

# - Visually Impaired Athletes -

*An adaptation for Para Sport to allow competition for those that cannot see*



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## Introductions



**Jerry Clayton** (ITO, Technical Delegate and Educator for World Para Athletics – from USA)



**David Weicker** (ITO, Technical Delegate and Educator for World Para Athletics – from Canada)



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# Visually Impaired Athletes Webinar

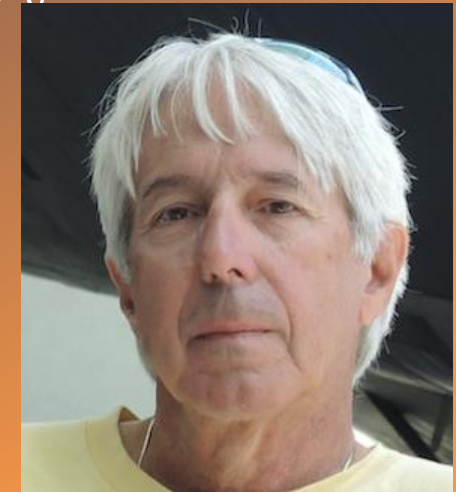
Date: April 6, 2021

Time: 7 p.m. (ET)

Our presenters will be: David Weicker (WPA Educator, Technical Delegate, ITO and also a member of the International Panel for Chief Photo Finish Judges; Canada) **and** Jerry Clayton (WPA Educator, Technical Delegate and ITO; USA)



The presenters will go over:  
Specific rule adaptations for visually  
impaired (VI) Track and Field events



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# Learning Objectives



- 🇨🇦 Did guide push, pull or propel the athlete?
- 🇨🇦 Is this allowed?
- 🇨🇦 How can you tell?

[VIDEO Click Here](#)



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# Learning Objectives

- ❖ Who are the athletes
- ❖ General conditions
- ❖ Assistance allowed
- ❖ Understanding the rule variations for athletes who are visually impaired
- ❖ Understanding the set up of event sites for these athletes



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## What are the visually impaired

### Classifications:

 T/F11 – totally blind

 T/F12 – some sight

 T/F13 – some impairment








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## General Conditions:

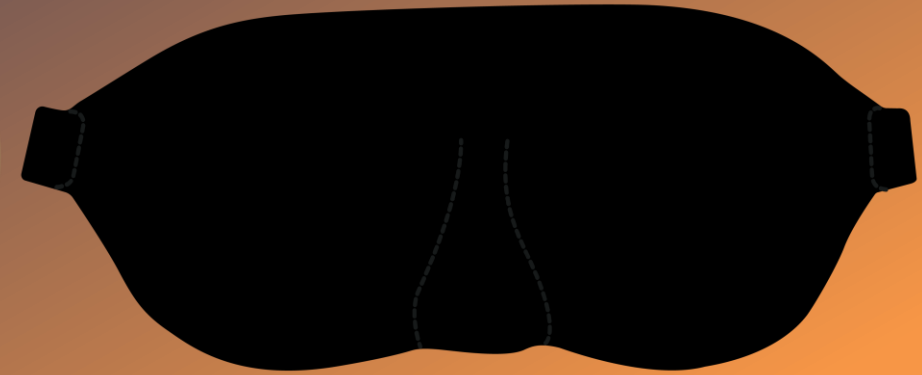
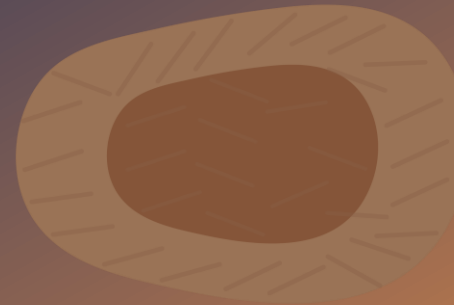
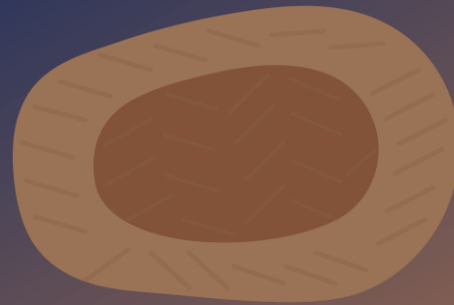
-  Must wear eye patches to cover eye cavities plus wear an eye mask or approved opaque glasses
  -  NOTE: Athletes are responsible for providing their own not officials or the LOC
-  Must wear eye patches until event is complete
-  Must run with a guide
-  May have up to two assistants for some field events

