

Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for July, 2010 – May, 2011

September, 2010:

- a. Does the NCAA set a maximum radius for track construction? If a facility has 9 lanes, is there a maximum for lane width so lane 9 is not too far out? Also, how are broken back track radii set (and limited)? There is no NCAA rule regarding the maximum width of a lane. An amendment made to Rule 1-1.2 matches the international rule setting the maximum lane radius allowed for records and/or qualifying to 50 meters. Facilities may be built to exceed this, but certain lanes would be disallowed for records and/or qualifying. A nine lane track with 48-inch lanes can be constructed within the 50 meter limitation. NCAA Rule 1-1.2 indicates that a track should normally have two semicircular curves of equal design, therefore a broken-back design would not be recommended.
- b. I am trying to determine the NCAA's position on pole vault standards. Does the NCAA require that the Pole Vault standards must be anchored to the ground? There is no requirement of this kind in any rule book.
- c. Regarding the change to Rule 1-1.7, is it correct that while the diagram is changing to show 2.5cm black marks at the intersections of the finish and lane lines, there is not an actual rule change mandating the use of a 2.5cm mark? That is correct, it is not mandated. If a re-stripping is being done, then it is recommended that the 2.5cm black intersections be used. It provides for much greater accuracy in positioning of the camera.
- d. Must a singlet be of such design so that it does not incorporate what might be considered 'artwork'? The NCAA does not approve or restrict uniform design, except for the general rules of decency and logo restrictions, which are in affect across all sports. A solid color is not required. See Rule 4-3.1 for general school issue and decency requirements and Rule 4-3.3 for the standard NCAA logo rule. One test for Track and Field / Cross Country must have a positive result: Line-up the seven competitors; Do they, to the casual spectator, clearly look as if they belong to the same team? A conference may impose uniform requirements in addition to the NCAA sport requirement.
- e. How long does a men's cross-country race have to be in order to qualify for NCAA sport-sponsorship requirements. The NCAA Cross-Country Rule Book states a race is 8,000 to 10,000 meters unless changed by mutual agreement. Rule 8-2.1, effective for the 2011 season, indicates that course length must be at least 4,000 meters and for championships, the course shall be between 8,000 and 10,000 meters. However, this only affects the competition aspect of the sport. The issue of NCAA sport sponsorship is not addressed by the competition Rules Book.
- f. The NCAA has sponsorship requirements for minimum numbers of participants and contests in a season. Is there a requirement for minimum number of events for a conference championship? Can a conference championship be conducted with only running events or only field events? NCAA sport sponsorship is not an issue addressed in the rules of competition. The number of events in a competition is not restricted by the rules of competition, however minimums are established by the divisional sport committees restricting when performances from competitions are allowed for the purposes of NCAA championship qualifying.
- g. What are the recommended distances for the Long Jump and Triple Jump Boards. From the NCAA Rules Book: For the LJ – distance between the board and pit is between 1 meter and 3 meters. For the TJ – distance between the board and pit is at least 11 meters for men and 8.5 meters for women, with 12.5 meters and 11 meters, respectively, recommended. There is no maximum distance in the TJ for either gender. From the USATF and the IAAF rule books: For the LJ – same distance as stated in NCAA. For the TJ – there is no set distance however, the guideline for 'major competitions' is that the distance between the board and the pit is at least 13 meters for men and 10 meters for women. Each of the books indicates that the distance for the TJ boards should be determined by the caliber of the competitors.
- h. Is there a formal process of review in the NCAA to be sure a timing systems can be classified as F.A.T. There is no formal review process. The proof is simply a statement of specifications that shows the capabilities of the equipment and a comparison with the stated definition in the rules book.

- i. Can the coach be the guide runner for a blind athlete? The NCAA has no specific provisions for disabled competitors written in the current rules book for T&F and XC. Questions which relate to rule exceptions for disabilities have been referred to the exceptions published in the disabled sports section of the USATF rules book. This section outlines the exceptions made within T&F, which are transferable to XC. It allows for a guide runner. Rule 8-8f forbids being 'unduly aided'. The aid given should be limited to assuring that the competitor stayed the course.
- j. Rule 1-11.1 states that an artificial surface is recommended for the javelin runway. Would the use of a grass runway disallow student-athletes' marks from being counted/considered for entry to the NCAA championship? No, the grass runway does suffice considering that the artificial surface is only recommended? Grass is used frequently, especially in football stadiums where they have not put down a specific runway for the javelin. Acceptance of a qualifying mark has been ok from a grass runway in previous years.

October, 2010:

- a. If an institution starts with five competitors in a cross country competition and only has four competitors finishing the race, do the rules of the sport indicate that this team has completed the event in order to comply with Bylaw 20.11.3.8.1. A response was given regarding the requirements for scoring and the reverting of competitors from team to individual status when a full team does not finish. The procedure for the types of published results was also presented. FYI ... A ruling was issued by NCAA Sponsorship that participation in the meet under the stated conditions could not be used to satisfy sponsorship requirements.
- b. At a Conference Championship, is permissible to wear a patch/sticker (2"x1") on an institution's uniform to honor the recent passing of a former teammate? From the perspective of the competition rules, there is no prohibition. There may be protocol that must be followed within the Bylaws.
- c. Is it allowable in the T&F Championship meet of a conference, to allow unlimited entries from the conference members in individual events but only allow the first three finishers from a single institution to be eligible for scoring? To achieve this outcome, can the advancement to the final of a 'laned' race be limited to only scoring eligible competitors? Rule 7-1.2, addressing championships specifically, allows for unlimited entries and also states that each allowed entrant shall have the ability to score. Therefore, it is not allowable to restrict scoring to the first three from a single institution, nor is it allowable to restrict the advancement to a final to only score eligible competitors as a result of a scoring restriction.
- d. Does the required curbing on a track have to include the straights? Current rule 1-1.5 states:
... For world, American and NCAA meet records, and championships qualifying, a regulation curb must be in place. This means that the curb designed for the track, which is the regulation curb, must be in place. The NCAA has not formally adopted the new IAAF curb rule. However, see the committee action listed in item November, 2010 (c).

