

September 2016

Clarifications

Clarification Rule 4 Section 1 Article 2a and 2b - Events

The list of indoor and outdoor track and field events are the recognized NCAA Track and Field championship events.

This list of events does not preclude other commonly contested events from being run. E.g., Indoor events such as the 300m, 600m, 1000m, 4x800 relay etc. Outdoor events such as the mile, 4 x 200m relay, shuttle hurdle relay, sprint medley (200-200-400-800), distance medley relay (1200-400-800-1600) etc.

Clarification Rule 4 Section 1 Article 3 - Minimum Number of Competitors

In order for an event to be considered part of the competition, a minimum of two different member institutions shall be represented in each event.

Clarification Rule 4 Section 1 Article 4 - Minimum Number of Events

If the intention is to conduct a meet with only the recognized NCAA Track and Field championship events the minimum number of events for outdoor competition shall be nine track events and six field events. The minimum number of events for indoor competition shall be seven track events and four field events.

Note that this rule differs from NCAA Qualifying procedures: the three divisional sport committees have decided that the minimum number of events, institutions and student-athletes will remain the same as 2015-16. The updated 2016-17 qualifying criteria states those requirements in items 5 and 6 of the qualifying criteria which can be found at http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2016-17TF_Qualifying_Criteria_20160909.pdf.

Clarification Rule 4 Section 1 Article 6a and 6b - Order of Running Events

This is the recognized standard order of events when running a competition of only NCAA Track and Field championship events.

Note: Changes to this order can be made by the games committee or by mutual agreement of the competing teams before the competition begins, but not as a reason to accommodate competitors in multiple events.

This provides the flexibility for meet directors to add events into their program that makes sense for their competition.

Interpretations from Emails & Phone Inquiries

a. Can you confirm if by rule for the 2016-17 indoor track and field season if a conference is allowed to conduct the finals of the 200, 400 and 4x400 on an 8-lane track as part of a two-section final? *If the facility possesses 8 useable lanes they all must be used unless extraordinary circumstances prevent their use or availability.*

b. It states that there must be a declaration/commitment procedure published for all events. We have the following language published in all of our meet information packets, and I wanted to make sure that this is sufficient to meet the new rule.

Field event athletes must check-in to their field event sites no later than 30 minutes prior to their competition. For running events, this meet will use a DECLARATION procedure. All athletes must DECLARE their intent to compete *no less than 30 minutes prior* to their event. There will be DECLARATION tables set up next to the clerking booth. Athletes should highlight their names on the declaration sheets. Any athletes failing to declare within that time frame will be scratched from the event. NO EXCEPTIONS!! After declarations, athletes should return to the clerking area no less than 10 minutes prior to their event to receive their hip numbers. *Yes, however other meet directors my want to manage their competitions with a different declaration procedure.*

c. Is there an NCAA rule regarding the use of transponders for cross country - specifically - If the transponder is attached to the shoe, then is the official order of finish based on the foot and not the torso?

When a transponder system is being used for the official meet results, a ranked order list of times all competitors shall be determined by reading the printout produced by the system, and recorded to the slower 1/10th second. The ranked order of competitors separated by not more than 1/10th second shall be verified.

Ties shall be broken for the purpose of determining place or advancement in FAT or AT by reading the picture to the accuracy available within the same race, but not greater than 1/1000th of a second between different races. Ties for advancement based on recorded MT shall remain.

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d. Can you clarify the new uniform rule?

On any single day of competition, all team members must wear uniforms clearly indicating through color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform that they are from the same team. Teams may change uniform colors from one day to another for multiple day meets. Men's and women's programs are considered separate teams, and are not required to have uniforms of identical color. E.g., Uniform of day 1 will be white singlet/shirt and red

shorts / tights. Uniform of day 2 will be red top and red shorts / tights. All team member uniforms shall look alike during any given day of competition. All team members must have like school name, logos or mascots on their uniforms. This note is a good director for applying the rule. "The effect of this rule is that no imagination shall be required to justify a clear sense of belonging to a team."

e. By placing curbing 10 cm inside the lane one lane line - doesn't this essentially change where the lane width is measured from and make lane one ~4" wider? For instance, on a track that is not surveyed for curbing and has 42" lane widths painted on the Mondo we would put a curb 10 cm inside the current lane line and now when you measure lane one you would have a~ 46" wide lane one. So now unless other changes are made to the track, it is in violation of rule 1-9a which states lanes should be the same width. Is this acceptable or does the suggestion in the rule change document not outline the entirety of changes that would have to be made to the track in order to comply with the new curbing requirement and other rules pertaining to track specifications?

To come into compliance by December 1, 2018 indoor facilities shall have a curb installed appropriately to reflect the method of survey. This can be accomplished inexpensively by placing PVC pipe 10cm inside of the lane one lane line. This will cause lane one to be 10cm larger but will ensure length of each event is correct.

f. Can you clarify the new uniform rule?

On any single day of competition, all team members must wear uniforms clearly indicating through color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform, that they are from the same team.

Teams may change uniform colors from one day to another for multiple day meets. Men's and women's programs are considered separate teams, and are not required to have uniforms of identical color.

E.g., Uniform of day 1 will be white singlet/shirt and red shorts / tights. Uniform of day 2 will be red top and red shorts / tights. All team member uniforms shall look alike during any given day of competition.

g. I just wanted to see if you could clarify one thing for me. On the rule below, in regard to wearing the same color on the same day, does that include the bottoms or just the top of the uniform? I know that with the gear we ordered last October for this season we ordered certain pieces of the bottoms in black and some in red. And depending on the event group (throwers like to wear black, other events prefer the red). Can you please clarify if both the top and bottom have to match or just the top?

A uniform consists of two school-issued components - shorts or briefs and a top. A one-piece body suit is acceptable as a combination of the two components. Any outer garment (that is, sweatpants, tights) that is school issued becomes the official uniform, when worn.

h. I'm going to be starting to setup indoor meets in the next few weeks. With the new rules in play, what sort of things do we need to do for early season meets and not using speculative marks when that really is all you have?

For an indoor season competition, up to and including the fourth Sunday in January, or an outdoor season competition, up to and including the fifth Sunday following the final day of

the NCAA Indoor Championships, when verifiable entry performance for an event obtained during the current season is not available, the verifiable entry performance shall be from the just previous season in which the event is contested.

All entries having no verifiable performance as stated above shall be entered with a performance of 'no mark'.

Note 1: Competitors in their initial year of NCAA eligibility shall be entered with a 'no mark' performance until a verifiable current season performance is established.

Note 2: A verifiable performance shall only be those that have been published online as part of the NCAA's designated track and field results reporting system.

i. Regarding Rule 4 "Acceptable Entries" how does the NCAA plan to enforce the rule from a procedural perspective? *It is the responsibility of the coaches to enter their athletes with "Acceptable Entries" verifiable marks in compliance with Rule 4. The meet director has the responsibility to verify the entries. The publishing of the entry list with full source disclosure should eliminate unverifiable marks.*

j. Combined Event Competition. A portion of the rule states "when facilities with equal conditions are available." The question asked was "is this mandatory if you have the capability?" Can you use only one circle even if you have two, side by side? *As the rule reads, when facilities with equal conditions are available it is allowable but not mandatory to divide the competitors into 2 or more flights. All competitors shall compete in one or more flights as determined by the games committee. For total fields greater than 13, two flights should be considered. When more than one flight is used, the competitors should be split into sections as equal in number as possible by lot or based on past seasonal performance in that event. The flights should be concurrent when facilities with equal conditions are available. The games committee may create competition groups used for more than one event.*

k. If a student-athlete doesn't have the approved uniform or logo on, does the Clerk's Tent fill out a "Violation Report Form" or verbally deny entry into the race? *Duties of the Clerk of the Course, enforcing uniform, identifier, shoe and logo rules at the time of initial check-in through inspection, overseeing corrective action, and the issuing of a warning that repeated violation may result in disciplinary action. A report of uncorrected violations shall be made to the games committee, referee and the offending competitor's coach. The clerk does not have the authority to deny entry into the race. Only the referee has the authority to warn and/or disqualify for repeat violations.*

October 2016

Rule 4.1.14

Acceptable Entries

ARTICLE 14. For indoor, outdoor, scored and non-scored competitions:

- a. The meet director shall publish, as part of the online information for the competition, a ranked list of event entries disclosing all performances used to determine entry in each event and the source of those performances.
- b. Verifiable entry performances shall be used for the same event obtained during the current season when such a performance exists as reported on the NCAA's designated track and field results reporting system.
- c. For an indoor season competition, up to and including the fourth Sunday in January, or an outdoor season competition, up to and including the fifth Sunday following the final day of the NCAA Indoor Championships, when verifiable entry performance for an event obtained during the current season is not available, the verifiable entry performance shall be from the just previous season in which the event is contested.
- d. All entries having no verifiable performance as stated above shall be entered with a performance of 'no mark'.

Note 1: Competitors in their initial year of NCAA eligibility shall be entered with a 'no mark' performance until a verifiable current season performance is established.

Note 2: A verifiable performance shall only be those that have been published online as part of the NCAA's designated track and field results reporting system.

Note 3: Relay performance marks shall reflect an institution's best verifiable performance.

