

Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for July, 2011 – May, 2012

September, 2011:

- a. Is a square-end allowable for the ends of the crossbar in the HJ and the PV? NCAA rules do allow a square end. The written rule, 1-5.6 and 1-6.5, indicates the need for one flat surface. USATF and IAAF have restrictions for a semi-circular end with one flat edge.
- b. How is the required length and width of the landing sectors for throwing events determined? Where can the certification forms be obtained for a track that has been resurfaced and repainted? Is it required that all barriers in the steeplechase be placed equidistant around the track? What is the maximum sloping tolerance for the landing areas of the throw? There is no 'required' length or width of a landing sector, but the determining measurements can be found in Rule 1, Figures 9 and 15. The NCAA does not have 'certification' forms other than those used by surveyors to validate facility compliance. The distances between barriers in the Steeplechase are approximately equidistant as specified in Rule 1-3. The maximum slope for a field event landing area is found in Rule 1-1.1.
- c. The automatic timing system did not start for one section of a Combined Event sprint event. There were no hand timers. The on-site decision was to re-run the one section after a short rest period. Was this the correct decision? Can this condition and a stated solution be included in the Conference Manual (rules) for the conference meet so that consistency is maintained in the future? Questioning the correctness of any decision by those empowered to make them, regarding issues not covered in the Rules Book, is not appropriate. However, the Rules Book does provide a method to appeal a decision if desired. It is not appropriate to second-guess, nor is it appropriate to use hind-site, to determine if a decision was correct. A different official may have made a just as correct but different determination. That is the purpose of the authority given to the Referee. There is no restriction on a conference including a rule that may be applicable, but must recognize its limitation.
- d. Is there a required time when an outgoing relay runner must be at the ready mark inside the appropriate zone? No, not according to the NCAA rules.
- e. Is there a rule that disallows a competitor from being listed as unattached and competing in a scored cross-country event? There is no competition rule that forbids unattached athletes from competing. However, it is a decision that can be made by the Games Committee.
- f. Can the distance from the start to the first turn in a Championship XC course be 550 meters? No, Rule 8-2.2f sets the minimum distance.

October, 2011:

- a. Is it permissible to paint dashes on top of some lane lines for the first turn, outdoor, so that there is identifiable alleys in the in the 800? There is no specific rule that forbids this addition, however, Rule 1-1.2 indicates that the lane lines shall be white. The addition of dashes would be highly irregular. Cones, at regular intervals, are frequently used to denote the inner marking of an alley. One possible way to achieve this marking in a permanent manner would be to paint small circles, of a contrasting color, at intended cone locations, similar to the way hurdle marking are painted on a track surface.
- b. Is it against any NCAA rules to move the Pole Vault to day one of the indoor Heptathlon? Yes. Rule 9-1.4 indicates 'Shall be held in the following order' for the events in the Combined Events.
- c. Is it true that the NCAA is requiring pole vault competitors to wear helmets and if so, what brands of helmets are available? This is not true. There is no rule mandating helmets. There is a new rule which states that if a helmet is worn, it shall be specifically designed for such purpose and be manufactured to comply with the ATSM standards for such product. It shall bear a marking to indicate that it complies with this standard.
- d. Can an indoor 400m track be used for qualifying for NCAA D1 outdoor regional and national in every event? The answer is found in the Outdoor Championships Handbooks of each Division, and it is No. The Qualifying Requirement reads: Qualifying marks in all divisions must be made using an outdoor

facility except that the high jump and/or pole vault may be moved indoors for safety reasons by a decision of the competition's game committee.

- e. How much distance is needed for the straight line run-out after the finish of the race such as the 100m? The Rules Book sets no specific distance for this, and in general, has no design guidelines. Design detail and specifications can be found in the IAAF T&F Facilities Manual.
- f. A new rule 'would allow schools to place suitable padding around the vaulting box and extend into the box as long as it does not affect the bend of the pole'. If at a competition an athlete or coach objects to such padding being used, what should the official do? There is no current NCAA Rule that allows anything to extend into the box. If and when approval occurs, there will be formal releases to institutions and officials.