- General Conditions:
  - Must run with a guide
    - Must use tether, properly and guide cannot finish before the athlete
  - May have up to two assistants for horizontal jump events
    - One assistant can orient and one “call”
    - Assistants normally sit in a separate area when athlete is not competing in a trial






## 🇨🇦 General Conditions:

- 🇨🇦 Must wear eye patches to cover eye cavities plus wear an eye mask or approved opaque glasses



## General Conditions:





### May run with a guide

-  If they do, must use tether, properly and guide cannot finish before the athlete
-  Not required to wear a mask
-  Get two lanes to compete in event if not with guide

### May have only one assistant for all field events

-  Assistants normally sit in a separate area when athlete is not competing in a trial

## General Conditions:

-  Not allowed to run with a guide
-  Not allowed to have an assistant for field events
-  Compete somewhat as able-bodied athletes
  -  ...and often do

## T/F 11, 12 and 13 Summary

- General Conditions:
  - T/F11 must have eyes completely covered
  - T/F11 must have guide runners (assistants for field events)
  - T/F12 may have guide runners (assistants for field events)
  - T/F11, 12 and 13 must use starting blocks for 100m, 200m and 400m plus relays (lead off runners)

# ■ Track Events



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## T 11, 12 and 13 – Track events

 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m\*, 10000m\*, 4x100m relay, 1<sup>st</sup> leg of Universal relay

\* Two guide runners allowed for T11 and T12; Exchanges must be pre-arranged in advance



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## T 11 for Road Events

### General Conditions:

-  Must run with a guide

-  Must use tether, properly and guide cannot finish before the athlete

-  Must finish races before guide runner

-  Do not need to use eye patches or eye masks (or opaque glasses)



T 11

- 🇨🇦 Did guide finish before the athlete in this marathon finish?
- 🇨🇦 How can you tell?
- 🇨🇦 Who makes the decision?




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## Conditions :

-  Guide must not push, pull or propel the athlete at any time during a running event

T 11



[VIDEO Click Here](#)

- ❑ Did guide push, pull or propel the athlete, from:
  - ❑ China?
  - ❑ UK?
- ❑ How can you tell?
- ❑ Who makes the decision?



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T11



- 🇨🇦 Did guide push, pull or propel the athlete, from:
- 🇨🇦 Spain (lane 7)?
- 🇨🇦 How can you tell?
- 🇨🇦 Who makes the decision?

[VIDEO Click Here](#)

