

## Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for July, 2012 – May, 2013

### Correction to the 2013-2014 Rules Book:

An error has been discovered in the example given in Rule 6-4.3. The attempts listed for competitor C, D and E in the second and third columns should be one row lower. Competitor C has a 'make' on the first attempt, and therefore has no further attempts at the height.

### September, 2012:

- a. Is there any provision or guidelines within the NCAA for special accommodations in order to allow disabled athletes to compete within Track & Field or Cross Country? Disabled athletes have competed on a very irregular basis. Special accommodations or additional rules have been addressed by referring all inquiries to the IPC rules which modify existing rules for the sport. A summary of these can be found in the USATF Rules Book.
- b. Please provide guidance regarding the slope of a sector or a running surface. All questions are usually answered by providing copies of current Rule 1-1, regarding the slope of the area in question.
- c. Can a five team XC competition be scored as multiple duals and then counted as multiple competitions for sponsorship? The scoring can be done as multiple duals, but the issue of counting each as a separate competition for sponsorship is not a competition rules issue and must be addressed by the appropriate NCAA office.
- d. Does the NCAA recommend a minimum distance from a synthetic turf infield surface to a wall or from the running track to a wall? There is no rule regarding clearances for the items you mention except for the rule recommendation for a one meter obstacle free zone both inside and outside the track.
- e. Is the NCAA restricting or requiring the use of indoor implement to certain makes and models? No. There is no rule or policy in place to restrict or require the use of specific indoor implements, except for the weight at the Indoor National Championship, where the implements are supplied by the NCAA.
- f. Our school is transitioning to new XC uniforms. The old has the school name in black letters, the new will have the name of the school in yellow letters. Can both be used by our team within a XC competition? For a single team, the answer is no. The 'idiot rule' is to stand the five to seven competitors next to each other, and if they are easily recognizable as being from the same team, then the uniform is legal. In this situation, officials and/or spectators would not be able to make that easy recognition and identify the athletes as being from the same team while they were running on the course. Most and usual recognition is done by color combination.

### October, 2012:

- a. When is your best estimate of an implementation of a Pole Vault Box Collar requirement for the NCAA? All plans for implementation are dependent on the release of a published standard by the ASTM. After that occurs, and it is reviewed by the Rules Committee, a plan for implementation will be developed. That plan will include all the required elements of rule implementation.
- b. Can a conference adopt a rule within our T&F guidelines that field events be set-up in flights according to entry marks? Yes. That is one of the options granted to the games committee by NCAA Rule 6-4.1.
- c. Please explain item five in the Championship Qualifying Criteria that makes reference to the minimum requirements for a competition. Must all schools have at least ten competitors? Must the meet now be

scored? Is this true for a Cross Country competition also? The Championship Qualifying Criteria is not within the scope of responsibility of the Rules Committee, even though for convenience, posted on the rule web page. Please contact the Championship Committee representative for your Division or the NCAA Liaison directly.

- d. Are the new rules for Cross Country, such as tie-breaking, in effect for this season? No. The changes for Cross Country become effective during the 2013 season.
- e. Is there a restriction to only time a Cross Country competition in tenths? The Rules seem to indicate that is the limit. There is no such restriction, however the variation in course lengths and normal methods of timing in a non-standardized environment do not encourage timing accuracy any greater than tenths. Scoring in XC is by place only and it has been determined that when placing is attempted through the times determined by a chip system, the finish place must be verified when the chip times of two competitors are within one-tenth of a second.
- f. Can a Cross Country competition with multiple teams be scored as many dual meets? Will each of the dual meet scoring then count as a separate meet toward the minimum meet requirement for the season? Yes, a competition with many teams can be scored as many dual meets. The question regarding satisfaction of minimum requirements for number of competitions is not addressed within the competition rules. The answer to that quest must come from your conference or possibly NCAA Sponsorship.
- g. The sentence, Cages may be designed with an entry point at the rear of the cage, has been removed from Note 1 within Rule 1.9.1. Does this now mean that 'rear entry' cage designs are not allowed? No. The removal is not to disallow the design, but to eliminate any focus toward a specific design type. There may be a side entry design that satisfies the basic requirements of a cage, but since it is also not specifically mentioned. The change was to allow a greater inclusion.
- h. A women's XC team is in two different models of an Asics uniform top and bottom. Both match primary and secondary colors and logo's exactly. However, they differ in striping on the side of the uniform. Can the team wear these two different uniforms and still be in compliance with NCAA uniform rule? Yes. The piping on the sides is not relevant. As long as it is clearly visible to the average observer that the members are from the same team, through uniform identification, then the uniform is legal.

### **November, 2012:**

- a. Are the Qualifying Regulations for Championships the same for all three Divisions? Specifically, are marks from the Pole Vault Summit acceptable in D3? To the best of my knowledge, the Qualifying Regulations for all three divisions are the same, and I believe that the Pole Vault Summit marks are not acceptable for qualifying purposes. However, it would be best for you to confirm this with your Championship Committee.
- b. Is there a minimum number of lanes required for an outdoor track facility? Yes, that would be six.
- c. Where can I find any case study questions that have been answered in regard to XC? A Case Book and yearly interpretations are posted on-line at [NCAA.org/playingrules](http://NCAA.org/playingrules).
- d. The USATF Officials Newsletter from the Equipment and Facilities Committee infers that a 'rear-entry' cage is no longer legal. Can this be corrected? That committee is not an authoritative voice of the NCAA and does not have its material reviewed before they publish or distribute. However, a complaint has been lodged and there have been assurances that a correct and non-misleading statement will be issued.

