

07Jun93

To: Torsten Carlus

From: Rex Harvey

Subject: Weight Pentathlon

Torsten,

Thank you for your letter of 6Jun93. I share your opinion that the Weight Pentathlon needs to be conducted more in the usual WAVA Multi-Event manner. I, of course, have already, expressed this concern to Bill Taylor who pointed out several good reasons for him seeking out the Foley publication last year. Most of the reasons had to do with how busy the Age Grading and Multi-Event Sub-Committees were with the Age Grading Update and how anxious the Japanese were and the time available before the Miyazaki Championships. That time is now much shorter than it was then, so I have agreed to Bill's proposal that this Foley book be used only in Miyazaki for the semi-official exhibition event and that from then on, the permanent changes that WAVA envisions would be made and formalized in the next WAVA Handbook. In light of the reluctance of the Japanese to any last minute changes, I believe that to be the best overall solution at this point. Bill, like the rest of us, is well aware that each unofficial Weight Pentathlon; Melbourne, Eugene, and Turku have each been different with varying implements and scoring methods so one more year of non-uniformity, while not good, would not be much of a change. Roy Foley, by the way, did a fine job in a short time of putting together a fairly reasonable package for the Weight Pentathlon.

After considerable thought, and consultation with throwers, especially multi-throwers, of which I am one, here is how I envision the Weight Pentathlon after Japan.

I am not aware of a single World wide known and accepted scoring table published for all of the events in the Weight Pentathlon, I would propose that the 1985 IAAF Scoring Tables for Men's and Women's Combined Events Competitions be used. These tables, while not perfect, are at least well conceived and well known. At one time, I was under the impression that the German Scoring Tables Leichtathletik Mehrkampfwertung contained all of the events, but I have since learned that it does not contain the Heavy Weight Throw. So, since the scoring for one event must be synthesized, then we might as well do two and use the widely available 1985 IAAF Tables which already contain 3 of the 5 events (Shot, Disc, Jav.).

Before I forget it, while you are in London, will you please seek permission to include the 1985 IAAF scoring tables in our WAVA Handbook. I know that the USA National Collegiate Athletics Association Handbook contains these tables with IAAF permission so the precedence is there. My overall technical goal is that the WAVA Handbook be, as much as possible, a single source of all that is needed to conduct a Veteran's Meet including all of the Multi-events. I hope that you feel that way too.

As you know, the Foley book contains three things. First, the implement specifications which are the same as current WAVA specifications except for the M80+ age groups where the shot put and hammer weight has been reduced to 3K. This, I think,

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is good as the performance data points to the need for this reduction. These reductions will be brought up in Japan and probably will pass. There are very few arguments against them. Foley, like myself, has indicated a 400 gram javelin for the 80+ Men. The performance data certainly indicates the need for a 400 gram javelin in these ages but, with a reminder from Bill Taylor, I remembered that the 400 gram Javelin is relatively short, so short as to be a danger to some long-armed throwers who tend to be male. They easily could stab themselves in the back of the neck/head because the point of the Javelin would be behind the head in the withdrawn position. The event is dangerous enough without this. I personally would push for work with Javelin manufacturers in developing a "longer" 400 gram Javelin and submit it later for approval and full technical description in our WAVA Handbook. The heavy Weights that Foley has proposed seem reasonable and I have heard little objection to them. They also will require full technical description in the Handbook

Secondly, Foley includes age factors (which are the same as the 1989 WAVA Age Factors for all events except the Weight where he has created new factors).

Thirdly, Foley has included what I assume to be excerpts from the Leichtathletik Mehrkampfwertung scoring tables but I do not have those tables to check. In the case of the Heavy Weight, he simply re-copied the Shot Put scoring. This approximation introduces a scoring error of about 7.5 percent because of the difference in the World's Records in those two events. In other words, someone of equal Shot Put and Weight ability will score higher in the Weight which does not put equal scoring weight in both the events and therefore is not good. I have not analyzed the Mehrkampfwertung scoring overall to see if it is reasonable. I propose not to use them just because they are not widely known or available while the 1985 IAAF scoring tables are.

There is one other thing that Foley specifies that I think is wrong. He specifies 4 attempts in each of the 5 events in the Weight Pentathlon. It is a long tradition that Multi-Event Competitors get only 3 attempts. The Weight Pentathlon should follow that tradition for a couple of reasons. The three throws only are an important part of demonstrating one's mastery of the events. Four throws would encourage more recklessness in the throws which tend to be dangerous anyway. Also, it would take 25% longer to conduct the event which could quickly become a problem because indications are that the Weight Pentathlon will be an enormously popular event with large numbers of competitors.

How can the 1985 IAAF scoring tables be used to score the Hammer and the Weight when they are not included in the table? The answer lies in a simple division before looking up the score in the Tables. For instance, if a M40 throws 12 meters in the Weight, the scoring procedure would be as follows.

The 12 meters would be multiplied by the appropriate Age Factor. The proposed 1993 factor is 1.1395. $1.1395 * 12 = 13.67$ meters after rounding down. This is his theoretical performance, and should compare to what he would have thrown in prime. This theoretical performance now will be scored by looking up points in the 1985 IAAF Tables for the Shot Put. But this cannot be done directly because of the error mentioned above. So first, the 13.67 meters needs to be divided by a scoring correction factor, in this case it would be 1.075 (the ratio of the two World Records $24.84/23.12$). $13.67 / 1.075 = 12.71$ meters which is looked up in the 1985 IAAF Tables to be worth 650 points. The

scoring correction for the Hammer Throw would be should be $86.74 / 23.12$ or 3.750 . Both of these throws are corrected to the Shot Put Tables because they are both ballistic events like the Shot Put. The other throwing events like the Discus and Javelin, even though the distances are similar to the Hammer, are aerodynamic throws (the implements tend to generate lift and "fly" if thrown correctly) and the Scoring Tables do not vary the same as they do for the ballistic Shot Put which does not generate lift.

Instead of an Age Factor and a Scoring Correction Factor, they both could be combined in the Age Factor, but this does not result in the intermediate step of the Theoretical Performance which is very important to the athlete as he continually compares himself to his own former performances and to today's Open Competitors. Knowing this figure is certainly worth the one extra step of dividing required in the Hammer and the Weight.

Anticipating Implement changes and the Weight Pentathlon, the proposed 1993 Age Grading Book already includes all of the events and all of the implements.

Sorry to be so long in my opinion, but I wanted to make everything as clear as I could to you. I certainly will cooperate with whatever is decided concerning the Weight Pentathlon in Japan, and will do whatever work I can towards implementing the decision, but I certainly do not want to upset Roy Foley or the Japanese. The Weight Pentathlon is not yet an official WAVA event; yet, we are asked this time to administer it as if it were so we need some authority to go along with the responsibility. I'm sure that the Weight Pentathlon will become an official WAVA event after the General Assembly. The big question is whether to clean it up to the best of our abilities now, before Japan, or at Japan for future use.

Rex Harvey