



GOING IN CIRCLES ?

It is necessary and even indispensable to have rules , but it should perhaps be good that these rules correspond together in the same SPIRIT in order not to alter the competition and not advantage any existing techniques.

The throwing events have been too often neglected and poorly managed by the World athletics deciding circles.

One can remember all the scandals which spoiled the javelin competitions when they became a lottery at the mercy and mood of the day of some more or less qualified official.

Now there is a controversy concerning the decision of giving or not a foul in the throwing circles . The recent modification of the rule has just legalised a cheat and replaced an injustice by another and generated an incoherence !.

The officials are now "AFRAID" to decide a foul about evidence of encroachment and impulsion from over and outside the back of the circle . So that some athletes abuse happily of it and benefit "de facto" from an extension of the size of the circle they can use.

In the opposite , just "grazing" the rim of the circle in the front part (Without one being able to say if it is the rim , the top or the edge or whatever) will be left to the more or less experienced appreciation of the circle official . Without having the possibility to know if the athlete has touched and taken any advantage or just moved close over it during his recovery.



If you are going to make "reforms", it would have been logical (and intelligent) to go all the way and apply the same rules all around the circle

This means that fouling a throw would be to use the top of the circle (and a fortiori the outside) for a support facilitating an impulsion or a blocking and not simply to graze the rim of the circle during a pivot or a recovery.

Of course , this would still leave some room for controversy as , all the competitions circles not being fitted with multiple cameras, we still would have to rely on the official judgement ...which is certainly the less bad of the solutions when one is not able to produce a coherent , indisputable and practical rule and the appropriate way to apply it.

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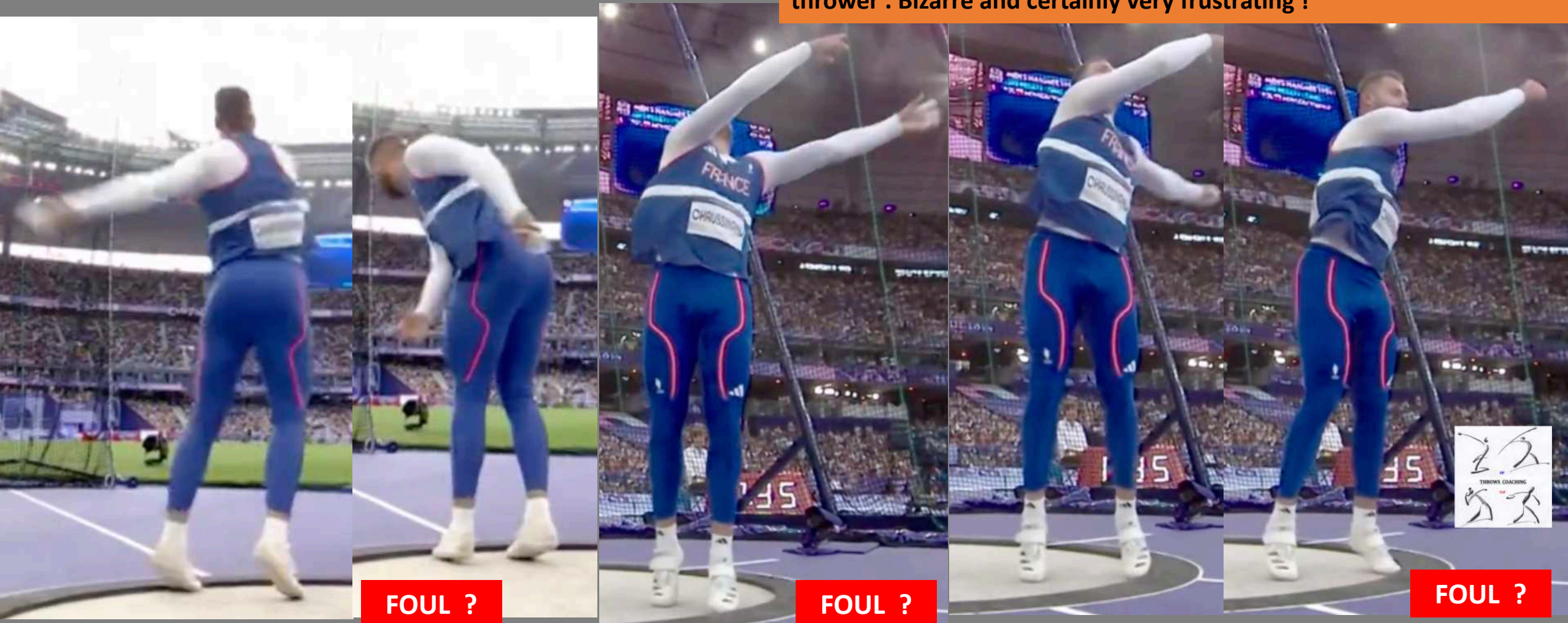
It is certainly better when you have well placed cameras.

