# Slackline World Records and World Firsts

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Author: Thomas Buckingham, Jonas Umlauft, Giada Regoli, Faye Chen (陈菲)
Review: Andrew Goodwin, Sarah Gmeiner

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# Introduction

Slackline records and firsts are the pinnacle of sportive achievements for athletes within the sport of slacklining with its variations and disciplines. Next to slackline competitions and rankings, they are a parallel way of an unique documented international achievement.

The following document defines the minimum framework to set an International Slackline Association (ISA) approved slackline world record. The verification and communication of records is a free service provided by the ISA to the community and the athletes, based fully on voluntary work.

Guinness World Records.  is consulting the ISA as an official body, but is a private, independent organisation. The ISA has little influence on the Guinness acceptance process, including the time it takes for Guinness to publish a record.

From a broad perspective, slackline records are one way in which athletes push the limits of human capability and gear safety. Although the ISA recognizes this as an important component of the sport, we also aim to maintain safety during a record attempt by not requiring unnecessary risks. Thus, we provide clear details around the process.

The sport commission is the responsible regulatory body within the ISA. While we define a framework for records, we try to keep strict definitions to a minimum. This has led us to have a primary focus of laying a fair baseline for people who are trying to break a record. Historical world record attempts have shown that records have to be assessed case-by-case pragmatically. This is in part due to variances that can not be defined strictly in such a framework. This flexibility has proven to allow for innovation within the defined categories, and has also resulted in the creation of new record categories.

# Why tracking slackline records?

Tracking world records and world firsts has proven to be relevant since the origin of slacklining in the 1980s, and the larger emergence of the sport around 2005:

1. Visibility and growth of the sport, expanding public awareness

- Records and extraordinary achievements are amongst the most important positive communication vehicles within the community, but also attract media attention (outside the community), bringing slacklining into the spotlight.
- This exposure can draw in new participants, sponsors, and event organizers, helping the sport grow healthily.

2. Pushing the limits of human capability

- In any sport, world records define the boundaries of what is humanly and technically possible.
- In slacklining, records inspire a small group of athletes to push themselves further, these boundaries have an influence on many other aspects within the sport as a whole.

3. Sponsorships and professionalization

- Breaking a record can be a large credential for an athlete, attracting sponsorships, and further professionalizing the sport at the highest level.

4. Inspiration and community engagement

- Records inspire the broader community and create a shared sense of achievement.
- Even non-competitive slackliners find motivation and awe in seeing what's possible, whether it's crossing a 2 km highline or landing a never-before-seen trick.

5. Scientific and technical advancements

- Breaking records often has led to innovations in gear (lighter and stronger webbings, tensioning systems, rigging techniques, lighter highline signalisation solutions, etc).
- Understanding human balance, fear management, and endurance in extreme conditions contributes to sports science.

In short, superlatives in slacklining serve as a **marketing tool, a performance benchmark, an inspiration source, and a driver for technical progress**—all of which are crucial for the development of a niche sport such as slacklining.

This framework is needed to keep the records comparable and fair.

The ISA also strongly discourages all high-risk attempts which are threatening the athlete's life, the crew, spectators or are harming nature. Therefore, in particular records for unleashed highlines, length and height (colloquially referred to as a "free solo") are not documented nor communicated by the ISA due to risk considerations.

While this document provides guidelines, the ISA Sport Commission is the final deciding body for the acceptance of a world record & world first.

The ISA tries to communicate all records on its website and social media channels. A database and a Tableau graph of records is kept, which can be viewed online. Athletes also have access to a personalised World Record Certificate for download.

# Definitions

The ISA is only concerned with **world** records & **world** firsts. Continental and national records or firsts are not subject to this framework and not recorded or documented by the ISA. Your national governing entity would be the applicable entity to record and document national records.
The ISA keeps track separately of male and female world records and worlds first. The titles are accordingly “Men’s World Record” and “Women’s World Record” and accordingly for world firsts. For records or firsts with multiple athletes involved (e.g. tandem), there is female, male and mixed.
The ISA will not consider different records / firsts for different webbing materials. Historically there have been different records claimed for different material of the webbing. However, as today’s line often work with connection of different webbings/material, this has become less relevant. Finding the best material for an achievement will be part of the strive for records or firsts. Therefore these categories are discontinued.

## Records vs Firsts

World firsts are not the same as world records, while the first backflip feet to feet on a slackline is an impressive trick, it can only be beaten by a double, triple or quadruple feet to feet. There is a clear limit to this, when using comparable gear (in this case a typical trickline) - at a certain point it is clearly not breakable. Therefore remarkable tricks are referred to as “Firsts” and not “Records”. The ISA keeps a limited list of remarkable and important “Firsts” most notably in Freestyle Tricklining and Freestyle Highlining but also in other variations of slacklining such as tricks in rodeolining. There are other options for tricks to become world records, an example would be the most back to back front flips on a trickline.

## Criteria for World Records

The following requirements are the minimum to set a slackline world record. As there is often ambiguity in the definition, please contact the ISA at records@slacklineinternational.org before you attempt the record to clarify the details and prepare communication.

