



# IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

## PHYSICAL TESTING STANDARDS

The Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Council, in recognizing the importance of physical fitness in job performance, established the physical test regimen as a pre-employment standard effective February 15, 1993. Provisions were modified and effective August 6, 2020.

No person can be selected or appointed as a law enforcement officer without first successfully passing all of the elements of this test, as prescribed in 501 IAC 2.1(6), adopted pursuant to Section 80B 11(5), Code of Iowa)

Upon entry into the Academy, every recruit will be given the same test as an assessment for training purposes and to ensure that each recruit can undergo the physical demands of the Academy without undue risk of injury. If, at the time of entrance to the Academy, an officer does not meet minimum standards, he or she will not be admitted.

The physical fitness test established by the Council consists of three events:

**1. 1 Minute Push-Up Test**

The push-up event measures the endurance of the chest, shoulder, and triceps muscles. Recruits will have one minute in which to do as many push-ups as they can.

**2. 1 Minute Sit-Up Test**

The sit-up event measures the endurance of the abdominal and hip-flexor muscles. Recruits will have one minute to perform as many sit-ups as they can.

**3. 1.5 Mile Run**

The 1.5mile run is used to assess your aerobic fitness and your leg muscles' endurance. They must complete the run without any physical help. They are being tested on their ability to complete the course in the shortest time possible. Although walking is authorized, it is strongly discouraged.

---

## STANDARDS

All recruits are required to meet the standards of the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile for each age and sex group.

Event	Age Group Repetitions/ Run Time									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	<20-29	<20-29	30-39	30-39	40-49	40-49	50-59	50-59	60-65	60-65
<b>PU</b>	29	15	24	11	18	9	13	12*	10	5*
<b>SU</b>	38	32	35	25	29	20	24	14	19	6
<b>1.5M Run</b>	12:51	15:26	13:36	15:57	14:29	16:58	15:26	17:54	16:43	18:44
*Females in excess of 49 years of age may conduct pushups on their knees.										



# IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

## PHYSICAL TESTING STANDARDS

### TEST ADMINISTRATION

At the beginning of each physical test, the grader will provide the following directions:

#### **1 Minute Push-Up Test**

On the command 'get set,' assume the front leaning rest position by placing your hands where they are comfortable. Your feet may be together or up to 12 inches apart. When viewed from the side, your body will form a generally straight line from your shoulders to your ankles. On the command 'go,' begin the push-up by bending your elbows and lowering your entire body as a single unit until your upper arms are parallel to the ground. Then, return to the starting position by raising your entire body until your arms are fully extended. Your body must remain rigid in a generally straight line and move as a unit while performing each repetition. If you fail to keep your body generally straight, to lower your whole body until your upper arms are parallel to the ground, or to extend your arms completely, that repetition will not count, and the scorer will repeat the number of the last correctly performed repetition.

An altered, front-leaning rest position is the only authorized rest position. That is, you may sag in the middle or flex your back. When flexing your back, you may bend your knees, but not to such an extent that you are supporting most of your body weight with your legs. You must return to, and pause in, the correct starting position before continuing. You may not rest on the ground or raise either hand or foot from the ground. You may reposition your hands and/or feet during the event as long as they remain in contact with the ground at all times. You will have one minute in which to do as many push-ups as you can. Watch this demonstration.

#### **1 Minute Sit-Up Test**

The sit-up event measures the endurance of the abdominal and hip-flexor muscles. On the command "get set", assume the starting position by lying on your back with your knees bent at a 90-degree angle. Your feet may be together or up to 12 inches apart. Another person, or object, will hold your feet or ankles. The heel is the only part of your foot that must stay in contact with the ground. Hands must remain on or about the head. On the command "go", begin raising your upper body to the up position. In the up position, elbows should touch the knees or the upper portion of the thigh. In the down position, the back must come down so that shoulder blades touch the floor. Your arms and elbows need not touch the ground. A repetition will not count if you fail to reach the up position, fail to keep your hands on your head, arch or bow your back and raise your buttocks off the ground to raise your upper body, or let your knees exceed a 90-degree angle. If a repetition does not count, the scorer will repeat the number of your last correctly performed sit-up. The up position is the only authorized rest position. You may not stop and rest in the down position. You must make a continuous physical effort to sit up. You may not use your hands or any other means to pull or push yourself up to the up position or to hold yourself in the up position to rest. You will have one minute to perform as many sit-ups as you can. Watch this demonstration.

#### **1.5 Mile Run**

The 1.5mile run is used to assess your aerobic fitness and your leg muscles' endurance. You must complete the run without any physical help. At the start, line up behind the starting line. On the command 'go,' the clock will start. You will begin running at your own pace. To run the required 1.5miles, you must complete (describe the number of laps, start and finish points, etc.). You are being tested on your ability to complete the course in the shortest time possible. Although walking is authorized, it is strongly discouraged. You may not be physically helped in any way (for example, pulled, pushed, picked up, and/or carried) or leave the designated running course for any reason. Note: It is legal to pace during the run as long as there is no physical contact and it does not physically hinder others taking the test.



# **IOWA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**

## **PHYSICAL TESTING STANDARDS**

### **HIGHLIGHT OF PROPOSED CHANGES**

1. Removal of the Sit and Reach Event
2. Adoption of new pushup standards to minimize exposure in response to COVID-19.
3. Adoption of the alternative methods for holding feet during the sit-up event in response to COVID-19.
4. Adoption of updated standards for events (run times) and the elimination of the age group <20.