

Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for June, 2015 – May, 2016

September, 2015:

- a. Are hay bales and / or logs prohibited within a cross country course? Rule 8-2.2a forbids any element that is considered to be dangerous or detrimental to a competitor. Hay bales and / or logs are not automatically dangerous or detrimental.
- b. On an eight-lane facility, nine competitors report for the 100 Meter Dash. Two preliminary heats with advancement are scheduled. In the first heat, one competitor false starts. Is it legal to then cancel the heats and move straight to a single section final? No, Rule 5-10.3 allows for the cancelling of heats when the number reporting is insufficient to justify the heats. An action after the commencement of the heats is not a justification to cancel the heats. The total number became reduced due to a violation. Additional violations could occur.
- c. Is it legal to advance from two sprint events differently, or must all events of a certain type have the same type of advancement? There is no rule that disallows a variation in the method of staging events. The sprint hurdles can be run as timed final races while the 100 Meters has advancement from a preliminary round to a final. The only restriction is that advancement to a final cannot be only on the basis of time, for certain conditions.
- d. What are the configuration requirements for an indoor weight throw cage and the protection for the landing area? Rule 10-8.1 provides guidance regarding the size of the enclosure needed for safety and makes reference to a more complete discussion in Rule 1-9.2. The overall objective of the provisions in Rule 1-9.2 is to provide a safe venue for spectators, officials and competitors by containing but not interfering with the flight of the implement. Appropriate measures should be taken to protect the size of the landing area indicated in the rule.
- e. It has been stated that a Referee cannot initiate the report of a violation; however several provisions of Rule 3-4.2 seem to contradict this. Please explain. Prior to the 2015 Rules Book, Rule 3-4.2b stated: 'To have the authority to act upon apparent violations of the conduct rules that are observed in meets in which a jury of appeal has been established'. This statement was removed with the publication of the 2015 Rules Book. This removal does not result in a strict limitation to disallow any decision by a Referee except for decisions based on the report of another official or from a filed protest. The Referee is still responsible for providing a safe and fair competition. The current provisions of Rule 3-4.2 provide for the decision making power and authority of the Referee. Observation of an infraction by a Referee can be most useful upon receiving a report from another official or a protest upon which the Referee must act. Other decisions need not be associated with infractions or violations. As a reference, this limitation of initial reporting is not in place for USATF or IAAF Rules. Each explicitly allows such a report. It must also be remembered that in USATF and IAAF, most final disqualification decisions are by the Jury of Appeal, since any initial DQ or ruling made by a Referee then eliminates that person from any further involvement.

October, 2015:

- a. Is there a rule that forbids the elimination of the center rail used in starting blocks or where the spikes making contact with the ground must be? While there is no specific NCAA rule on the full construction of, or the component parts of a starting block, Rule 2-2.1a states that the block shall be constructed entirely of rigid materials. The word 'block' is singular and is inclusive of all its parts. Implication pertaining to the 'center-rail' can be made from this. It is interesting to note that IAAF Rule 161 not only indicates 'entirely rigid', but specifies that the 'foot plates be mounted on a rigid frame'. There is no mention in any Rules Book regarding where or how the spikes to control slippage are to be mounted. An additional consideration must be afforded to the use of False Start Detection equipment and how it is mounted onto starting blocks.

- b. Is it permissible to contest the 500 Meter, 1000 Meter and 4x800 Meter events in a meet even though these events are not part of the NCAA Championship and are also not listed in Rule 4-4.3? The order for the running events listed in Rule 4-4.3 is the suggested order for the listed events when they are contested. The rule is not one which limits or forbids the contesting of events. The rule also provides a procedure for including additional events. There is no rule, other than for Championships, which defines the required events at a competition. The Sport Committee Qualifying Regulations for Championships has restrictions regarding required events.
- c. Is it permissible to offer only 4 attempts in the Horizontal Jumps & Throws to all competitors in a track meet? Yes. See Rule 6-3.1.
- d. There has been some confusion amongst timers regarding team placing in Cross Country when there is a tie in total score for more than one team. If two teams are tied in the team score and the tie is broken, should their place be changed also, or are they listed as a tie by place? Rule 8-6.3d indicates that the winner of the tie-break shall be awarded the higher place. The procedure of not changing their place within the meet scoring was changed in 2013. Changing finish place, after a tie-break procedure is consistent for all events in Track, Field and Cross Country.
- e. Does the continuous Under Armour logo in the waistband of their tights violate the provisions of Rule 4-3.3? The logo provision in Rule 4-3.3 is a reprint of a general NCAA restriction. The rule is quite clear in that the size of a logo must not exceed 2-1/4 square inches and be limited to a single occurrence for each garment. No other design element incorporating a logo is acceptable. A continuous logo within a waistband does not meet the rule specifications. The rule forbids the occurrence.
- f. Can you tell me what guidelines or rules exist for a minimum distance beyond the outdoor finish line for sprint races? There is no NCAA rule for this specification for outdoor facilities. The 'run-out' for an outdoor facility beyond a common finish can easily be accommodated by running around the bend. However, it is common practice to extend the straight as much as possible so that a race in the reverse direction is possible. That means providing a distance of between 20 and 30 meters as part of an extended straight. Any kind of a run-out is better than no run-out.
- g. How close to the NCAA Rules Book are the DI, DII and DIII games committees looking when certifying records using lasers? The NCAA Rules Book sets the requirements for obtaining a record. Each games committee has the responsibility to comply with those requirements.
- h. Rule 3-19.3 states that the recommendation of the medical person be considered by the referee in determining whether continued participation is allowed. This seems to indicate that this is a piece of data that the Referee would take into account, but not necessarily the only piece before making a ruling. Does the Referee have the authority to allow the athlete to compete when a medical person advises against it, or should the rule remove the word 'considered' and make it clearer that the trainer's word is the final authority? You are correct in stating that this is a 'piece of data', but incorrect in stating that the Referee can overrule medical advice against competing. It is the opposite that the Referee must determine. The trainer can indicate that participation is permitted without jeopardy to health, but cannot be the authority that says no other rule has been violated.

