

# Track and Field



*The Women's 100 m*



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### The 11-Seconds 'Barriers'

It was only in 1934 that the first women's 100-meter world record was officially recognized, although it had been part of the Olympic Games program since 1928. This explains why the American Elizabeth Robinson's 12.2 sec in 1928 and the 11.9 sec registered by Stanislaw Walasiewicz of Poland in 1932 only count as Olympic records. Other performances by women Olympic champions have not been confirmed because they were achieved with favorable wind conditions stronger than the official limit. A notable example was the 11 sec of the 'black gazelle', American Wilma Rudolph, in Rome in 1960.

In Mexico in 1968 Irena Szewinska of Poland equalled the world record in both semi-final and the final, with 11.1 seconds. However victory fell to the American Wyomia Tyus who beat the record in 11.07 seconds. Her performance, equalled six times then beaten twice, became the first world record to be measured by electric chronometer after the IAF decided to set up two records tables—measured by hand and by electric time-keeping. Two East German girls share the honor of being the first to smash the 11-sec-

onds barrier: Renate Stecher timed by hand, and the young Marlies Ölsner (now Goehr) by electric chronometer. In 1977 the IAF decided that only electrically-timed sprint races were eligible for world records.

#### THE WORLD 100-M RECORD (WOMEN)

##### Hand timing

11.7	S. Walasiewicz	POL	26 Aug 1934
11.6	S. Walasiewicz	POL	1 Aug 1937
11.5	F. Blankers-Koen	NEL	13 June 1948
11.5	M. Jackson	AUS	22 July 1952
11.4	M. Jackson	AUS	4 Oct 1952
11.3	S. de la Hunty	AUS	4 Aug 1955
11.3	V. Krepkina	USSR	13 Sep 1958
11.3	W. Rudolph	USA	2 Oct 1960
11.2	W. Rudolph	USA	19 July 1961
11.2	W. Tyus	USA	15 Oct 1964
11.1	I. Kirszenstein	POL	9 July 1965
11.1	W. Tyus	USA	31 July 1965
11.1	B. Ferrell	USA	2 July 1967
11.1	L. Samotésova	USSR	15 Aug 1968
11.1	I. Szewinska-Kirszenstein	POL	14 Oct 1968
11.0	W. Tyus	USA	15 Oct 1968
11.0	C. Cheng	FOR	18 July 1970
11.0	R. Stecher	EGE	2 Aug 1970
11.0	R. Stecher	EGE	31 July 1971
11.0	R. Stecher	EGE	3 June 1972
11.0	E. Strophal	EGE	15 June 1972
11.0	E. Gleskova	CZE	1 July 1972
10.9	R. Stecher	EGE	7 June 1973
10.8	R. Stecher	EGE	20 July 1973
10.8	A. Richter	WGE	27 June 1976

##### Electric timing

11.07	W. Tyus	USA	15 Oct 1968
11.07	R. Stecher	EGE	2 Sep 1972
11.04	I. Helten	WGE	14 June 1976
11.01	A. Richter	WGE	25 July 1976
11.88	M. Ölsner	EGE	1 July 1977

*Renate Stecher: power at the service of speed*