

The African Telatelist

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International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF)

The **World Championships in Athletics** is an event organized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). Originally, it was organised every four years, but this changed in 1991, and it has since been organised biennially.

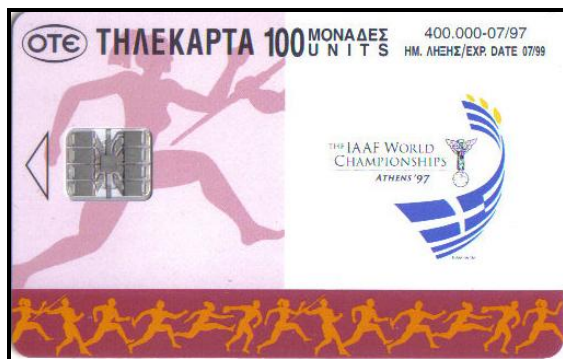
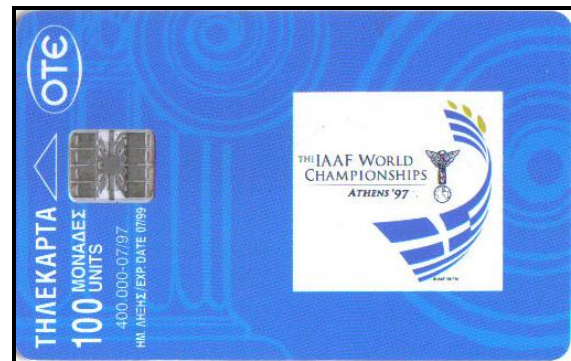
The idea of having an Athletics World Championships was around well before the competition's first event in 1983. In 1913, the IAAF decided that the Olympic Games would serve as the World Championships for athletics. This was considered suitable for over 50 years until in the late 1960s the desire of many IAAF members to have their own World Championships began to grow. In 1976 at the IAAF Council Meeting in Puerto Rico an Athletics World Championships separate from the Olympic Games was approved.

Following bids from both Stuttgart, West Germany and Helsinki, Finland, the IAAF Council awarded the inaugural competition to Helsinki, to take place in 1983 and be held in the Helsinki Olympic Stadium (where the 1952 Summer Olympics were held).

Two IAAF world championship events preceded the inaugural edition of the World Championships in Athletics in 1983. The 1976 World Championships had just one event – the men's 50 kilometer's walk was dropped from the Olympic programme for the 1976 Summer Olympics and the IAAF responded by setting up their own contest. Four years later, the 1980 World Championships contained only two newly-approved women's events (400 metres hurdles and 3000 metres), neither of which featured on the programme for the 1980 Summer Olympics.



Above: German Phonocard



Above: Greece Phonocard

Over the years the competition has grown in size. In 1983 an estimated 1,300 athletes from 154 countries participated. By the 2003 competition, in Paris, it had grown to 1,907 athletes from 203 countries with coverage being transmitted to 179 different countries.

There has also been a change in the schedule over the years, with several new events, all for

women, being added. By 2005 the schedule for men and women was almost equal. The only differences being the men had the extra event of the 50 km walk, while women competed in the 100 m hurdles and heptathlon compared to the men in the 110 m hurdles and decathlon respectively.

The **2013 World Championships in Athletics** (or just **Moscow 2013**) were the fourteenth edition of the international athletics competition and were held in Moscow, Russia, from 10–18 August 2013. Russia won the most gold medals to top the table for the first time since 2001. The United States won the most overall medals. With 1974 athletes from 206 countries it was the biggest IAAF World Championships ever and the biggest single sports event of the year. The number of spectators for the evening sessions was 268,548 surpassing Daegu 2011.

Jamaica's Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce both won three gold medals in the men's and women's 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres relay respectively to become the most successful athletes at the event. This achievement also earned Bolt the title of being the most successful athlete in the history of the World Championships with eight gold and two silver medals. Prior to the competition, four sprinters were banned on doping charges.

The following list shows when new events were added for the first time.

- **1987**, women's [10,000 m](#) and [10 km walk](#) were added.
- **1993**, women's [triple jump](#) was added.
- **1995**, women's [5000 m](#) was added, replacing the 3000 m race.
- **1999**, women's [pole vault](#) and [hammer](#) were added and the women's [20 km walk](#) replaced the 10 km walk.
- **2005**, women's [3000 m steeplechase](#) was added.

IAAF Hall of Fame – 12 legends to be inducted (Nov 2013 notice)

Council approved the names of 12 athletes who will compose this year's induction into the IAAF Hall of Fame which was inaugurated last year as part of the IAAF's centenary celebrations.

The very strict minimum criteria agreed last year to select the inaugural list of 24 members – click here for 'class of 2012' – was at least 2 Olympic or World titles plus at least 1 World record. This criteria was extended for '2013 and beyond' to allow athletes whose achievements had an 'extraordinary impact on our sport' to be considered as well. All members must have been retired from the sport for a minimum of 10 years.

To keep the process as independent and as transparent as possible the athletes considered for each induction are proposed by the IAAF Hall of Fame Selection Panel which consists of 5 athletics historians, all long-standing members of the Association of Track and Field Statisticians (ATFS) including its President. The Panel is chaired by IAAF Senior Vice President Bob Hersh, who has himself been a member of the ATFS for more than 35 years.

The 24 inaugural members inducted in 2012 will be joined in 2013 by the following dozen athletes with the ceremony taking place in the Fairmont Hotel.

Harrison Dillard

Marjorie Jackson

Hannes Kolehmainen

Natalya Lisovskaya

Svetlana Masterkova

Noureddine Morceli

Parry O'Brien

Marie-José Pérec

Viktor Saneyev

Yuriy Sedykh

Daley Thompson

Grete Waitz

Of these 12 inductees Marie-José Pérec and Grete Waitz have been selected for their extraordinary impact on our sport.