November, 2010:

- a. Our indoor conference championship is on a six lane track for both curved and straight races, we have made the straight races a 2 section final with 6 competitors in each section. Would Rule 10-5.1 in the 2011 NCAA rule book mean that ranks 2-4-6-8-10-12 are in final section 1 and ranks 1-3-5-7-9-11 are in final section 2? Our current procedure is that ranks 7-12 in final section 1, and heat winners plus fastest 2 non-heat winners in section 2. Rule 10-5.1a and 10-5.1b only apply to races staged around a curve. No provisions are in the rules for straight races staged on less than 8 lanes, with 8 scoring places. Therefore, since there is no clear provision in the rules, it would fall under the 'extraordinary' phrase of Rule 10-5 due to scoring and facility demands. It would be up to the games committee to set the procedure.
- b. Many are asking specifically about the legality of their facility with regard to the new 50 meter lane radius rule. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a key piece of the intended wording was overlooked. That is, the 50 meter radius should only apply to curves with a single continuous radius. Therefore, as an interpretation of the current rule 1-1.2: **No lane around a curve with a radius in excess of**

50 meters shall be eligible for a record or championship qualifying. The word 'radius' is to mean 'a single continuous radius' thereby exempting all 'broken-back' facilities from the rule.

- c. A revisit of the question: Does the required curbing on a track have to include the straights? The answer given was that the NCAA has not adopted the new IAAF curb rule. This may have been an oversight, therefore, as an interpretation of the current rule 1-1.5: **For championship qualifying, a regulation curb, on tracks designed for a curb, or cones for all others, must be in place.** A regulation curb is hereby defined as 'a curb constructed as per Rule 1-1.2 and borders the inside of the track for at least the full length of each curve'. Therefore, curbing is not required on the straights.
- d. Is there any minimum radius etc. for a 300 meter track or can we configure the track so we can fit the 100 yards of turf on the inside. There is no minimum radius for an NCAA 300m indoor track. It is only a legal track for NCAA competition. No other governing body allows marks from a track greater than 200m.
- e. Case Book Change:
Current Case Book: **8-2.2b HAY BALES (2001):** May hay bales be placed on a cross country course for a collegiate meet?
RESPONSE: No. Obstacles and other hindrances shall be avoided throughout the course.
New Case Book: **8-2.2a HAY BALES (2010):** May hay bales be placed on a cross country course for a collegiate meet?
RESPONSE: Yes. Obstacles and other hindrances detrimental to the competitors shall be avoided throughout the course. Hay bales placed on a course in such a way to not be dangerous are not considered detrimental under this rule.

December, 2010:

Rule Book Corrections:

Within Rule 6-5.2 the shaded area should read: ... **The increment shall never be increased. The crossbar shall not be lowered and the increment shall never be less than 3cm except as provided in Rule 7-1.6c. Increment restrictions do not apply to a single competitor who has won the competition and decides to continue jumping. ...**

Within Rule 6-6.1 the shaded area should read: ... **The increment shall never be increased and shall never be less than 5cm. The crossbar shall not be lowered except as provided in Rule 7-1.6c. Increment restrictions do not apply to a single competitor who has won the competition and decides to continue vaulting. ...**

The PV runway diagram on page 25 should be altered so that the 3.65m measurement is shown to be from the back of the box to the edge of the long line closest to the box. The written description on page 24 is correct.

- a. Currently our facility has two runways; one has a 37' TJ take off board the other a 27' TJ take off board. I want to add a 40' board on the runway with the 37' board, and a 32' board on the runway with the current 27' board. Is there a rule that suggests a minimum of 5' distance between boards? Regarding the multiple boards, the only rules that exist are those which specify minimum distance from the pit. (all rules books) With that said, the placement of the boards is totally dependent on the quality of the competitors. Multiples may be used in the TJ. Pick good and convenient distances. Base them on previous meet history, and where you want people to land in the pit.
- b. Rule 6-6.4 states that 'Competitors may use a glove or an adhesive substance on their hands or on the pole in order to obtain a better grip'. Does 'adhesive substance' include tape of any kind on their hands? No. Tape is not a 'substance' as used in this context. If it were, then there would be no need for the sentence just prior to this one in the rule, which specifically addresses tape.

January, 2011:

- a. For our Last Chance meet we were told that we could not advance 10 to the final of the sprint, even though we have 10 lanes. I thought the rule was based on number of lanes. Even though using all ten lanes is legal, the committees, which govern the procedure of the meets, have been following the procedure set in the rules for the field events as a guide in the running events also. That is, one more

than the number of scored places. That number for the championship is 9, and they have used that to govern the last chance meets, even though they are not scored.