Clarification of Rule 4.1.14 - Acceptable Entries

NCAA Designated Track & Field Results Reporting System

The NCAA's designated Track & Field Results Reporting System at this time is the Track & Field Results Reporting System.

Acceptable Entries

The best individual event performance or best relay performance that is published on the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System. No speculative or converted performance marks will be considered as acceptable entries.

Verifiable Entry Performance

An entry performance mark that has been accepted into the competition by the host institution after it was verified as acceptable against NCAA designated track and field reporting system.

Indoor Track and Field Competition

In competitions that begin prior to and through the fourth Sunday in January, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from the current indoor season or the just previous year's indoor season. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

In competitions that begin after the fourth Sunday of January, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from all performance marks during the current indoor season only. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

Outdoor Track and Field Competition

In competitions that begin prior to and through the fifth Sunday following the NCAA Indoor Championships weekend, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from the current outdoor season or the just previous year's outdoor season. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

In competitions that begin after the fifth Sunday following the NCAA Indoor Championships weekend, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from all performance marks during the current outdoor season only. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

Requirements of the Host

The event host shall publish a ranked order list of verified entry performances for each event to be contested per gender.

Relay Events Entries

An entry in a relay event shall be the institution's best performance mark obtained during the defined respective indoor track & field or outdoor track & field time frames.

If an institution enters multiple relay teams in a respective relay event, the second relay team entered and any additional relay teams entered shall be entered with "No Mark".

No Verifiable Entry

Individuals and relays without a verified entry performance recognized by the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System, during the defined respective indoor track & field or outdoor track & field time frames shall be entered with "No Mark".

Entry Marks for Individuals in Their First Season of NCAA Competition

Individuals who are entering their first season of NCAA competition shall be entered with a "No Mark" in each event enter during a season, until the individual has established a performance in the event entered that is recognized by the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System.

Indoor Track Size Conversions

All entry performances regardless of the track's configuration shall be converted by the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System, to the NCAA's most current 200 Meter banked and oversized track conversions.

Altitude Conversions

All entry performances regardless of the altitude of the competition facility shall be converted by the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System, to the NCAA's most recent sea level performance conversions.

Wind

All entry performance must meet the NCAA Outdoor Championships Qualifying requirement of four meters per second or less.

Similar Events

Performances obtained in one event cannot be used as an Entry Performance to enter a different event.

Performances obtained in an event at an indoor competition cannot be used as an entry performance for an event at an outdoor competition and vice versa.

Performances obtained during the outdoor season at a scheduled outdoor competition where selected events have been moved to an indoor facility because of weather safety considerations may be used to establish an entry performance for an event at an outdoor competition.

Interpretations from Emails & Phone Inquiries

a. I have read through the rules changes list, and have picked out three equip & facilities rules to highlight in the EFSS newsletter. However, it was mentioned that the throwing weight's length has changed to 41 cm to match all the other rule books. Can you confirm? ***The weight shall conform to the specifications for the implement published by USA Track and Field. The specifications in the articles of this rule and those in Figure 21 are reprinted for reference purposes only and may not be all-inclusive. The maximum overall length of the complete implement as thrown, measured from the inside surface of the middle of the handle to the bottom of the complete implement with the head in a spherical shape, shall not exceed 41.00 centimeters.***

Note: Measurements must not include any deformed or flat surfaces as the bottom of the head.

	MEN'S	WOMEN'S
Minimum weight	15.880 kg	9.080 kg
Minimum head diameter	145 mm	120 mm
Maximum head diameter	165 mm	140 mm

b. As long as all of our uniforms are the same color of blue with the same team logo on the front and back we are good? ***The note that is in 4.3.2 listed below is a good guide, "no imagination shall be required to justify clear sense of belonging to a team."***

c. Is it allowed to place small school logos on the 4x100m exchange zone triangles (all 3 zones)? ***The exchange zone markings for a 4 x 100 relay (and all track marking) as indicated in the rulebook should follow international color code. The exchange zone markings shall be a singular solid colored line or triangle.***

d. Are wind socks for javelin and/or discus acceptable for NCAA meets and if so where could I find the ruling for their use? If there is no such ruling how can a proposal be made for a rule change to allow wind socks for discus and/or javelin throws? ***It has been common practice to see wind directional apparatus utilized in the throws as well. This common practice is not prohibited as it does provide a level of safety to the events. To submit a rule change proposal, please see page 6 of the 2017 and 2018 Track & Field Rules Book.***

e. As long as the scoring of Divisions remains separate and distinct, is it allowable under rules to mingle Division I and JC athletes in the single flight/ heat? ***It is permissible as described. The key words in this question are separate and distinct.***

f. Has there been any change in the use of arm sleeves in respect to the uniform rule? Can runners on a team still wear various colored arm sleeves as long as any logo still meets the logo rule? ***Remember for the sport of Cross Country the 2015-2016 rules apply. Therefore, no changes have been initiated for the 2016 Cross Country season. In the new rule book to come out soon, you will see more clarity specific to your question.***

g. Is it legal to place install small tick marks every 10m in 5 lanes of their track the entire way around the oval (200 marks)? They want to use the marks for training purposes. ***These permanent markings in that lane would be considered as illegal assistance. Rule 4.2.4a5***

November 2016

a. With the new wording for 'acceptable entries' under item Rule 4.1.14c; when it says, 'just previous season', is indoor the 'just previous season' to outdoor, or is the previous outdoor season the 'just previous season' to the current outdoor?

Acceptable Entries for the just previous season is defined as: the current Indoor Season to just previous Indoor Season and likewise the current Outdoor Season to just previous Outdoor Season.

b. Can you confirm for me if we need to paint a line for the end of the restart area? I have found the recall rule in Rule 8, Article 5, Section B:4; stating the starters responsibility for the restart up to 100 meters. I could not find anything about a painted line to assist with that, but wanted to double check.

A recall line is not required to be placed on the course. Generally, one of the recall starters is placed at the 100 meter position as a point of control.

c. We host several big indoor meets (big, as in 25 heats of the mile) and our coaches are concerned that a high-level athlete would have to be placed in a slower heat if he/she hadn't previously run the event and was entered with no mark. It appears that the new rule only affects entry procedures and posting of those entries and does not change how we create heats. Can you please shed some light on whether seeding/heat creation is affected by the new entry rule or do our coaches still have the flexibility to create heats in the best interest of high level competition?

An acceptable entry is the best individual event performance or best relay performance that is published on the NCAA designated Track & Field Results Reporting System. No speculative or converted performance marks will be considered as acceptable entries. In competitions that begin prior to and through the fourth Sunday in January, the verifiable entry performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from the current indoor season or the previous year's indoor season. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered. In competitions that begin after the fourth Sunday of January, the verifiable entry performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from all performance marks during the current indoor season only. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered. These verified entry performances will be used for seeding purposes for each event.

d. Can an NCAA meet have events within the meet that are not subject to the NCAA rules if they do not include NCAA athletes?

Yes, within the body of a competition, events other than NCAA Championship events can be contested. NCAA eligible athletes can compete in these events.

e. If the XYZ Invitational (hosted by an NCAA institution) had all the college events for college competition, but also had a separate "Open" section for certain events (for only unattached/open athletes), would this be ok?

Yes, there can be different sections of the same event within the body of a competition. Athletes can only enter in one section of the event.

f. How does an unattached athlete/professional athlete enter a meet? Most times they are not going to have a TFRS mark because TFRS isn't used at non-NCAA meets. What about unattached athletes who competed unattached while at a university? Can their mark from when they competed unattached count for meet entry? ***Remember, Rule 4.1.14 only speaks to NCAA eligible student-athletes. Unattached or professional athletes may enter into competitions by using a verifiable mark. To assist the meet director, these individuals or their coach/managers provide the competition director the information where and when the entry performance was achieved for verification purposes.***

g. If an event like the Pole-Vault for example, and one NCAA team is represented and several other athletes that are professional, open or unattached; could that be considered countable as a part of the competition? Or must there be 2 NCAA Sponsored teams involved in order for the event to count?

Your scenario does not meet the minimum criteria to be considered a counted event. A minimum of two different member institutions shall be represented in each event.

h. Does the Lap Scorer in the distance events now ring the bell for each competitor who is entering their final lap, which is similar to USATF and IAAF rule?

Yes, Rule 3.18 Lap Scorer is stated as:

The lap scorer shall ring a bell when the event leader begins his or her final lap. All subsequent competitors shall be notified of his or her final lap or leg in the same manner. The lap scorer(s) shall confirm to the head umpire, through an appropriate reporting method, that all competitors have completed the prescribed number of laps.

i. 4-1.12: In order to do mixed gender competition do both genders have to have less than 5 entries or if one gender has 4 and the other has 10 can they still compete simultaneously since the total number is under the maximum allowed in a flight (16)?

The rule specifically states "with fewer than 5 competitors per gender." The scenario that you propose does not meet the criteria to conduct a mixed-gender competition. The correct conduct of competition would be to run 2 separate events.

j. 4-1-12: Do throws count for this rule, and if not, why not?

"Horizontal field events," includes all throwing events along with the long jump and triple jump. Concern for a male using a female's implement? If that's the case is it not the responsibility of the event officials to ensure only certified implements are being used for competition regardless? As part of proper procedure, the chief field judge or the implement inspector at the event site is to ensure the correct implement is being thrown.

k. 4-4.11: Can speculative marks be used for seeding purposes but posted performances are listed with no mark?