November, 2015:

- a. At an indoor meet, is there a new rule that there must be something on the floor like sawdust, or area mopped down with water, to make it show where landings occur in the Shot Put and Weight Throw? Can a competitor dip the weight into chalk and when it lands leave a mark for officials? There is no new, or old, NCAA rule requiring a specific landing surface to aid in the marking of a performance. A heat-sensing device has been successfully used to identify the landing point. There is no prohibition of 'dipping' an implement in chalk. Chalk is frequently already on a shot from the hands of the competitor.

- b. How many events can an NCAA Division I Track Athlete participate in at one track meet? There is no NCAA rule which limits the number of events for a competitor in a single competition. Any limitation would be a coaching decision.
- c. Is a measuring device required to be certified in order to process an NCAA field event record? Rule 2-13 recommends a yearly certification for accuracy, but it is not required. Comparing a device to a known surveyed distance, such as a 60 meter distance, is appropriate.
- d. Is there a requirement, when using more than one horizontal jumps runway, that the distance of the boards from the pit are exactly the same on both runways? The only place in the Rules Book that makes reference to the use of multiple facilities at the same time is in Combined Events, Rules 9-2.2 and 9-2.4. In each case the deciding factor is whether the facilities are 'equal'. There is no requirement for things to be exactly the same. However, providing boards in the Triple Jump at distances which are not comparable does not seem prudent.
- e. Is a commemorative patch affixed to the uniform, to honor a deceased team member allowable? This type of patch has been added to uniforms on several previous occasions. The NCAA logo restrictions are first and foremost for the control of advertising. It is suggested that the patch be of a size comparable to that allowed within the logo policy.
- f. Please provide specific examples of clothing designs from manufacturers that do not comply with the NCAA logo policy for a uniform. Only one normal manufacturer's logo, 2-1/4 square inches, is allowed and from the NCAA Academic and Membership Affairs staff, the following illustrate non-compliant clothing if it were to be used as a uniform:



- g. In a cross country championship competition, is a lead bike legal? Yes. In many cases there is a lead 'vehicle' to guide the runners through the course. As long as it does not set the pace, there is no problem.
- h. A cross country runner has asthma, diagnosed by a doctor, and needs her inhaler during races. Is it permissible for her to run with her inhaler? Rule 4-2.3b lists the items that are not considered assistance, and therefore permissible. Medical treatment, of any kind, deemed necessary during a race to enable a competitor to continue participation is one of the listed items. Administration of such treatment is limited to only games committee authorized persons.
- i. Can a facility with a hydraulic indoor track run some events with the track banked and others with the track in the flat position? There is no rule that forbids the changing of the configuration of the facility for different events. However, The Sport Committees have established a qualifying regulation that governs this activity.
- j. Can a conference vote to not apply the tie breaker in the Cross Country Championship in the event of a tie and declare Co-Champions? No. All conferences and institutions are bound by NCAA membership to abide by NCAA Rules. There is no exception. A conference can institute a rule that is more restrictive, but not less.
- k. Could a team have some members wear shorts, others brief and still others long tights, as long as they matched in color? Rule 4-3.2 is the rule for a team. The Note provides the guidance. Style is not a criterion. Usually, but not always, through the use of color and logo, can you easily identify the members as a team.
- l. Are arm sleeves and compression socks still not considered undergarments so they do not need to be of the same color? In the current Rules Book, outer garments such as hats, arm-warmers, gloves and compression-socks do not fit the definition for uniform or undergarments; therefore they are not regulated except that they must conform to the logo requirements.
- m. The first turn of the cross country course that will be used for a Conference Championship is approximately 200 meters from the start. According to the NCAA Rules, "the optimal first turn of a championship course is not less than 600 meters and preferably not less than 800 meters from the start." Any usable course meeting the rule book specifications will likely be too damaged, due to weather, for a championship. Is there any issue with our conference championship running on the course that does not fully comply with the printed specifications? The key word within the specifications is optimal. For the NCAA championship series, where there are far more teams than most conferences, the further distance is almost required as a safety factor. While 200 meters is short, it is not illegal. Of course, if there are extraordinary circumstances, water being one and is uncontrollable, then you do what you must.

December, 2015:

- a. Rule 4-3.3 says: 'single manufacturer's or distributor's normal trademark'. There are many cases of socks having a logo of the correct size, but one on each side. Is this a violation of the rule and should the athlete not be allowed to compete in those socks? The Rule is a reprint of NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4 that clearly states one logo per item of clothing. Therefore, a sock with two separate logos is a violation of the rule. The Rules Book does not specifically forbid competing in non-compliant clothing, but allows the referee or games committee to take warranted disciplinary action after a request to correct and a warning is issued.
- b. Where can the restriction regarding coaches being in the competition area be found? Access to the competition area, as stated in Rule 4-4.14 is a games committee function and is usually stated in material other than the Rules Book, such as Conference Manuals.