A slackline world record needs to be:

1. **measurable:** A single, quantitative, objective metric must exist which makes attempts comparable i.e. fastest, longest, highest/deepest, longest duration, most, etc. (e.g. *highest & longest highline* is not a single metric is therefore rejected.)
2. **standardisable:** For each record, there are certain definitions set by the ISA that each record attempt must adhere to (e.g. what a *send* is, when the time starts for fastest run, etc.).

3. **breakable:** Anyone must generally be able to break the record ("*Tallest person* to send a 1km line" obviously excludes a larger faction of the world population). External constraints must also allow to break this record (see also records vs. firsts below)
4. **significant & separable**: The new record mark needs to be a measurable but also a significant increase to the previous mark. New categories with minor variations (e.g. sitting vs standing start in speedlining, 60m vs 65m fastest run, etc.) are excluded from being a separate world record.
5. **challenged:** Singular achievements from individuals can not be considered a relevant record, if there is no interest in breaking them by anyone else. There needs to be at least a couple people and different projects who challenge and try to beat the record beyond a challenging minimum standard.
6. **verifiable:** Every record requires solid documentation to verify it. The type of documentation depends on the record, further details see below.
7. **claimed:** The ISA will not reach out to individuals to start the record validation process. If a record attempt has been made, the athlete or people affiliated with the record must reach out to the ISA to claim the record.

New record categories should only be created when they represent a meaningful and clearly distinguishable achievement. The fact that different record types, disciplines, or subcategories can be combined does not automatically justify creating a separate World Record.
Equal performance also counts as the World Record so the record is shared.

## Status of a World Record Category

Categories of World Records can have three stati:

1) **Active:** The best performance in this category is considered the *World Record*. New submissions are accepted, once approved the new performance becomes the *World Record*. The former performance becomes the *Former World Record.*
2) **Unchallenged:** A new category is typically started by one individual submitting an achievement, however this does not meet Criteria 5) as it has not been challenged. It is therefore not a world record (yet). The ISA publishes these achievements to encourage other athletes to challenge it and to make it transparent that all other criteria are fulfilled. Once this initial record is beaten and accepted the category becomes a World Record category. Then, the initially submitted achievement is considered a *Former World Record*. The beating submission becomes the *World Record*.
3) **Archived:** Categories which were tracked in the past for historical reason, but are not of any further relevance (e.g. different webbing longlines) OR are not breakable any further due to missing external settings are considered as archived. No new

submissions are accepted. The best performance in this category is considered a *Historical World Record*. All beaten performances are *Former World Records.*

## Record Definitions

### A highline "send"[1]

A highline send is defined as walking the entire length of the line (except for the no-fall zones) in any direction continuously, without falling, sitting, or touching the line with any part of the body other than the feet with a controlled finish.

### A longline "send"

Like a highline send, but no no-fall zones exist, thus the athlete has to walk from end to end on the line (i.e. from weblock to sewn loop).

### No-fall zones

For the safety of the athlete, a highline typically has *no-fall zone*s in the beginning and in the end of a line in which a leash fall is dangerous typically due to insufficient clearing to the ground. If this no-fall zone is unnecessarily long, the line was not rigged in the correct spot and the ISA may void the record attempt.

### Line length for send

The documented length for the send of a line will always be the length of a straight line (from anchor to anchor) without adding extra length through sag or subtracting the no-fall zones. So it is independent of the actual distance walked by the athlete on this line, as it is not properly measurable.

### Controlled finish

For a send, the athlete has to finish the walk by sitting down or with a controlled catch. A leash-fall would void the record attempt, even a deliberate one.[2]

### Line height

The documented height of a line is measured by taking the height from the lower of the two anchors, to the lowest point of earth/water below the straight line between the anchors.

### Urban Highline

A minimum of 80% of the line's length needs to be installed over urban landscape. The reason for differentiating urban records from the rest is the difficulty of getting permissions and rigging within urban areas. This is a historic record category.

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[1] In contrast to sends, 'crossings' of lines (walks with falls or catches) are not recorded by the ISA.

[2] Historically, records have been accepted without controlled finish and won't be revoked, but new records are not accepted anymore.

### Waterlines

In order for waterline records to be considered legitimate, a minimum of 80% of the line's length needs to be installed over a body of water. The line should not be rigged unnecessarily high above the water, when leash-falling in the middle of this line, the athlete should potentially touch the water. Similar to highlines, the athlete is leashed and the line has a backup.[3]

### Humanline

A line that is on both sides purely held and tensioned by human force.

### Naming conventions on lines

The type of line (waterline, longline, highline, etc.) is typically specified with each records. However, for certain records the skill needed is too similar. Then a distinction is not made and the record name just uses “line”.

### A highline “run” (aka Speedline)

The distance is marked on the line with flags. For the start, the athlete must have his full body behind the starting flag, the time stops once he touches the finish flag. The athlete may leashfall during the run. The total length of the line is not directly considered but must be appropriate for the running distance, e.g. 100m run on 1km line is not considered as appropriate.