November, 2011:

- a. Are noisemakers, such as cow bells, permissible at Cross Country competitions? Yes, there is no rule forbidding noisemakers in either XC or Track & Field.
- b. What provisions are in the rules for dealing with a lightning strike during the middle of a race? NCAA inclement weather policy has specific procedure to follow in the case of lightning. There is no provision within the Competition Rules pertaining to the method of suspension, resumption, scoring or validity of the race, therefore the responsibility for making the determination falls to the Games Committee and the Referee. The best procedure would be to delay any competition if inclement weather is highly likely. Barring this, the Games Committee should establish a contingent plan for halting an event in progress and determining the conditions under which an event could be considered valid. Together with the Referee, this and the method of determining a score would be implemented.
- c. Are there any rules pertaining to the amount of banking allowed for indoor facilities? Can the banking be varied by event? There is only one rule, and it is the maximum banking allowed for the facility, Rule 10-2.2. Banking may be varied by event. There is no current regulation regarding the amount of banking for individual events.
- d. The IAAF Referee Manual states 'Umpires must be diligent to ensure that they observe any contact with the baton prior to the baton entering the change zone, if the outgoing runner even touches the baton prior to the baton being inside the zone, the team will be subject to disqualification.' Will this be the NCAA position? Rule 5-8.5 defines the passing of a baton. It states the baton must be passed within the 20-meter zone and the passing commences at the first touch by the outgoing runner. Therefore, the IAAF, USATF and NCAA rule and penalties are the same.
- e. Is it allowable to use a PV collar if the institution has one? The current rule, 2-6.1, allows for a collar to protect the area immediately around the vaulting box if the landing pad system does not extend to that area. Any type of collar that extends into the vaulting box is not allowed.
- f. Please tell me the requirements for the slope of the flooring around the sand pit in order to comply with current egress code? There is regulation concerning the slope and dimension of the runway and the landing area. There is no regulation regarding slope of the area adjacent to or at the end of the landing area. Slopes in this area should be governed by normal design factors for safe egress.
- g. Does the games committee have the ability/authority to make changes to a rule for a meet, specifically to allow more than eight (8) competitors per heat in the preliminaries or finals of an indoor 800m run? The games committee does not have authority to change any rule, therefore the answer is no. The rule for the number of competitors allowed in individual events is covered in Rule 10, while Rule 9-2.5c covers a combined event.
- h. We are building a new outdoor track and are not planning to put an inside curb on it. Does this mean we would have to put cones all the way around the track during a meet in order to have the marks accepted for championship qualifying? Whether a mark can be used for qualifying is a matter for the sport committee to decide. However, sections of Rule 1 pertaining to curbing, as currently written and interpreted by the committee, is that if there is no curb, then the marks cannot be used for qualifying.

Cones may be used as the temporary replacement of a curbing when removed for an event such as the javelin. Also, curbing is only required around the curves ... from straight to straight.

December, 2011:

- a. Is there a rule requiring that the equipment used for a video of the finish, which is then used for evaluation of the finish by a Referee, be aligned with the finish line? There is no requirement regarding the placement of film or video equipment at the finish of a Cross Country Competition. The Referee may use any official video of the event, no matter where it originated. See Rules 3-4.2e and 4-3.6c.
- b. Will it be true that the NCAA will require officials to check for proper ASTM certification on a helmet if a vaulter chooses to wear one? There is nothing in the current language of the rule that would require an official to check the helmet, just like there is no requirement to check the length of spikes, for which there is a rule. However, there is surely a scenario of liability if a rule was violated and that resulted in an adverse condition.
- c. Is there a preferred configuration for a combine hammer discus cage in the NCAA? No. Any configuration is acceptable as long as the guidelines for the cage are observed. The most common configurations are those with either concentric circles or with the hammer circle in the rear.
- d. Is there any restriction in the rule book regarding the maximum number of competitors in a steeplechase or a requirement that indicates when a preliminary round must be contested? Rule 5-1.7d requires that a single section final be contested when there are 18 or fewer reporting. There is no number requirement stated that makes it necessary to hold a preliminary round, but the maximum number that advance if a preliminary round is held, is stated. Even with no number stated for holding a preliminary round, the decision to hold a preliminary round must be based on the constraints imposed by the facility.
- e. Is there an NCAA requirement for a competitor to wear shoes while running? No, there is no requirement to wear shoes. (This inquiry was prompted by the need to attach a timing chip to something.)
- f. Is it required for the Starter to use a flag at the start of a cross country race in addition to voice and a pistol? Rule 8-5.6 details the position and the procedure for a starter to follow in cross country. There is no alternative.
- g. Is it required that the second, third and/or fourth runner in a 4x100 relay be on the track in their ready positions at the start of the race? No. There is no such requirement. However, running onto the track at the last minute and not becoming set prior to the start of the hand-off procedure could be a violation of the baton passing rule.
- h. Is there a requirement and a procedure to break ties in a Cross Country competition? Rule 8-6.3d indicates that ties in a cross country competition are not broken except when there is a need to do so for championship advancement. In that case, the procedure is detailed in the championship handbook.
- i. The vehicle leading the runners took a wrong turn which resulted in the full field of competitors running a longer distance than originally planned for the course. What should be the remedy? If a protest/question is raised, then this is totally within the authority of the Referee of the competition to make a decision based on the facts available at the site, using applicable rules and the responsibility to render a fair decision. Further appeal can be made to the games committee. The remedy, without further appeal, is the decision as a result of this process. The allowable course distance is in Rule 8-2.1.
- j. Do the false start violations in Rule 5-2 apply to cross country? The provisions of Rule 5, for the most part, apply to Track Events, not Cross Country. Rule 8-5.6 details procedures to use at the start of a Cross Country Competition, and also contains violations. For example, Rule 8-5.6b(4) indicates that a competitor shall be disqualified for a second false start.

- k. Is it permissible to re-configure a flat indoor facility so that only lanes 3, 4, 5, and 6 are used, instead of using all six lanes? If the original configuration was designed with no curb, then there is no restriction to prevent the facility from being considered a four-lane flat. Obviously, all distances would have to be re-measured and certified as being correct. The current rule concerning the use of cones for a facility not designed for a curb must be observed.
- l. Regarding the uniform rule, is it legal within the rules for some members of a XC team to wear tops and bottoms which are school colors, but reversed, such as white over red and red over white? This is not legal within the current rule for uniform. The test is that a line-up of the members of the team produces a clearly identifiable team through the worn uniform, not simply school colors.

January, 2012:

- a. Is a competitor automatically disqualified upon receiving apparently needed medical assistance. NCAA Rule, 5-5.4, is not as specific as other rule books regarding assistance. While there is provision for disallowing the coach to 'run to the rescue', there is no formal prohibition of a 'medical evaluation'. The determination by the Referee must be based upon the type of assistance rendered.
- b. Please confirm that if, in a 4X100m relay, the outgoing runner touches the baton before the baton is in the exchange zone that it is a violation. Yes, that is the current rule.
- c. A request was made to get a clearer understand of the rules and concepts regarding the provisions of Rule 4.2. The document was created and is published separately.

February, 2012:

- a. Can the Pole Vault be held in flights? Yes. It is permissible to do this, grouped by ability or by lot, but there is then extreme limitations created on the progressions in both flights.
- b. Can a qualifying competition followed by a final competition using the four-attempt alternative be used at a meet during the regular season? Yes. A qualifying competition is legitimate as deemed necessary by the games committee. The number of competitors who qualify to the 'competition proper' is determined by the games committee. The games committee may elect to use the alternate competition format in conducting the 'competition proper'. The qualifying competition marks cannot be used to determine the winner of the event, but are fully eligible as a performance for records.
- c. With nine or fewer competitors, does each competitor have to make a legal trial in the first three rounds or just an attempt? A legal trial, which produces a mark, for advancement is only the requirement when there is an advancement procedure that would limit the number being taken to the final rounds. The games committee may elect to provide all competitors, when the field is nine or fewer, with six attempts. The only restriction for this format is that each competitor must have an attempt during the preliminary rounds. A 'pass' is not an attempt.
- d. What is the maximum number of competitors that can advance from the preliminary rounds of a field event to the final rounds? In a scored competition, it is actually stated that the maximum is one more than the number of scoring places, plus an increase as a result of ties, with a minimum of eight. There is no maximum actually set within the rules book for a non-scored competition. However, there is a maximum number that can be allowed to automatically advance based on the number of original participants. That number is nine, which would preclude an original field of ten or more being allowed to advance all competitors. Therefore, the maximum number that can advance to the final three rounds of a field event is nine.
- e. Is it legal for a thrower in a circle event to place any kind of tape on their shoe in order to gain better traction within the circle? There is no specific limitation in the rules book that forbids this activity. However, there is a provision that addresses the goal that is trying to be achieved, and therefore it should be used to deny the use of tape on the bottom of the shoe. The second paragraph of Rule 6-8.2 and similar in other circle events: 'No substance shall be applied to the throwing surface of the circle', i.e. that would change the traction. Tape may be applied over the instep, as indicated in Rule 4-3.5.