- c. Can a 400-meter track be used for running part of a Cross Country course? Rule 8-2.2 states that 'the course shall be confined, as far as possible, to fields, woods and grasslands'. As with many cases within the rules, extenuating circumstances may cause the most desired configuration or procedure to be altered in order to meet conditions. There is no specific prohibition against using a track facility for part of a course.
- d. In Cross Country, a team enters and starts with six competitors. Only four cross the finish-line. Can this team be included in the team scoring, counting the non-finishers as zero points? Rule 8-6.3a states that teams not finishing at least five runners shall not be included in the team scoring. Rule 8-6.3b states that the score is determined by totaling the place finish of the first five runners of each team to finish. Therefore the answer to the question is no.
- e. Does a runner in Cross Country need to have one shoe on, with a 'chip', to register as a finisher? If a runner finishes without a chip, is the runner disqualified? The second question preempts the first. There is no rule that requires a 'chip' to be in place in order to be counted as a finisher. A finisher is determined by when a competitor crosses the finish line. There is also no rule that requires footwear to be worn. This is a good reminder of the need for back-up systems.
- f. Is the beeping noise from the pace keeper/mile markers worn by a competitor considered the wearing of an artificial noisemaker in violation of Rule 4-3.1f. No, the rule is intended to prevent the use of noisemakers that could be activated or are under the control of the competitor. Examples include cow-bells, air-horns or rattles. The noise-maker is usually sufficiently loud enough for it to be widely audible. A pace-maker is not an illegal device and the sound generated by it does not fit the general definition of a 'noise-maker'.
- g. Is there any evidence that a GPS watch could interfere with the timing system or transponder chips. There is no evidence that these devices, or others that use the same technology, Smartphones, cause any interference. Smartphones are commonly in use around timing system equipment. There has been interference caused by low-technology RF devices, such as remote-controlled toys, garage-door openers and massive speakers.
- h. In a meet with three teams, can more than one round of competition be held in an event if the total number of competitors exceeds the number of lanes available and if the meet is scored as duals instead of being scored as a three team meet? A choice must be made between the default scoring method and the alternate scoring method. The scoring method chosen has provision that determines how many from each institution must be allowed to score, and therefore advance to the final. It does not make a determination as to the number of rounds. In the default method, Rule 7-1.1, only two from each institution may score, no matter if it is scored as separate duals or as three teams, therefore the rule affects who is in the final.
- i. At a Cross Country Regional, the Referee using Rule 4-2.3 and Rule 8-8f, ruled that one member of a team could legally drag a teammate across the finish line without consequence since both were competitors in the race. Is this correct? Current rule does not provide any penalty for assistance, other than pacing by competitors from the same team in the same race.
- j. What is the total number of required Assistant Starters for a Cross Country race and their locations? Rule 8-5.5 mandates and states the position for two officials designated as Assistant Starters. In addition, three other positions are identified, but not mandated, for officials with that designation. The intent is to provide sufficient coverage at key area in order to 'initiate and/or affect a recall'. Therefore, two people must be stationed at an appropriate distance from the start so that a proper stopping of the race can occur for any action requiring a recall is witnessed by them or the other members of the start team stationed at or behind the start-line or a short distance in front of the start-line. It is important to note the placement and goal of the stated officials rather than a specific title for an assignment.

January, 2016:

- a. At an indoor championship, there will be 15 competitors in both the Men's 60 Meter and 60 Meter Hurdles, and 17 competitors in the same women's races. For an 8-lane facility, is it legitimate to seed the men's races into three heats so that, for consistency, the number of heats for men and women are the same? The 200 Meter and the 400 Meter races are already set to run the same number of heats even though the number of competitors is not the same. The chart in Rule 5-11.2 applies to Rule 10, the rules for indoor competition. It is in effect unless extraordinary circumstance exists, something that is uncontrollable. Just to even-out the heats is not an extraordinary circumstance. The number of heats is normally determined by the number of competitors and the number of available lanes. The rules then provide for a distribution in a zig-zag manner. For the 200 Meter and 400 Meter races, extraordinary circumstances are normally cited. This results in the blocking of the two inside lanes on a six-lane facility, leaving only four available lanes for the heats. Contesting a heat with only two competitors is also not advisable, therefore the seeding becomes such that the number of heats is the same for both situations. The advancement procedures for this situation is also different that for a race where all lanes are available.
- b. What type of document is required to satisfy Rule 1-1.3? The result of a re-certification due to the conditions listed in Rule 1-1.3 should be a written document listing the exact measurements of the items in the Rule and signed by the person providing the certification of accuracy. This is normally provided by a surveyor associated with the contractor providing the service that required a re-certification.
- c. Where can the document be found that specifies what should happen at various distances of the race if weather forced a stoppage? The 'official' NCAA policy concerning a weather issue is in the current Rules Book on pages 116 through 118. Several years ago, there was a proposal to add a rule that provided guidance based on the amount of a race that was completed. The proposal was not implemented as rule. Any decision regarding an aborted race, since most cases are unique, is placed in the hands of the Games Committee. Previous discussion can be found in the interpretations of April '08, November '11 and June '12.
- d. For the Indoor 4x400 Meter Relay, is it permissible to advance the heat winners from three heats and the next best 5 times to the final round? This is permissible if there will be a single final race of eight teams and the use of lanes by competitors is per applicable rule. For all other cases, advancement must be by time only and more than one final section contested.
- e. What are the minimum requirements for the number of contestants in an event and their affiliation in order to be used for qualifying purposes? These requirements are stated in the Qualifying Regulations issued by the Sport Committee for each Division. Questions related to the document should be addressed to the liaison for a specific Division. Generally, there is no minimum requirement for the number of competitors or the number of institutions in a specific event. However, there are exceptions to this.
- f. May a thrower tape the wrist and palm (hand) with one common piece of tape? Rule 6-1.8 indicates that the use of tape for assistance is legal in all cases as long as two fingers are not immobilized by being taped together. There is no mention of the wrist or the palm. This rule is the same as the international rule. However, the provisions of Rule 4-2.3, governing all types of assistance, must be followed.

February, 2016:

- a. Do 'unattached' competitors score? An 'unattached' competitor, who has been allowed to compete, has all the rights and privileges as a competitor who is affiliated with an institution. If they properly advance to a scored final, then they earn any achieved score.
- b. Should the 500 Meters be conducted as a one-, two- or three-turn stagger? Rule 10-4.11 indicates an in-lane start with 'at least' a two-turn stagger.