- e. A resurfacing and restriping project is on a track designed with a 30cm measure line, but does not have a raised inside curb. They have always used cones. Are they 'grandfathered' to continue to use cones, or must a curb now be installed? The rule book has always been very clear that the 30cm measure line occurs when the facility is designed for a curb. The current rule specifically prohibits permanent replacement of a curb with cones. Not installing a curb, when required, does not create a 'grandfathering' situation.
- f. Is the NCAA planning to reduce the width of the Indoor Weight handle? A rule revision detailing the specification of the Weight is in the new Rules Book. The maximum width of the handle, 19cm, has not changed.
- g. Within a question regarding sport sponsorship, is there any competition rules restriction as to the number of events contested during a meet or what those event must be? The short answer is that there are no competition rule restrictions as to the number of events that constitute a meet. There are restrictions as to whether any of the marks could be used for national championship qualifying purposes.
- h. On an outdoor facility, 400 meters with 30" lanes, is qualifying permissible in the 1500+ events? Also is a curb required, or can cones be used? Regarding the use of a curb and cones, Rule 1-1.6 details the need for and exceptions applicable to the use of a curb and/or cones. In general, the answer is totally based on the original survey method for the facility. Qualifying on a facility with less than the minimum lane as specified in the rules book is not normal, however the determination on this issue must be made by the appropriate championship committee.
- i. At a recent Cross Country meet, teams were allowed to enter with unlimited team members. This resulted in one team all having a gold singlet but some wearing only black compression shorts while others had gold short over the black compression shorts. Is this compliant with the uniform rule? Rule 4-3.2 is clear that the identifying combination of color is for all outer garments worn as the uniform. Therefore, the stated situation is not compliant.
- j. At a Cross Country meet, five members of one team have black tights under their shorts, two more members have grey tights. Which takes precedent, the stated rule 'tights must be of an identical color', or the interpretation on uniform that basically says 'Line them up and if they are clearly on the same team they are legal'? The rule always takes precedence. An interpretation is applicable when a situation is not covered by a rule, such as piping.
- k. Where can the rules be found in regards to participating in outside activities such as 5k road races, triathlons and biathlons etc.? There are no NCAA competition rules for the topic of your question. If this is in regard to determining eligibility, or other related issues, please contact the compliance officer at your institution.
- l. Is the rule from the 2012 or the 2013 rules book regarding tie-breaking for Cross Country to be used for the current season? The applicable rule book for the current season is the 2012 book.
- m. Are there any restrictions in regard to holding a Combined Event competition separate from a regular meet? The qualifying regulations indicate that a stand-alone Combined Event meet must have at least six different competitors start the competition from at least two institutions. For more information regarding acceptability of performance for qualifying, please contact the Championship Committee.
- n. Can a Pole Vault competition as a single event be divided into two pits? Yes. The procedure would replicate current practice when there are two pits in a Combined Event Pole Vault. The biggest issue is the commonality of heights, increments and never increasing the increment. In other words, there is a single progression for the event, however the starting point within that progression is different for each pit.

- o. What is meant by the posting of the results in order to establish the thirty minute protest period? Posting means the availability of the results to the public. That could be through an actual posting or through other communication such as announcing or web access.
- p. The current rules for Cross Country seem to be contradictory regarding the required use of a chute. Please clarify when is a chute required? The revision to Rule 8 two years ago had the intent of eliminating the required use of a chute except when 'chip-timing' with backup was in place. It is quite possible that this did not fully happen in all the Articles within Rule 8.
- q. Rule 8-5.7f indicates that the result times of two competitors within 1/10 second must be verified. Does this mean that a video system is required? In order to accomplish the verification of finish place for times this close together, a video is the only way to determine finish place by torso, therefore an official video is required.
- r. Is the lack of having an official video at the finish of a Cross Country meet that uses 'chip-timing' grounds for invalidating the result? No. If the Referee and the Games Committee certify the results as final, then they stand as published. This is not to predetermine if the results will be accepted by the Championship Committee for qualifying.

### **December, 2012:**

- a. If a Cross Country teams starts with five members and only four finish, for scoring purposes, is that a 'completed contest'? Scoring and a 'completed contest' in Cross Country are independent events. The rules address scoring. Scoring requires a team to have five finishers. When less than five finish, all members of the team are removed from the scoring of the competition. However, all finishers are given an overall finish place and used for any individual awards that may exist. They have still competed, and given credit for doing so.
- b. Are sleeves considered part of the uniform? For an attached sleeve, the answer is yes. For separate items used 'arm-warmers', the answer is no. This was a determination made at least a year ago.
- c. If the Games Committee is serving as the Jury of Appeal, is it required that anyone other than the referee review the initial protest? The answer is no. An initial protest must always go to the referee, singly or as a team. That review must lead to a decision, or be referred to the Jury without a decision. The Jury is an appointed group. The Games Committee may appoint themselves. If there is a referee decision, then there must be an appeal to get to the Jury, whose responsibility is to determine if the Referee decision was based on evidence where the contrary is not conclusive. There is no provision for the Jury to alter a Referee decision because it thinks it was a bad decision choice or solution. They are only allowed to overturn a decision based on conclusive evidence. If the original protest was referred to the Jury without a Referee decision, then they have full authority to examine the full situation and render an initial decision. See Rules 3-4.2b, 4-3.6c and 4-3.7
- d. For XC uniform, if some competitors have a solid black and some have mostly black with one yellow stripe, is that OK? Interpretations in the past have indicated that piping and other adornments to the basic uniform are not relevant, since there may be difference in availability from manufacturers from year to year. However, it is quite clear that five basketball payers would never have this situation arise.
- e. What is the current rule for breaking ties? In Cross Country for this year, ties stand as is and not broken.
- f. Rule 5-1.7 mentions waterfall, staggered waterfall or staggered alley as the type of start allowed. There is no mention of doubling competitors within a lane, therefore is that not allowed? There is no

definition of an alley within the Rules Book.. While it is most usual that it is more than one lane, this need not be the case. Therefore, using one lane as an alley is acceptable and then it can have more than one person at the start.

- g. Is the use of a GPS watch a prohibited electronic device during a Cross Country competition? In general, there is no restriction within the NCAA rules for the use of a watch, GPS or otherwise. Division II did have a restriction for the use of watches as part of their championship manual. It is unknown if that restriction still exists. There is a general restriction on electronic devices that have the ability to communicate. If this exists in such a watch, then it would be prohibited.