- b. Is the NCAA considering the elimination of the provision that allows for an indoor facility of greater than 200 meters? There have not been any discussions that would restrict an indoor facility to a track that is not greater than 200 meters.
- c. Since the Intentional False Start (Note 3, Rule 5.2) is considered "Misconduct", and from Rule 4.1 "Acts of misconduct are subject to reprimand or ejection by the referee or meet management", is the runner disqualified from the race and "warned" or "disqualified" from the meet? The false start is acted upon by the starter in the normal way and if determined to be intentional by the starter, is reported as such to the referee, who would then make a determination of action for that violation.
- d. In Rule 5-5.4 and Rule 6-1.8 sections b, c and d, some things are 'prohibited'. For these prohibitions, is the competitor disqualified from the event, from the meet, or just warned? In running events, a competitor is disqualified without warning for violating a rule such as cutting too soon, running around hurdle or impeding another runner. For all of the cited examples, running and field, the referee has the discretion to disqualify or not and to what extent, depending on the circumstances presented. The running event rule violations cited are not automatic disqualification. They require involvement of the referee; however, warnings are not an authorized option. In all cases, there is a determination requirement.
- e. Is the Gill model #362 Hammer conversion circle, manufactured of a "stiff but pliable PVC Plastic" not rubber, a legal insert for NCAA? Rule 1-7.5 indicates that the material must be extremely rigid. This is so that its shape cannot be compromised during a throw. If a material cannot hold a rigid circular shape while being impacted during an attempt, it is malleable; therefore that material does not meet the requirements of the rule. The rule must be applied to the PVC material.
- f. The track at this institution has no curb and was designed to have no curb. If an NCAA institution attends a meet on this facility, can the marks be reported and used for NCAA championship qualifying? Rule 1-1.5 specifies that for championship qualifying a curb is required if a facility was designed to have a curb, or cones must be in place around the curved portions of the track when the facility was designed to not have a curb. Therefore, as long as cones are in place, as per Rule 1-1.2, the marks can be reported and used for championship qualifying.
- g. How is the distance measured for an indoor facility and is the fact that there are only two lanes or that the turn are very tight, making it more like a rectangle, alter the measurement procedure? Provided the procedure for both indoor and outdoor measurement, referred to proper sections in the rules book and answered question regarding unusual design.
- h. If an indoor facility has a 10-lane straight, can 10 be advanced to the final? If a facility has 8 lanes around, can it be used as if it were 6 lanes and thereby use the rules for 6 lanes? Can 9 be advanced to the final of the indoor 200 and/or 400 and run two sections? Within the current rules, all of these are possible under certain established conditions. However, the norm is usually driven by the number of existing lanes and any deviation would probably be questioned.
- i. Is it allowable to have a ball-like device taped to the end of the Pole which would serve as a stop that the hand could be placed against? There is no prohibition of such a device in the NCAA rules. Within USATF and IAAF, the overall restriction is that the pole must be generally smooth, which would seem to disallow this type of device. Within the NCAA, since this is not specifically addressed with the rule, it would be a matter for the Referee.
- j. Which type of material is 'suitable' for use in a discus, hammer or weight cage? There is no list of suitable material. It is easier to determine if a material is not suitable by looking at the desired qualities of a cage. Those desirable qualities are listed in rule 1-9.1a.
- k. On a 200 meter indoor track, does Rule 10-4.1b mean that the runners break at the end of the second turn in the 200-meter race? The rule was not intended to force a break at the end of the second turn in a 200 meter race. This is however, dependent on the 2-turn staggers provided at the start. Similar to

the one-turn stagger outdoor, there is a difference between an in-lane race and a break-line race. It is very normal for the two turn staggers on a 200 meter indoor track to be set for a fully in-lane 200 meter race, with no break. A 400 meter with a break at the end of the second turn has a different start line.

- l. Rule 10-4.3 states: "The 800 meters shall have not more than eight competitors per heat in the preliminaries or finals." Is this just for an 8 lane track or does this apply to a 6 lane track – in other words, could I run 3 alleys of 2-3-3 for a 2 turn stagger? Or is it just 1 per lane up to 8 per heat? It applies to all indoor tracks, regardless of the number of lanes. Rule 10-4.2 allows the use of lanes or alleys, and Rules 5-10.7, 5-11.2 and 10-5 all provide for extraordinary circumstances.
- m. At an upcoming competition, an inquiry was made to the host as to how they plan to implement the new provision of Rule 3-1.3 and have no students as officials. They seemed to be unaware of the new provision. How should they proceed? The new provision is applicable to competitions which are championships at the conference level or beyond. It is not applicable to regular season competitions. And within championships, officiating positions are indeed only those in which a decision is made, therefore student help is not totally negated.

February, 2011:

- a. Indoor Track Rule 10.4 concerning Race Conduct for races longer than 1000 and DMR: Our track is 200m, so should the cut line be at end of FIRST or SECOND Curve (in lanes for 6 or fewer runners OR staggered waterfall when need 2 start lines)? Rule is clear about the 800, 1000, and 3200 relay with cut at least the end of the second turn if 200 track. For all situations not specifically covered in the rules, a decision regarding the conduct of an event is delegated to the Games Committee.
- b. A competitor is entered in the pentathlon and also the individual HJ and LJ. The pentathlon is at the beginning of the meet prior to the other events. If the competitor runs the hurdles of the pentathlon and then decide not to continue ... is that an honest effort violation and can they do their two other events? As long as they start the combined event ... participate in one of the events ... they have satisfied the condition for participation. There is no rule defining the conditions allowable for abandoning the combined event. Please see the note after rule 4-2.2b.
- c. I am looking for documentation regarding the position of a block-holder's feet as well as whether they should stand or sit while holding the block. It has become an issue and would like to have some clarification. It is at the starter's discretion in NCAA. There is a USATF rule, which could serve as precedent.
- d. Championship Handbook issues:
What are the minimum requirements for conducting an official indoor meet? How many events, etc.... The minimums are the same for indoor and outdoor. You can find them published in each Division's Championship Handbook. I believe it to be ten events per gender with uniqueness and with a required number of institutions.