## Criteria for World Firsts

1. **Innovative, Iconic, Creative, and Unique:** A World First must introduce something fundamentally new to the sport. It should be visually striking or conceptually groundbreaking - something that captures attention and expands the possibilities of slacklining. Creativity plays a role: The trick should demonstrate original thinking and not simply be an incremental change to an existing trick.
2. **Distinctive from existing Tricks:** The trick should stand apart from what has been done before. A minor variation of an existing move is not enough—it should feel like a new category or a distinct evolution. If a trick is too similar to an existing one (e.g., just a different grab or foot placement), it may be seen as a variation rather than World First. It should have a clear identity and name, helping it gain recognition and influence.
3. **Requires Advanced Skill, Technique, or Control:** A World First shouldn’t be achievable by a beginner or intermediate athlete; it must demand a high level of

[3] Historically, waterline records were unleashed and without backup and no no-falls zones, however, due to the involved risks, this definition is discontinued.

mastery in the sport. The execution must demonstrate precise technique, timing, and body control - whether it's a novel flip, spin, movement, or transition.

4. **Represents a Significant Leap Forward:** The trick should push the boundaries of what is possible in slacklining. It should inspire future athletes to build upon it or rethink what they believe is achievable. The first time it is landed, it should feel like a moment of progress for the sport - not just for the individual athlete, but for the slacklining community as a whole.
5. **Claimed:** The ISA will not reach out to individuals to start the World First validation process. If a new World First has been achieved, it is the Athletes responsibility to submit it.

### World Firsts Definitions

The ISA considers tricks in four different categories of World Firsts.

1. Trickline
2. Highline Freestyle
3. Rodeoline
4. Static

Notes:

- Only singular tricks are considered, no combos.
- The athlete must be in full control at initiation and termination of the trick and it must be intended as such.
- The cleanliness of execution is not decisive
- It does not matter if it was landed in training or competition, but there must be sufficient evidence and documentation.

#### Control at termination in Trickline Freestyle

The athlete must not fall of the line and control the dynamics, but can use a safety chest or butt bounce to save it.

#### Control at termination in Highline Freestyle

The athlete demonstrates full control by keeping the final position for a total of 3 bounces. No "saving tricks" (e.g. Yoda, Rocket, etc. ) are allowed.

## Documentation

Slackline world records have to be documented by the highest standards available and feasible for the specific record type. Below are given recommendations for the most prominent groups of records, and should be transferred to not-listed record categories.

Acceptance always remains a case-by-case decision of the ISA Sport Commission; these recommendations do not guarantee approval.

| Record group | Recommended evidence | Verification focus |
|---|---|---|
| Length records | • documented laser measurement anchor-to-anchor distance<br>• GPS coordinates and satellite image of anchor positions<br>• GPS track<br>• non-stop video<br>• witness statements | • length of the line<br>• criteria for sent fulfilled |
| Endurance records | • measurement of walkable length<br>• Auditable count of completed labs<br>• GPS track<br>• non-stop video (also showing a clock)<br>• witness statements | • total distance walked |
| Speed records | • documented measurement of flag-to-flag distance<br>• video showing correct start (including audio start signal)<br>• video showing the finish (including audio start signal)<br>• original electronic timing output<br>• witness statements | • course distance<br>• no false start<br>• time to finish |
| Special conditions (e.g. blindfolded) | Evidence for the underlying metric (length, distance, duration or speed, see above), plus video and witness documentation of compliance with the special condition. | Show that the condition was maintained throughout the relevant attempt; |
| World firsts | • non-stop video<br>• witness statements | • Control at termination<br>• distinctions from earlier tricks. |

## Ethics of records

There have been fair play violations within the realm of slackline world records. There also have been several invalidated record attempts - these attempts were void because the attempt did not adhere to ISA standards. With this framework the baseline has been laid out for future records. Besides these the ISA Code of Conduct applies as well.

Slacklining is built on respect—respect for nature, for safety, for each other, and for the progression of the sport. Athletes are ambassadors of this unique sport. These guidelines serve as a shared foundation for ethical behavior when attempting slackline world records.

Respect for Nature and Public Spaces

- Follow **Leave No Trace** principles: protect natural environments, avoid damage of any kind.
- Respect landowners, local regulations, and access restrictions.
- Educate and lead by example to ensure continued access for future slackliners.

Safety and Responsibility

- Prioritize safety—use proper equipment, don't compromise on the setup.
- Take personal responsibility for your training, risk assessment, and decision-making.
- Maintain and improve on the highest standards when reporting/claiming achievements.

Fair Play and Sportsmanship

- Compete with integrity, honesty, and respect for previous record holders.
- Adhere to the minimal standards defined by record category
- Acknowledge and celebrate others' achievements, fostering a supportive community.
- Avoid performance-enhancing drugs and adhere to fairness principles.

Transparency in Sponsorships and Media

- Represent brands truthfully and avoid misleading claims about achievements.
- Disclose sponsorships or commercial interests in a responsible manner.
- Use social media to inspire and educate rather than misrepresent risks or encourage unsafe practices.

By adhering to these principles, we ensure the sustainable growth of slacklining while maintaining its spirit of innovation, creativity, and respect.