### **January, 2013:**

- a. Is there a place in the rules book that indicates whether a run-up is allowed in the 4x200 relay on an indoor facility? The 4x200 and the 4x100 are only listed as common events in Rule 5. The procedure for a run-up is listed in Rule 5-8.4, which allows a run-up in the 4x200. Since rules within Rule 5 also apply to Indoor, Rule 10, a run-up would be allowed if it were contested on an indoor facility.
- b. If a Pole Vault pole breaks during an attempt, is a warm-up with the new pole allowable? Rule 6-1.9 is quite specific that no warm-up shall occur for practice purposes once the competition has begun, except for the one-hour circumstance in the vertical jumps.
- c. Was the width of the hammer handle reduced in size ? No. The width of the handle was 19cm and that continues to be the case in the new rules book.
- d. Is it permissible in a big invite meet to score those competing as several dual meet competitions? There is no rules restriction as to how many ways a competition is scored. How, and for what purpose, those scores are used is not a rules book issue.
- e. What is the rule restriction governing a consolation round, or a two-section final, in a running event? Rule 5-10.7a specifies that the number of runners or teams shall not exceed the number of lanes available for the race in any heat or final for certain events. This applies, through Rule 10-5, as appropriate to indoor events. Therefore the number of 'advancers' to a final, except as detailed in Rule 10-5, cannot exceed the number of lanes available. This also limits the total number of competitors when a two section final is allowed.
- f. Is a roll-out runway permissible for indoor facilities? Specifically, we would like to stage a pole vault in an indoor facility already marked for another sport and wish to place a roll-out runway on top of that flooring, leading to a vault box which is already installed. Also, is there a preferred configuration and/or direction for the sprint lanes? For the first question, yes, this type of runway is acceptable for indoor competitions. Secondly, the sprint lanes may be in inside or outside the oval and can be set to run in either direction.
- g. Is the rubber tipped javelin allowable for use in NCAA competitions? No. This type of javelin is not permitted.
- h. In Rule 1-1.6 they discuss temporarily removing part of the curbing and replacing it with cones 1.5 meters apart indoors. It doesn't really say anything about an indoor track that does not have a curb. Is it expected to place cones 1.5 meters apart around the entire track? The very last sentence of NCAA Rule 1-1.6 is quite specific about indoor tracks. In addition, within the same rule, cones are not required for any straight-away portion of any facility.
- i. Please clarify if the total number and location limit on jumping aid marks in the high jump applies to warm-ups as well as the competition. In Rule 6-5.5, 'After warm-up and before competition ...

All other marks shall be removed'. There is no restriction on the number of marks used or location during the warm-up period.

- j. A note, previously only in the Long Jump, indicating that a 'fair attempt' ruling cannot be then changed to a foul ruling by a subsequent action of the competitor, is now applicable to all field events. How is this applicable in events other than the Long Jump? As soon as an official rules an attempt is either foul or fair, the attempt is complete, and any action by a competitor is no longer part of the attempt and therefore cannot be part of the decision process in making a ruling on the attempt.
- k. On an indoor six-lane straight-away, is it permissible to run a two section final with a total of 12 advancing from the preliminaries? No. It is permissible to run a two section final, but only to the extent of accommodating the number of advancer under normal advancement procedures. Therefore, for most large competitions, this would be a total of 8 competitors. For dual meets, where the number of scored place is reduced, there may be a normal advancement procedure that is easily accommodated by the six lanes.
- l. Is it permissible for a single meet to contest two or more sections (divisions) of an event, each with its own set of prelims and final rounds? Yes. This is permissible as long as no individual from one section is also competing in any round of another section. . However, it is not permissible in a scored competition, since scoring is based on only one final per event.
- m. The new rule for the indoor weight indicates that the any internal void shall be minimal and that a certain center of gravity shall be specified by the manufacturer. Does this require that all indoor weights be returned to the manufacturer for such certification? The specification written in the current rule is mainly for the manufacturing process. It is stated in that manner so that no CG test should be performed as part of the implement inspection since CG testing is not possible for a filled head at the time of the meet. There is a field test commonly performed for an all metal head. Any implement, purchased in prior years, should be deemed as having a void which is as minimal as possible, unless there is an obvious and gross violation of the current or past regulations.
- n. A field event rule change produced the following: "One competitor more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of nine, including representation from more than one team in scored competitions, shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds ...". In a dual meet, with four scored places, only five would advance to finals. I am concerned that this will be interpreted to mean that the team without any in the top five will be allowed to advance two in the finals, and the team with the top five marks would only advance three. Is one advancer adequate representation? Also, how is this administered for double- or triple-dual competitions? The rule does not preclude that each team must score points, therefore one advancer is sufficient. The objective of the rule change is to ensure representation, from the teams involved in the scoring process, in the final, eliminating the possibility of obtaining points through no challenge. Therefore, using this for multi-dual situations, a team that is not 'shut-out' of representation in the final would be in compliance with the rule. You should ensure participation for each team in the final for at least one individual in a manner eliminates the possibility of points being scored without challenge.

### **February, 2013:**

- a. Is there any restriction from holding a Combined Event competition as a stand-alone event? From The Qualifying Regulations, a Combined Event may be held as a stand-alone as long as six competitors start the competition and they are not all from the same institution.
- b. Is it legal to hold a competition on an indoor facility that has a lane one radius greater than 21 meters? Current Rule 10-2.3 indicates that the inside radius should be between 18 and 21 meters.

This is only a recommendation, therefore the answer is yes. Other governing bodies also have recommendations, but currently no limits.