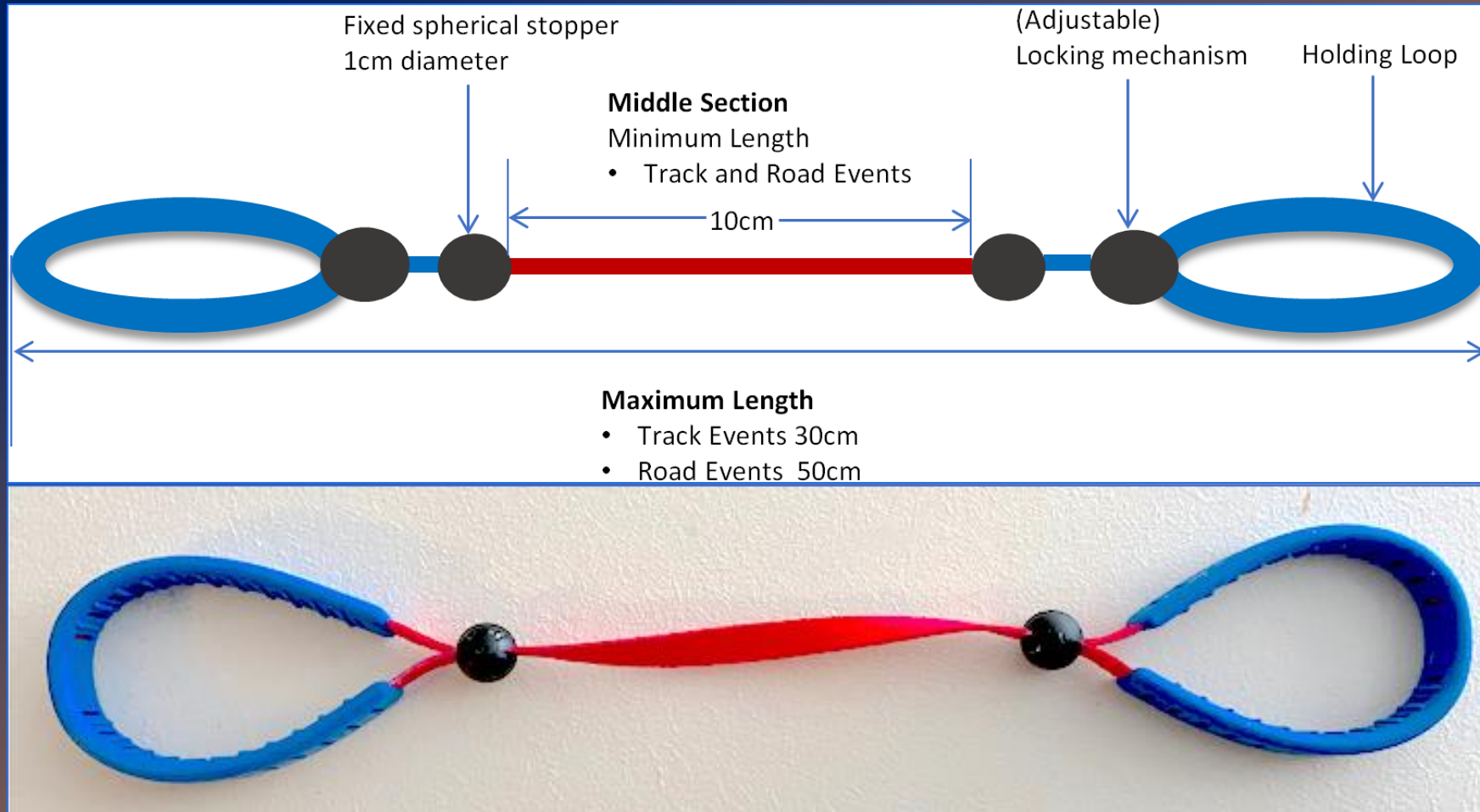


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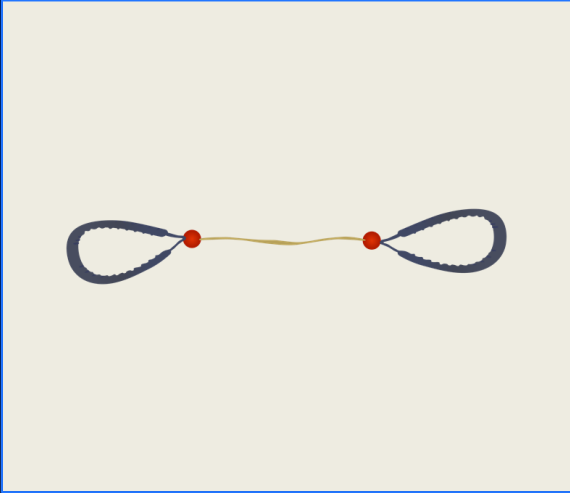


## T11 and T12 - Tether





## T/F 11 and 12 - Tether



### ■ Proper use of tether:

- Must use one similar to diagram
- Must not shorten in any way (e.g., hold yellow part or red stoppers)
- Must not hold arms or hands
- Must not let go of tether during race (except for guide exchange)
- Actually must be tethered until after the athlete passes the vertical plane of the finish line

# T 11, 12 Guide exchange

 A good one

## T 11, 12 Guide exchange



[VIDEO Click Here](#)  
Watch for clean  
guide exchange .



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## T 11, 12 Guide exchange



[VIDEO Click Here](#)  
Watch for a guide who does not exchange.  
The athlete is DQ'd for not using the 2<sup>nd</sup> guide.






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## T 11, 12 Guide exchange

-  Did the exchange happen?
-  What do you look for?
-  What clues?



## T 11, 12 Guide exchange



[VIDEO Click Here](#)  
Watch for a guide who does not exchange.  
The athlete is DQ'd for not using the 2<sup>nd</sup> guide.



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# T 11, 12 and 13 Track Events

 Questions?

# ❖ Field Events



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## F 11, 12 and 13 Field Events