March, 2012:

- a. Is it required that a spike be placed in the landing area sand to mark the measurement point? No. There is no such requirement.
- b. Officials at many universities have been disallowing indoor shots for too much "internal movement." Is this correct? No. Rule 10-7.1 specifically stated that internal movement is allowed. This is not disallowed in any rules book.
- c. Implement officials at several universities have disallowed the soft-shell weight implement since the official could put finger indentations in it during the inspection process. While it sat on the table, one side also became flat. The indicated violation was that the implement was not a sphere. Is this correct? Current rule requires a sphere. That requirement is generally for a solid metal object. The shell version should have some latitude in this strict interpretation. The finger indents into the soft shell are not material for the weight implement, nor is a flat side caused by an impact. The general shape must be a sphere.
- d. If there are two competitors left in the high jump, can the bar be increased 3cm, or are they restricted to 5cm increases. A preset progression can have a reduction from 5cm to 3cm. Whatever progression is preset, that is the progression that must be followed. The only time a set progression can be altered is when there is a single competitor, who has won the competition, still left in the competition.
- e. How are alleys established for the indoor 800 meters? What are the correct markings and placement? By rule, the 800 meters is run in lanes or alleys until, at least, the end of the second turn. There is no requirement in the Rules Book regarding the size of the alley used. On a six lane facility, there can be two 3-lane alleys or three 2-lane alleys. In each case, the start line for the inner most edge of the alley would be the normal two-turn start in that lane. The line would curve forward slightly within each alley for the width of the alley. The curving would usually have an offset of no more than 2 inches per lane.
- f. If the Shot Put is being measured with a laser instrument, and a record is set, is there a requirement to confirm that measurement with a steel tape? No.
- g. The Spire track in Ohio is an oversized 300 meter facility, and when an athlete is running the 200 meters out of the outside lane they are way around the bend. Is this okay for NCAA qualifying? Is there any provision indoor similar to the 50 meter rule for outdoor? There is no equivalent 50 meter rule for indoor. Currently, there is no provision to prohibit the use of that mark for qualifying. However, qualifying regulations are not part of the competition rules.
- h. How many events constitute a valid meet and are there a minimum number of competitors? The regulations for this can be found in the section of the Manual for the championship competition under Qualifying.
- i. Is a weight handle that is bowed on the sides legal? No, see Rule 10-9.2.
- j. If two athletes go out on the same height, and both cleared the previous heights on the same attempt, and both athletes have the same total misses throughout the competition, and it is not for first place, would the height that the athlete entered the competition come into play? No. It is a tie for those two competitors.
- k. At a meet last year, there was a situation between two athletes entered in the combined pole vault and the open high jump, which were being conducted at the same time. One athlete withdrew from the high jump before the event started and the other athlete attempted two trials in the high jump and then withdrew to go to the pole vault. Both athletes placed high in the combined and an opposing coach protested their placement, citing Rule 4-2.c, the 'honest effort' rule. What rules apply to this situation? The conditions of Failure to Participate and Honest Effort are described in a written document distributed last month. This situation can be answered from that document.