- c. Every field event needs to have a person, preferably an official, time each attempt. This person starts a clock, raises a flag and stops a clock. What is this person called? Why is there not a more complete description of this person and their duties for field events in the NCAA book? Within the NCAA book, the only reference to such a person is in Rule 6-1.5. They are referred to as an event timer. That article indicates what the person is to do in order to show a warning of a fast elapsing time. Even though no mention is made within the list of officials in Rule 3, an inclusion in Rule 3 would probably be not much more detailed than what is in Rule 6.
- d. At a small invitational, two rounds are originally scheduled for the 60m, however only eight will be competing this on a 8-lane track. Can the two rounds, as originally scheduled be run even though no one will be eliminated after the first round? No, only one round is allowed, Rule 5-10.7b. The scheduled number of rounds is not cause to hold two rounds.
- e. In a men's 4x400 race, one of the teams is post-collegian and has a single female member. Does that negate the eligibility of marks for that race for qualifying purposes? According to the Qualifying Regulations, mixed gender races, except the 10k, are not acceptable for qualifying.
- f. On a hydraulically banked track, is there any issue with running races in a flat configuration? There is no rule regarding the banked position you choose for the track, however please know that when in a flat position, the actual marked 200 meter distance is longer than 200 meters.
- g. A competitor checked in for the High Jump and injured himself in his last warm up jump. He then passed on his first attempt, ultimately withdrawing from the competition. He did not attempt any height, but he checked in and passed on a height, does that qualify him as a competitor? Rule 6-1.1b indicates that a pass is not an attempt. He could be listed as DNS but not NH. Eligibility status as a competitor is not defined in the competition rules.
- h. -- Is there a minimum required length for the long jump/triple jump pit? It looks like 7 meters would be the minimum, depending on the placement of the takeoff boards. Is that correct?  
-- Is there a requirement that the runway side lines be permanent or is tape OK (even for a national championship level event)? Our facility will have tennis courts on the infield and per USTA Rules we are not allowed to have any lines going across the courts. Having removable runway lines would be a huge help.  
-- Do the takeoff boards for both LJ and TJ need to be inserts (actual boards) or can they be painted or temporary stripes? It looked like a hard board was required for long jump, but it wasn't clear if a temporary line would suffice for triple jump.  
The length of the landing area should be a minimum of 7 meters, 8 meters is better. Tape is OK for the side lines of the runway. The take-off board can be tape. All of these are possible within Rule 1-6. Indoor facility requirements frequently lead to accommodations where possible. A roll-out or raised runway is also possible.
- i. A competitor from one school inadvertently stepped onto the track and interfered with the progress of a competitor from the other school during a race at a dual meet. A protest has been filed seeking to disqualify all competitors in the race from the opposing school. Is there a place in the rules book that indicates this? Rule 5-5.1 refers to the disqualification of all members of a team within a race under certain conditions. The Referee must determine if the conditions stated for such in the rule exist, and then decide.
- j. Is there a rule that states a meet schedule cannot be changed less than 24 hours before the competition? Can a team arriving late be allowed to participate in sections designated specifically for them alone? There is no rule with regard to when a meet schedule can be last changed. No rule exists pertaining to late arrivals for running events. There is a late arriving rule for field events.

Running event sections specifically designated for a late arriving team are currently at the discretion of the Meet Director and Games Committee

- k. Is the last sentence in the example in Rule 6-4.3 a mistake or intended? The immediate addition of the last three competitors into the competition would mean they have almost no advance warning. That sentence was not thought to be a mistake given the rule that 5-alive is abandoned when the number reaches a certain amount. However, the procedure to add the additional competitors when 5-alive is abandoned will be reviewed.
- l. Is it permissible for a single meet to contest two or more sections (divisions) of an event, each with its own set of prelims and final rounds? Yes. This is permissible as long as no individual from one section is also competing in any round of another section. However, it is not permissible in a scored competition, since scoring is based on only one final per event unless the second event is totally staged as an exhibition.
- m. An indoor facility does not have a full 2 meters behind the start line for the 60m dash in two of the eight lanes, is it therefore permitted to stage a 55m dash instead? This distance requirement is in the Qualifying Regulations and is intended to serve as guidance in determining if the 60m dash can be contested without hazard. The goal is to permit the 55m dash in only those cases where it is not possible to safely stage a 60 meter competition. Final determination must come from the Championship Committee.
- n. Is it permissible to have a two-heat final if we have more than 18 people entered in a dash event on a nine lane facility? If there is less than 18, does this require a one-heat final? If you hold the event as timed finals, then everybody runs once and the results are combined to determine placing. If you hold prelims and final, then the number of entries is not even considered. You must advance, to the final, no more than the number of lanes, Rule 5-10.7. There is no such thing as a 2-heat final, with the following exception. For indoor competitions, Rule 10-5 provides the procedure for the condition where eight lanes are not available.
- o. The 2013-2014 NCAA Rule Book has been published mandating use of a padded collar surrounding the vault box if the innermost edges of the landing system do not extend to the metal edges of the vault box. Has any advisory information appeared since October, 2012? The published rule is currently in effect as written.
- p. Regarding Rule 10-4.6 concerning the recall point in indoor events, should a recall starter be at the old 1-turn break line to look for interference or other infractions? The overall reason for an allowed recall within the NCAA is that the competitors did not get a fair chance at the start. It has nothing to do with any other violations. There has occasionally been a liberal interpretation that 'interference' during the initial part of the race can be deemed as not getting a fair start, and as a result, the 100 meter recall rule using current Rule 10-4.6.
- q. If there is a mix of collegiate and unattached competitors in the 60m dash, can advancement to the final be limited to only collegians or can extra numbers be advanced to the final so that one section is for collegians and another for unattached? If there is only one 60m dash event, then normal advancement, without discrimination, through rounds must occur. The final must always be one section of no more than the number of available lanes and cannot be restricted to a subset of the competitors, excluding those of 'exhibition' status. An exception exists for a facility where the number of lanes is less than eight.
- r. We have been staging the sprint races as a prelim and a final with the top 8 in the final and the next 8 in a consolation final. Is that legal? No. A consolation final is not legal. Advancement to the final round is limited in number to the number of lanes available, except for indoor events where the number of lanes is less than eight.

