

WORLD YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The IAAF U18 World Youth Championships in Athletics, known until 2015 as the IAAF World Youth Championships, were a global event for athletes aged 17 and under (youth = U18). The competition was renamed the IAAF World U18 Championships in November 2015, although ultimately only the 2017 competition used this title.
The event, organized by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), was held every two years from 1999 to 2017 (10 editions).

At the 206th meeting of the IAAF Council, held on August 20, 2016, in Rio de Janeiro after the Olympics, the Council decided to conclude the U18 World Championships after the 2017 event. This decision was made with the aim of improving U18 competitions at the continental level.

The race walking events have been held in all 10 editions. For boys, the 10,000m track walk distance was held, while for girls, the 5,000-m track walk distance was held.

The race with the highest number of starters for both boys and girls was the one in Cali (Col). 41 athletes representing 27 nations competed in the boys' race, while 35 athletes from 22 countries participated in the girls' race.
Noteworthy is the high number of abandons in the 2013 race in Donetsk, where 10 of the 40 starters did not finish. Three boys were also stopped for improper walking in the same race.

The best performances in the 10 editions were by two Russian athletes. In the boys' race, Pavel Parshin strode in Lille, France, in 2011 in 40:51.31.
In the girls' race, Tatyana Kalmykova won in Ostrava, Czech Republic, in 2007 in a time of 20:28.05. It's worth noting that the same athlete also won the 2005 edition held in Marrakech, Morocco, at the age of 15 years and 180 days.

The championship medal table was clearly dominated by Russia, with 7 golds, 6 silvers, and 1 bronze in the boys' race and 6 golds, 4 silvers, and 3 bronze in the girls' race. Japan and China followed at a considerable distance in the boys' race, and China and Ireland in the girls' race.