- c. For the 60 Meters on an 8-lane facility, can the advancement to a final for seven heats be based on time only? No. By rule, advancement by time only is restricted to only situations where the number of lanes is insufficient to accommodate a single race final.
- d. Are qualifying marks for championship acceptable from a facility that has a 307 meter oval? Rule 10-2.3 indicates that newly constructed facilities cannot have an oval of more than 300 meters. Existing facilities as of January, 2004, are not subject to the rule.
- e. Please confirm that a preliminary round (qualifying competition) can be held for those who are not in the top 24 for an event and then advance from that group another eight to the event proper, which will run two rounds. Yes, this is a method that is legitimate within the rules. It follows the guideline document issued previously.
- f. What is the procedure for requesting a waiver to Rule 10-5.4 for a Championship Competition. Rule 10-4 provides the procedure for alterations of the stated rules for documented 'extraordinary circumstances normally not controllable'. The alteration is made by the games committee of the competition. There is no waiver granted by the NCAA Rules Committee.
- g. Is it true that when an institution updates or builds a new facility, all aspects of the facility such as cages also have to be updated to the newest rules? Rule 1-9.2 provides that 'all possible effort shall be made to achieve the minimum configuration'. This is highly desirable, however there is no mandate.
- h. Is it legal to use an all metal shot for indoor competition, and can anyone use any implement? Rule 10-7.1 indicates that only a synthetic-covered implement shall be used for indoor competition. Therefore, an all metal shot is not allowed. Once an implement passes inspection, it is available for use by any competitor with the permission of the owner.
- i. What is the proper process for documenting and submitting an NCAA DII All-Time record for a field event? The proper method for documenting a record for a field event can be found in Rule 7-2.4. Rule 7-2.7 indicates that the NCAA only maintains Championship records. There is no known single entity responsible for maintaining other outstanding performances within the NCAA, and therefore no know submission process.
- j. Is an electronic starting gun considered NCAA legal? The rulebook says that they have to have a tone of at least 112dB at 15 feet. Current NCAA Rules, and all other Rules Books, allow for a start signal to be produced by something other than a pistol. There is a proposal to adopt a new guideline regarding loudness as a result of some research. Currently available electronic starting devices are in compliance with the new loudness guidelines.
- k. Is it legal to have more than one staging of an event, such as an Open and an Invitational division? There is no rule that forbids having more than one grouping, division or section. Rule 4-4.2, however, limits all of these occurrences to being part of a single event. That is, the separate staging cannot be counted as separate events. There are guidelines for staging events with variations. This can be found in the document prepared for this discussion, on-line at: <http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Staging%20Track%20and%20Field%20Events.pdf>.
- l. What is the NCAA spec for depth of the sand in the long jump pit? The NCAA Rules Book does not have a depth listed. Therefore, as in other cases, reliance is on the other rules books and the specifications in them. USATF has a minimum depth of 30cm. IAAF has 20cm at the outside edges and 30cm at the center. The NCAA would therefore expect a depth of 30cm.

- m. Is there a rule or guideline providing a preference to having raised runways for indoor events? No, there is no rule or guideline on this topic.
- n. Is a mark attained in a jump-off for first place in a vertical event eligible for qualifying? The italic portion of Rule 7-1.7, which has been in the Rules since at least 2002, includes marks attained as part of a jump-off as legitimate marks attained during a competition, therefore they would be as eligible as any other mark in the competition.
- o. In Rule 6-4.3, does the statement ‘ ... when the number of competitors exceeds 20 ...’ refer to the total number of competitors in the competition or the number of competitors jumping at a specific height? The three sub-sections after this statement in the rule provide the options for the method of holding the event, therefore the 20 refers to the number of competitors entered in the event.
- p. The 4x100 Meter Relay is scheduled for a prelim and final round. If less than eight teams check-in for the prelim round, can the final be held then? No. The prelim round is canceled and the final must be held at the original time. See Rule 5-10.3.
- q. On an eight-lane facility, where there are only two scheduled rounds and eight preliminary heats of the 100 Meters, what is the proper advancement procedure? Can there be a two-section final? There are several rules which must be followed. There cannot be advancement to a final by time only. There cannot be a two-section final. Any advancement to the final must include, at least, the winner of each preliminary heat. Except for extraordinary circumstances, the Rules Book stipulates that this number of preliminary heats requires three rounds of competition. The on-line document for staging an event provides three-round competition variations in order to accommodate a large field size and still be within the rules.

March, 2016:

- a. What are the rules / provisions regarding assistance that are applicable to competitors with disabilities, and where can they be found? The NCAA Guidelines for Accommodating Student-Athletes with Disabilities can be found on the NCAA Rules web page for Track and Field. Within it you will see the procedure for obtaining the clearance desired for any particular instance of assistance. Assistance has been addressed on several occasions, and each resolve has generally been to allow that which is detailed as allowable assistance in the IPC Rules Book. As a reference, a summary of IPC allowable assistance for runners is printed as an Appendix in the USATF Rules Book.
- b. Can the horizontal field events be contested in a single flight of 17 competitors? No. Rule 6-4.1 sets the maximum limit at 16 competitors. Any number above that requires the use of more than one flight.
- c. Can the 3000 Meter and 5000 Meter races be contested with a combined field at the start of the race and each group finishing at their appropriate lap count? There is a prohibition of this if the races involve different genders. There is no rule if the situation is for the same gender, however the Sport Committee may not allow performances for qualifying with such a staging.
- d. Is a competitor in the Shot Put allowed to use tape in order to accommodate a torn muscle in the hand? Is medical documentation allowed to provide proof of the need? Rule 6-1.8 states the allowable use of tape. Any taping, without the need for medical documentation that does not result in two or more fingers being taped together is allowed. Medical documentation cannot be used to waive this taping rule.
- e. Can the Indoor Heptathlon be conducted with all seven events on one day? No. There is no wiggle room with regard to this rule.
- f. Where or to whom at the NCAA are the certified results sent for a collegiate record in the Shot Put? The NCAA, by rule, only maintains Championship Records. They do not maintain anything

that can be called a Collegiate Record. T&F News, as well as USATF, maintains a posted list of collegiate best performances that they glean from results. There is no submission process.