- s. Some coaches think that advancement to a final can include only collegians. Is this true? No. Within an event, there cannot be discrimination in advancement, except that those listed with 'exhibition' status are not eligible for advancement
- t. Would the NCAA allow the interior of a throws circle to be painted in its entirety or with a logo? There is no prohibition under current rule. However the resulting surface texture may be illegal. Circles made on a wood platform are frequently painted with a sand textured paint. A very smooth and/or slippery surface would not be allowed. The use of a painted logo may be judged to provide competitor markers, which would be illegal. This painted logo, if not covering the entire circle would not be allowed due to the variation of surface texture.
- u. Please re-cap the interpretation issued for the various elements of advancement and the staging of a final in an indoor facility for the events governed by Rule 10-5.1.
- The provisions of rule 10-5 were reviewed and it was affirmed that the provisions within the rule do not replace those within rule 5-10 or 5-11, but the provision of 10-5 supersedes 5-10 and 5-11 when there is conflict.
  - Rule 5-10.7 applies to Indoor Track, as stated in the beginning of Rule 10-5; indicating that any heat, section and/or final cannot have more contestants than the available number of lanes based on the facility.
  - Rule 10-5.1 provides an exception for Indoor Track when a facility has less than eight lanes. The exception is to stage a two-section final. This rule, within its articles, provides the procedure and refers to the number of competitors who advance.
  - When an indoor facility does not have less than eight lanes, then the existing provisions, Rule 5-10.7 apply.
  - These provisions, including a maximum allowed to participate in the two-section final as being eight and that the increase to a two-section final does not create an increase in the number of available lanes, has been re-affirmed by the NCAA Track and Field Rule Committee as being the rule in force.
  - The merits of including an additional competitor so that 'competition for a last scoring place', while noble in cause, is not consistent with existing policy and/or rule throughout Indoor or Outdoor Track and Field. There has never been an attempt to alter the number in a final or the number of sections in Outdoor Track and Field to always accommodate a 'competition' for the last scoring place.
  - In a related issue, there was also re-affirmation that there cannot be more than the normal number who advance to a subsequent round thereby creating non-earned opportunities to compete, commonly referred to as a 'consolation round'.

### **March, 2013:**

- a. A competitor has completed three laps of the 1000m and then walked off the track. Is this competitor eligible to compete in another event later in the competition? The Referee must investigate to determine if there is an honest effort (misconduct) violation. Was there contact with medical? Was there just an abandoning of the event? The result of the investigation will be the determining factor. Also, see the expanded written material regarding honest effort on the Rules on-line page.
- b. Is it legal to advance nine competitors to a two-section final in races under 1000m? Is it legal to hold a two-section final if the facility has eight lanes on the oval? No to each question. This is not legal according to current rule. See material from the February meeting.
- c. If a competitor withdraws from a combined-event, are the individual events completed still valid or are all event performances eliminated as if they never happened? After a withdrawal from the combined-event, for any reason, the total score for that individual is removed and replaced with DNF. The points earned for each event completed is also removed, however the performance for each event is retained and valid for any other valid purpose.

- d. In the reconfiguration of an indoor facility, the resulting oval will be less than 200 meters and will only have four lanes. Would performances on the reconfigured oval be allowed to be used for qualifying and also, is there a minimum number of lanes required. The NCAA Sport Committees currently have a conversion chart that allows qualifying times to be set on ovals that are over, at and under 200m. There is no minimum in the rules regarding minimum number of lanes..
- e. Is it required or advisable to place an additional hurdle outside of the lanes being used in the combined-event hurdle race, such as inside of lane one or also in lane eight if there are only seven participants? Rule 9-2.6b indicates that hurdles shall be placed in all lanes. It is a frequent policy, but not required, that when enough hurdles are available, hurdles are also set outside the normal lanes in order to avoid any infractions.
- f. Are names permitted to be on the uniform? Yes.
- g. Who has the authority to designate a jury of appeals? Can the jury be comprised of various referees and officials? The Games Committee has the authority to appoint a Jury of Appeal. In general, it has been done so that members have no conflict of interest with other aspects of the competition. It is possible to appoint other officials or the Games Committee itself.
- h. An institution is running their DMR in lane 2 which is 200 meters, blocking lane 1, which is measured at 197 meters. Do they still get the undersized conversion for qualifying marks? What is stopping any institution from getting their track measured in a lane other than lane 1, running a race there, cutting down on turns and receiving a better conversion? This is indeed a question for the Sport Committee, not the Rules Committee, however there is a rule that indicates a competitor is allowed to run anywhere on the track in a distance race and there is no specific rule that forbids the 'blocking' of a lane. In addition, even though the conversions are oval distance specific, an important factor is the radius of the oval and therefore an undersized facility is always treated as such.
- i. Regarding 'Honest Effort', what is the current rule and the intent of that rule? There are two rules that overlap in intent, Failure to Participate and Honest Effort. Each is explained in detail in a document posted on-line on the Playing Rule web page.
- j. Is it legal for a competitor in a sprint to use a 3-point stance at the start? Yes.
- k. Can there be preferred lane assignments in the first round of running events? This is only possible if the first round is the only round, otherwise, the lanes must be random.
- l. Is it allowable to contest the long jump of a combined event with 18 competitors as a single flight. Yes. It is a Games Committee decision.
- m. During a jump-off for first place in the HJ, a competitor clears a height better than what was accomplished in the competition proper. Does the competitor get credit for this better mark? Yes.
- n. Did the rule on allowing student-athletes view video during the championship change last year? It is not allowed under current Rule 4-3.6a.1. The viewing of a videotape or photos, or the use of any wireless communication device by a competitor during event competition is not allowed. The rule did not change, but did move location in the book.
- o. Can the curbing be eliminated from an indoor facility and replaced by cones? The facility, if designed and surveyed for a curb, must have a curb in place, Rule 1-1.6. If not designed and surveyed for a curb, then cones around the curve must be in place anyway.
- p. Is there a minimum number of athletes who must compete in a Combined Event competition for the results to be eligible for qualifying purposes. The qualifying regulations have a restriction for a

stand-alone Combined Event. There is no restriction for a Combined Event as part of a larger competition.