No, speculative marks are not allowed. The verified entry performance once accepted becomes the seed mark for all events.

l. 4-4.11: According to the October rules clarification of Rule 4.1.14 – Acceptable Entries, only indoor times count for the current or the just previous year's indoor season. Does that mean

outdoor performances from the previous outdoor season do not count for a meet prior to the 4th Sunday in January? Do indoor performances from the just previous season count for the current outdoor season at a meet prior to the 5th Sunday following the indoor NCAA Championships in the case an athlete redshirts the current indoor season?

Indoor Track and Field Competition

In competitions that begin prior to and through the fourth Sunday in January, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from the current indoor season or the just previous year's indoor season. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered. In competitions that begin after the fourth Sunday of January, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from all performance marks during the current indoor season only. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

Outdoor Track and Field Competition

In competitions that begin prior to and through the fifth Sunday following the NCAA Indoor Championships weekend, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from the current outdoor season or the just previous year's outdoor season. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered. In competitions that begin after the fifth Sunday following the NCAA Indoor Championships weekend, the Verifiable Entry Performance is an individual's or relay's best performance mark from all performance marks during the current outdoor season only. A no performance mark shall be assigned if no performance mark exists for an individual or relay during this time period in the event entered.

m. 4-4.11: Do performances from the previous season have to count for competition at the same school? For example, if a 5th year senior transfers as a grad student for their final year of eligibility do they start their season at their new school with no marks?

Answering your specific scenario, the mark of an eligible NCAA student - athlete will follow the person.

n. 6-2.5: If it is a true dual meet scoring only 4 places, does that mean only 5 make finals in horizontal jumps & throws?

Please see Rule 7.1.1, in a true dual meet only 2 individual entries per institution shall score. Therefore, a minimum of 2 entries per team shall advance to the finals.

But 8 or 9 still make finals in the 60/60h (8 or 9 depending on # of lanes of the track) if you have enough athletes check-in to run 2 rounds?

Correct.

o. 6-2.5 & 6-2.7: 6-2.5 says they must have a MARK; 6-2.7 says must make an ATTEMPT. For example, if there are 3 competitors in a true dual competition (Team A has 2 entries and Team B has 1 entry), if Team B's entry does not get a mark in their first 3 attempts are they not allowed to compete in finals? According to 6-2.5 they do not but according to 6-2.7, assuming the game committee says so, they do 'advance' to finals.

In the horizontal jumps and throwing events, if the number of competitors in the event does not meet the maximum number of finalists as per Rule 6.2.5 the games committee prior to the competition beginning may implement Rule 6.2.7.

p. 6-2.5: In a true dual meet scoring 4 places, if the top 5 performances from prelims are all from the same team does #5 get bumped for the top mark of the opposing team? Or do you add a 6th finalist?

Please see Rule 7.1.1, in a true dual meet only 2 individual entries per institution shall score. Therefore, a minimum of 2 entries per team shall advance to the finals.

q. 6-2.5: If hosting a double dual with 3 teams (3 teams competing; but scoring as duals), how many make finals in the horizontal jumps or throws?

Please see Rule 7.1.1, in a three team meet only 2 individual entries per institution shall score. Therefore, a minimum of 2 entries per team shall advance to the finals.

What do you do with scoring if in head to head competition between Team A & Team B there is not the 7 running/4 field (for indoor) entries from both teams but Team B vs Team C and Team A vs Team C do meet the minimum?

You would score the meet as directed by Rule 7.1.1 (as 3 dual meets... A vs. B; A vs. C and B vs. C).

r. Not related to the new rules but another question:

4-1.11a: 10-minute interval from the FINISH of the previous event or 10-minute interval from the START of the previous event?

The start of the next event shall not exceed 10 minutes from the conclusion of the previous event.

s. There is an understanding of the first part of the interpretation, the minimum participation requirement is two teams to count as a competition. How does the interpretation of “a person representing each team in each event” apply to multi-team (3 or more) competitions?

Only the minimum requirement of a competition must be met to fulfill the expectation of the rule. For your edification please see Bylaw 17 which addresses Playing and Practice Seasons.

t. In a meet where there are 3 or more teams, is a member from each institution required to compete in all events contested during the meet or is it only required that at least 1 member from 2 teams compete in the minimum required number of events that constitute a meet (7 track/4 field for indoor, 9 track/6 field for outdoor)?

For an event to be considered countable, only the minimum requirement per event must be achieved (1 member from 2 differing teams).

u. If we have the 3000 meter run at one of our home meets, and that event is scheduled toward the end of the meet, is it legal to host an “invitational” section of collegiate runners at the beginning of the meet? And if that is legal, here is a follow up question: Is it still legal if all of the runners in that invitational section are from the same institution?

Your initial question relative to running separate sections or an invitational of an event is allowed provided the event is seeded in accordance to rule.

Your follow up question refers to Rule 4.1.3 Minimum Number of Competitors on page 56 of the 2017-2018 Rulebook.

v. Q1. Is there any tolerance for the length of the water jump hurdle? We received a hurdle from a vendor that is 3.68m (12'-1") versus what is shown in the IAAF manual 3.66m (12').

Q2. Our line striper painted the end triangles for zone 2-3 for the 4x400m relay perpendicular to the lane lines, not parallel to the common finish line. Is this a violation?

Q1. Rule 2-4.3 allows the barriers to have a +/- tolerance of 0.02m in length. The barrier is legal.

Q2. This is not a violation, but is a terrible mistake. Rule 1-1.11 talks of the lines as to where the exchange zones start and finish.

December 2016

a. With the delay of the new entry rule, as the current NCAA Track and Field Rules Book is written, there is no longer a misconduct rule (Rule 4-1) as written in previous years. Would that mean that false reporting of entry marks is now acceptable and not protectable?

Misconduct is addressed in Rule 4-2.3 on page 62 of the 2017-2018 NCAA Track and Field Rules Book. Second sentence, "misconduct includes the intentional reporting of false marks for entry purposes."

This rule has not changed from the previous rules book.

b. Does the games committee have the ability to determine the structure of the meet, as long as that structure is consistent with regards to timed sections? Meaning, can we choose to run fast to slow, and have everything be fast to slow? It seems above that if you remove "such as slow to fast" because it is simply an example, the rule would read that "the structure for administering the final as timed sections, shall be determined by the games committee and must be consistent throughout the meet. ***During this rules cycle, Rule 5-10.1b will be applied as written. The games committee does have the authority to determine the order of competition relative to the running of timed section finals. Fast to slow or slow to fast as long as the decision remains consistent throughout the entire competition, with the exception of the 200 and 400. Seeding of all events will follow the rule as written.***

c. Our University recently built a track. Lane eight is 38 inches in width, and the other seven lanes are each 42 inches in width. According to NCAA rules and standards am I allowed to use the eighth lane for NCAA track meets?

Rule 1-1.9b does address this as well. Lanes shall be equal width with a minimum of 1.067 meters (42 inches). Lane 8 cannot be used for races run in lanes. You may host a conference championship on the facility but you will need to make provisions while following the rules for the initial seeding, advancement and final seeding.

d. At our quadrangular meet, we host running and relay events. Fourteen student-athletes compete from each team and there are runners from all four teams in each event. This is how we have done it in the past, and ideally, we would prefer to not have to sponsor the minimum 6 field events at our quadrangular meet in the future since we don't have student-athletes trained in these areas. We do not want to risk them injuring themselves doing field events they are not trained to do, or recruit walk-ons as short term squad list additions just to have players compete in these field events. During our discussion, you stated the Playing Rules were changed with the intent to bring structure to the sport. Can you confirm that the playing rules themselves have no penalty within the book for those institutions that do not follow the rules, specifically Rule 4 Article 4 about the minimum number of events? In addition to there being no penalty for not following the Playing Rules, can you please also confirm the Playing Rules would still consider our quadrangular event an actual meet? Or stated the other way around, there is no penalty written into the rule book that says if you do not have the field events it will not count as a track meet. Since our NCAA manual still states that we must follow the playing rules of the

Association, I believe we will still need to follow Rule 4 Article 4 and sponsor 6 field events at our quadrangular meet. However, with your confirmation that there is no penalty within the T&F/Cross Country Playing Rules for not following the track meet guidelines, it is my hope that our institution may receive a waiver from the NCAA of Bylaw 17.30 for health and safety reasons related to the field event requirement.