- g. What is the procedure for advancing eight to a final in a 60 Meter where only six lanes are available? Rules 10-4.6d and 10-5.4 apply. The procedure is the same as would be used in the indoor 200 Meter.
- g. Can the games committee designate the system to be the official video for protest review on the second day of a meet after not having done so before the meet starts? Rule 4-4.10c allows for official video to be designated before the meet, not before any specific day.
- h. Are there any restrictions for the wearing of a patch to mourn the passing of a teammate? This type of patch is permitted as long as the size restriction for logos and patches is observed.
- i. Can there be a double starting line, one behind the other, for a cross country race. No, a totally separate start line is not allowed. Rule 8-3 states that each competitor is to line-up equidistant from the first turn. This precludes the placing of some teams on a second start line behind the others.
- j. Can the first round heats in sprint races be seeded in a fast to slow manner and then advancement to a final round established from these heats? There is only one allowable procedure that allows for the fast-slow seeding of any full event. That is a single round of 'timed finals'. There can be no advancement to another round. Fast-slow seeding can occur in a 'qualifying competition' prior to an event proper and advancement to the then first round can be by time only, place and time, or an auto qualifying method. Once there is a 'first round', it must be created via the serpentine method with place and time advancement to a final. Advancement by time only is not allowed except by specific rule.
- k. A hurdler, while competing, knocks a hurdle into the path of another hurdler causing the second hurdler to stumble several steps before recovering. Is it within the purview of the Referee to award this athlete (and this athlete alone) a rerun of this race? Rule 3-4.2a provides the Referee the authority to implement any remedy, if any, believed to be fair and just for all situations not covered specifically in the rules.
- l. Can the men's and women's Long Jump be held concurrently? Yes. Rule 4-4.8 allows for mixed gender field events.
- m. Can different items of clothing have manufacturer's logos from different manufacturers? Yes. The restriction is that there must only be one logo of a specific size per item of clothing.
- n. Are there any restrictions on the procedure for composing automatic qualifying to a 'first round' and the number that come from a 'qualifying competition'? No. The Game Committee can establish an automatic qualifying system for any number of competitors, and have any stated number advancing from a qualifying competition.
- o. Is it permissible to stage a stand-alone single gender Combined Event? There is no rule forbidding this type of competition. However, certain Qualifying Regulations apply regarding the number of participants.
- p. Is it permissible in preliminary rounds that advance to finals to assign preferred lanes by entry performances? No. Please see Rule 5-11.4.
- q. Are there altitude adjustments for performance in the Combined Events? Altitude adjustment is not a competition rules issue. The Qualifying Regulations state that no altitude conversion is available for the Combined Events.

- r. For a sprint oval event on a 200 meter indoor track, may the referee/starter move individuals/teams to empty lanes, such as from lane 1 to an empty lane 2 or lane 5? Rule 3-4.2a allows the Referee to make changes for provisions not explicitly in the Rules Book provided it is a need for fair competition. For outdoor events, such as the 800, where the competitors do not stay in lanes, the practice of 'sliding to the inside without changing hip numbers' is a common one, since there is little to no advantage caused by the change. The indoor 200 or 400 switch could produce a definite advantage / disadvantage as a result of a switch and therefore would not be in compliance of the need for fair competition.
- s. For the indoor 800 Meter Final, the desire is for the top three (3) seeds to be assigned to the outside alley and their starting positions drawn by lot. The five (5) remaining competitors would be assigned to the main waterfall start and their starting positions drawn by lot. Is this procedure allowed? Rule 10-5.6 provides that alley assignment is not the same as a position within an alley. The position must be random; however 'alley' choice is not the same. It has been previously ruled that alley assignment is permissible.
- t. What is meant by and what is the interaction between Rule 9-2.3 and Rule 4-4.7b? A Combined Event Long Jump, in Rule 9-2.3, cannot be combined with and held together with a stand-alone Long Jump. They must be separate. Rule 4-4.7b advises to create a schedule that allows the opportunity for competing in both the stand-alone and a combined event.
- u. Please define 'preliminary round' and 'semi-final round'. A preliminary round is any round other than a final. It is sometimes called a 'qualifying round' or possibly the 'first round'. A semi-final is also a preliminary round. Most of these terms are used interchangeably without regard for their implication. Semi-final is frequently used to describe the first of only two rounds, but the more common is when it is the round just before the final in a more than two round competition. The only other type of running round is a qualifying competition, which is held prior to an event proper.
- v. An umpire reported an obstruction violation to the referee. Upon review, the referee determined that the competitor reported as causing the obstruction was actually the receiver of the obstruction. The referee disqualified the actual person determined to have caused the obstruction. The Jury of Appeal, citing Rule 3-4.2e, disallowed the disqualification indicating that the referee cannot initiate a call. Is this a proper interpretation? A referee is not allowed to initiate an action. Once an action has been initiated, either by the report of another official or through a protest, the referee is authorized to make a ruling using any evidence legally available, including personal observation. There should have been a ruling solely on the reported violation without being extended to any other circumstance. Rules 3-4.2a and 3-4.2b indicate that the referee shall decide all questions and take appropriate action for fair competition, including disqualification for acts which violate the rules. However, this must be within the context of not initiating a action.

April, 2016:

- a. Is the meet director or the timing company supposed to put seed times on the heat sheets or is it up to each meet director. Rule 4-4.9 puts the responsibility of disclosing entry mark onto the meet director or games committee. This is most normally accomplished by including the marks on the start lists.
- b. The chart for forming heats and rounds in Rule 5-11.2, applies to indoor and outdoor competitions. It seems to require that a field of 33 competitors have 3 rounds of competition. Is this strictly mandated? Rule 5-11.2 and Rule 10-4 each provide for allowable modification when 'extraordinary circumstances exist'. It is prudent for the games committee to formally document such instances.