We had a male athlete compete at the Pole Vault Summit this past weekend. Do you know if the marks from that competition qualify as NCAA qualifying marks? This meet, as a single event meet, has not been allowed for qualifying in recent years. Please see the Single Event qualifying regulation in the Championship Handbook.

Do you know if marks attained at the USA Indoor Championships on Feb. 26-27 count towards the performance list for NCAA Division I Indoor Championships? Since this meet is inside the D1 qualifying window, has sufficient events and representation, it has qualified in the past with the same parameters.

How many athletes must compete in a combined event competition for it to be deemed a legal competition in regards to qualifying for Nationals? How many schools must be present in order for it to be deemed a legal competition in regards to qualifying for Nationals? If the competition is concurrently held in conjunction with a regular meet does this in any way impact the two above rules in regards to qualifying for Nationals? The answers to your questions can be found in the qualifying regulations printed in the division championship handbook for the meet.

Is it allowable to run a co-ed pole vault? According to the qualifying regulations, single gender is restricted to only running events, and the 10k is an exception.

- e. A meet is scheduled to run a prelim and a final in the 60m dash on an 8 lane track, but only 7 athletes show to run. They run the seven competitors in 2 prelim heats and then advance all 7 to the final. The final is run later in the meet with the 7 runners. The idea is to give the athletes two chances to run an NCAA qualifying time. From Rule 5-11.6 Canceling Heats and from the "NCAA Championship Qualifying Procedures" item (n. giving a second opportunity...), I would say the prelim should have been canceled and a final only run later in the meet. Is this correct? Would the times from the final be recognized? The rule you reference is clear, the second chance to run in another round, is not permitted.
- f. If there are 7 people in a long jump, do you need to get a mark to get into the final three jumps? The results show F, F, F and then a mark in the final three? Is that legal? Rule 6-2.4 indicates that automatic advancement can occur if there is a valid attempt in the first three. A foul is a valid attempt.
- g. At the Big 12 Indoor 3K they will have 30+ runners. In the past we have gone to a 2 turn, double alley start for safety (approved by referee). Is that permissible? As in the past, yes. That is based on the beginning paragraph in Rule 10-5. Thirty plus competitors would indeed be extra-ordinary. Also, see rule 10-4.4 Waterfall ok, staggered ok, number of turns is up to the games committee, since not stated.
- h. A DQ occurred during the 4x400 at a meet on Saturday night and a protest was filed within the 30 minute window. The official videographer, however, left and the video won't be available to the referees until Monday. Since the protest was filed in a timely manner, can the referees look at the video at the first of the week and amend the results at that time if needed? Yes. The rules only require the timely filing of the protest. There is no time limit requirement for review or result amendment. This is not a correction as a result of error.
- i. While looking at the video, can the referees rule only on the protested call or if they see an uncalled violation, can they DQ an athlete or team? There was no Jury. Two issues: Since no jury, the referee cannot initiate a call. Also, the focus of a review by the referee is the protest and that should be the limit.
- j. Can someone who is entered in a combined event withdraw from that event and still remain in the meet, or are they barred from competing in subsequent events? Also, can the conference change this? Yes, they can remain in the meet. The event is the 'combined events' not any one part of it. The conference may impose stricter failure to participate regulations, authorized by Rule 4-4.2e.
- k. Regarding communication devices, please comment on the following:
 - A coach in an approved coaching box was observed using his cell phone to answer a call. When challenged, he said his wife was expecting and he had to react.
 - A coach in an approved pole vault coaching box is using a small notebook computer with a spread sheet application to follow the actions of his competitors. Is he using this in violation of the rule?
 - A certified official is using this same small notebook computer in the conduct of the event. Is this allowed?
 - A certified referee is using his lap-top computer to view a down-loaded copy of the rules book. Is this allowed?No matter what the reason, personal uses of devices for communication or personal computers are not allowed by Rule 4-3.11. Phone call should and can be taken to another area. Use of electronic items are fully authorized for meet administration, including charting an event or reading a rule book.
- l. We have a curb for our track; do we have to install it? If we do have to install it, can we only install the turns and leave out the straight-aways or do we have to install the whole thing. Yes to both questions.
- m. Can the games committee decide whether the final for the indoor 200 and 400 can be 2 heats or 3 heats, meaning, 3 heats of 3 instead of a heat of 5 and heat of 4? The rules book says two sections shall be formed, but if we are on a flat tight 200m track can't we change that? The only way to

change that provision is if there exists an extraordinary circumstance, as provided by rule. The goal was to split the two best advancers into the best lanes, not the three best, and then put all else outside of them since they did not 'earn' the better positions. Facility design was not a criteria used in creating the new seeding provision.

