THE 2015 DIAMOND LEAGUE SCHEDULE IS OUT. Out in left field, that is. Building on last month’s rant about this year’s huge midsummer gap between Diamond League meetings, let’s look at that timetable (see p. 48 for details).

Guess what? There’s no improvement. It’s again a mess. At least it is if you’re like me and think that big gaps in the middle of the season—or bunching of meets—are totally unacceptable when it comes to trying to market the sport.

5 meets in 14 days bridging the end of May and the start of June?
No DL meets at all in what might be considered the most important month of them all, August?

As detailed in the last issue, depending on the event, this year’s DL athletes had a hiatus of anywhere from 34 to 49 days between series meets, with an average of 39.5. The assignment of events for next year hasn’t been done yet, but the minimum gap rises to an obscene 35 days (which means that at least half the events will be a minimum of 40 days apart).

At least this time around there’s a World Championships in between, so it’s not as if high-end clashes will completely disappear. That’s the good news. The bad is that the gap between the last pre-WC DL meet and the WC has also risen to an all-time high of 23 days.

Check out the accompanying chart of this century’s 8 World Champs years, 2001–15. For the purposes of continuity the pre-DL meets (Golden League) are tagged with the same name. So there you have it: more than 3 weeks between Stockholm and Beijing, as the important month of August has exactly 0 Diamond League meets in ’15.

The 3 biggest years on the chart (’07, ’11, ’15) all represent WC meets held in Asia, and I’ve heard the rationale that the extra days are needed for time-zone adjustment. I have two responses to that:

• If time adjustment is so crucial, why is it acceptable to stage the first post-WC invitational—a crucial Diamond League final—just 4-5 days after the Championships? Doesn’t it cut both ways?

• Beijing is a 6-hour difference from Central European Time (the gold standard for summer sport’s continued high-end health, don’t notice such things.

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“I can’t think of any other sport that would have its biggest invitational in the middle of its prime season. And don’t think for a moment that the media and advertisers, the key to the sport’s continued high-end health, don’t notice such things. I just don’t see them getting a lot of bang for their buck.”

“I’m not getting enough for mine.

轨道及田径新闻

2015年钻石联赛日程表公布。

在左外野，那是。基于上个月对今年中考期间的巨大中暑间隙中钻石联赛的诉求，让我们看看日程表（见第48页）。

猜猜看？没有改进。如果是的话，就像我一样，我觉得在赛季中间有巨大空窗期——或者赛事安排——完全不可接受，因为它涉及到了比赛营销。

5场赛事在14天内跨越5月末和6月初？
没有DL赛事在所有可能的最重要的一个月中。

如在上期详细阐述的，根据赛事，今年的DL运动员在连续赛事之间的空窗期为34到49天，平均为39.5天。赛事安排还没有完成，但下一年的最低空窗期为35天。

看看本世纪8届世锦赛的图表，2001-15。为了保持连续性，DL赛事（金联赛）使用相同的名称。所以你得到了：3周以上的时间间隔中，没有钻石联赛赛事。

3年最大赛事之年（’07, ’11, ’15）代表了在亚洲举办的世锦赛，我听到了这个理由：额外的天数是需要调整时区的。我有两个回应给这个理由：

• 如果调整时区如此关键，为什么在世锦赛之后的第一场赛事是可以的？——一个重要的钻石联赛决赛——仅4-5天后。这不会是双刃剑。

• 北京与CET（夏季运动高标准）有6小时时差。我有两条回应：

1. 我不注意这些事情。
2. 至少这一次有世锦赛在中间，所以它不是如此关键。

至少这一次有世锦赛在中间，所以它不是如此关键。