- c. Rule 4-4.15 prohibits non-administrative use of 'electronics' in the competition area. Rule 4-4.14 indicates that a coaching box within the normal competition area remains part of the competition area. May the games committee of a college conference allow coaches the use of electronic devices, for coaching purposes, in the coaches' box? There would be no viewing by competitors and no transmission of any kind. The rule forbids the use of electronic devices. There is no special provision for specific purposes. A conference cannot abandon, negate or change an NCAA rule.
- d. The rules book does not state the number of turns for the break in the indoor Mile, 3k and 5k. What is the proper number of turns before the break? Due to the differing oval sizes and varying methods of staging these events, the choice of the number of turns to the break is left to the games committee.
- e. As an addition to the uniform, is a commemorative patch, allowable? There is no specific rule in track and field regarding commemorative patches. Prior interpretation is that a commemorative / memorial patch in addition to a manufacturer's logo is allowable. The patch should not exceed 2¼ square inches.
- f. What is the procedure an event official should follow after discovering a competitor has possession of an electronic device in the competition area of a field event? Simple possession is not a violation of NCAA rule. Use of such items in the competition area is banned under Rule 4-4.15. An official who observes a violation should attempt to affect compliance and also notify the referee. The referee has the authority for further remedy as appropriate.
- g. Can you provide some clarity to NCAA Bylaws 20.9.7.1, 20.9.7.2 and 20.9.7.3.2 for track and field (indoor and outdoor)? Do those rules require NCAA Division 1 teams to have at least 50% of their contests against Division 1 opponents to satisfy the minimum number of contests. This and other questions related to allowable competition are best directed through the Compliance Officer of the institution, since they are not related to the Rules of Competition. A response to an inquiry in March, 2013, published in the Educational Column, provides answers to this question and several others.
- h. Four teams enter the DMR. Three of the teams are running complete teams of four legs. The fourth team is only running the first leg of the relay with no intention of running the other legs. Is this legitimate? A valid entry for any relay consists of a complete team reporting for the event, being listed on the start list and having the intention to compete. Any other entry is not legitimate. Previous discussions of the legality of 'pacing' as not being considered illegal assistance have always included a legitimate entry in the event and identified to be engaged in a pacing activity. For a relay, this means the entry of a team.
- i. What are the rules pertaining to staging the indoor 200 Meter and 400 Meter events as a timed final? Can the heat assignment be that used in Rule 10-5.4? There are three sections of the rules book that apply to the staging of these events as a final.
1. Rule 10-5.4 indicates the required heat assignment for a final in the 200/400. This rule, as written, applies only when there is advancement to a final round.
 2. Rule 10-5.5 indicates that a single round timed final shall be seeded slow-fast. This heat structure was compatible with Rule 10-5.4 before it was changed. Currently, Rules 10-5.4 and 10-5.5 have different heat structures.
 3. Rule 10-4.1b authorizes the games committee to not only use a timed final format, but to also create the 'structure'. The creation of a structure seems to be in direct contradiction with the provisions of Rule 10-5. Rule 10-5.4 and 10-5.5 were in agreement regarding heat assignment until two years ago. Only one was modified at that time. Given the authorization to create a structure, a structure that achieves the goal of heat assignment for a final where it does not disadvantage those who have earned seeding preference would be acceptable.

- j. Rule 4-3.1e indicates 'additional visible clothing is an undergarment'. Would that include a sports bra strap? In Rule 4-3.2b, 'visible undergarments on top (that is, T-shirts)' seems to imply that a sports bra strap is not considered a visible undergarment. Which is the correct interpretation? Two points need to be made. The first is that the rule for uniform is meant to be very simple in intent. Members of a 'team' must look the same and be easily identifiable, without imagination, that they are part of the same team. The second is that there is a difference between 'undergarments' and 'underwear' as items of clothing. Underwear is not a clothing item covered within the rule. As an additional note, all non-corrected violations of the uniform provisions are referred to the referee who then makes a ruling using the provisions of Rules 3-4.2a, 3-4.2b and 3-4.2d.
- k. On an attempt in the High Jump, the upper body of a competitor clears the bar, but on the way down his leg slams the bar rather hard, displacing it. When the bar is placed back on the supports, one support is noticed to be slightly lower than the other. Further inspection reveals the bar support on the left standard is now 4cm lower than the one on the right, apparently due to the impact of the competitor's leg hitting the bar. Is this a foul or is another attempt awarded for the bar slipping, under Rule 6-5.6? The key in this situation is that 'on the way down his leg slams the bar rather hard, displacing it'. The support did not 'slip down'; it was 'forced down'. Therefore Rule 6-5.6 does not apply.
- l. At a competition, there are several weather related delays due to rain and lightning. Some coaches are removing their athletes from a sprint race saying that they did not want them to be exposed to possible injury. These same athletes are scheduled to compete in events later in the competition. Should they be allowed to continue with their other events in the competition? The 'failure to participate' and 'honest effort' rules provide for the referee to examine all circumstances surrounding the situation in order to reach a decision. While medical situations are the most common in establishing a valid condition, it is not the only valid condition. Determining whether participation is detrimental to the competitor is usually a key element in the decision making process.
- m. What are the options for staging a sprint running event with a large field? There are only three options available within the rules, and none allow advancement by time only.
1. A single round. This would be 'timed-finals'. Seeding is normally slow to fast. Results are compiled for an overall winner.
 2. Multiple rounds. Preliminary rounds (quarters / semis or just semis) leading to a final. Advancement must be at least winner plus.
 3. A combination of a qualifying competition, with or without automatic advancement to the competition proper, which is usually a semi and a final. The semi-round can have more than two heats. With automatic advancement, a select group is automatically in the semi-round. All others qualify for inclusion in the semi-round is based on performance in the qualifying competition. Additionally, for all competitions that have advancement, an earned place in the final round must be honored. Additional advancement may not be awarded to those not earning a place through normal advancement procedures.

May, 2016:

- a. Can a portable raised PV runway be used outdoor? Yes. This is a legitimate option for an outdoor facility.
- b. Due to weather conditions, can the Heptathlon or Decathlon be schedule for a Friday – Sunday instead of a Friday – Saturday? No. Rules 9-1.2 and 9-1.3 specifically say two consecutive days for both of these competitions.
- c. What are the procedures for submitting a performance for an NCAA record? NCAA records are only maintained for the Championships within each Division. There are no records maintained for any performances outside those competitions. There is also no 'Best Marks' list maintained by the NCAA. A collegiate 'Best Mark' list is maintained by Track & Field News and by USATF. There is no submission process associated with either of these lists.