- n. This past weekend I assisted at the GLVC Conference Indoor Championships. I questioned the gloves several of the weight throwers were wearing. What I read in the 2011-2012 NCAA rules is that gloves must be smooth on the back and the front and the finger tips must be exposed (i.e. the tips of the fingers on the gloves must not be closed). Does this mean that as long as the fingers on the gloves are not closed that the gloves are legal? I could see their finger tips in some instances if I looked down the finger. Yes, that is what it means. You need not have the finger tips protruding through the open glove.
- o. Rule 1-7.4 states 'The circle shall be made of metal or suitable rigid material 6mm in thickness and 19 (± 6) mm in height, and be firmly secured flush with the throwing surface.' Must the circle be exactly as stated in order for the circle to be within the rules or can the circle may be defined by the inside edge of plywood, the result of cutting out the desired diameter from a sheet, and that no other material is necessary because the edge of the plywood is a suitable material? The short answer is yes, it can be made of plywood. That is a suitable rigid material. Portables made out of plywood have been used in many instances, even at IAAF meets. There is a slight issue with the surface of the ring and landing surface being level, also about the depth of the plywood. The intent of the originally written was to describe a separate 'ring', but it is not essential ... especially for indoor.
- p. We are having a small debate at our indoor track & field championship around rule 10-4.3. It states that not more than 8 competitors are allowed per heat in the 800-meter run. Two questions ...
1. Does this apply to the 800-meters in the combined events as well?
 2. Is it within the powers/duties of the Games Committee to adjust this rule for their event?
1. For the combined events, Rule 9-2.5c takes precedence. Rule 5 and 10 are primarily for individual events with heats, prelims, finals, etc. that could be scored.
 2. The first paragraph of rule 10-5 allows for change of these individual events based on extra-ordinary circumstances. For individual events, the Games Committee may not normally alter the rules.
- q. If a competitor in the Shot Put makes a throw, it lands and he does not want a mark because he does not like the throw, he will then tap the top of the toe board and we will call it a foul. In my reading the NCAA rules state that after the throw it is a foul to touch the surface of the toe-board except the inside **before the shot hits the ground**. Does this mean once the shot hits the ground a thrower can touch the top of the toe-board, walk out of the back half of the circle and have a legal throw? No. The first contact with the area outside the circle must be from the back half. The first contact in the situation you describe was in the front half when the top of the toe-board was touched.
- r. A woman is in the blocks for the start of the 55m dash. When she goes to the set position, her ponytail falls forward & is touching the track. Is this a violation? Do we say the hair is part of the body? It is not a violation. Hair may be part of the body, but it is not a body part.

March, 2011:

- a. Can a Referee act on a running violation without any written report from an Umpire? Yes. The only requirement is that the Referee has credible evidence that a violation did occur. This evidence can be from any source allowed by rule. Evidence supplied by a member of the Jury could not include any suggested remedy and would require recusal of that jury member if an appeal was filed on the Referee's decision.
- b. Is there any reason for the maximum length imposed on the hammer handle? The only specification that needs to be vigorously maintained is the overall length of the implement. Aside from the restriction being set by the international governing body, the current design allowable for the handle, which includes one with curved sides and curved grip, would be prone to greater permanent elongation of the overall implement while under stress, a condition that is not permitted. As an aside, some physics studies have concluded that the shorter the wire, the less efficient is the transfer of inertia from the thrower to the hammer head, therefore less beneficial to the thrower. In short, the shorter the handle, the longer the wire, the more inertia to the hammer head.

- c. Regarding the rule for using the 5-alive method, 6-4.3, why is there a need for the reference to fields greater than 15. One could conclude that for fields less than 15 you don't go to 5-alive. Why not just say "When there are more than 8 competitors vaulting at a height, the 5-alive method should be used." The rules could have that language. The reason for the current language is that the committee has a desire to discourage the 5-alive method for smaller fields and that there has been a good amount of discussion as to what number to use in providing a guide
- d. Please confirm the correct place, procedure and validity for taking the measurement in the pole vault. The correct place and procedure are detailed in Rules 6-1.15 and 6-1.17. The measurement is taken from the same level as the take-off, which is the top of the running surface, not necessarily the top of the box, to the lowest point on the upper side of the crossbar. The measurement is to take place whenever the bar is displaced and before any record attempt. Measurements taken in any manner other than that specified in the rules are not valid.
- e. Is it permissible to use temporary padding to surround the established landing pad area used for the Pole Vault? Rule 2-6.1 establishes the minimum dimensions of the landing pad. There is no maximum, nor a restriction on allowing additional padding except for specified locations stated in the rule.
- f. Does Rule 6-1.9b regarding the use of a foot pattern as assistance mean that an athlete can request a placement of a foot pattern during competition? If it is done for all competitors, why must it be requested? During warm-up, an event official may voluntarily provide the foot pattern as a service, but must do so for all competitors. If not automatically provided for all, then it can be provided as the result of a request. The request can be during the competition, and is most common to validate a foul.
- g. What are the alternatives of staging the start of the 800 meters? Can it be either in lanes or alleys? Rule 5-10.7a requires that the 800 meters be started as an in-lane race unless it is the first round of multiple rounds. In that case, the games committee has the option of staging the start in alleys. The option to modify the use of an in-lane start can also be made if extraordinary circumstances exist.
- h. Rules 6-8.1, 6-9.1, 6-10.1 and 6-11.1 all indicate that 'A competitor may interrupt an attempt once started, return to a stationary position and begin again'. Please comment on the proper ruling when a foul occurs and then the competitor interrupts the attempt and begins again. Any interruption of an attempt does not negate the fact that a foul has occurred. The existence of a foul does not disappear and must be part of the ruling. The overall intent is probably better stated in the equivalent IAAF rule: 'Provided that, in the course of a trial, the rules relative to each throwing event have not been infringed, an athlete may interrupt a trial once started ...'
- i. Rule 7-2.1 states '... The wind-measuring instrument shall be placed beside the sprint track, adjacent to lane one, preferably 50 meters from the finish line. ...'. Does this rule disqualify a qualifying or record performance made on a sprint track totally inside the oval where the wind gauge is placed adjacent to lane nine? The rule was written with the assumption that the sprint track would be an integral portion of the oval, and there was a need to avoid placing the gauge in a place where it could be obstructed. All rule books have this same provision. It would be reasonable to allow a lane 9 positioning for a sprint track totally inside the oval. The acceptance of a qualifying mark is the prerogative of the sport committee.
- j. In the combined events 60-meter hurdles, a competitor comes up very slowly to the set position, and while the starter waits for him, the competitor in the next lane breaks. The starter decided to give the slow competitor a yellow card. Should this yellow card be considered as a 'first false start' using rule 5-2.1b or a warning for 'tactics intended to disconcert an opponent', rule 5-2.1a. The use of the yellow card is indeed proper, but it is the decision of the starter to determine the cause. If it is a warning under 5-2.1a, then it is similar to a violation for 'misconduct' and a second instance of such would be treated very seriously. With this type of warning, the competitor still has two false starts under the combined event rules. A false start can be charged under rule 5-1.2b only after a warning. So the yellow card could be for this type of warning. For the combined events, this would result in a false start on the second occurrence, but there would again still be another start possible. A yellow card at the start can never be tied to the act of a false start since the act of a false start is always a