These events fall outside of the annual qualifying window which begins on March 1 for NCAA DI institutions. These competitions could be viewed as a controlled scrimmage as other sports conduct. Because it is a controlled scrimmage the number of events and competitors do not apply as the event itself is non-countable. No marks from these competitions would be recognized for qualifying.

e. Is the intent that all the athletes on a team, regardless of event, wear the same color combination? I remember you said that the uniforms didn't have to be the same style - one-piece and two-piece are both fine. But, using Arkansas as an example, do all team members have to wear red on the same day or can some wear red and others white as long as the logo clearly identifies the school? Do all members of a relay team have to wear the same color combination? ***Rule 4-3.1a indicates that, "on any single day of competition, ALL TEAM MEMBERS must wear uniforms clearly indicating through, color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform, that they are on the same team. It does not speak to style providing flexibility for different event discipline athletes to wear different styles of uniform. In your example, if a team is wearing red tops and bottoms on that day, all team members must wear red with the same logo. Rule 4-3.2 addresses the relay member portion of your question and has not changed from previous years. The note in Rule 4-3.2 is a very good guide for both 4-3.1 and 4-3.2. The effect of this rule is that no imagination shall be required to justify a clear sense of belonging to a team.***

f. As per our conversation this morning, I am seeking an interpretation regarding a track meet we held at Adams State University this past weekend. My understanding of the rules set forth in the NCAA Track and Field rule book and the NCAA Manual are that competition involving a 2 yr. and a 4 yr institutions meet the requirements for official competition and qualifying marks. In the men's competition, there were two NCAA DII universities with more than 14 competitors along with a one partial NJCAA squad. On the women's side, we had three NCAA DII universities with more than 14 competitors, one NCAA DII member with less than 14, and one NJCAA member with a partial NJCAA squad.

The question centers on competition in several distance events. There were 3 events (mile, 3000, 5000) that had competitors from DII University (Adams State) and the partial NJCAA (Trinidad State) squad competed in each race. The women's competition had 2 events (3000, 5000) with the same scenario.

I am requesting an interpretation regarding whether the NJCAA School counts toward the individual events for NCAA qualifying purposes. I believe the specific rule in question is ***Minimum Number of Competitors ARTICLE 3. A minimum of two different member institutions shall be represented in each event.*** What determines "member institutions"? Is there a specific definition? I have been unable to find one in the rulebook, therefore referred back to the NCAA manual, which clearly states that, both a 2 yr. and a 4-yr. institution counts as competition (14.02.7 and 14.02.3).

I am an advocate for competition between various types of collegiate institutions. Being more than 100 miles from the nearest Division II competitor, we often host and compete with 2 yr. institutions. It has always been my understanding that this was encouraged and allowed. I was contacted by a Coach from another institution taking exception with these events that had participants from 2 schools, one being a 2yr and one being a 4 yr. I am requesting your interpretation of our meet as timely as possible. The allowances of the marks and the meet have immediate implications for all schools involved. I am available to answer any questions or provide any further information needed to assist you in your work.

It has been identified that there is a discrepancy in the 2017-2018 Track and Field Rules Book and the 2016-2017 NCAA Track and Field Qualifying Criteria. As a result, and until the discrepancy is resolved, the following will apply from the NCAA Rules Committee. If a competition is conducted in accordance with NCAA Bylaws and meets the current qualifying criteria, the marks achieved at the competition are eligible for qualifying purposes in the eyes of the NCAA Rules Committee. The final authority in regard to acceptance of the performances for qualification purposes rests upon the NCAA Sports Committee.

g. As the head official for the long jump with a 4-attempt final competition during the women's long jump I informed athletes who were checking out for track events that if they were not jumping when their name was called they would forfeit that attempt. The coach approached me. I informed the coach to discuss his issue with me not allowing the athletes to get in their jumps that were missed when called with the referee. The referee agreed with my enforcement of the rules. The meet director got involved and subsequently the games committee. After the other competing athletes were done and the returning athletes were complete when returning from the track. Some athletes were not allowed by me the head official to jump their jumps that they missed when they had checked out for events on the track. The games committee awarded the affected athletes the jumps that were missed while they were on the track. It was the meet director's intent that athletes get all 4 jumps.

My questions???

If the athlete is checked out, do I have to time out the athlete when they have checked out?

Is the games committee allowed to just change the above rules on "out of order in finals"?

Is the meet director allowed to change the rule for future meets?

Yours and the referee's interpretation of the rule was accurate. Rule 6-3.1 (Alternative Procedures) allows the games committee prior to the competition the ability to conduct the horizontal jumps and throws as a four-attempt final competition. Rule 6-1.6a (Absence from Competition) applies in this situation. Should a competitor miss a turn in the final rounds, the head judge shall refuse permission for that competitor to take that turn. If a competitor is not present for a trial in final rounds, it shall be deemed that the competitor is passing, once the allowable time for the trial has elapsed. The games committee cannot change the rules that govern competition. The responsibility of the meet director is to ensure competition is conducted in accordance with the rules at all times.

h. On the same day, at the NCAA Championships, is it permissible to have a maroon base and white logo on one athlete in the 60m and a white base and maroon logo on an athlete in the 1500m? Same gender.

The answer to your question is no. On any single day the top, bottom and logo must be alike as Rule 4-3.1a states.

i. The NCAA rule book does not address unexcused athletes, only excused athletes Rule 6.1.6. Rule 6.1.6 Absence from competition. Article 6. Excused competitors shall not delay the continuation of an event. If a competitor.....

Rule 6.1.6b. Second sentence: The competition must continue, without delay, in the excused competitor's absence, and the competitor shall compete at the existing height upon return, being allowed the number of attempts he or she had remaining when excused.

Since the above rule covers excused athletes how do we deal with unexcused athletes?

Do we treat unexcused athletes using Rule 6.1 Article 3: In the jumping events, a competitor shall be charged with a foul if he or she does not initiate a trial within one minute (*or the prescribed time limits*) after the pit, crossbar or standards have been prepared or set, and after his or her name has been called, in addition to the event judge making a visual indication.

BTW, I recommend that the underlined, italic verbiage above be added to this rule.

Clarification: Do we treat both excused and unexcused athletes the same--record a pass and comply with the published rules? Or, do we record a foul for the unexcused athlete using Rule 6.1.3?

Regarding your question pertaining to field event athletes being excused versus an unexcused athlete and how to differentiate and record: For the unexcused athlete rule 6-1.3 applies. The athlete or coach has a responsibility to communicate with the official the potential of an absence during competition. For the excused athlete rule 6-1.6 applies.

j. Please see the following statement ...

The fast section will be composed of the top 8 qualifying times. (Rule 5-10.7.d)

If there are 9 total entries, 7 will run in the fast heat and 2 will run in the slower heat barring extraordinary conditions.

What would be your ruling and interp as to whether a total field of 9 could be run as a single section final in a championship? ***The last statement in 5-10.7.d says, "barring extraordinary circumstances." In this situation, I would use that exception and run the race as a one section final utilizing 5-10.7.c as a guide for the conduct of the event.***

k. We are hosting a scored meet (double dual) this weekend. I have a question regarding prelims/finals when you have less competitors than the number of lanes. Because it is a scored meet between each team, can we still have a preliminary round in order to seed the lanes for the finals? This will only be for the 60m Hurdles (men and women).

Rule 5-10.2 on page 73 discusses canceling heats due to the number of competitors versus the number of lanes available. In your case, the preliminaries will be canceled and the event shall be contested as a final at the scheduled final time.

Below is the exact wording of 5-10.2

Canceling Heats

ARTICLE 2.If heats are drawn for a race but the total number of competitors who report to the start line is small enough to be run in one race, based on the number of lanes at the facility, the heats shall be canceled and the race shall be run as a final at the originally scheduled final time.

1. We had some confusion regarding the new uniform rule (Rule 4-3). Does part A mean identical uniforms? (e.g., all tops or bottoms need to be the same color and design?) For the disciplinary action, if in violation, is the committee assuming this would come from the conference or be part of the meet management or the NCAA?

Should we be reporting these violations to you post meet?

One any given day, all competitors on a team (gender separate) will wear uniforms that are identical in color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform. (e.g., sprinters may wear spandex top and bottoms, distance runners may wear split running shorts and a singlet, throwers may wear long shorts or pants and throwing shirts on the same day provided all uniforms are identical in color and school logo.)

The note in 4-3.2 is a good guide. The effect of this rule is that no imagination shall be required to justify a clear sense of belonging to a team.

The committee requests that the violations be recorded and reported. Violations may be submitted by meet management and/or conferences when applicable by utilizing the NCAA Violation Reporting system link:

http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2016DICC_Guidelines_Reporting_QualifyingCriteriaViolations_20160926.pdf. Or by emailing Mark Kostek, Secretary Rules Editor at Kostekmt@gmail.com

January 2017

Because of several questions regarding Rule 4-3.1 and 4-3.2 (Competitors Attire), the following clarification statement is submitted to assist in implementation:

Clarification

On any given day, all competitors on a team (gender separate) will wear uniforms that are identical in color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as a uniform. (e.g., sprinters may wear spandex top and bottoms, distance runners may wear split running shorts and a singlet, throwers may wear long shorts or pants and throwing shirts on the same day provided that the all uniforms are identical in color and school logo.)

The note in 4-3.2 is a good guide. The effect of this rule is that no imagination shall be required to justify a clear sense of belonging to a team.

The committee requests that the violations be recorded and reported. Violations may be submitted by meet management and/or conferences when applicable by utilizing the NCAA Violation Reporting system link:

<http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2016DICCGuidelinesReportingQualifyingCriteriaViolations20160926.pdf>. Or by emailing Mark Kostek, Secretary Rules Editor at Kostekmt@gmail.com

Clarification

The following statement is to address the confusion in interpreting Rule 4-1.3 (Minimum Number of Competitors) and Rule 4-1.4 (Minimum Number of Events):

It has been identified that there is a discrepancy in the 2017-2018 Track and Field Rules Book and the 2016-2017 NCAA Track and Field Qualifying Criteria. As a result, and until the discrepancy is resolved, the following will apply from the NCAA Rules Committee. If a competition is conducted in accordance with NCAA Bylaws and meets the current qualifying criteria (<http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2016-17TFQualifyingCriteria20160909.pdf>) the marks achieved at the competition are eligible for qualifying purposes in the eyes of the NCAA Rules Committee. The final authority in regard to acceptance of the performances for qualification purposes rests upon the NCAA Sports Committee.