IMPORTANT NOTE : This article does not want to cast doubt on the work of the officials who do the best they can to take sometimes quite difficult decisions having to apply inadapted and incoherent rules which do not facilitate their task !

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This story certainly ask for clarifications . The athlete and his coach say that they were told about a tiny mark on the black adapter of the circle . Curiously nobody checked if there was indeed a mark there after the throw and it was "detected" later on the video (curious !) ...without evidence that this mark could have been made by any other thrower . Bizarre and certainly very frustrating !

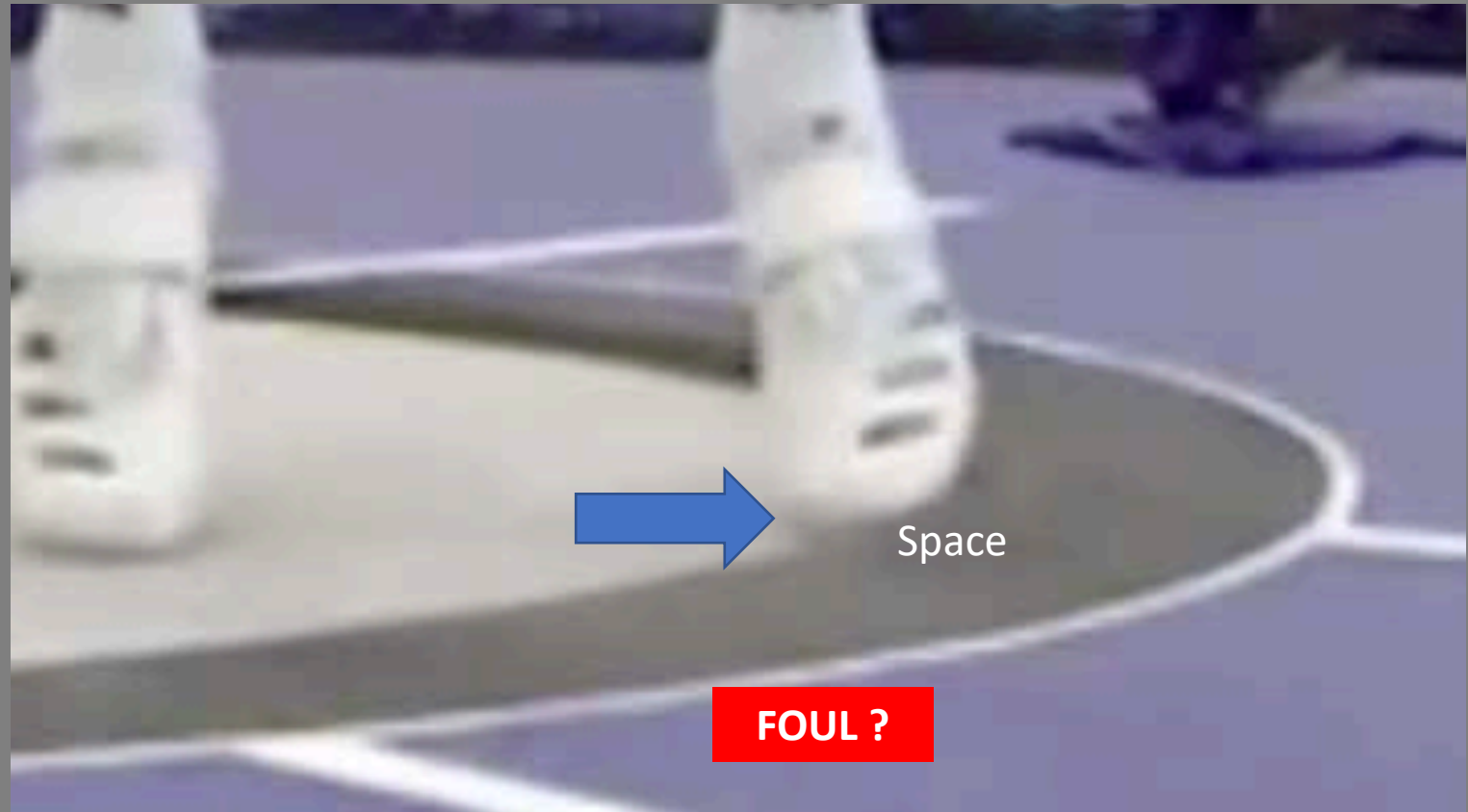
The "litigious" throw of Yann CHAUSSINAND in the 1st round of the men's hammer final in Paris 2024 . It was first declared valid by the circle official (Who certainly was picked because he was highly qualified for the job !). It was a very good throw in medal contention but then it was annulled 20 minutes later (very nice to destabilise an athlete in a major competition !) by some authority according so called "evidence"... that have not been published (so far we know).