disqualification. The yellow card must be 'classified' as something else ... such as conduct or failure to follow instructions, or anything else. The green card is for no violation of any kind. Reserve the red card for an actual disqualification.

April, 2011:

- a. In a meet where there is inclement weather, when do you begin timing the athlete's 60 seconds ... keeping in mind that the athlete needs time to dry off their feet to avoid slipping in the ring? The time starts when the head official of the event determines that all is ready for the trial and the competitor is then called, Rule 6-1.2. This can occur at any point determined to be proper by the head event official, even after the competitor is next to the circle and finished drying their feet.
- b. Has the rule for increments changed in the High Jump when there is only one person remaining? The shaded portion of the HJ and PV rules, 6-5.2 and 6-6.1, were incorrect as published. A revision was posted on-line as part of the monthly rules report. There has been no change to the rule that allows the final competitor, who has won the competition, to set the bar at any height they choose.
- c. Has there been an evaluation of the NCAA rule on having to wear the number on the front of the uniform in indoor track? It is probably to keep track if anyone gets lapped, etc., but having so many extra numbers on one athlete seems excessive. Is the application of three hip numbers to an athlete a function of requirement by rule or the preference of the clerks (or lap counters)? And, is there a difference in the answer based on the event? The current rule, 4-3.4b, is administered by the clerks at the direction of the Games Committee, Rule 3-2e, and is usually for races of 1500 meters and above as desired by lap counters, umpires and timing personnel. The greater the number of competitors there are in the race, the greater the need for additional identification. This has been compounded by the elimination of a front bib number and replacing it with a name. There have been complaints from both schools and apparel manufacturers about the 'inconsiderate' clerks that cover the logos with the numbers. The main complaint regards esthetics, the pictures look bad. The rule is written to allow extra numbers if deemed necessary, with specific placement restrictions to address the above question. The affixing of the number to the athlete in the submitted picture was clearly a violation of current rule by an official since it obstructed the school logo.
- d. Without a bull pen and without a referee is it correct to have the line clerks decide on the appropriateness of the relay uniform as it pertains to the rule? What remedy can possibly be adequate when it is all about getting the teams on the track to compete at that moment? And then if an illegal uniform 'slips' through and is seen during the running, should the offending team be disqualified (w/o a referee)? Here are hopefully the pertinent points and some answers: 1) The rules plainly infer that a referee is required. 2) Only a referee can disqualify, 3-4.2d. 3) The clerk, by rule, is the primary inspector and must report violations and also warn about 'repeated violation', 3-6d, 4-3.1note. 4) The referee must decide on remedy for 'continued' violations, 3-4.2j - it could be DQ. 5) Rule 4-3.6e allows the event to continue and provides that the referee must handle any protest after the fact. 6) All of Rule 4 is classified as administrative, not competition (conduct).

The full intent of the uniform rule as it pertains to a team, relay or XC, is to make all the members of the team clearly identifiable 'as a team'. There is clear language to infer that disqualification for a uniform violation is not the recommended course of action unless it is flagrant, continued and fully warranted, as determined by the referee. Is it correct to have the clerks determine appropriateness ... by rule, the answer is yes.

What remedy is adequate? It starts with prior notification in competition information material using statements such as: "Uniforms must comply with rule 4-3.2, will be checked, and teams in violation will not be allowed to compete." This would be a directive from the meet director to the officials. This is the warning.

The remedy might include a warning for the first instance and a removal from the event for subsequent instances. Removal in the first instance is also possible. Other sports have uniform rules with no chance for leeway. There is a secondary remedy and has been used less often. It is a sanction against the offending team with written notification to their administration.

