

Track and Field



The High Jump



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Stepanov's Shoe

Among the outstanding performances in the official history of the world high jump record, the 2.16 m achieved by the Russian Yuri Stepanov in 1957 ought perhaps not to have been recognized. This height was cleared by a jumper whose take-off foot was shod in a particular way: with a sole thicker than the heel, Stepanov benefited from a sort of trampoline. His performance was nevertheless recognized as a world record. But shoes with built up soles were subsequently forbidden.

Since 1958 it is in fact stipulated in the competition rules that the competitors are not authorized to wear shoes with a spring or a device of any kind, or soles of which the total thickness, including the tread or protuberances, exceeds 13 mm. In addition, the thickness of the heel must not be more than 6 mm thicker than the sole (the only exception allowed is for walkers).

One performance of great worth does not figure, on the other hand, in the list of world records: the 2.29 m jump achieved by Ni Chih-Chin on 8 November 1970 at Chang-Cha.

Chih-Chin had achieved his feat in normal

conditions, but, as the People's Republic of China was not a member of the International Athletics Federation, the record was not recognized.

HISTORY OF THE WORLD RECORD

2.00 m	G. Horine	USA	May 18,	1912
2.01 m	E. Beeson	USA	May 2,	1914
2.03 m	H. Osborn	USA	May 25,	1924
2.04 m	W. Marty	USA	May 13,	1933
2.06 m	W. Marty	USA	April 28,	1934
2.07 m	C. Johnson	USA	July 12,	1936
2.07 m	D. Albritton	USA	July 12,	1936
2.09 m	M. Walker	USA	Aug. 12,	1937
2.11 m	L. Steers	USA	June 17,	1941
2.12 m	W. Davis	USA	June 27,	1953
2.15 m	C. Dumas	USA	June 29,	1956
2.16 m	Y. Stepanov	USSR	July 13,	1957
2.17 m	J. Thomas	USA	April 30,	1960
2.17 m	J. Thomas	USA	May 21,	1960
2.18 m	J. Thomas	USA	June 24,	1960
2.22 m	J. Thomas	USA	July 1,	1960
2.23 m	V. Brumel	USSR	June 18,	1961
2.24 m	V. Brumel	USSR	July 16,	1961
2.25 m	V. Brumel	USSR	Aug. 31,	1961
2.26 m	V. Brumel	USSR	July 22,	1962
2.27 m	V. Brumel	USSR	Sept. 29,	1962
2.28 m	V. Brumel	USSR	July 21,	1963
2.29 m	P. Matzdorf	USA	July 3,	1971
2.30 m	D. Stones	USA	July 11,	1973
2.31 m	D. Stones	USA	June 5,	1976
2.32 m	D. Stones	USA	Aug. 4,	1976
2.33 m	V. Yaschenko	USSR	July 4,	1977
2.35 m	V. Yaschenko	USSR	March 12,	1978