Clarification

There have been several questions and some confusion as to how to seed sprint and hurdle (60M and 60MH) races in large fields. I draw your attention to the 'Guidelines for Staging NCAA Track and Field Events' that has been posted on the NCAA website since December 2014. (<http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Staging%20Track%20and%20Field%20Events.pdf>)

Interpretations

a. I have a few quick (hopefully) questions about Rule 6-2-5. The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except when competitors tying for the last advancement position by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition. The Games Committee for our Conference in its operating code states:

LJ / TJ / SP / WT - 9 advance to finals. (As a side note they delineate the tie breaking procedure for aces that involve advancement). So am I to assume that they expect ties to be broken by going to the next best performance to ensure there are 9 finalists?

What do I do if the tie for the ninth place cannot be broken (i.e. tied athletes have identical best marks and each fouled their other attempts)? I assume they would both go.

Should I request that the Games Committee reword their operating code to address this conundrum? There is time to address this if need be.

I would talk to the conference, games committee, and get their opinion on your question. As the rule reads, all ties for the for the last advancement position by mark may be advanced, unless tie breaking is designated by the games committee prior to the competition.

b. I wasn't sure if there was a rule in place for unattached athletes competing in team scored meets. As long as the unattached athletes are not counted in the final scoring, can they still compete in a team scored meet?

There is nothing in the rulebook that currently prevents an unattached athlete from competing as a guest in a team scored competition. However, make certain that the unattached individual does not displace a potential scorer from any team advancing to the finals in any event.

c. We were reviewing our rule books this weekend for our rules test. We noted that the discus diagram NCAA old book and probably new book as well, that the Rule 2 fig 18a page 33--- 6x12mm- 6x13mm edge descriptor for the discus says 8mm. Should this really say 6mm?

The NCAA 2009-2010 Rules Book indicates the discus edge descriptor as 6mm. In the 2011-2012 rule book the descriptor is 8mm and has remained that since. Reviewing the USATF rules the edge descriptor has been 6mm throughout. I believe that this is a typo that occurred 6 years ago and has not been discovered until now.

d. Do we ring a bell on the last lap of the 400m dash?

Rule 3.18 The Lap Scorer, will answer your question. However, to be specific to your question, you do not ring a bell to indicate a final lap in the 400m.

e. We are hosting a six team meet and happen to have three DI & three D2 teams.

We are planning to score the meet by Divisions. Is this necessary to meet NCAA indoor qualifying and/or playing season rules for D1? If we need to score by division, how will Rule 6.2.5 be applied? Scoring would be to 6 places so 7 advance to the final but what if three D2 athletes are leading the competition? Can/do we advance seven athletes per division?

If you want to score these 2 meets as triangular competitions, my suggestion is to keep the competition separate and run the 2 competitions, a DI meet and a DII meet.

This will allow you to comply with rule 6.2.5. - scoring use either Rule 7.1.1 or 7.1.3 Otherwise run the meet as a competition of 5 or more teams using Rule 7.1.2 to score the meet.

f. In the 15-16 Rules, Rule 4-3.5 said "Facility considerations may further limit the type and length of spikes allowed." "and length" was removed in the 17-18 Rules. Some people understand this to mean "facility considerations" can no longer take length in to account must accept spikes up to 9mm and 12mm for HJ and Jav. Others believe a facility may continue to limit spike length to something shorter than 9mm, e.g. 1/4 inch. I would like to understand which

interpretation the NCAA is using. Can a facility impose a limit of 1/4 inch spikes on an NCAA meet?

Rule 4-3.5 states; "When a competition is conducted on a synthetic surface, the part of each spike that projects beyond the plane where the sole or heel touches the surface must not exceed 9 millimeters, except in the High Jump or Javelin Throw, in which it must not exceed 12 millimeters. For nonsynthetic surfaces, the length of the spike must not exceed 25 millimeters. Spikes shall have a maximum diameter of 4 millimeters for the one-half of their total length closest to the tip. Facility considerations may further limit the type of spikes allowed." *The highlighted item in Rule 4-3.5 addresses only type (style) of spike not length.*

g. When conducting a single vertical jump competition in two separate groups, low pit and high pit, and the results will be combined after the competition, what will the time limits be for the last person jumping on the low pit? Will the athlete get 2 minutes HJ, 3 minutes PV or 4 minutes HJ, 5 minutes PV? Will the ruling be the same if the two groups competed on same day or different days?

Even with the competition results being combined at the conclusion of the event, each pit will be conducted in accordance with the rules as if it were a final event. This was the intent of the rule, as contestants, for instance, could be disadvantaged by taking consecutive jumps without appropriate time.

h. Do you have any printed materials relating to rules of the 3 point start or Moy block start for NCAA competitions in track?

Rule 2-2.1 Starting Blocks and Rule 5-1.3 and 5-1.4 will provide you the guidance regarding the start. The NCAA does not prohibit the 3-point start as long as it complies with the rules of the start.

i. While starting a college meet yesterday the other starter was confused about the extra line that had been painted in front of the "2 turned starting line", for the 200m, 400m 800m starting line. He was also concerned that they were not the same measurement distance from the painted line. EXAMPLE-- On lane #2 "the added line is about 5 cm ahead that line, while at lane #6 the added line is about 30 cm ahead of the starting line. The new starting lines are called the "compensated starting lines" and are to be used in races that "break at the compensated curved line".

The big question is: what running events would use the "compensated starting line"?

The markings you describe are exactly the same as those in place on an outdoor facility for a one-turn 800 meter start and a reverse-200 meter start. One has a break line the other is in lane (no break line). On an outdoor track, the break line is also curved. This is the second adjustment. The line closer to the finish (back line) is for the 'in-lane' race. The front line is for the break.

j. I am writing to ask if the NCAA has any rules or experimental rules in place for video review at ITF and OTF. I know that Eagle Eye exists and is used I believe for throws only, but not completely certain and if so, what is able to be reviewed. With that said are there any other rules (experimental or not) that address other field events and running events? If there is any type of video review, is this used at regionals and final sites for the NCAA Championships and is it permitted at in-season meets and conference championships?

Video review (Eagle Eye) capabilities for the NCAA championship events include running events, horizontal jump and the throws. I am also aware of video review being utilized at several of the larger conference championships. Below is a statement that is from the 2017-2018 Rules Book that gives authority to the referees to use certain types of video evidence available:

“The referee shall review the protest or report leading to a disqualification and shall render a decision after determining and considering available evidence.

Concurrence of two referees is required when no jury of appeal is appointed. Evidence specifically excluded is all visual material, except that produced:

1) For public broadcast, public streaming or public video board presentation.

2) By an organization specifically employed for the purpose of providing video review.

3) In conjunction with officiating an event.

4) For official photo-timing.

5) As additional official video designated by the games committee before the meet.”

k. The NCAA 2017-18 Track & Field rule book shows the length of the indoor weight at 41.00cm. It was formerly 40.64. From what we recall this was not designated as a new rule. Was it and we missed it?

As Rule 2.11.5 states, the weight shall conform to the specifications for the implement published by USA Track and Field. This is not a new rule; it is conforming to the USATF Rule 195.8. For your convenience, I have copied and included USATF Rule 195.8 for your information:

The maximum overall length of the complete implement as thrown, measured from the bottom of the complete implement with its head in its spherical shape, to the inside surface of the middle of the handle (grip) shall not exceed 410.0mm at any time.

NOTE: An implement presented for inspection must be measured for length with all components at their maximum lengths as designed by the manufacturer. Once the implement has been inspected and approved for competition, the implement shall not be altered or adjusted other than to be repaired by the Inspector of Implements.

February 2017

a. At our conference championship we have exempt the mile from having prelims. For women, we always have a two-heat final. All other events have prelims (50 thru 800) or one heat finals (3000-5000). Years ago, the distance coaches pushed to exempt the event. NCAA Championships and every conference require prelims in this event. I was wondering if our conference was not following proper NCAA protocol.

Rule 5-10.7h states "IF preliminaries are contested in the 1500 Meter or Mile....." The conference / games committee has an option on the conduct of this event.

b. Situation ... Round ends and I have 7 jumping at the next height but another 6 are passed (total of 13 still in the competition). Is 5 alive abandoned when there are 9 or less remaining in competition at the current round or 9 or less in the competition?

5 alive is abandoned only when there are 9 or less competitors remaining in the competition.

c. A question came up regarding illegal assistance- Rule 4-2.4. Is the rule now saying a coach cannot review video during a competition to give an athlete feedback, even if the athlete never views the video?

