

Canadian and World records continue to be broken by our members all over the world. However, many members are unclear about how to process a potential record. For the guidance of all Masters, we would like to provide some information regarding the rules that must be followed, in setting and obtaining credit for Canadian Masters age group records. The general aim of these rules is to protect the existing holders of Records – in other words, to ensure that records are changed only within the appropriate rules.

Rules for Canadian Records

The following are the rules applicable to the setting of Canadian records:

- 1) A Canadian Masters record can be set anywhere by a Canadian citizen resident in Canada or abroad, or a person who is, and has been for, at least two years, a permanent resident of Canada.
- 2) To set a record, the person must be the appropriate age for the age group, on the actual date of the competition. On the first day of a meet taking place over several days, the age of the athlete is determined for the entire competition, for age grouping and medals. However, the actual age on the date of competition is used for record purposes, so an athlete who changes age group during the meet can later set an age group record in the new age group (provided the event specifications (distances, weights or heights, for example) are the same). In an event which takes place over more than one day, such as a Decathlon or Pentathlon, the age on the first date of the event is used for record purposes. Therefore, on any registration for an event, and on any record application form, it is important for the athlete to indicate the day, month and year of birth, and not just his or her age.
- 3) If an athlete has not previously set a Canadian Masters record, and has not provided the CMAA with a copy of his or her birth certificate or passport, a copy must be provided to the applicable CMAA Records Chair, when claiming a record.
- 4) Membership in the CMAA is not necessary, in order to set a Canadian Masters record.
- 5) Being a citizen of another country, or a member of a Masters organization in another country, does not disqualify an athlete from setting a Canadian Masters record.
- 6) Except for records set at the events referred to in items 8 and 9 below, it is the responsibility of an athlete who believes that he or she has set a Canadian Masters record, to have the correct record application form completed and signed, and sent to the applicable CMAA Records Chair, as identified on the record application form.
- 7) All Canadian Masters records must be reviewed and recommended by the applicable CMAA Records Chairs, who will forward them to the Executive of the CMAA, which must approve all record applications.
- 8) Canadian Masters records set at the following events will be automatically accepted by the applicable CMAA Records Chair, without any documentation being required, other than the reporting of results:
 - a) WMA Championship events, Indoor or Outdoor, including Non Stadia;
 - b) NCCWMA Championship events, Outdoor, including Non Stadia;
 - c) CMAA Championships, Indoor or Outdoor, including Non Stadia; and
 - d) all USATF National Masters Championships, Indoor or Outdoor.
- 9) Canadian Masters records set at the following events will be accepted without any documentation being required, other than the reporting of results (and possibly the proof of age, as indicated in 3 above), provided that they are brought to the attention of the applicable CMAA Records Chair:
 - a) Olympic Games;
 - b) IAAF World Championships;
 - c) Athletics Canada Championships;
 - d) Commonwealth Games; and
 - e) Pan-American Games.
- 10) The following are the main detailed requirements for setting Canadian Masters Track & Field records:
 - a) All Track & Field events must be held to WMA specifications (i.e., implements must be weighed, proper hurdle heights used, three judges for Racewalks, etc.);
 - b) Photo timing is required for performances on the track in sprint events up to and including the 400m;
 - c) Three watches are required on an individual athlete for other track events, if there is no photo timing; and
 - d) Intermediate distances may be considered for records (i.e., the 1500m mark in a 5000m race), provided that appropriate timing is carried out for the shorter distance, as would normally be done at the finish.
- 11) The following are some of the detailed requirements for setting Canadian Masters Road Race “records”:
 - a) Records for Road Races are not kept with the same degree of precision as with Track records, because of differences in courses, and we therefore refer to them as “Road Bests”, rather than “records”. For this reason, the Road Best is rounded up to the next full second.
 - b) This difference is also reflected in the Race Director’s certification on the Road Best application form, which says only that he or she believes that the timing was accurate, and correctly attributed to the athlete, a lower standard than that used for track events. As well, only one time is required, but we provide space for a backup time, if available.
 - c) In events where chip timing is used, only the gun time is considered for records.
 - d) A Road Best will be considered an “aided” performance if: i) the elevation of the finish is lower than the start by more than 1 metre per 1,000 metres of race distance; or ii) there is a factored average tail wind of greater than 2 metres per second, where the distance between the start and the finish is greater than 10% of the race distance. Any such Road Bests will be recognized as aided, and will be noted as such. They will not replace an inferior unaided record.
 - e) An intermediate point in a longer race may be used for record purposes for a shorter distance, provided that such intermediate distance has been separately measured and certified, and the appropriate timing is carried out at such distance, as would normally be done at the finish. Records can’t be accepted based on the athlete’s own timing, or an uncertified measurement of the distance.

12) Canadian Record application forms, which are published on this web site, can also be found in the annual Record Book produced by the CMAA, and can be obtained from Brian Keaveney (masters@sympatico.ca). The Record Book will be updated and published annually.

Certain Procedures for World Records

1) Despite Canadian rules 8 and 9 above, Canadians setting World Masters records require the appropriate World Masters Athletics (“WMA”) Record form (also included on this web site and in the Record Book) to support their World record, as well as a photo finish picture, if applicable, unless the record has been set at: a WMA or Regional Championship event (which would include NCCWMA); the Olympic Games; the IAAF World Championships; Grand Prix Meets; the Commonwealth Games; and equivalent regional meets, such as the Pan-American Games; all subject to the provision of results and the confirmation of age, to the WMA Records Manager.

2) Canadians should forward the documentation for a World record to the applicable CMAA Records Chair. The CMAA will ratify a Canadian Record, and send the forms on to the WMA Regional Records Coordinator for World Record ratification.

3) It is recommended that any Canadian who forwards an application for a World Record keep a photocopy of the application and any attachments, in order to be able to follow up, in case the application isn’t received and processed by the WMA Records Manager. As well, when the application has been sent to the appropriate CMAA Records Chair, the athlete should email the WMA Records Manager (spashkin@aol.com), indicating the record which was broken, and the person to whom the documentation has been forwarded.

4) The WMA records forms can also be found at the National Masters News website at: nationalmastersnews.com/record_application.

5) New World Records will be noted on the WMA website by Sandy Pashkin, the WMA Records Manager, after the paperwork has been checked (www.world-masters-athletics.org).

6) The National Masters News publishes the WMA Outdoor Records once per year, just before outdoor season, and the WMA Indoor Records are published in the indoor season.

Not everyone can break a record, but it is nice to have your record in print for all to see. However, remember that records take time to be ratified, even if your paperwork has been received, and even longer if the forms haven’t been completed properly. Please keep a set of record application forms with you when you go to meets and insist that the forms be completed before you leave the competition.