- l. Does the 'honest effort' and/or 'failure to participate' rule impact a competitor in an event who is also declared as an original member of a relay team but is replaced through the normal relay replacement policy? No. The normal replacement policy for a relay member justifies and negates any of the indicated issues.
- m. Is it allowable to use both the solid metal and the plastic shell weight implement in the same indoor competition? Rule 10-9.1 indicates that the indoor version may only be used indoor. Otherwise both are legal for use. There is no restriction on whether only one type can be required.
- n. Is an indoor facility of 190 meters with a radius greater than 21 meters legal for qualifying? There is no rule forbidding an indoor facility with a radius greater than 21 meters. Rule 10-2.3 has 21 meters as a recommended maximum. However, a qualifying restriction may apply.
- o. When must a facility use 60 meters instead of 55 meters? This is a qualifying regulation governed by the Championship Committee. In general, it is a requirement whenever the facility can be configured for the 60 meter.
- p. Is there a rule that prohibits the posting of results from a preliminary round race on the scoreboard before all races in the preliminary round for that event are complete? No. There is no rule regarding that for the scoreboard or any other type of posting.
- q. A lap counter provided incorrect information to a runner and the result was that the competitor ran one lap too short for the race. The result shows a DNF for the competitor. Is there any way to correct the situation? There is no way to add a lap either physically or in an extrapolated performance in order to obtain a reportable result for the event. Any correction to the race result lies with and through a decision by the referee. The other correction lies with the training of the lap counter or the use of electronic lap counting.
- r. Is it allowable for the edge of the shot sector to be a concrete curb? Also, can the landing sector for the hammer be 'crowned'? A sector can have a curb at the edge. The edge of a sector is marked by a white line 5cm in width. That can be on the top of the curb. 'Crowning' for a hammer landing area is desired for drainage but must be minimal so that the downward overall slope away from the circle is within the limit stated in Rule 1-1.1.
- s. On a four lane straight indoor, the final is scheduled for two sections of four. If only seven check-in, do all seven advance from the prelims to the final? No. There is no prelim round, only two timed section final races. They do not get to run twice.
- t. Can all ten lanes be used the 60? Can the advancement to the final be totally by time? If the lanes are OK, then is it also best ten to the final of a field event? Ten lanes can be used for the final of the 60. Advancement, by rule, is at least the winner of each prelim heat. Number of advancers to the final of a field event is a maximum of nine, not tied to number of lanes used.
- u. Is a piece of tape, used to hold the end of a crossbar from turning, legal if it is on the portion of the end piece that rests on the peg? The rule indicates that rubber or other material cannot be applied so to increase the friction between the end piece and the support. In general, tape would increase friction and therefore be in violation.
- v. Can the landing sector for the hammer or the discus be crowned to provide for drainage? This would make for a variable inclination down the center versus along the sector lines, which is not addressed in the rules. The overall downward inclination away from the circle is specified in the rules and should be adhered to across the full sector. There is some variation allowed for drainage but that should be kept to an absolute minimum and must not be apparent.
- w. The covering on some weight implements look and feel like rubber. The covering also moves, is very soft, becomes flat and deformed while at rest. Is this a legal implement? If the implement passes all tests, other than the covering being made of a soft material, than the implement should be allowed to be used.