- q. Can the finish line, common to all races, be at a point other than the transition of the straight and the bend? Yes. There is no rule restriction for the placement of the finish line on the track.
- r. Since Section 3.1.1 of the ASTM Standard for Pole Vault Box Collars indicates that 'If the box collar has box collar wings ...', can that be construed as meaning that the wings, which are inside the confines of the box are not required? The reply from the Chair of the ASTM Subcommittee is: The intent of the F2949 standard was to require box collar wings, but the standard itself is what prevails. If this phrase in F2949 regarding the definition of box collar arms leads a reader to believe that box collar wings are optional, then that's a problem. I think that the description of minimum and maximum dimensions of the box collar as described in section 5 of F2949 clearly indicate that wings are required. A revised standard without this phrase could possibly be in place by late fall.
- s. In the preliminaries of a running event can the order of the heats be changed, so long as the lanes and heat assignments of the competitors are not changed? In other words, could heat 3 of a 5 heat race be moved to the first heat it necessary to prevent a undue delay in the start of the finals in a field event where one of the heat competitors is also in the field event final? The Note at the end of Rule 4-4.4 can easily be read to mean that a rearrangement cannot take place for the purpose stated. However, the heat order of the preliminaries of a running event are random and not the result of any predetermined sequence.
- t. If the objective of 5-alive is to avoid long delays between vaults in big fields, what is the rationale for the "greater than 15" wording. Five-alive is abandoned when the number of vaulters at a height is less than 9. Why not just say "The 5-alive procedure is recommended whenever the number of vaulters at a height is greater than 8." The rules committee wished to allow the use of 5-alive, but not make it the default method of competition.
- u. An athlete entered in the high jump and the hurdles is in the middle of competing in the high jump and does not appear for his hurdle heat. Is that athlete now forbidden to continue competing in the high jump? No, just for subsequent events in the meet.
- v. A facility does not allow metal spikes for the High Jump and the Pole Vault due to potential damage to their surface. As an alternative, are the rubber inserts by Asics which are intended for cross country, which have a diameter of 20 millimeters and an exposed height of 5 millimeters, permissible to use in a track meet. The pictured insert does not qualify as a 'spike' as indicated in rule 4-3.3. Spikes shall have a maximum diameter of 4 mm for the one-half of their total length closest the tip.
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- v. When is the rule concerning maximum number of replacements on a relay team in effect? The number of replacements to the named members of a relay team is two from the time those names become declared. If a specific team has qualified, then that is when they are named. If there is a declaration process, then that is the time. If the team is entered as an institution team with names provided on a relay card at some time before the event, then that is the time.
- w. In the Heptathlon, the timing system was not activated for the finish of the race, resulting in no performances being recorded, from which to determine points. Can the race be re-run later in the day? Yes. The requirement is that the events be completed within two days.
- x. Is it permissible for a Referee to void the results for a race and order the race to be held again? Yes. The provisions of Rule 3-4.2a and Rule 3-4.2c allow for actions and decisions not provided

for within the Rules, such as the re-running of a race and the circumstances leading to that decision.

- y. Is there a mandated or preferred way to run the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relays where there are more teams than lanes? The options available are stated in Rule 5-10.1. These include a separate prelim and final round or a single timed-section final round. The method of creating the sections is left to the Games Committee. For timed-sections, Rule 5-11.3a allows for assigned lanes.

### **April, 2013:**

- a. What are the minimums for a legal meet regarding the number of events and the number of participants? The rules book does not define a legal meet for any purpose. There are requirements for sponsorship as well as championship qualifying. In most cases, the accepted requirements are those listed in the championship qualifying regulations.
- b. If there are only 9 competitors entered in an 800 on a six lane indoor facility, and one is going to be a rabbit, can it be split into two sections? Rules 10-4.2 and 10-4.3 apply to this situation. The inclusion of a rabbit is immaterial. For a championship there is a maximum of 8, otherwise 12. The Games Committee could set timed finals.
- c. Which side of the relay zone lines are the real edges of the zone? Based on 'closest to the start', the edge shifts between the first and last zone of the 4x1. The edge of the line closest to the start is in the direction of running. Another way to state this is that it is the first edge encountered by the runner.
- d. An athlete in the Pent HJ requested to be allowed to jump out of order so that she could go to compete in the open LJ. That request was granted by the official. Due to the official's error in allowing this, does that free her of any wrong doing, since she asked if it was okay in the first place? Would it make sense to have some wording in the rules book to protect athletes from being punished by an error made by an official? An error by an official is not cause to automatically absolve an occurred action. It would be the decision of the referee that would prevail if the matter was brought to protest. Regarding a proposal, any submission is welcomed.
- e. In the pole vault, at 5.00 meters, there are 5 competitors remaining. After all attempts have been completed at that height, 2 competitors remain, and the bar is raised to 5.15m. How much time does each competitor have for their first attempt at the new height of 5.15m? Is it correct that each has 1 minute for the first attempts, and 3 minutes for any subsequent attempts? This is only correct if it is the first trial and each is just entering the competition, otherwise, the amount of time is 3 minutes for each.
- f. Can the IdentiLynx camera be used for determining LJ fouls? An electronic device is authorized within Rule 1-6.5. The unit would need to be placed directly in-line with the foul line and be able to accurately determine a crossing of the plane.
- g. Please verify the placement of cones on an indoor facility with no curb. The cones are placed on top of the inside white line of the track around each curve, at a minimum.
- h. Does a formal protest have to be filed in order for a finish picture to be re-read in determining tie-breaking? There is no rules book protocol for this situation. It is dependent on the stated policy of the Games Committee.
- i. Is the new rule of no false start unless a foot leaves the block in effect? There is no such rule in the NCAA.
- j. Where the break-line is for an alley start in the outdoor 1500, 3k and 5k? If it exists at all, the break-line would be at the beginning of the home-stretch, after the full turn is encountered.

- k. Can the advancement to the final rounds of a field event be the top nine marks in the preliminary rounds plus additional collegians so that there is a minimum of nine collegians in the final? No. Advancement to the final rounds is based strictly on whether a position in the finals rounds is earned. The maximum is nine no matter who they may be.
- l. A distance relay team was disqualified when the runner in the second leg stepped outside the zone prior to receiving the baton and the coach was notified at that time. Could all future legs of the relay be pulled at that point without jeopardizing their eligibility for later races? There are two possible violations. One is Failure to Participate, which is not applicable. The other is Honest Effort (Misconduct). The Referee has total discretion in making the determination for the latter, however being told of the DQ before the end of the race is unusual and definitely determines any analysis of effort.
- m. The timing system did not start for a race. The Games Committee has chosen to re-run it, but the rules book gives no guidance. When can this be done? All issues not covered in the rules book come under the authority of the Referee.
- n. Please clarify if an indoor track without a curb needs to have cones around the full track and where they must be placed? For an outdoor alley, where are the cones placed? Cones are required to be placed on top of the inside line of the track and, at a minimum, around each bend as specified in rule 1-1.6. For an outdoor outside lane waterfall start, the cones are placed on top of the inside lane line of the alley.

