

# Olympic track producing record performance

Athletics records and personal best times have tumbled at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, helped by a lightning-fast track surface that has been compared to a trampoline

## TRACK SURFACE

Developed by Italian company, **Mondo**.  
Composed of two layers of rubber

## Top layer

Optimises slip resistance, traction and durability

## Backing

Cushioned for shock absorption

Layers are vulcanised together to form seamless piece of material

Stride length increased

3

2

Foot spends less time in contact with ground

1

Design cuts need for spikes on athletes' running shoes to penetrate track surface

## 1 Foot contact

Track surface deflects, absorbing impact force and converting it into stored energy

**2 Roll:** Material helps shorten length of time that foot naturally rolls on impact, resulting in better overall performance

**3 Stride:** Track springs back as foot leaves surface, releasing stored energy and projecting athlete forward

**Structure:** Elongated diamond shape allows backing to flex in multiple directions

## ATHLETICS RECORDS BROKEN AT TOKYO 2020 (times in seconds)

Men's 100m (ER)	<b>Lamont Marcell Jacobs</b>	ITA	<b>9.80</b>
Women's 100m (OR)	<b>Elaine Thompson-Herah</b>	JAM	<b>10.61</b>
Men's 400m hurdles (WR)	<b>Karsten Warholm</b>	NOR	<b>45.94</b>
Women's 400m hurdles (WR)	<b>Sydney McLaughlin</b>	USA	<b>51.46</b>
Women's triple jump (WR)	<b>Yulimar Rojas</b>	VEN	<b>15.67m</b>

ER = European record, OR = Olympic record, WR = World record

Sources: BBC, Mondo SpA, New York Times

Picture: Getty Images

© GRAPHIC NEWS