Finally, if a team 'slips' through ... with no referee, then there can not be a protest, since no one would be able to rule on it.
- e. The current NCAA rule book (6-2.3) states that advancement to the final in Field Events should be one more than the scoring places, BUT not fewer than eight (provided a valid qualifying mark in preliminaries). For dual meets scoring only 3 people under the allowed alternative scoring system, this

seems an excessive requirement and has the effect of lengthening the meet. Historically, the sentence would have ended after the "scoring places". There will certainly be instances this coming weekend (Yale v. Harvard) where there are not even 8 entries. The point I raise will be contentious, as they will refer to the rule for justice in allowing more competitors into the final. I'll point out the book is not designed for guidance in the dual meets any more, but rather championships or larger meets. I'll also refer to history as noted above. Can you help? Please see page 13, first paragraph, where it says the rules "are not meant to be comprehensive ...". Also, Rule 3-2s allows for the determination of how many will advance to the final round, and Rule 3-4.2a allows for the referee to rule on procedures not specifically addressed the book. In reality, the games committee must agree to a format.

- f. If an athlete checks in for the javelin, then leaves to run the 100 meters and does not come back until the event is in the third round, how many throws does the athlete receive? Is this based on the time limit allowed by the games committee for an excused absence? Could the athlete be moved from the second flight to the first to avoid the conflict? Rule 6-1.6a indicates that the head judge of the event may allow a trial out of order, which means that the athlete could be allowed all three trials. There is no games committee involvement and the NCAA has no rule that set a time limit. The same rule disallows movement between flights.
- g. Is a teammate or coach allowed to check-in for another athlete? Also, if an athlete in the first flight shows up after the competition has begun, is that athlete permitted to compete? Reporting at the time of check-in is different than when the athlete shows up. Rule 6-2.1 restricts competing when an initial reporting at check-in is not made. The rule does imply personally reporting instead of a check-in by another.
- h. We had a question this weekend about what is a windy multi. Please explain Rule 7-2.6. Based on current rule for record purposes, not qualifying, one of these must apply:
1. Within a combined event competition, the wind for each single applicable event must not exceed 4.0m/s. Example: in the Dec the wind reading for the 100m, LJ and 110mH are each at or under 4.0m/s. This is legal for a record.
 2. Within a combined event competition, the average wind for all applicable events within the competition must not exceed 2.0m/s. Example: in the Dec the wind reading for 100m is 6.0m/s, the LJ is -2.0m/s, and the 110mH is 2.0m/s. The average wind for the three events is 2.0m/s $((6.0) + (-2.0) + (2.0)) / 3$. This is legal for a record.
- USATF and IAAF changed their rules last year to only allow item 2.
- i. Regarding the Combined Events HJ: The NCAA Rule book indicates that progressions are 3cm. Can the Games Committee change this, or is this a MUST and ONLY be 3cm progressions? May the Games Committee give "the one remaining competitor" the option of going up 1 or 2cm? The PV and HJ increments cannot be changed by anyone. They are at a fixed value for all competitors for the entire competition, see Rule 9-2.2i.
- j. There was an issue at an Indoor Championship with the use of 'personal blocks' at the starting line. Is this controlled by the starter? Are restrictions allowed? Rule 5-1.3 authorizes the games committee to restrict the use of starting blocks to 'only those supplied by the games committee'. Once done, it is the responsibility of the officials at the start line to enforce such a restriction. The restriction is usually communicated through a statement in the meet information distributed prior to the competition. Generally, the restriction has been for only one type and model, in the name of equality, fairness and consistency for the competitors.
- k. Various questions related to qualifying regulations:
- If a scheduled meet is cancelled due to weather and held the next day, but a few events were conducted to finality on the first day, do the marks from those events still count toward qualifying?
 - Are there any wind restrictions for a qualifying mark in the combined events?
 - Can events be moved indoor and still used in outdoor qualifying?
 - If a conference indicates that it follows the NCAA rules, does this mean that it follows the qualifying regulations also?
 - Can indoor track indexing for combined events be mandated? Same issue for altitude adjustments.
 - Is there any hand time that are allowed to be on the descending order list?
 - What is the minimum number of events required for a meet?

-- Can the HJ or PV be moved indoor due to weather after the event has started?

All questions related to qualifying regulations were either answered with direct reference to the published regulations in the appropriate championship handbooks or referred to divisional liaisons.