- x. Is it legal for coaches to view official video of the competition before deciding whether to file a protest? There is no current rule to disallow this practice.
- y. Is a soft shell covering on the indoor shot implement legal? It was disallowed due to the fact that fingers when gripped in a hard manner can make slight indents. A shell soft enough to allow the formation of indents is not allowed.
- z. A person starts the 3k, runs one-half lap and then leaves the track. This person is also entered in the 1500. What is needed to constitute an 'honest effort' violation? The document prepared last month on this topic addresses this issue.
- aa. Is the AGX type of crossbar legal since the entire bar does not sit on top of the supports? Yes it is a legal crossbar.
- bb. Is there a relationship between the requirement for a valid performance in the Rules Book and the acceptance of performances for qualifying? The criteria for acceptance of a performance mark for championship qualifying is set within the qualifying regulations published by the Sport Championship Committees. There is specific reference that a collegiate competition shall adhere to the NCAA Rules Book. There are additional requirements, which generally do not have an effect on the validity of a performance, but restrict its use from being used for qualifying, such as the allowing of performances from single event competitions. There is no requirement that a Sport Committee must accept a performance deemed valid at a competition. That is, there is no punishment for a violation at a competition needed in order for a Sport Committee to deny performance eligibility for qualifying. In many cases, there have been 'challenges' after the conclusion of a competition which have resulted in a performance being denied for qualifying purposes, but it remained valid for the actual competition. A recent example is a level of sand in a Long Jump pit not level with the take-off board. The conditions were equal for all at the competition, but created a disadvantage to other competitors trying to qualify from other venues, let alone the condition being a violation of the Rules.
- cc. The additional warm-up time granted under Rule 6-1.11 for the Pole Vault for a competitor entering after one hour, is stated as being a maximum 2 minutes. When two competitors enter at the same time under this situation is it allowable to combine the periods into a four-minute period for their warm-up? No. Total aggregate time is not allowed. Each has a maximum of two minutes. This must be accomplished by allowing each their two minutes separately, or by overlapping the periods and timing each from when their first warm-up attempt occurred.
- dd. A runner, while running the hurdles knocks over the hurdle with the foot of his lead leg. The hurdle in his lane is now displaced and his trail leg does not clear the height of the top of the hurdles (extended). Is this a violation of the rule, 'Advances or trails a leg or foot below the top horizontal plane or plane extended of the hurdle'? The rule is intended to govern the position of the leg/foot with reference to the clearance at the sides of the hurdle. The displacement of the hurdle from the lane would seem to negate this reference. In a normal 'knock-over' with the hurdle in the same lane, it is very usual that the trail legs never gets to the original height of the top of the hurdle, and that situation is never called a violation.

April, 2012:

- a. Where is the 40m of the Pole Vault runway measured from and can the landing pads sit on artificial turf? The 40m is measured from the back of the box. The landing pads may sit on artificial turf, but provision must be made for the standards to be moved with ease.
- b. Can the minimum number of events required to constitute a competition which is legal for qualifying purposes contain non-championship events, such as the 4x800 relay, and must each event be contested with a certain number of entries? The question, regarding a qualifying issue, must be answered by the Championship Committee for the Division.
- c. Is the recall point for a race on an indoor facility 50 meters, or must we use the outdoor recall point of 100 meters? The recall point for an indoor facility is stated in Rule 10-4.6.

- d. Is a referee allowed to rule that since heats were scheduled in the 100m and less than the number of lanes needed for only one heat reported and that the competitors did not receive prior notification of this, then all who reported could run and advance to the final run at a later time? No. Two rules, 5-10.3 and 5-10.7b, address this issue. The referee has no authority to change a rule.
- e. Are there any restrictions regarding the inclusion of a memorial patch issued by the institution being affixed to the singlet of a track and field uniform? There is no rule that would prohibit a memorial patch from being worn on the uniform. However, the patch should comply with the rules for other items affixed to a uniform and not exceed 2 ¼ square inches. It can be located anywhere on the uniform, but must be in the same location for all team members.
- f. Can the 10,000 meters be run as a combined men's and women's event? Cannot find it anywhere in the rules book. Yes, it is a qualifying regulation, printed in that document.
- g. At a meet conducted under NCAA rules, there was a situation where an athlete requested that someone hold his blocks. The head umpire instructed the person holding the blocks to "only put your foot on the spine. It's illegal to put your feet on the pads." Is there such a rule in NCAA? No. There is no such rule for NCAA. There is such a rule in USATF. That rule is designed to avoid interference with the false start detection system.
- h. If a coach elects to run an uninvited, declared alternate in the DMR at the championship, is the person that is replaced still able to compete in the remainder of the meet? Yes. A legal replacement authorized by the game committee relay replacement policy does not create a violation of Failure to Compete or Honest Effort.
- i. Can set vertical jump increments by 5cm to begin with and then switch to 3cm and then to either 2cm or 1cm at higher heights. Preset increments may never increase and never be less than 3cm. When there is only one person left, who has won the competition, then any increased increment can be chosen. There is a special rule on heights for a jump-off.
- j. For years, in the 4 x 100, tape has been put down in the passing zone. Recently, at a meet, a coach indicated that that practice is not legal. Has the rule changed? No. Rule 5-8.4 indicates that a mark maybe outside the international zone. There is no reference to before or after.
- k. We are interested in hosting a multi-events only meet in April and would like to clarify a few rules, specific to participation levels in a multi, that we could not find in the rule book. What is the minimum number of teams that must enter the meet? What is the minimum number of participants per team/for the meet? Can the student-athletes still qualify for the National Championships in a multi-events only meet? All of these questions are answered in the qualifying regulations.
- l. At the Big 12 and the D1 Indoor Championships, the referee indicated that we needed to measure all trials, even those judged to be foul. Is this a new rule? No. The current rule, 6-1.15, is applicable. 'Efforts judged to be foul shall not be measured, except as otherwise provided within these rules.' One exception would be a protest related to the attempt.