 Long Jump (T), Triple Jump (T), High Jump, Shot Put, Discus and Javelin

 Long Jump and Triple Jump are considered “T” events since they occur on a runway

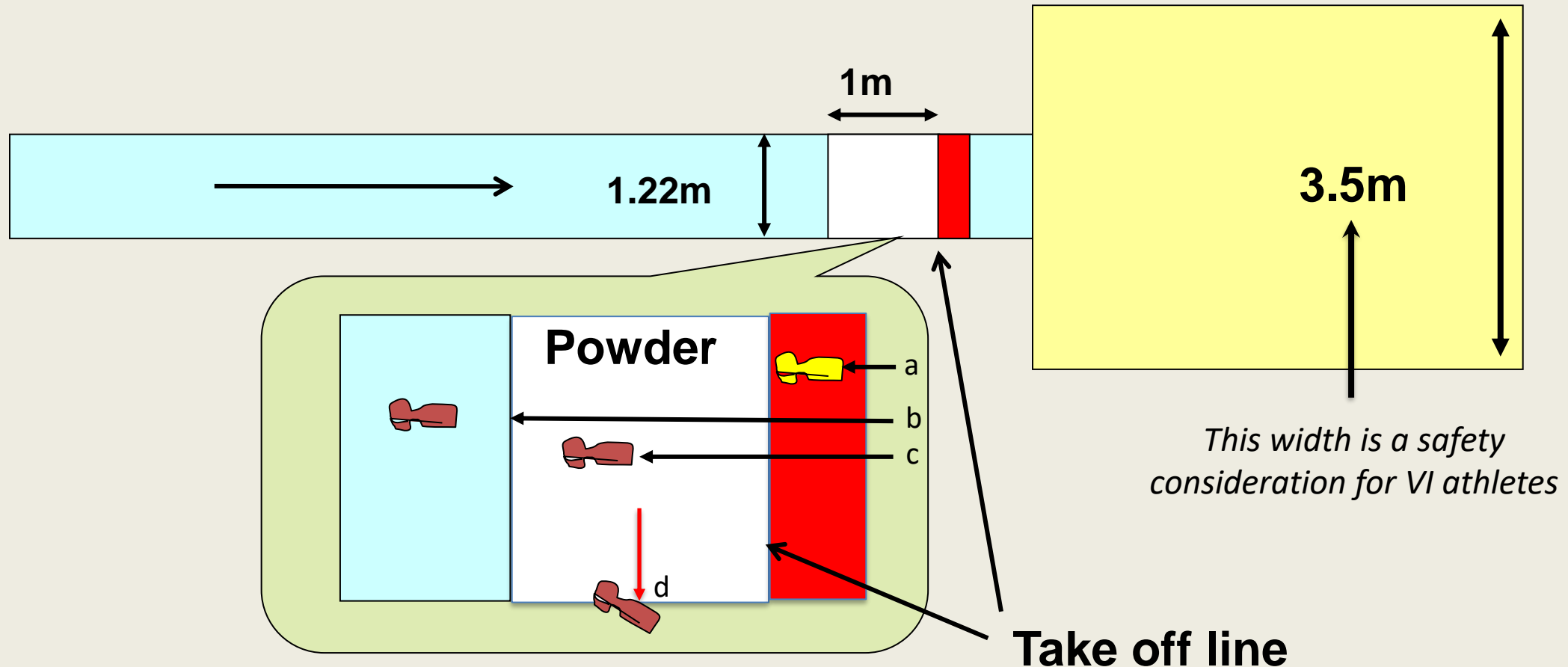
## F 11 and 12 Field Events

- Assistants cannot impede the view of the judges
- Reminders:
  - F11 may have up to 2 assistants (Jumping events)
  - F12 may have only 1 assistant
  - For throwing events F11/12 may only have 1 assistant
  - Judges can move, cameras may not be able to
  - Assistants must be in “safe” positions and Referee can determine if they are not