- l. Which rule states that you must list everyone, including rabbits? Or are there any guidelines as to how rabbits should be handled in a distance race? In a recent race some were actually checked in, on the start list and even had a number. Others just jumped in and then disappeared during the race. Then others reported to the start line with a number (they were also on the start list) and the clerks removed their number just before the start. If there isn't anything dealing with them, then there should be. They should report like all other athletes. There is no 'rule'. The preferred method is for the meet management to have them entered as a competitor, shown on the start list, and then listed as a DNF in the results.
- m. Is there an NCAA rule governing the openness of the area below the water jump barrier so that approaching runner can see the water or possibly a runner who has fallen in the water? The NCAA rule governing this area is Rule 1-3.5. The suitable material is usually non-opaque in nature.
- n. Are rubber tipped javelins NCAA compliant? Rule 2-11.1 indicates that the implement must have a metal head.
- o. What are the rules regarding the clearance around a pole vault pad? We currently have the pad planned to be adjacent to the wall of a building. There is no written document within the NCAA or USATF detailing the clearance surrounding a pole vault pad. However, you may be able to find it in the IAAF Track and Field Facilities Manual. I can tell you that placing the landing pad next to a wall is not a very good idea. Current landing pads are approximately 6 meters wide by 5-6 meters deep and there is a trend to allow 3-5 meters additional clearance outside of that.
- p. Is there any way to compel an NCAA member institution to comply with the 2.0m/s rule for records when they compile their own facility or school records? As per Rule 7-2.7, the NCAA maintains responsibility for defined NCAA Championship records, and as such sets the rules (Rule 7-2) which determine if a mark qualifies for such record. Other entities may track best performances for their group or facility and are responsible for maintaining such lists. They are not restricted by the NCAA in setting the parameters they use in determining eligibility for inclusion in such a list. This includes facilities, conferences, news magazines and sports associations, just to name a few that exist. Each institution or conference has the authority to set the parameters regarding eligibility.
- q. Our games committee has determined to allow the competitors in two field events to have automatic advancement to the final round since there are only 8 qualified athletes in those events. However, there is a question on what an athlete needs to do to advance. Is it correct that an "attempt at one trial" is only the athlete's actions needed or must it be a successful fair attempt? It is understood that a PASS is not a trial and can not be used to advance to the final round. There is a need to have an actual attempt at one trial, as stated in the rule. There is no need for it to be a 'successful' or fair trial.
 - r. I have been told by an official that crossbars with the square ends are not legal. This official says the top of the crossbar must be rounded. According to Rule 2-5.5, the crossbar itself must be circular and Rule 2-5.5 / 2-5.6, the end shall have a smooth flat surface. A square does have a smooth flat surface, therefore, it is legal.
- s. The indoor long jump is located on the inside of the track nearest the first lane and has been determined to be approximately 2.5 meters short, according to the rules book. There is no way to lengthen the pit without it going onto the track or without shortening the runway. This seems to be a common location for the long jump. Was the rule was intended for outdoors? For outdoors, generally yes, but there is no exception in either the IAAF, USATF or NCAA rules books for the use of a shorter landing area indoor, since the jumping distances are about the same. The usual solution is to allow the run-up to occur using an extension of the runway onto the track, even if banked. That means that the landing area is maintained, but there is an accommodation in the runway.
- t. What is an instant protest? In the past I understood it to be a competitor or coach saying that they did not agree with the mark or landing (javelin) instantly. Is it enough for an athlete or coach to say that

they did not like a call or mark. Is that an instant protest, or must it specifically be said 'I protest that mark or call'? For an instant protest, it is not absolutely necessary to say 'I protest'. The intent was to provide the opportunity to preserve the mark without needing to first file any written document. My suggestion is that when someone 'questions' a mark or a call, determine 'are you filing a protest'. That will give you the direction you need. The worst thing is to ignore a complaint.

- u. Is it allowable for only the best mark of a field event trial to be measured? Rule 6-3.3 lists an alternate procedure of establishing a minimum distance. It clearly states that all trials not subject to this minimum must be measured. Therefore, without any stated minimum distance, all marks must be measured.

May, 2011:

a. Handbook questions:

Can a substitute be made for one of the original qualifying runner in a relay at the championship and still have that original runner eligible to compete in other events? Based on the relay policy in the handbook, there would be no violation of the failure to participate.

Is it possible to qualify in the 10k in a mixed gender race? Yes, this is specified in the qualifying regulations printed in the championship handbook.

- b. If you have a printed schedule for a field event, and an athlete reports after the time on the schedule, are they allowed to compete? They are forbidden from competing only if they report after to the competitive attempt.
- c. Is there a provision to allow for a different landing area distance indoor in the LJ and/or TJ from that used outdoor, in order to accommodate a longer runway? None of the rules books, for any governing body, has a provision for a shorter landing area indoor than outdoor. Frequently, a required distance in the runway is usually accomplished by using extra distance from the oval.
- d. How are groupings of combined event competitors established? The rules book allows for grouping either by random assignment or by using performances from the season.
- e. What is the course of action if a false entry mark is noticed? By rule, the intentional reporting of a false mark for entry purposes is misconduct, and if shown to be true, then the committee, by qualifying regulation, can disqualify a mark within the event from being used for qualifying.
- f. Is the time limit rule in the vertical jumps applicable for each round of jumps within a bar height? Basically, is a round defined as each attempt within a bar height? A round in the vertical event is a bar height.
- g. Is it legal for the ends of the crossbar in the high jump and pole vault to be square instead of semi-circular with a flat edge? Rule 2-5.6 and 2-6.5 require that the ends of the crossbar have a flat surface. A square end has a flat surface.
- h. The women's horizontal jump first flight had been warming up for 30 minutes -general - about to switch to first flight warm-up only, when we were told the event would be held in the other direction. Everyone had to move, reestablish their marks, wait for board change and calibration of sight scope measurement. Obviously, the event did not start on time. Meet management had originally made the decision on direction an hour before the event started. Do officials have any say in this matter? The only thing that the officials can do is through the referee make the games committee aware of the restrictions of games committee authority under rule 3-2 q, 3-2r and 6-1.18.
- i. In the women's 3ksc there was a miscalculation of laps due to the host not having enough lap counters. They also did not have an official at each barrier or the water jump. In addition, one runner made a mistake, ran around the water jump, then went back, jumped over the water jump but touched the barrier with both hands while jumping. What should have been the outcome of these incidents? The rules do not indicate how a barrier must be transversed. Use of hand on the barrier is permitted. The

rule also indicated that each barrier must be jumped. It seems that was the case. Regarding the miscalculation of laps, that is a matter for the referee at the meet to decide.

- j. Is extra padding around the pole vault allowed, and can it be required? There is no provision in the rule that would forbid the use of extra padding. Conferences have the ability to supplement the rules with more restrictive practices, but cannot make those applicable outside the conference.
- k. A runner left his mark before the gun. The starter restarted the race with all competitors. Upon a protest, the referee disqualified the runner who broke. The games committee reinstated the runner. Is this correct? In the first instance, the determination of the starter is final and cannot be overruled. Therefore, the referee cannot disqualify.