May, 2012:

- a. In a scoring meet, can a combined all-star team run in the 4x4 relay and not count? All competitors in an event count toward scoring unless they are entered and listed as 'exhibition' entries.
- b. Can a competitor compete in the same event, open and invite, in the same meet and still have the mark accepted for qualifying? Rule 4-4.5 defines this situation as a single event, and the qualifying regulations have provisions regulating multiple event attempts.
- c. Is it a requirement that an athlete compete in a school issued uniform? Yes, Rule 4-3.1 states that it must be school issued.

- d. What is the conversion used between the mile relay and the 4x4 relay for the NCAA qualifying list? The conversion currently in use is .9942. This is not a rules issue, but set as part of the qualifying regulations by the Championship Committees.
- e. A performance for an athlete has been disallowed for use as qualifying due to no wind gauge being used. Where is that rule? The championship qualifying regulations specifically address the use of a wind gauge for certain events and the maximum allowable wind readings. Question regarding the disallowing of a mark for any qualifying regulation issues should be directed to the NCAA liaison for your division.
- f. If no one is looking to qualify in the 5,000m run and we decide to run that race as a mixed gender race, would that disqualify a competitor that qualified in the 400m dash earlier in the day? Or, if you had 3 sections of an 800m run and put a slower male in the 3rd heat, but a girl qualified for Nationals in the first heat, would that disqualify her performance? The qualifying regulation is event based, and does not forbid a mixed gender event. If an event, other than the 10k is staged as a mixed gender event ... in any way ... then no marks from that event can be used for qualifying purposes.
- g. If a competitor jumps 1.65m and wins the HJ, can that competitor have the bar raised to whatever height they wish for the next attempt, say 1cm to 1.66m? Yes, that is the current rule. The competitor must be the only one left in the competition and have won.
- h. An athlete runs distance events and has type-1 diabetes. Does the NCAA have anything in place as far as accommodating him during an event? Can he accept fluids or glucose tabs while running a 5k event if he should feel light headed, etc? There is a proposal to amend the current assistance rule. That proposal addresses this type of situation and allows continued participation after needed medical attention.
- i. We are reconstructing a new track and on page 16 of the NCAA Rule 1/Construction of Facilities it reads, "*Lanes shall be marked on both sides by white lines 5 centimeters wide.*" My question is how critical is the "*white lines*" spec. Our school colors are black and Vegas gold and we were wondering if we could paint the lines Vegas gold? There is no variation in the requirement for the color of the lines.
- j. A small collegiate meet has one under-19 athlete is attempting to qualify for the USATF Junior meet this year. How may we legally allow him to throw the Junior Weight implements during competition?. Obviously, his marks cannot be acceptable as NCAA marks. There is no way to have him be part of the NCAA competition with a different weight implement. The USATF junior meet will accept qualifying marks with other implements.
- k. We had finished warm-ups today and were ready to start the men's vault. Some coaches, including ours, wanted us to flip vaulting directions. We said no but they stated it has been done in SEC champs in the past. Is it legal to do as they wanted? Rule 6-1.18 limits the time and reason of runway change allowed by a games committee to one hour before the competition begins.
- l. Can I use markers in the throwing events and measure the first throw and then just measure the improvements in subsequent rounds? No, 'pegging' is not allowable under current rules. Each attempt must be measured, except for Rule 6-3.3 which allows for a minimum distance.
- m. The rule book indicates a HJ minimum of 15m for the approach. Is that meaning from the front edge of the landing area or the entire area of the event? Please see rule 1-1.1c. It indicates the last 15 meters of the approach. The 15 meters is the run-up area of the semicircle and does not include the pit.
- n. If an athlete was entered into our conference meet by a coach with a mark that was better than what they achieved so that the mark allowed them to have a better heat and lane, what is the rule or how should this false entry be handled by the conference? Please see Rule 4-1, misconduct. The conference can impose a penalty accordingly. Also, the conference can refer to the NCAA qualifying regulations.