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Lacking of better published documents (They must exist somewhere considering the number of cameras on site) . It is quite likely that the front of the athlete's foot has moved over the circle during his recovery , before landing. Did it touch or just only grazed it ? One can see in pict 3 that there is room between the shoe and the ground . Then , after landing, pushing against the inside of the circle (pict 1-2) which is allowed . The field judge said NO FOUL !!!





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Out of that , you can observe that there are double standarts in the rules . the officials are now afraid to call for a FOUL in the multiple encroachments (about one third of the athletes !) noted especially in the shot put where it does , in fact , results into an enlargement of the circles ...and exclude the gliders of the benefit !

From one side , a cheating has been "legalised" and from the other there is an extreme severity without even considering the point in the rules which says : **In case of doubt , one should not disadvantage the athlete !**



NO FOUL !!!



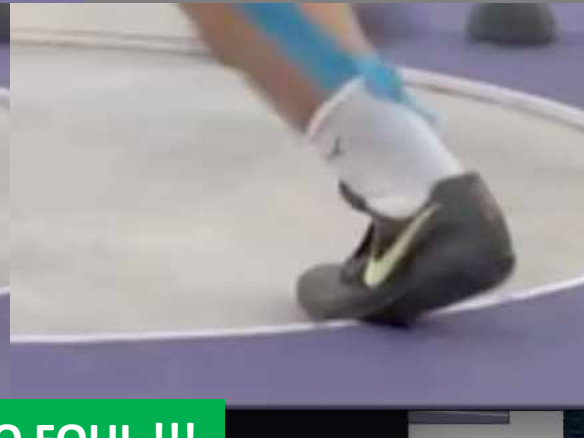
NO FOUL !!!



NO FOUL !!!



NO FOUL !!!





GOING IN CIRCLES ?

NICE RULES , NO ?

Ah well , but not for everybody !



NO FOUL !!!



NO FOUL !!!

Landing

contact with the circle rim

Pressure

Support

Impulse



NO FOUL !!!