The video shall be shot from a designated and approved area established by the games committee prior to the competition. Coaches may review video taken at the meet and provide instruction to their athlete from the information received. Rule 4-2.4a (1) states, viewing a video or photos, or a competitor using any wireless communication device during event competition, is considered assistance, and therefore not allowed.

d. We have had a request for the Olympic Champion in the 2017 Para-Olympics to compete in one of our home meets this outdoor season. As a Para-athlete he throws the 6kg shot put and the 1.5kg discus. Is there a rule that does not allow for this to happen? We would in the results place his result in a different "event", but he would throw in competition with all the other competitors. I cannot find anything in the rule book that says this is against the rules.

There is nothing that prohibits this individual from competing. Make certain that results are separate and that the implements are clearly identified and separate from the other competitor's equipment.

e. Rule 1, Section 1, Article 11

In all relays around the track, the baton exchange must be made within a 20-meter zone, formed by lines drawn 10 meters on each side of the measured centerline. If designated by lines, the zone is between the edges of the lines closest to the start. All boxes or triangles denoting the limits of the zone shall be within the zone. Is there a +/- tolerance for the zones? We measure the zones to the nearest mm for certification reports and have seen as much as 17mm (5/8") discrepancy. I checked the IAAF Rulebook & certification forms as well & could find no listing for tolerance.

The NCAA does not list tolerances regarding to relay exchange zones and yields to the technical information in the IAAF Facilities Manual. To further explore for the answer you require I would contact the IAAF technical delegate. Response from Imre Matrahazi IAAF Technical Manager: We are applying the tolerance 20.000m ±0.02m. This will be included in the next edition of the Manual.

f. We have some concerns about the order of running events (fast to slow, slow to fast). It's our conference meet and we would like to run everything slow to fast. However, 5.10.1.b, says that when doing timed finals everything is slow to fast except the 200M and 400M. Can the games committee decide to run everything slow to fast (because if I'm reading the rule correctly we can)? I just want to make sure we follow all the rules at our meet.

Rule 5-10.1 states the following: "The games committee shall use the following methods to administer running events:"

Rule 5-10.1b says: "If the limits of time or facilities require, to ensure equity of competition, races (including relays) may be contested as a final in timed sections. When used, the structure for administering the final as timed sections, such as slow to fast, shall be determined by the games committee and must be consistent throughout the meet. In addition, no race in an event using timed sections shall have fewer than two competitors. In a single-round indoor timed-section final, the sections for all events except the 200 Meters and 400 Meters shall be seeded slow to fast and shall compete in that order."

Specific to your question, if you are running timed section finals, yes you may run all indoor events slow to fast, including the 200 and 400. As you can see, the only 2 events that have an option that the games committee can employ differently are the 200M and 400M.

g. Rule 5-10.2 seems to contradict itself. First it seems to indicate the games committee can determine to run heats slow to fast, as long as it is consistent, then it seems to say you have to go slow to fast in everything, except the 200/400, which must go fast to slow. This takes away the ability to decide and takes away from consistency. I am missing something?

b. If the limits of time or facilities require, to ensure equity of competition, races (including relays) may be contested as a final in timed sections. When used, the structure for administering the final as timed sections, such as slow to fast, shall be determined by the games committee and must be consistent throughout the meet. In addition, no race in an event using timed sections shall have fewer than two competitors. In a single-round indoor timed section final, the sections for all events except the 200 Meters and 400 Meters shall be seeded slow to fast and shall compete in that order

You are referring to Rule 5-10.1(b). The rule was written to address outdoor and indoor events. The indoor exception is noted in the last sentence of sub-article b, as listed below.

"In a single-round indoor timed section final, the sections for all events except the 200 Meters and 400 Meters shall be seeded slow to fast and shall compete in that order."

Prior to the competition start, the games committee may decide to conduct the indoor time section finals in the 200 and 400 races in a fast to slow heat manner. All other events shall be run in a slow to fast order.

h. During competition, a vaulter insisted that a teammate, also in the event, stand immediately adjacent to his mid-mark alongside the runway. The teammate's foot was placed within an inch of the runway boundary line. This is an action unique to the vault; no other field event presents an instance where such an action is possible. As this action serves only one competitor and also presents an athlete control issue for the event crew, does such activity reach the definition of banned assistance by both the vaulter and his teammate? Each vaulter is permitted two marks alongside the runway - I see no reason for another vaulter to be allowed to impinge upon the runway to assist the vaulter in locating their own mark.

Rule 4.-2.4 Assistance: speaks directly to this question.

"On the report of an official, or from a properly filed protest, the referee shall warn or disqualify a competitor who gives or receives assistance, a competitor who is determined to have been directly or unduly aided by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a non-competitor associated with the competitor's team, or a competitor who is indirectly aided from inside the competition area by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a noncompetitor associated with the competitor's team."

Rule 6-1.7 addresses jumping aids/runway markers, item (c) speaks to only 2 markers in the pole vault and item (e) speaks to the markers and if an inappropriate marker is used what the referee's authority if direction is not followed.

The practice that is described in this situation shall be considered inappropriate assistance. The athlete shall be initially warned and if continues to not comply shall be disqualified.

i. Looking at the new verbiage that the weight can now be 41cm (16" 3/16), instead of 40.64cm (16"). Just wondering if this is correct and if it is, will there be new records.

As Rule 2.11.5 states the weight shall conform to the specifications for the implement published by USA Track and Field. This is not a new rule as it is conforming to the USATF Rule 195.8.

For your convenience, I have copied and included USATF Rule 195.8 for your information: The maximum overall length of the complete implement as thrown, measured from the bottom of the complete implement with its head in its spherical shape, to the inside surface of the middle of the handle (grip) shall not exceed 410.0mm at any time.

NOTE: An implement presented for inspection must be measured for length with all components at their maximum lengths as designed by the manufacturer. Once the implement has been inspected and approved for competition, the implement shall not be altered or adjusted other than to be repaired by the Inspector of Implements.

Relative to records, because the only record recognized with the NCAA are meet records, it is the opinion of the Rules Committee to not introduce new records.

Understand, the only thing that is still confusing is that in the USATF standards it talks about how the length for Open and College is only 406.4, which is what they use. Then it says that it should not exceed the 410.0 mm (that is still the contradictory statement I cannot figure out).

After some research, here is what I have found:

The USATF standard document was written in 2011 and has not been updated since then.

In 2016 USATF removed the open and college verbiage and is highlighted as a new rule. The last time that wording was in the USATF rules was 2015.

Below is the 2017 USATF Rule 195.

Hope this clears up your understandable confusion.

USATF RULE 195

THROWING THE WEIGHT

- 1. In making a throw, the competitor may choose to assume any starting position, holding the weight exclusively by the handle, and using both hands except at the start of the throw and at the release of the implement.***
- 2. In all other respects, the rules for the Hammer Throw (Rule 191) shall govern.***
- 3. Construction - The weight shall consist of three parts: a head (ball), a handle, and a connection assembly which may contain a harness.***

4. Head -

(a) All Metal Head - The head shall be a sphere. The head shall be made of solid metal not softer than brass. There shall not be any internal movement. The center of gravity shall not be more than 9mm from the center of the sphere.

(b) Filled Head - The head shall be a shell made of plastic or other suitable polymer material in the shape of a sphere, designed to protect the landing surface. The head shall be filled with lead or other material inserted in a manner that minimizes any internal void or movement and have center of gravity not more than 9 mm from the center of the sphere certified by the manufacturer. The head may deform upon impact, but must return to the shape of a sphere. NOTE: Rubber is not an acceptable material for the shell.

5.

Handle - The handle shall be made of round steel metal rod, bent in a triangular shape with straight sides. The handle may include an internal brace or loop. The handle must be rigid and not show evidence of elasticity or malformation before, during or after the competition. **a)** The handle for the filled head weight shall have sides that do not exceed 160 mm or are not smaller than 100mm inside measurement. A handle with no permanent connection point shall have all three sides of equal length.

(b) The handle for the all metal head weight shall have sides that do not exceed 190 mm or smaller than 100 mm inside measurement. A handle with no permanent connection point shall be constructed in such a manner that regardless of how the handle is turned the length of the implement does not exceed the specified maximum length of the implement.

6. Harness - If the implement includes a harness, it shall be fabricated from a minimum of four straps sewn together to form a sling. Netting shall not be used for this purpose. The harness must not stretch or show evidence of elasticity or malformation before, during or after the competition. A protective sleeve may be used around the links and/or swivel.

7. Connection - The handle shall be connected to the head or to a harness in the following manner: **(a)** After the handle, by means of no more than two steel links (loops), whose size shall be such that they cannot stretch while the implement is being thrown. **NOTE: Wire is not a suitable connector.**

(b) For the All Metal Head, the handle shall be connected without the use of a swivel. **2017 USATF Competition Rules - 111**

(c) For a Filled Head or Harness, the use of links and swivel are optional. However, at least one shall be used and when used in combination, the swivel shall be attached to the head.

(d) A swivel, when used, may be either plain or ball-bearing, and is not considered an additional link. A protective sleeve may be used around the links and/or swivel.