- o. I am targeting the wordage “*except the use of tape to cover or protect an open wound*”. I would like to learn what exactly constitutes an open wound? In my athlete’s case she has a wound, torn ligament, at the hand/index finger. Is an athlete allowed to have a splint on the back of her single index finger which is attached by athletic tape? An open wound is just that. There must be a visible cut, which is the normal definition of an open wound. The bandage, tape, would be a protection for that, as stated in the rule. The rule against other kinds of tape is specifically to prevent support.
- p. In a HJ with a lot of competitors, can a meet have an ‘unseeded HJ’ and an ‘invitational HJ’ held at separate times, with different heights and increments ... and then combined into one list to declare one winner? If the two High Jumps start out as separate events and there is no combining of anything ... actually two winners ... then there is no ramification. If it was a single event with two sections, and a single winner, such as timed sections of a race, then all increment must be consistent and must pass through the same heights, but one pit may start at a lower height ... that pit could also not decrease in increments while the other stays at 5cm. All of this would comply with rule 6-5.2.

June, 2012:

- a. Is there a variance in the rules book for the start of the indoor 4x400 relay regarding the stagger of the first leg? Currently, the staggered start of the indoor 4x400 relay is not addressed.
- b. What is the protocol for weather delays if the 10,000 meters has already begun? When is the race official? When we would rerun it after a certain distance? I guess also for the 5000 and steeple as well. There is no guidance within the rules book. However, in previous discussion at many levels, the best advice is that inclement weather is anticipated, the best solution is to not start the event. Delay, reschedule or cancel as appropriate. In any case, there must be an agreement prior to the start of the event regarding the protocol to follow if the event must be stopped, and the resolution of the results. There are many guiding factors such as the amount of the race that has been completed, and there can be multiple scenarios. In the current rules structure, the solution must come from the local games committee.
- c. What safeguards are in place to avoid misinterpretation of the medical provision of Rule 4-4.2d by various Referees? There is a written description of the issue and the possible solutions have been distributed to the NCAA community through posting on the NCAA Rules web page.
- d. I was at a competition where the clerk was asking if there were any competitor qualifying for a final that was not going to compete in the final so that they could be replaced with another. Is this legal? No, Rule 5-10.2 specifically disallows this running events. There is a similar provision for field events.
- e. Is there a provision that makes an overweight hammer implement illegal? No. There is a minimum weight for the hammer, but no maximum.
- f. Is the limit of two replacements on a declared relay team applicable during each round, based on the team members who qualified for that round? Yes.
- g. If the breaking of a tie for advancement in a running event is missed, can it be corrected and then just the proper competitor advanced? There is provision in Rule 4-3.8 that any administrative error can be corrected without the need for protest or referee intervention within 72 hours. Specific reference is made to subsequent rounds and timing issues. If the situation was in a field event and the final rounds had already begun, the solution may be different.
- h. Is there a restriction on the wearing of a hat during the running of a race? No.
- i. In the Hammer Throw, is it proper that the throw is a foul if the hammer touches the ground during the swing but then is not released, the competitor stops and totally starts again within the one minute. No, this is not a foul. The sentence in rule 6-11.3 is only a description of when the touching of the ground

can occur, not a statement requiring the release of the implement. There is a definite statement that the competitor may interrupt the attempt and restart. This may occur at any time.

- j. Can someone who has no standing regarding the issue of the protest make a protest? Under the current language in Rule 4-3.6, there is no restriction regarding who can file a protest. There is implication that it must be a competitor or coach related to a specific event, but that clearly does not include someone who is impacted by scoring and not in the event. Therefore, there is no current limitation.