Coaching

STEEPLECHASE

This article is adapted from IAAF regional centre Oceania coaching

The standard distances for steeplechase races are 3000 metres for both men & women with adjustments to the height of the obstacles. The race has twenty-eight hurdles with seven water jumps. Athletes who are capable at 1500, and 5000, with a good cross country background and prepared to train over obstacles can be successful at these events.

events. EVENT PHASE		i
	BASIC DISTANCE RUNNING TECHNIQUE	Run with slight body lean forward. Rhythmical running stride pattern. Heel landing & ball of foot take- off. Arms swinging easily Low knee lift
70 cm	TOTAL WATER- JUMP CLEARANCE	Acceleration to the barrier. Drive up to place foot on barrier Keep low and roll over barrier. Extend powerfully off the barrier. One foot landing and continue running
	CONTACT ROLLOVER PUSHOFF	Aim for the instep to strike the barrier first. Roll over the top with a continuous motion. Push off from the front top edge
ACTION AT THE HURDLE	HURDLE APPROACH, TAKE-OFF AND FLIGHT	Move out for clear run to obstacle. Hurdle technique similar to 400metre-hurdle clearance.

	More relaxed clearanc e action
LANDING AND RUN-OFF	Lead knee high. Less snap in action. Trailing leg pulled through. Return to running rhythm. Maintain speed.
ALTERNATIVE HURDLE TECHNIQUE	Rules permit hurdles to be stepped on if athlete desires. Drive up to the hurdle, stay low over the top and drive off with less extension that with the water jump. Resume running technique