

Track and Field



Decathlon: the World Records



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Fluctuating Progression

Since the first world record of the decathlon was recorded in 1922, the table of figures quoted for the events has been altered three times.

The last adjustment was made principally to make allowance for the introduction of glass fibre vaulting poles.

When applied to winners of events which took place before World War II, the 1962 table put certain record-holders at a disadvantage to others, which explains the fluctuating chronological progression of the world record.

The first world record to be drawn up was only in 1922. At the 1912 Olympic Games however, according to the 1962 table, American Jim Thorpe had already won a total of 6756 points. Jim Thorpe was subsequently disqualified for being professional. He remained nonetheless the first great specialist athlete in the history of the decathlon, since it was not until 1927 that we saw Paavo Yrjola improve on his performance and then by only 6 points.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD RECORD

100 m	Long jump	Shot put	High jump	400 m	110 m hurdles	Discus	Pole vaulting	Javelin	1,500 m
6,270 pts: Alexandre Klumberg (Estonia), 16-17 Sept. 1922, Helsinki									
12.3	6.59 m	12.92 m	1.75 m	55.0	17.0	39.64 m	3.40 m	62.20 m	5:11.3
6,668 pts: Harold Osborne (USA), 11-12 July 1924, Paris									
11.2	6.92 m	11.43 m	1.97 m	53.2	16.0	34.51 m	3.50 m	46.69 m	4:50.0
6,651 pts: Paavo Yrjola (FIN), 17-18 July 1926, Viipuri									
11.8	6.54 m	13.97 m	1.85 m	52.4	16.9	37.31 m	3.30 m	56.70 m	4:41.1
6,768 pts: Paavo Yrjola (FIN), 16-17 July 1927, Helsinki									
11.7	6.73 m	14.27 m	1.85 m	52.8	16.8	40.76 m	3.20 m	57.40 m	4:41.8
6,774 pts: Paavo Yrjola (FIN), 3-4 Aug. 1928, Amsterdam									
11.8	6.72 m	14.11 m	1.87 m	53.2	16.6	42.09 m	3.30 m	55.70 m	4:44.0
7,036 pts: Akilles Jaervinen (FIN), 19-20 July 1930, Viipuri									
11.1	6.89 m	13.14 m	1.80 m	50.0	15.4	36.47 m	3.60 m	58.15 m	4:54.2
6,896 pts: James Bausch (USA), 5-6 Aug. 1932, Los Angeles									
11.7	6.95 m	15.32 m	1.70 m	54.2	16.2	44.58 m	4.00 m	61.91 m	5:17.0
6,999 pts: Hans-Heinrich Sievert (ALL), 22-23 July 1933, Hamburg									
11.4	7.09 m	14.55 m	1.83 m	54.0	16.2	46.66 m	3.40 m	59.58 m	4:59.8
7,292 pts: Hans-Heinrich Sievert (ALL), 7-8 July 1934, Hamburg									
11.1	7.48 m	15.31 m	1.80 m	52.2	15.8	47.23 m	3.43 m	58.32 m	4:58.8
7421 pts: Glenn Morris (USA), 7-8 Aug. 1936, Berlin									
11.1	6.97 m	14.10 m	1.85 m	49.4	14.9	43.02 m	3.50 m	54.52 m	4:33.2

H. H. Sievert was the first to break through the 7,000-point barrier