- d. Can a GPS measuring system be used in field events? An electronic device for measuring is allowable as long as it is in accordance with Rule 6-1.13.
- e. Is there a rule on the minimum number of competitors in an event? No. There is a suggested minimum numbers in sections of running events in a Combined Event. There is a qualifying regulation for the minimum number that must start a Combined Event. There is a requirement to cancel a heat and re-draw if the element of competition no longer exists, such as an automatic advancement to the next round.
- f. Does the requirement for facility survey apply to all division of the NCAA? Yes, there is no exemption for any division with the NCAA.
- g. The qualifying regulations indicate that performances with a trailing wind speed exceeding 4.0 meters per second will not be counted. Does that mean a 4.0mps wind speed is legal for qualification purposes? 'Exceeding' as used with the rules does mean that the value would have to be greater than the stated amount. Therefore, a wind speed of 4.0mps would be legal for qualifying, just as a wind speed of 2.0mps is legal for records.
- h. Is a performance in an event of a Combined Event limited to only be a record for that event within a Combined Event? Any performance made in an event, even if part of a Combined Event, is a legitimate performance for that event and could be counted as a record for any instance of that event.
- i. Four teams enter the DMR. Three of the teams are running complete teams of four legs. The fourth team is only running the first leg of the relay with no intention of running the other legs. Is this legitimate? A valid entry for any relay consists of a complete team reporting for the event, being listed on the start list and attempting to compete.
- j. If a meet is suspended and then canceled due to weather, will the results from an event in progress count, be part of the official meet results and be posted? There is no rule as to when an event is considered eligible for being concluded, such as scoring. There would have to be different procedures for running and field events. Naming a winner in the 100 Meters after stopping the race at 60 meters would probably not be considered. However, there have been cases of doing just that in a 10k after completing 9k. The use of a performance in such a case for other purposes, such as TFFRS, is usually not even a discussion item. For a field event, each attempt is a complete performance in its own right. Not only can an event be halted and the 'winner' determined based on the partial completion, each attempt is totally legitimate and can be considered for other purposes. The games committee determines procedures for such a situation and determines event winners based on what was completed at the time of the halting of the competition? Legitimate performances almost always count as being eligible for qualifying, however the final say on a qualifying mark is made by the Sport Committee.
- k. A competitor in the High Jump is excused to compete in another event. Before the bar is raised, he is called for his first attempt but is not present. A pass is recorded. Still, before the bar is raised, he returns. How many attempts is he allowed? A pass is used to 'forgo an attempt' and in NCAA is for only one attempt at a time. It is counted as one of the three attempts allowable at a height. Therefore, the competitor has two attempts remaining at that bar height. This does not affect the three failure provision.
- l. All competitors except one have failed-out in a High Jump competition. That single competitor is absent due to competition in another event, and the bar is ready to be raised. What is the time to wait before ending the event since there is no indication of a possible return? The generally accepted procedure is to do one final 'call-up' and allow the time to expire, record one final pass and then end the event. It is advisable to proactively make contact with the competitor.

- m. Based on previous interpretations, the use of a 'rabbit' does not violate any rule as long as the individual is legitimately entered in the race and it is clear to all that there is a pace-setter and what the pace will be. These two items avoid any violation of rules regarding assistance. Can a coach of a competitor in the race be a 'rabbit'? A coach would be in direct violation of the initial provisions of Rule 5-2.3. It is also unlikely that a coach is eligible to be a participant in any NCAA event. Therefore, the coach cannot be the 'rabbit'.
- n. The referee at a meet with no appointed Jury of Appeal received protests in the 4x400 relay. One was that interference occurred at the finish, preventing a runner to finish in a normal manner. The other was for an early break from an assigned lane at the end of the third turn. The referee, after consulting with the games committee, and others, ruled to disqualify the team involved in the interference and to not disqualify the team for the break-line infraction. Did the referee act in a proper manner in these decisions? There is no mandate that a Jury of Appeal be appointed. When there is none, the referee is the final authority. A referee is authorized to examine evidence, with some exception, including that gathered through interviewing officials, including the games committee. The referee is then to make a decision in accordance with Rule 3-4.2a and Rule 3-4.2b, ensuring fair, equal and safe competition. There is nothing in the described incident to indicate that this procedure was not followed.
- o. If a performance is ruled valid for a competition, is that performance automatically valid for a record? A valid performance in a competition is always eligible but not automatically valid for a record. As an example, the Rules Book specifically addresses the issue of field event implements. An implement must be re-certified after a record performance. There have been cases where a field event performance has won the competition but not allowed to be counted as a record. The rules for records in all events provide for a verification of conditions by meet officials. These include items that may not be examined until after the competition. The accepted ratification process, while not stated specifically in the Rules Book, establishes that all rules and conditions are certified to be valid for the granting of a record. This ratification is conducted by the authority that has established and is the keeper of the record.
- p. One of the first five finishers on a team in Cross Country is found to be ineligible to compete. How is that team handled in the recalculation of the score? While not specifically addressed in the Rules Book, the following elements lead to an answer. A legal competing team in Cross Country is defined as being as many as twelve runners, with the first seven eligible to receive a scoring place. The team score is determined by the first five legal finishers. An ineligible competitor within the first five finishers of a team is not significantly different from a competitor within the first five who is disqualified for a violation committed on the course. That competitor is removed from the order of finish and all remaining competitors are used to determine finish place and score. The following exists within one NCAA Division: "For individual/team sports (e.g., golf), if the student-athlete competed while ineligible, the score achieved by the student-athlete would be deleted from the team score. In the case of golf (play 5 count 4), the fifth score would be calculated into the team score. "

June, 2016:

- a. Is there any place in the Rule Book that specifies the official results for a field event must be on a paper score sheet? Rule 6-1.14a indicates that 'Performances on a scorecard shall be ...'. In addition, the sport committee qualifying regulations specify that 'official results must be preserved and available for inspection (i.e., retain photos and field-event results through six months after the championships)'. The paper scorecard, signed by an official, is therefore the official result for the event.
- b. A conference manual states that for events up to 400 meters in length, 'there shall be a two-section final if a tie occurs in the qualifying round. The second section shall include heat winners and all others who qualify to the final by place and time. The first section will consist of tied runners. Time

will determine final places, from two sections.’ Is this procedure legal? The Rules Book, in Rule 5-10.5 has specific procedure to follow in the case of a tie for the last qualifying position. The procedures in the Rules Book must be followed.

