 8.10am there is the 2,000m metres and at 9.40am a 1,500 metres walk.

Then in the evening at the QA Dane Bird-Smith Shield Meet, named in honour of our Rio Olympics bronze medalist, at QSAC a 3/5km walk is on at 8.00pm

TOP PRIORITY for those intending to compete at Masters meets

PLEASE NOTE: ALL QMA MEMBERS, SPECTATORS, & VISITORS - NEW REQUIREMENTS

The key additional requirements that relate to athletics activity are:

You must carry a mask with you at all times when outside of your home.

- You must wear a mask in indoor spaces other than your home (examples: clubhouses, toilets, officials' room)
- You do not need to wear a mask while exercising or competing on the field of play.
- In outdoor spaces you should socially distance at all times and if that is not possible wear a mask
- Children under 12 are not required to wear a mask.

QMA COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING. New registration requirement. The Queensland Government has mandated that from 24th December 2020, all persons attending an event or venue must register their details **electronically** for contact tracing purposes. This means that at the **QMA Brisbane competitions at the SAF track**, there will no longer be lists at the gate for you to tick off.

The following procedures will be implemented:

- All members intending to compete are encouraged to enter and pay on-line, following the usual link from the website. That is all you will need to do.
- Members who want to enter on the day, visitors intending to compete, officials, volunteers and spectators have two alternatives:
 - o You can register on-line ahead of the competition following the link from the website, or
 - o You can scan the QR code at the gate and enter your required details.

Then those intending to compete go ahead and lodge their entry using the pink and blue forms as usual.

NOTE: If you have an iPhone, you can scan the QR code using the photo app, or if you have an android phone, you will need to have a QR code scanning app installed. If you don't have a phone, try to come with a friend who has one as they will be able to register you. It is the responsibility of all attendees to register their correct details appropriately.

COMING UP – Track & Road Walks

January 23rd QMA SAC 8.10am 2,000m metres / 9.40am 1,500 metres
January 23rd QA Dane Bird-Smith Shield Meet QSAC 3/5km Walk 8.00pm
January 30th QMA SAC 8.00am 3,000 metres
January 31st QMA Runaway Bay 3,000 metres 8.00am
February 6th QMA SAC 9.00am 1,500 metres
February 7th QMA SAC 10,30am 1,500 metres
February 7th QMA Runaway Bay TBA
February 10th QA Mid-Week Meet QSAC 3/5km Walk
February 14th AA 20km Championships SA
February 20th QMA SAC 8.00am 3,000 metres
February 20th QA Shield Meet QSAC 3.00pm 3/5km Walk / Judging Seminar
February 21st QMA Runaway Bay TBA
February 24th QMA Wednesday night SAC 8.20pm 3,000 metres
March 1-14th QA State Age & Open Track Championships
March 27th AA 50km Championships Vic
April 12-21st AA Track & Field Championships
April 23-24th Australian Little Athletics Championships Vic

Athletics Australia Track and Field Championships Sydney April 12-21st

Sydney has been announced as the 2021 host venue for Athletics Australia's Australian Track and Field Championships, taking place from April 12-21. The Australian Track and Field Championships is the largest annual athletics event in Australia and the Oceania region, traditionally attracting more than 3,500 athletes from across Australia and the Pacific. With the 2020 Championships in Sydney being cancelled due to COVID-19, the home of the 2000 Games will now host the 2021 Championships in a COVID-safe event, which will act as a major hit out for athletes leading into the rescheduled Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Athletics Australia CEO Darren Gocher said despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, he is looking forward to the Australian athletics community reuniting as the nation's best compete together once again.

"We know how difficult the last year has been for our track and field athletes in not being able to compete, which makes announcing the venue for the Australian Track and Field Championships all the more exciting," Gocher said.

"We recognise that competition in Australia is still disrupted, but we are doing everything we possibly can to give athletes the opportunity to compete safely for national titles and of course, to qualify for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The Australian Track and Field Championships is the highlight of our domestic season, and the culmination of another year of hard work and dedication from our athletes, so I want to thank the NSW Government for their collaboration and ongoing support in making this happen. Together, we will make this the best possible event that we can for the Australian athletics community."

Athletics Australia acknowledges that the 2021 Australian Track and Field Championships are subject to change based on any implemented COVID-19 restrictions and regulations.

QA Membership Details South Qld 2020/21 Season

Base Membership - \$12 plus club fee

During the pandemic we are offering pay-as-you-go membership:

All Shield meets - \$25 per meet

All State Championships* - \$30 per event

Eligible for in-stadium** state teams & national teams - \$100 fee

Eligible for all out of stadia*** state teams & national teams

Qrun - \$12 (access to Qld Athletics distance events only (800m up))

Club Coach, Officials & Volunteers - \$0

If you need clarification on any aspect of membership and benefits please email info@qldathletics.org.au

Race Walk Coaching

If you are looking for coach or would like to be part of a training squad there are a number of qualified coaches in the club:

David Smith Walks Level 5

Noela McKinven Walks Level 4

Robyn Wales Walks Level 3

Shane Pearson Walks Level 3

Steve Langley Walks Level 2

To search for a walks coach, see their qualifications, contact details or where & when the coach go to ; <http://icoach.athletics.com.au/at/icoach/Search.aspx>

Racewalking Queensland

(Trading as the *Queensland Race Walking Club Inc.* ABN 59065512712)

Racewalking Queensland Management Committee 2020/21

President: S. Pearson

Secretary: N. McKinven

Vice President: P Bennett

Treasurer: R Hamann

Committee: I. Jimenez, S. Langley, T. Norton, J Stuckey

Patrons: Patrick & Maxine Sela

Registrar: T Norton

Uniforms: J Stuckey

Newsletter Editor: P. Bennett

Club Captains: Jasmine-Rose McRoberts / Ignacio Jimenez

QRWC Website: www.qrwc.com.au

Queensland Athletics Member Protection Policy

As a member of Athletics Australia, Queensland Athletics, an affiliated club or an individual member everyone is required to comply with the Queensland Athletics Member Protection Policy. We are committed to the health, safety and general well-being of all of our members and will work to ensure that everyone associated with our organisation complies with this policy. We would encourage all who are involved in athletics to familiarise themselves and comply with this policy.

You can read the full policy here

<http://www.qldathletics.org.au/Portals/50/General/QA%20Member%20Protection%20Policy%20-%20July%202015.pdf>

Contact emails:

grwc1@optusnet.com.au Membership, coaching or general enquiries about the club
racewalkqld@outlook.com Articles for the newsletter, to send in results, to join newsletter mailing list.

QRWC race entries grwc1955@icloud.com

About us

Racewalking Queensland conducts its own winter road walk programme from April until September. Thank you to all our contributors of results & reports to this newsletter. We value your input.

For news and information on the Australian Federation of Race Walking (Racewalking Australia) and the member clubs go to www.rwa.org.au

RWA Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/racewalkingaustralia/>