

### **CHANGES TO THE RULES REGARDING IMPLEMENTS STRIKING THE CAGE (TR 32.13.4)**

1. World Athletics amended the rules relating to implements striking the cage or gates in Hammer and Discus from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.
2. The logic, we are given to believe is that in the Discus in particular, the implement can describe a parabola, which would take its trajectory outside the sector line in the air, before landing legally within the sector lines. If in doing so, it strikes the right-hand side of the cage for a right-hand thrower, it will actually land shorter. Thus the athlete has gained no advantage.
3. However, an implement which strikes the left side of the cage (for a right-handed thrower) would nearly always have landed outside the sector, had it not struck the cage.
4. In the Hammer Throw, it is the head of the hammer striking the “closed” gate which constitutes a foul, not the wire or handle.
5. The rule also refers to the “limits” of the cage, which are illustrated in the two diagrams which follow. This is important because any implement which strikes either gate and rebounds *towards* the circle, would constitute a foul.
6. In many situations, where a concrete apron surrounds the cage as far out as the gates, it would be impossible to accurately mark the landing point of an implement anyway.
7. Where grass comes right up to the front edge of the circle or covers part of the sector within the cage limits, there is actually nothing in the rules which precludes a “clean” throw, which makes a visible mark, being measured. The practice of “having a go for a point” in some leagues means that this situation very occasionally happens. It is a practice which does little justice to the event and should be deterred.

In discussing this rule change by World Athletics both the UKA Rules Group and the Technical Advisory Group were aware of the concerns expressed by some coaches, particularly with reference to younger athletes. However, after lengthy consideration, both determined that, on balance, having variations to the rule would only cause confusion.

The actual wording of the rule is as follows:

#### **TR 32.14.4**

**Note (i)** *It shall be considered a failure if the discus or the head of the hammer strikes the far side of the cage (left side for a right-handed thrower when facing the sector or the right side for a left-handed thrower whilst facing the sector) after the release of the implement.*



**Note (ii)** *It will not be considered a failure if the discus or any part of the hammer strikes the near side of the cage (right side for a right-handed thrower when facing the landing sector or the left side for a left-handed thrower when facing the sector) after the release of the implement, then lands within the landing sector outside the limits of the cage, provided that no other Rule is infringed, including Rule 32.10 of the Technical Rules.*

Two diagrams, supplied by World Athletics follow on pages 3 and 4:



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# DISCUS: RIGHT HANDED THROWER

## FAR SIDE

## NEAR SIDE

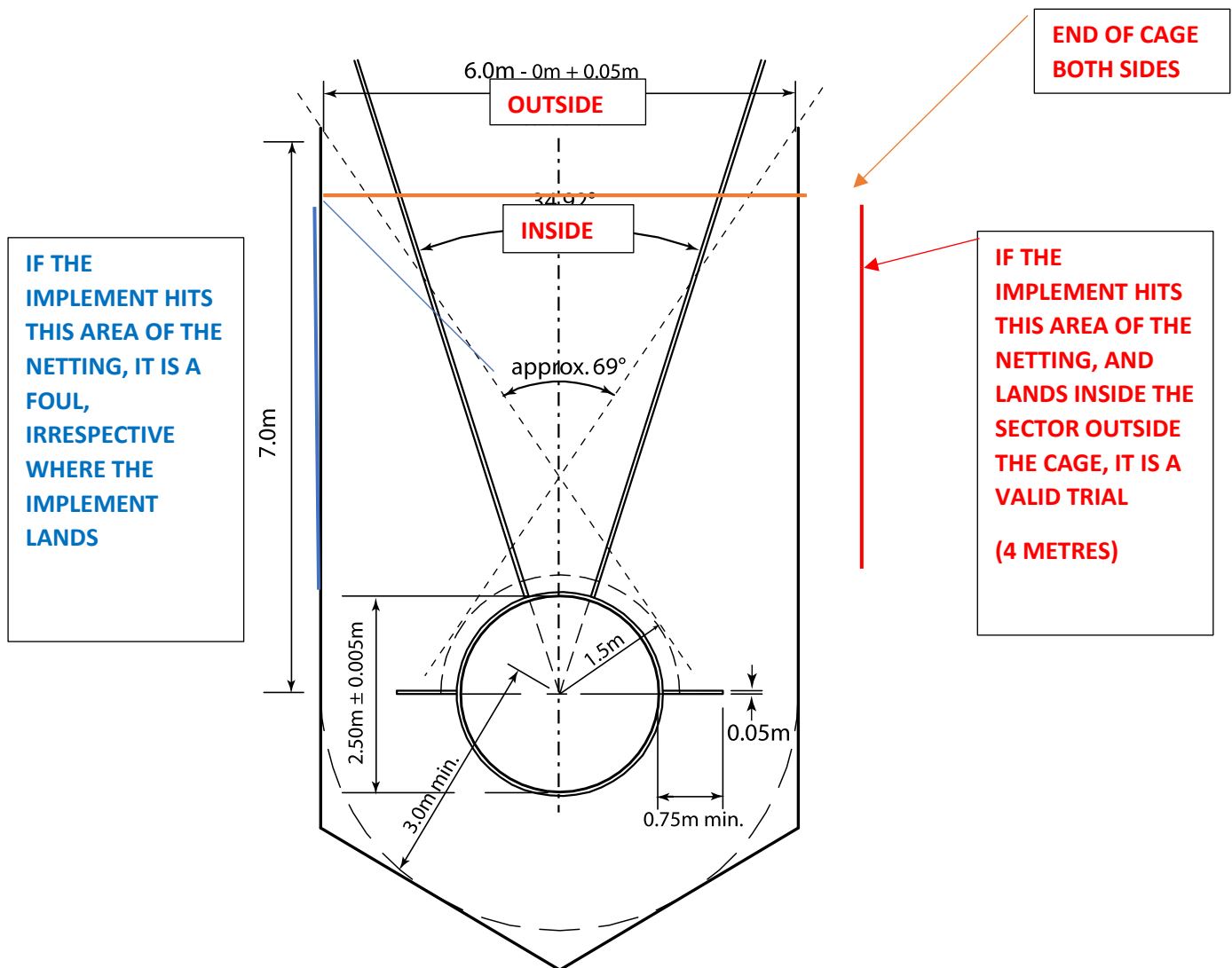


Figure TR35 (Rule 190) - Cage for Discus Throw only (with cage dimensions to netting)

TR35 (190)

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### Rule 32.14:

*Note: It will not be considered a failure if the discus or any part of the hammer strikes the near side of the cage (right for a right-handed thrower) after the release of the implement, then lands within the landing sector outside the cage, provided that no other Rule is infringed.*