8. Length - The maximum overall length of the complete implement as thrown, measured from the bottom of the complete implement with its head in its spherical shape, to the inside surface of the middle of the handle (grip) shall not exceed 410.0mm at any time. **NOTE: An implement presented for inspection must be measured for length with all components at their maximum lengths as designed by the manufacturer. Once the implement has been inspected and approved for competition, the implement shall not be altered or adjusted other than to be repaired by the Inspector of Implements.**

9. The weight shall conform to the following specifications: Name	56 lb	20 kg	35 lb	25 lb	20 lb	16 lb	12 lb	4 kg
Nominal Weight kg	25.40	20.00	15.88	11.34	9.08	7.26	5.45	4.00
Min. Record Wt. kg	25.400	20.000	15.880	11.340	9.080	7.260	5.450	4.000
Diameter min. mm	145	130	120	110	100	95		
Diameter max. mm	165	150	140	130	120	110		

j. Could you please help me with a couple procedure questions? 600 meters indoor started in lanes. Per Rule 5 Article 5, if a runner in any section uses starting blocks all sections must have a 2 command start. So, I would think that the athlete must tell the starting clerk and or starter of his or her intention to use blocks prior to the start of the first heat. Correct? If you are in the middle of the heats the blocks would not be allowed. If those thoughts are correct my next question would be what about a three point start without blocks. Would you treat it the same as the above or would you allow the runner to use the three point on a one command start?

Please employ Rule 5-1.4 if any athlete in the 600 meters uses a 4 point or 3-point start. The clerk of the start should gather starting information from the contestants prior to reporting to the start line. The clerk of start will provide the starters the information prior to the start of the first heat.

k. We are preparing to host our indoor conference championships in two weeks. It was our understanding that under the last rules cycle (and currently) there had been a push to bring some greater regulation to how all meets, but particularly conference championships, are run. As a result, we amended our by-laws to include a preliminary round of the 60 dash and 60 hurdles if more than 32 student-athletes are entered. It was the understanding of one coach that the top 24 athletes could advance to the semi-final based on a seasonal best performance and the remaining athletes would compete in the preliminary to advance the best 8 performances based on time to have a field of 32 athletes compete in the semi-final. The semi-final then would advance the heat winners and next 4 best times? Does this make sense? Is this legal? I appreciate any help or insight you could provide.

Follow Rule 5-10 and 5-11 on pages 73 - 83 of the 2017-2018 NCAA rules book. These guidelines will help you understand more clearly:
<http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Staging%20Track%20and%20Field%20Events.pdf>

l. On page 90 of the new book it states the "horizontal events" shall be arranged in flights not larger than 16 and not smaller than five. Is your definition of "horizontal events" the LJ and TJ or does include the throws.

For the field events "Horizontal Events" are: LJ, TJ, SP, DT, HT & JT flights of 16 are allowed. Obviously, the Vertical Events" are: HJ & PV.

m. I've attached the conference manual for our Conference Indoor Championships. This is a 6-lane track (on the turn) and an 8-lane track for the straight. This is not the updated manual as there are things still in flux. However, this is the basis for the 2017 manual. In the 55/55H it stated that they run a two-section final of 9. This is to change to a 1 section final of 8. In the 200m it states that they will run a THREE section final based on the top 9 times. In the 400/500m it states they will run a TWO section final based on the top 9 times. It also goes on to state that they would advance all ties into the finals (rather than draw by lot or runoff) if there were 10, and if 11 run a four-section final in the case of the 200.

Thank you for sending this information to me before the championship event.

A friendly reminder: Conference manuals / handbooks DO NOT supersede the NCAA RULES. As I read the email and manual I notice several rule irregularities.

On page 11 in the 2017-2018 NCAA Cross Country and Track and Field Rule Book it states the following: "NCAA member institutions are required to conduct their contests according to these rules. Violations are subject to NCAA enforcement procedures." I strongly recommend that the Championship manual be corrected to ensure that all events are conducted in compliance with NCAA rules. Current concerns noted in this email: 55/55H seeding and advancement are in violation of Rule 5 (only 8 to the finals); 200 seeding and advancement are in violation of Rule 5 (only 8 to a 2-heat final); 400/500 seeding and advancement are in violation of Rule 5 (only 8 to a 2-heat final); Regarding ties, Rule 5-10.4 must be applied. Hope these comments and direction assist in correcting these irregularities and assist in conducting your championships in compliance with NCAA Rules.

n. There has been much conversation over the past couple of years with respect to NCAA Rule 6, Section 2, Article 7 Automatic Advancement and the need for or no need for re-ordering the competitors for the finals for long jump, triple jump, weight throw, and shot put (indoor season). My argument is that no matter if all competitors fall under the automatic advancement rule, there are still preliminaries and finals, therefore, it is appropriate to re-order the competitors under the Determining Order of Competition (NCAA Rule 6, Section 4, Article 2). Is my argument correct or is there something that is being missed by several officials (referees and master level officials)? Thank you for your help in the interpretation as we strive to provide the most excellent officiating we can for our NCAA athletes.

Automatic Advancement ARTICLE 7. Before the competition begins, the games committee may allow automatic participation of each competitor in the final rounds in the throwing

events and horizontal jumps when the number of competitors at the start of the preliminaries is not greater than the maximum number in the final rounds allowed in Rule 6-2.5. In order to advance, each competitor must actually attempt one trial in the preliminary rounds.

Determining Order of Competition ARTICLE 2. In the throwing events, Long Jump and Triple Jump, the order of competition within a flight shall be seeded or drawn by lot. Each competitor in a flight shall complete three attempts in the order drawn. In the final rounds RULE 6 / FIELD EVENTS 91 of these events, competition shall be in reverse order of best performance in the preliminary rounds, using tie-breaking procedures and then original order if needed. For the final three attempts, the finalists shall compete in one flight.

Rule 6-2.4 states the following: Qualifying Competition

ARTICLE 4. "If a qualifying competition is deemed necessary, it shall precede the preliminaries and finals to determine which competitors entered in the event shall compete in the competition proper. The games committee shall determine group size, automatic qualification performance and the number who qualify. A competitor who has achieved the automatic qualifying performance shall not be allowed to continue in the qualifying competition. Field event tie-breaking procedures shall be used in determining the qualifiers. Performances made in the qualifying competition shall not be considered part of the competition proper and shall not count in deciding the final placing in the event."

The qualifying competition is separate from the preliminary and finals. Once the qualifying round is complete the games committee will then seed the preliminary in compliance with rule. Once preliminary is complete the finalist will be advanced to the final round of competition and re-ordered.

March 2017

a. I had a coach ask about 6-2.5, advancing from a field event preliminary. The question was: Is it possible to specify that 9 collegians and 1 post-collegian make finals?

Rule 6-2.5 states "The number of advancers SHALL NEVER EXCEED NINE," there is no provision to differentiate collegiate or open competitors.

b. Came across this language for a hammer competition:

THE HAMMER THROW: The hammer event will be thrown on the lower field just west of the track. This facility has been used as our practice area. The left sector line goes a full distance but has cliff immediately to its left. Therefore, any left sector foul will most likely go over that cliff. The right sector line runs about 80' before it ends into a hillside. Being that throws can't easily be measured from up on the hillside, if a throw is deemed to be within the sector but lands in the hillside, the competitor will receive another throw. I want all throwers and throws coaches to know that this will not be an "ideal" situation, especially for throws longer than 200'. The only other option is to NOT hold a hammer competition.

First, is this even a legal (or safe) hammer competition. Second, if it is are they allowed to give extra throws when a throw lands on the hillside?

The referee has the authority to call for a re-throw if it is deemed that the attempt was performed legally, but for circumstances beyond their control was not able to be measured correctly.

c. We have a question that we are hoping you can answer for us. We are looking to hold a combined event (heptathlon/decathlon) in conjunction with our home track meet this spring. I know in the rule book it states that competitors from two different institutions must be entered in each event. Does this mean we would need competitors from two different schools to compete in both the heptathlon and decathlon for them to count? Or if we have competitors from multiple schools in all of the other events (i.e. the 9 running/6 field minimum events needed to constitute a meet) would we be ok?

It has been identified that there is a discrepancy in the 2017-2018 Track and Field Rules Book and the 2016-2017 NCAA T&F Qualifying Criteria. As a result, and until the discrepancy is resolved, the following will apply from the NCAA Rules Committee. If a competition is conducted in accordance with NCAA By-Laws and meets the current qualifying criteria (http://www.ncaa.org/sites/default/files/2016-17TF_Qualifying_Criteria_20160909.pdf) the marks achieved at the competition are eligible for qualifying purposes in the eyes of the NCAA Rules Committee. The final authority in regard to acceptance of the performances for qualification purposes rests upon the NCAA Sports Committee.

d. Question concerning non-scoring advancement. I'm asking you since you were the one who made this change a few years ago. If you have sufficient teams to have 9 go to the finals (8 scoring plus 1) then if you have a non-scoring athlete in the top nine (collegiate or a non-scoring team or an open athlete) do you take 9 (or the number of scoring athletes plus the non-scoring athletes in the top nine places to the finals or just the top nine? Or is nine plus ties only go on? I would think it would be 9 scoring so that the non-scoring or open athletes would not impact the

scoring for the scoring athletes. If there are only 8 scoring athletes and the ninth person is non-scoring- if one of the scoring athletes has at least one attempt does that athlete move on?

Rule 6-2.5 clearly states, “the number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie-breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition.”

e. We had an issue come up with the uniform rule at our championships and I just wanted to be clear (I know, one more time). Our clerk approved a relay team that had 3 participants in all white and 1 in all black. He stated that this was ok based on the revised rule. Both uniforms clearly indicated their school but I thought this was somewhat suspect and not the intention of the revision. We also had participants from the same school in the same heat of a different race but in contrasting uniforms – again, 1 all white another all black.

