



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** All relevant coaches, athletes and officials  
**From:** David Gynther, Chief Executive Officer  
**Re:** Implementation of A-grade in throws and horizontal jumps events at Queensland Athletics Shield Meets.  
**Date:** 24 January 2014

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### Background

Queensland Athletics is working to provide the best opportunities for athletes and as part of this commitment we have implemented the concept of A-grade for QA Shield Meets.

The primary motivation for defining A-grade field events is to support IAAF and AA recognised international qualification opportunities for Open, U20 (U18 in World Youth Years) and AWD athletes. The relevant events will change each year, for 2014 they are the Commonwealth Games for Open and AWD and World Junior Championships for under 20 athletes.

In order to support these athletes we must comply fully with IAAF rules; if we do not AA and IAAF will disallow qualifying performances.

There are of course a number of rules that must be satisfied, one of those rules is IAAF rule 180.5. In regard to throws and horizontal jumps, this rule allows for 6 attempts only where the field is 8 or less athletes. Where fields are greater than 8 the event organizer may allow for 4 attempts rather than the more usual 3.

There are two mechanisms that may be used to arrive at a field of 8, they may be the original selected start list, or decided by a heats and final system where all athletes have 3 or 4 attempts and the top 8 receive the additional 3 or 2 attempts respectively.

In supporting international qualification there is another important requirement, there must be a minimum of 3 athletes in the event. In the case of under 20 athletes and World Junior Qualification, in throwing events (and combined events), this is interpreted as a minimum of three athletes, U20 or younger, all using the relevant U20 implement.

It's important to note that QA Shield meets and All Comers meets are all effectively conducted as Open events. QA Championships and Regional Cup meets are conducted as age group competitions.

### QA Rule – A grade, throwing and horizontal events for all QA Shield & All comers Competitions

1. Where total entries for any throwing event or any horizontal jumping event is greater than 20, the QA Competition Manager will select, from the online nominations, 8 athletes for A-grade.

Priority will be given to Open, under 20 and AWD athletes with realistic potential to produce qualifying performances for the relevant international events. Consideration will also be given, where possible, to ensuring a minimum of three under 20 (or U18 in World Youth years) are included in the field.

Athletes selected in A-grade will receive 6 attempts as permitted by IAAF rule 180.5.

Athletes not selected in A-grade will compete in B-grade and all will receive 4 attempts.

- 2.** Where total entries for any throwing event or any horizontal jumping event is less than or equal to 20, only one event will be held. All athletes will receive 4 attempts and after the 4<sup>th</sup> round the best 8 athletes, based on distance, will receive 2 more attempts.

Where an AWD athlete achieves 95% of the required distance for the relevant international event (in 2014 the Commonwealth Games and 2015 IPC World Championships) then they will be included in the final 8. AWD athletes should make the officials at the event site aware of their target qualifying mark if this applies to them.