- c. A competitor, who was in 10th place after three preliminary attempts of the women’s discus, was added to the final by an official after another athlete who was ranked in the top nine indicated that she would be withdrawing from the competition and subsequently pass her final three attempts. Is an official or the referee allowed to do this? Rule 6-2.3 is meant to forbid such a substitution or replacement. The scorecard should reflect the three passes.
- d. Rule 6-4.2 says that competition in the final rounds should be in reverse order of best performance in the preliminary rounds. However, it does not provide instruction for the order if there is a tie for any place after the preliminaries. What is the procedure? The following was in the interpretations from April, 2015: If there is a tie by best mark for advancers in a field event, what determines the order of competition in the final rounds for these tied competitors? The tie-breaking rules for the event are used to determine the ranking, and thus the order of competition.
- e. Are there any safeguards in place to ensure that the results of implement inspection, such as weight, are consistent? Rule 2-13 provides the recommended procedure certifying the accuracy of inspection devices. It is the responsibility of the owners of such devices or competition hosts to ensure compliance with the rule and thereby have consistency.
- f. At a conference championship all running and field events only advances 8 people to the final. They also score all 8 people. This year the meet is on a 9 lane track. If a race only has 9 entrants, can they still run two heats eliminating one from advancing? Rule 5-10.7b forbids this practice. They have to run one race as a final. It is similar to Rule 5-10.7c governing when to run only one race in the 1500 Meters.
- g. The last place qualifier, on time, for the 100 Meter final is a tie to the 1/1,000th of a second between to competitors. They were from the first and third heats. There are only 8 lanes for the final. How is the tie resolved? Rule 5-10.4 specifies that in this situation the tie is resolved by a run-off or by lot as decided by the games committee before the meet. No other option exists. If no such choice is made, then a run-off is the resolve.
- h. Rule 5-11.4b states that for a final in the 1500 Meters, after preliminary heats are contested, the starting positions are drawn by lot. The conference manual states that the starting positions are assigned by seed, 12 to one. Which rule should be followed? No institution or conference can abandon or supersede an NCAA rule, as stated in the first sentence of the Rules Book.
- i. Is there a limit to the number of implements a competitor can present for inspection? No, there is no limit.
- j. At the conference championship, a protest was lodged indicating that the distance between each of the barriers and from the last barrier to the finish line in the Steeplechase was not as listed in Rule 1-3.3. Does this negate any record? Are the performances from that event legal? As stated within that rule, ‘The following measurements are provided as a guide’. Variations in oval size and the position of the water-jump make the setting of absolute measurements not possible. It is most desirable to have each of the barriers, including the water-jump, equally spaced around the oval and have a generous distance between the last barrier and the finish line. Suggestions for these are provided in the rule.
- k. Advancement to the final in an event is based for some by place and for some by time. The timing system failed on one of two preliminary heats, however the advancers based on place are validated by other evidence. There was no backup timing method or system. Can the referee require all competitors from both heats, who are not advancers by place, to run again to determine the advancers

based on time? The referee can create a resolve, using the guidance of Rule 5-12.4, to provide fair and equitable competition. The decision is that of the referee, who may choose from many options.

- l. A 10,000 Meters was contested as a mixed gender race with one woman and three men. None of the men finished the race, and in their final laps paced the woman runner. Is this permitted? Rule 4-2.4a.4 specifically cites this activity as being assistance, and therefore not allowed. Any resolve for this activity should be as a result of an official's report or a protest lodged with the referee at the competition.
- m. Can a protest be lodged for a lane violation based upon what was observed during the streaming of the race on the video scoreboard? A protest can be lodged on almost anything. The referee then has the responsibility to determine if the protest is valid based on evidence that is allowable and then render a decision. Video evidence is only usable if authorized in advance of the competition. Apparent public knowledge is not a sole deciding factor requiring a referee to take a specific action.
- n. A competitor in the Heptathlon decides to not compete in the final event. Is this a violation of the 'Honest Effort' rule? The referee must determine the reason for not competing and then decide whether a violation exists. Rule 4-2.1 does not provide an exception for any situation.
- o. In a vertical jump, a competitor who has not taken an initial trial in at least one hour from the first trial is allowed to have a warm-up period at the change of the bar to the height the competitor enters the competition. The competitor requests and receives such a warm-up. After the warm-up period, the competitor requests to pass the height. Is the competitor allowed to pass this height? The issue is the meaning of 'enters the competition'. Does this mean that there must be an attempt? When the rule was written, there was most likely an assumption that the competitor would indeed make an attempt at that height. However, 'enters the competition' does not mandate making an attempt. A pass at a height is a valid choice. The competitor has no further rights to warm-up and is subject to all conditions of those who are making attempts.
- p. An infraction occurred right at the start finish line where it was captured on the Identilynx camera. The competition manual states there is no official video. Is the running referee allowed to view that video evidence? The question is whether Identilynx is part of 'officiating an event' and/or 'official photo-timing'. It is at least one of these two when in use to determine places or as part of the process of obtaining splits and lap-counting, therefore it is able to be used by the referee.
- q. Does the NCAA allow 'blade runner' artificial legs? This was address in the monthly report of March, 2016. Please see that report.
- r. --- Does a competitor have to be present at the event site to pass each trial as it is called or can a blanket pass instruction be given to the judge of the event? Presence and separate indications of a pass is not required.
--- Is there a rule that requires events be contested outdoor? There is no rule. Some restrictions exist in the qualifying regulations.
--- Can a pole vault be contested as a single flight of 48 competitors? Rule 6-4.3 has a procedure option that would allow for this number.
- s. If a runner is the object of interference, must that runner be advanced automatically to the next round and must there be a disqualification? There is no rule that mandates automatic advancement and advancement is not dependent on a disqualification. A decision for any disqualification and any remedy is made by the referee.