## F 11 and 12 Field Events

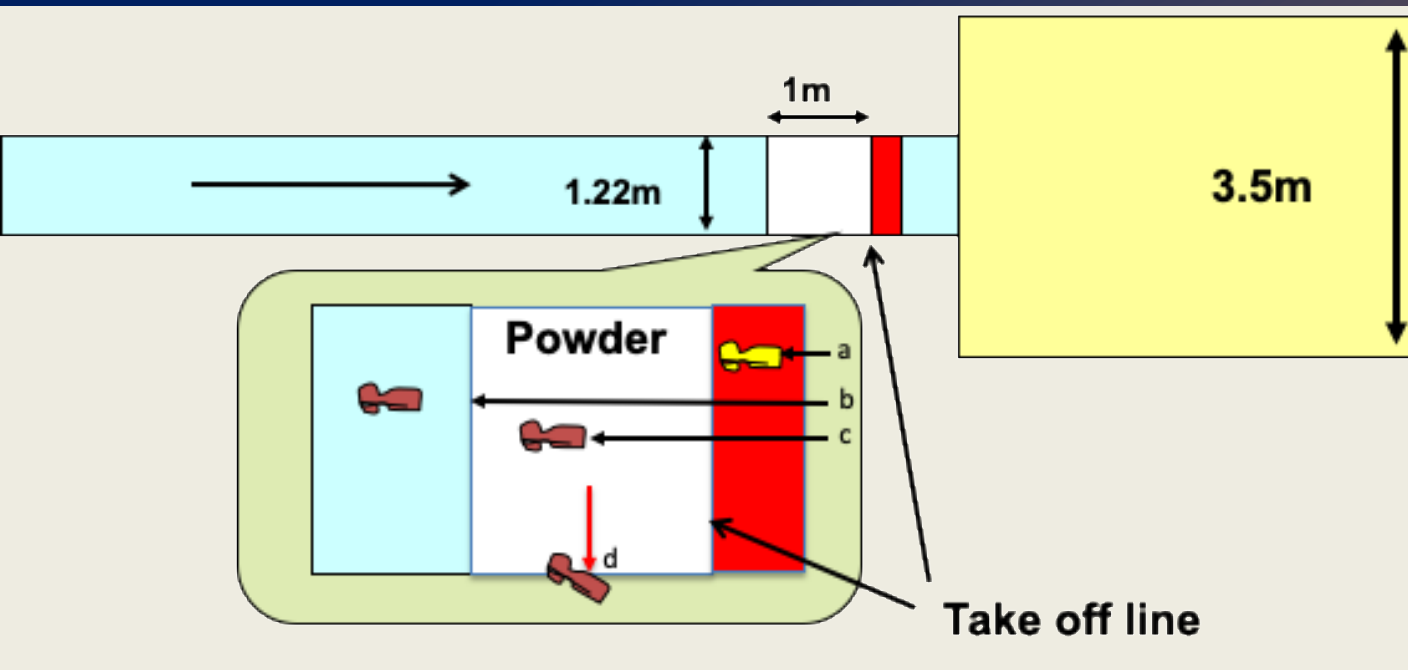
- Before the trial, when Assistants are orienting athletes they are allowed to do so by voice and touch
- After the trial, assistants may NOT touch athletes until they have exited the jumping landing area, throwing circle or runway properly
- *However they may use voice control to assist the athlete (i.e. help orient the athlete as they exit the landing area or throwing circle/runway)*

# T 11 and 12 Long Jump (and TJ)





## T 11 and 12 Long Jump (and TJ)



- a) If no imprint and on the red board (e.g. after the takeoff area) then it is a foul and no measurement is taken
- b) If no imprint and before the takeoff area then use the beginning of the takeoff area
- c) If imprint in powder, measure from foot impression left in the chalk closest to landing area
- d) If footprint is partially outside of the powdered "board" it is legal
  - Measure to portion of footprint in powder closest to landing area

## T 11 Long Jump



🇨🇦 Assistant “calling” the athlete

🇨🇦 Takeoff area chalked

[VIDEO Click Here](#)

Athlete successfully being called for a clean jump.



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## T 11 and 12 Long Jump (and TJ)



- 🇨🇦 Takeoff area chalked
- 🇨🇦 Width of runway and 1m back from the edge closest to the landing area



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## T or F 11 Field Events

- 🇨🇦 Referee (ITO) checking eye patches and mask
- 🇨🇦 Assistant (wearing “guide” bib) orienting the athlete for this T11 Long Jump
- 🇨🇦 Assistant “calling” the athlete

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## T 11 Long Jump



[VIDEO Click Here](#)  
Gillette trial 5



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## T 11 Long Jump



[VIDEO Click Here](#)  
Gillette trial 5

🇨🇦 Did the athlete “foul” in this attempt?

🇨🇦 On the run up?

🇨🇦 NO *rule 28.3a*



🇨🇦 On the takeoff?

🇨🇦 YES *rule 28.1b*

🇨🇦 On the landing?

🇨🇦 YES *rule 28.1d*



## F 11 and 12 Field Events

-  The rules for other field events are not that different for F11 and 12 athletes except as noted earlier and on the next slide
-  All implements for VI athletes must be IAAF (now World Athletics) certified

## F 11, 12 and 13 High Jump

- Athletes in Sport Class F11 may touch the bar as an aid to orientation before commencing the run up. If, on so doing, the athlete dislodges the bar this will NOT count as an attempt.
- Athletes in Sport Class F12 and F13 may place an appropriate visual aid on the bar (e.g., light weight sock or flag)

## F 13 Field Events

-  Compete generally the same as all ambulant and able-bodied athletes
-  No assistants...no assistance (other than in HJ, slide 40)

## F 11, 12 and 13 Summary

### Specific Questions?



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## F 11, 12 and 13 Summary

# Thank you!

- ❑ If you want to contact us again:
- ❑ David Weicker: [dweicker@shaw.ca](mailto:dweicker@shaw.ca)
- ❑ Jerry Clayton: [jerryclayton13@gmail.com](mailto:jerryclayton13@gmail.com)
- ❑ We're happy to help with any World Para Athletics questions you may have...