**May, 2013:**

- a. Is it required that an indoor facility have a curb or may it use cones? An indoor facility can be constructed with or without a curb and still be legal for the acceptance of performances for records and qualifying purposes. If there is no curb, cones are required.
- b. Is it required to use any kind of pole vault box padding? The current NCAA rule is that the runway surface surrounding the box shall be padded in some manner. This can be accomplished through the use of the landing pad system or additional padding. As of December 1, 2013, the required padding shall meet the ASTM standard for the padding of a pole vault box.
- c. At the close of declarations for a meet, it is noticed that a competitor with strong religious beliefs has been declared in an event that will be contested on a Saturday and therefore participation in that event will not occur. Is this considered misconduct and what is the penalty? Rule 4-1 indicates that misconduct includes any act of dishonesty or unprofessional behavior. It is possible that an investigation of the situation described would fit the definition. It would be within the authority of the games committee of the meet to make that determination and then determine and impose any penalty.
- d. If implement inspectors are being told to pass implements that are not legal by a meet director, are the marks recorded valid? What recourse is there for an implement inspectors being intimidated by athletes/coaches/meet directors to pass failed implements? Do we, as officials, have any avenue to report on the validity of marks if we know that the implement used does not meet specs? It is the responsibility of each official to act in a manner that ensures fair competition to the best of their ability. Any act which causes deviation from this and creates non-compliance with the rules shall be reported to the referee for resolve. The validity of marks as a result of such issues should be handled in a similar manner.
- e. The last jumper out of four at a height clears the bar. The jumper is the first one at the next height. Does the jumper get two minutes for consecutive jumps? The IAAF book implies consecutive jump rule applies. Is this also true for NCAA? In IAAF, USATF and HS,

consecutive can be within a height or across a height. For NCAA consecutive only applies within a height.

- f. Rule 1-1.1 refers to the downward inclination from the throwing circle towards the landing area. Is there a maximum cross slope that the sector can have? There is no cross-section restriction.
- g. If a shoe lace or pant leg touches outside the throwing circle during the throw it is a foul? There does not seem to be a clear understanding as to what "any part of the body" means. Clothing, glasses, hats, bobby-pins, shoe laces, etc. cannot create a foul. However, a shoe is not different from a foot and a glove is not different from a hand, which are 'parts of the body'.
- h. Is there a definition of what constitutes a 'track meet'? Is there a minimum number of events that have to be contested in order to call something a 'track meet'? There is no definition in the Rules Book. Please refer the Championship qualifying regulations for accepted minimums.
- i. In a competition, are schools required to use the blocks that are provided? Yes, if so opted by the games committee. Please see Rule 5-1.3.
- j. Is it legal for men and women compete in the event? There is no item in the Rules Book on this topic; however restrictions do occur in the Qualifying Regulations.
- k. What is the number of competitors allowed in the final of an 800 meter race? Please see Rule 5-10.7a. The rule allows only eight competitors to be in the final of an 800 where there is a preliminary round. Twelve competitors may compete in each heat of a preliminary round or in each section if only one round of time-section finals is contested.
- l. Does a vaulter get performance credit if the result of competing in the event is not clearing any height? The official scorecard would show No Height, which is different then Did Not Start. The actual attempts in the event satisfy the participation requirements of Rule 4-2.2.
- m. Why is the time allowed between attempts in the HJ and PV different in the open and combined-events when there is only one competitor remaining in the competition? One explanation is that for the open events, there is no longer an element of 'competition'. The competitor has won the competition. This is not true in the combined-event. The competition continues, through the accumulation of points for a better performance.
- n. Is it permissible for a conference to decrease the maximum size of field event flights from 16 to 12? Rule 6-6.1 allows for the size of a field event flight to be between five and sixteen. A conference can determine and set a size within the limits set by the rule.
- o. Does the NCAA allow for the scoring of a dual meet with a method other than 5-3-2-1? Yes. Rule 7-1.2 provides for a 5-3-1 scoring method.
- p. In an 800m race in a dual meet, the leader raised his arms and waved them continually for the last 20 meters of the race. Is this considered 'taunting' and if so, what NCAA rule covers it? There is no 'taunting' rule in the NCAA. A rule that might apply is Rule 4-1.1 referring to misconduct and unsporting conduct. Upon proper submission, the referee would be authorized to make a determination if such a violation occurred and then take appropriate action.
- q. Do the rules allow an athlete to compete in multiple divisions of the same event in the same meet? There is no rule restriction, however Rule 4-4.5 defines an event and the Qualifying Regulations have restrictions
- r. Is it allowable for a non-collegiate competitor to compete in the same throws event as collegiate competitors, and use an implement that is designated for their age category. No. The issue is the non-legal weight would be at the site and usable by anyone. Please see rule 6-1.11.

