

JEFFERSON PÉREZ			
1	Olympic Games	1996	Atlanta
1	World Championships	2003	Paris
1	World Championships	2005	Helsinki
1	World Championships	2007	Osaka
2	World Championships	1999	Sevilla

Questions:

1) Race walking is undergoing a transformation compared to traditional running distances. What is your opinion on this standardization of running and walking distances with the introduction of the marathon and half marathon race walking distances?

Breaking down the traditional distances of race walking is somewhat contradictory to what is happening in the world with increasingly longer races, some even lasting several days, especially in trail running. However, on the other hand, it will give the world the opportunity to see more clearly the speed that race walkers achieve, even surpassing a large majority of mass runners at those distances. This could lead to greater awareness of the value of the effort and quality of race walkers worldwide, by comparing times over the same distance in running and walking.

2) Do you have memories of a specific period in world race walking. What would you like to convey about that world to young people and current enthusiasts?

The era I've most admired is the 1980s generation. I believe a training mechanism was established that emphasized the participants' determination. However, I can't deny that at the beginning of the 21st century, technology and research are more accessible to participants, thanks to internet access, and today, AI allows us to make considerable improvements in analysis.
That sport is a fundamental part of people's overall development, and race walking, in particular, is a discipline where the outcome is still largely determined by the individual, their effort, and their work, unlike other sports where attendance can determine the result.

3) Race walking is performance, but also, and above all, technical identity. What do you think should be done to improve understanding and identification of the discipline, and to ensure fairness of judgment?

The most important thing is to be able to share experiences from race walkers who, over time, have demonstrated that it is possible to maintain speed while adhering to the rules. On the other hand, all perception-based events will always be considered for analysis by experts who, with greater training, can have clarity in their role.

4) Do you think that the current courses, mostly reduced to 1000-meter laps, improve the spectacle and understanding of the race, or would slightly longer courses help spectators better understand the event?

In the current racecourses, the public can see more participants or more frequently; however, each time an athlete is overtaken, spectators tend to be confused about who is leading the competition. There are other sports where, in elimination races, the last participant to be overtaken is eliminated.

5) You are a symbol of the history of the discipline, a legend of race walking. How would you describe your love and passion for this discipline?

It is an event that allows us to channel the values that today's population needs to focus on more, factors such as determination, solidarity, courage, among other qualities that this discipline helps us develop in real-world practice. And it goes beyond the sporting period; it allows us to integrate into a society with stronger values.

6) Do you think the current evaluation system is understandable and reflects the values of the discipline?

I understand this refers to the officiating system. I think that, like all sports, the need for referees is fundamental to ensuring compliance with the rules. However, the judgment of many of them is what makes us think about how to improve. I've noticed that several athletes are "warned" for violating technical rules, but these violations aren't always reported. It's like in a soccer match where the referee constantly approaches the players and threatens to give them a card but then doesn't. The issue isn't whether to give a card, but whether or not the rule is being followed and whether the player should be cautioned, without "threats."