- s. If an athlete completes a fair trial in the Long Jump and has the leading mark in the competition, can that athlete PASS all remaining prelims as well as final attempts and still be in compliance with the 'failure to participate' rule for continuing in the remainder of the meet? **Yes.** After a valid 'start' in a field event, Rule 4-2.2b is satisfied. Passes are allowed.
- t. May a meet director/referee change the direction of running for the sprints/high hurdles during the meet to take advantage of a change in wind direction, once the direction of running has been established? That is, may the hurdles be run in one direction and then the 100m is run in the other direction? Does the same rule for direction, Rule 6-1.16, apply for both running and field events, i.e.; "...the direction may not be changed"? The decision is on an event-by-event basis, made by the games committee, not the meet director or the referee singularly. Each event, running or field, is determined separately. Rule 6-1.16, pertains only to field events and applies once an event has begun.
- u. A competitor has begun the Decathlon and is also declared in the Javelin. He opts to withdraw from the Javelin. Does this affect his continuation in the Decathlon? **No.** An event once started can be completed. The Decathlon is one event.
- v. If the Combined Event and the Open events are held on separate weekends and a declared competitor in the Combined Event does not start, does that 'Failure to Participate' affect that competitor's participation in the Open events? If the Combined-Event and Open events are held separately as two meets, with separate declaration processes, then there is no effect. If the entire competition is a single meets and has a single declaration process, then Rule 4-2.2c applies.
- w. The chief official at the long jump instructed the competitors that they could not communicate with their coaches, who were legally positioned in a coach's box in lane 8 of the track adjacent to the LJ venue, until they walked away from the pit and retreated to a point toward the beginning of the runway that was further than the take-off board. A competitor completed a jump, exited the pit, walked to the inner curb of the track near the pit and then communicated with their coach, who was standing in lane eight. The official informed the competitor that they were being disqualified for disobeying instructions and for obtaining an unfair advantage through coaching. Is this permissible? **No.** There is no provision in the rules that would allow the official to make such an initial instruction, a new rule, nor dictate a disqualification for the stated reason since the referee is the only official who may disqualify.
- x. Is it legal to step out the front of the throws circle after starting an attempt if the competitor does not release the implement and walk back into the front of the circle and resume the attempt as long as time has not expired? Rule 6-8.3, 6-9.3 or 6-11.3 gives the answer: It shall be a foul if, after entering the circle and starting ... : The competitor touches the area outside the circle before the implement touches the ground. Even if there was a formal and evident interruption, the exit would have to be from the rear half of the circle.
- y. A shot putter, during the spin, drops the shot inside the circle. Is this a foul? **Yes.** From Rule 6-8.3 and Rule 6-8.3b, the 'put' has started and the implement has fallen outside the marked landing sector.
- z. Does Rule 3-4.2b forbid a referee from making a disqualification decision on violations only personally observed when there is no jury of appeal appointed? **Yes.** This was the intent, and indicated as such in a 2004 entry in the Case Book (posted on the Rules web page). It does not forbid a referee to act as an official who can report a violation to another referee.
- aa. If you start the decathlon on Friday, and you are entered in other events on the same day, can you continue on to day two of the decathlon if you do not report to your other events on Friday? **Yes.** The decathlon is one event. The participation rule is satisfied upon starting the first event

and you are allowed to continue in an event that has been started. Please see the note within Rule 4-2.2.

- bb. The timing system failed on the first of three prelim heats of the 800m. There was no back-up hand timing. A decision was made to follow Rule 5-12.5 and rerun the race. Since the advancement was two on place from each prelim heat, those advancers are known. Is it permissible to rerun the race without the two who would advance on place? The rule book does not indicate a solution other than to rerun the race. That general statement implies a complete rerun. However, the referee may, in order to reach a fair and just solution, after determining that the times of the place advancers are not needed, may provide for and determine a solution that is not specifically covered within the rule book.
- cc. During the third exchange in the 4x400 relay, the incoming runner on Team A, after a legal baton exchange, stops very shortly after the point of the exchange within the passing zone. An outgoing runner from Team B, later in the race, begins running while watching their incoming runner and completes an exchange of the baton. This outgoing runner only then begins to focus toward the running direction and collides with the stopped runner from the other team. This outgoing runner recovers and continues the race. Can Team A be disqualified for violating a rule? Rule 5-8.6 establishes the preferred action of the runners. That action is remaining in their lane or established path without veering. That was done. Stopping is not forbidden nor is continuing to run through the zone required. The outgoing runner on Team B must also remain in an established path. That is, maintaining an established straight path before determining that it is safe to veer toward the inside. The right-of-way is running is never with a runner who is behind another. In addition, the Team A runner did not violate Rule 5-5.3a forbidding obstruction because the rule refers to any action, which means the act is not passive. The Team A runner, stopped on the track, having no active knowledge of any activity to their rear. Therefore, there is no violation of rule that would justify the disqualification of Team A.

The following is a compilation of questions and answers regarding the new Pole Vault Box Padding:

1. What should happen if a team is at a facility that is not in compliance with the rule requiring the new pole vault box padding after December 1? If you are at a meet that does not have the required equipment in place, no matter what the event, it should be reported to the event official, meet director, games committee and host institution. A decision must then be made to determine if the problem can be remedied and whether the event can proceed. Similar to other events that require certain equipment to be in place, it has to be determined if the event can be conducted safely. Ultimately, the continuance of the event is based on an informed decision by those involved, with the final decision resting with the games committee. Aside from this, competitors and officials can choose without prejudice to not participate.
2. Does this procedure allow for a direct method to avoid ever using the new equipment? Is the rationale of never having a safety incident, a hand-picked crew of officials to insure proper set-up of the existing equipment and very experienced referees to verify the set-up sufficient to confidently say that the new equipment need not be in place? Never having an accident at the hammer or discus throws has not been a determining factor as to whether a cage should be in place. The timing of an incident is not predictable, nor is an incident dependent on facility preparation. Actual actions of athletes in competition produce conditions that sometimes create abnormal results, and those results are not predictable. The new padding, as required equipment, is preventative in nature. A competition in any sport is not allowed to take place unless and until proper safety precautions, determined as being sufficient and compliant with the rules of the sport by the games committee, are in place.
3. What would be the ramifications for non-compliance? Non-compliance with a safety requirement would subject the host institution, any school/coach that chooses to participate and officials who allow the event to be contested without the required equipment to a wide variety of ramifications should an incident occur. It is the responsibility of officials to report any violation of the rules to the appropriate referee. It is the responsibility of the meet referee to provide "fair and safe" competitions for all

competitors. Knowing that member institutions are required to conduct their contests according to the rules, it is the hope that safety requirements, implemented in a proper manner, would not be ignored.

4. Can the requirement for the vault box padding be satisfied in a manner other than with a device purchased commercially, such as with a padding system developed by the coaching staff? The rule does not specify any source for the device. The requirement is that the device must comply with the published ASTM F2949 standard which provides impact protection to the competitor in and around the pole vault box. The standard specifies the minimum requirements regarding the collar's size, shape, and physical characteristics of materials. It also provides for standard testing procedures and the labeling and identification compliant devices.