Nowhere does it say unlike uniforms are allowed. As you described the situation the teams and athletes were in violation.

“On any given day, all competitors on a team (gender separate) will wear uniforms that are identical in color, logo and combination of all outer garments worn as uniform. (e.g., sprinters may wear spandex top and bottoms, distance runners may wear split running shorts and a singlet, throwers may wear long shorts or pants and throwing shirts on the same day provided that the all uniforms are identical in color and school logo.)

The note in 4-3.2 is a good guide. The effect of this rule is that no imagination shall be required to justify a clear sense of belonging to a team.”

f. Regarding rule 4-1.2b. Does the lack of a 3000m in this list mean a 3000m race is not allowed to be run at an outdoor meet?

Rule 4-1.2b identifies the NCAA Championship outdoor events and does not preclude you from contesting the 3000 meters.

g. I’m looking to have someone survey our throwing sectors with a transit to get a better mark for the angle. Shot/Hammer/Disc has the angle clearly defined at 34.92 degrees. There doesn’t seem to be a defined angle for the javelin sector. Is it only defined by an intersecting line from the center point through the ends of the foul line arc and the R and R/2 calculations as it shows in the NCAA Rule Book? I checked the USATF rulebook too and can’t find an angle.

The angle is 28.96 degrees.

h. We have a client with an indoor track that has 6-34” lanes on the oval. They have 42” sprint lanes. They are getting ready to buy a curb, and are holding off to find out if the track would be able to host meets. Rule 1, Section 1, Article 9 c: states that lanes on an indoor oval shall have a recommended minimum width of 36”. Would times run at this track be eligible for NCAA qualifying if all other aspects (radius, banking, length etc.) were in compliance with NCAA requirements?

As mentioned Rule 1-1.9c RECOMMENDS the minimum width be 36". Yes, times run on this track would be allowed.

i. Our line striper painted the end triangles for zone 2-3 for the 4x400m relay perpendicular to the lane lines, not parallel to the common finish line – Is this a violation?

As mentioned in a previous interpretation, this is not a violation. Rule 1-1.11 speaks of the lines as to where the exchange zones starts and finishes. It would be my suggestion that when the track is resurfaced or re-painted to correct the error. But I repeat this is NOT a violation and performances are allowed.

j. There are some questions as to the "Protest Time" allowed:

1. In running events, is the time allowed to protest 30 minutes after the "posting" of the results? or 15 or 60 minutes?

2. In field events, when can protests be made?

(a) Eagle Eye protests of fouls?

(b) Final results (i.e. a tie situation....is it a tie or not?)

Rule 4-1.15&16 addresses protests and appeals.

Protests are allowed up to 15 minutes after the official results have been announced or posted. In field events an "immediate protest" of an official's call can be made by the athlete or the coach.

The field referee will judge this as quickly as possible in accordance to the rules of the event.

k. I am updating our Tech manual for our conference meet. In regard to the 800, we run a prelim/final format over 2 days. According to the rule book (p. 79), up to 12 competitors can be in a prelim heat, with the idea we are getting 8 to finals. If we have a 9-lane track, we still can only take 8 to finals, correct?

You are reading the table correct on page 79. Rule 5-11.2b

Also, I direct your attention to page 75-76, Rule 5-10.6 for further clarification.

l. One flight of 12 competitors will compete in the shot put. During check-in, you learn that two athletes will not participate leaving ten competitors. Nine will be taken to the finals. During the preliminary competition athletes 1 and 4 make three valid attempts but foul on all of them. The question is: do you take all ten competitors to the finals since athletes 1 and 4 had valid attempts and, I guess, "tied" for the ninth spot? No tie breaking procedures were determined by the games committee prior to the competition.

Rule 6-2.5 states: "In the throwing events and the horizontal jumps, each competitor shall be allowed three trials. In scored competitions with five or fewer teams, not more than one competitor more than the number of scoring places, including representation from more than one team, shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds, provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds. The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie-breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition."

Athlete #1 and #4 did not fulfill the requirement for advancement (legal mark) therefore only 8 contestants shall advance to the final.

m. Rule 6/Article 5 states that you may advance a maximum of one more than scoring place with representation from both institutions in the field events. So, since we are scoring 5-3-1, we may advance no more than four athletes. If I understand this correctly, if a school has four javelin throwers, who are ranked 1-2-3-4 following the first three attempts – athlete #4 must be replaced by an athlete at another school regardless of ranking, so there is representation from both

institutions. If the other school has not entered a javelin thrower, we could advance all four of our athletes. Is this correct? There is also an “alternate” procedure indicating that the games committee may opt to go with four-attempts only for all entrants. Could we utilize this option instead, and still employ the 5-3-1 scoring?

Pertaining to Rule 6-2.5 you are interpreting the rule correctly.

Regarding your question about Rule 6-3.1, four-attempt competition, you may not use this method. This rule/method was introduced and intended to manage large fields. A dual meet does not meet those parameters.

n. I have a question about Rule 4-1.11a regarding our conference meet schedule. I believe that we may have an illegal gap between the 200m Finals and the 4x400 on day two. More than a 10-minute gap from the end of the 200 and the start of the 4 x 400. Also, I'm wondering if it's technically illegal to have the 10k/5k so early in the day.

The suggested order of events in Rule 4-1.6 is a "suggested order", as indicated by the word "should", also please see note 1.

Regarding the start times from one event to another, Rule 4-1.11a states, "The interval between track events shall not exceed 10 minutes."

Relative to the start time for the 5K and 10K, Rule 4-1.11a states, "The interval between track events shall not exceed 10 minutes." Athlete safety and well-being should be considered, if weather (heat and humidity) are a concern.

o. We are hosting an invitational this Saturday, however we want to host a heptathlon/decathlon as a part of this meet on Monday/Tuesday. Both parts of the meet will be named the same and have the same entry/scoring/results procedure and reporting. The heptathlon should be okay according to the rules, as we have at least three schools and at least six competitors. However, the decathlon may end up being only two competitors, both from the same school.

So, the question is—is it okay to run the combined events as a part of our regular invitational, even though the heptathlon/decathlon will not be on the same day or consecutive days to the rest of the meet? And secondly, will any marks in the combined events (and especially the decathlon) be accepted for NCAA Championship qualifying?

Yes, it is legal to conduct a combined event in conjunction with an invitational meet. The question regarding qualifying marks is a sport committee question. If you follow the NCAA Qualifying Criteria you should not have a problem.

April 2017

When reading the NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rule Book, the word SHALL means exactly that, SHALL; there is not room for interpretation or exception.

a. If an athlete starts a decathlon and competes in 9 of the 10 events and then does not finish the decathlon, do his marks from the events that he DID compete in still count toward the NCAA descending order list?

This question was directed to the NCAA sports committee as it pertains to qualifying. “The DI sport committee has elected to allow sub-event marks from a combined events competition to count towards NCAA qualifying in open events and show on the descending order list even if the student-athlete does NOT complete the entire combined event competition.”

b. We have 10 certified lanes on the track. Is it reasonable to use the attached chart formulating heats/rounds at our home meets? Would it be permissible to use the chart (although not in the rulebook)?

Competitors	No. of Preliminary Heats	No. of Semifinal Heats	No. of Final Heats	No. in Final
For 10 lane track				
1 to 10	0	0	1	10
11 to 20	2	0	1	10
21 to 30	3	0	1	10
31 to 40	4	0 or 2	1	10
41 to 50	5	2	1	10
51 to 60	6	2 or 3	1	10
61+	# as required	3	1	10

The proposed 10 lanes regulations for forming heats under Rule 5-11.2b is acceptable.

c. I have a request for flexibility, but I want to be certain this is appropriate. Rule 6.2.5 implies that in a dual meet, with four scoring places, only five should advance to the finals to receive three more jumps, or throws. I know we could do four attempts for everyone in the field. My question is that I cannot see any harm in allowing whatever number we would like to advance to the finals, which I would prefer to be six or eight, particularly since eight are advancing in the 100 and HH. Would you mind letting me know if we can advance more than five to the finals?

You are referring to Rule 7-1.1 (4 place meet scoring); then for field events Rule 6-2.5 shall be followed:

Preliminary Competition and Advancement

ARTICLE 5. In the throwing events and the horizontal jumps, each competitor shall be allowed three trials. In scored competitions with five or fewer teams, not more than one competitor more than the number of scoring places, including representation from more than one team, shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds, provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds. The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie-breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition.

There cannot be an exception issued at this time.

d. I am contacting you to get a verification on a ruling for our Track & Field Complex. We do not have curbing, nor was our facility surveyed for curbing (attached is signed documentation from our track builder). I want to confirm that we are in compliance with the NCAA rules and that any provisional/auto marks that might be had will be valid with the 15cm (minimum) cones in place where the curbing would be.

You are asking two questions. First, is the track in compliance of the written rule?

At this time, provided you mark the inside white line with cones you meet the written rule. (1-1.6)

Second, is the question regarding qualifying and advancement to the national championships. This question falls under the jurisdiction of your divisional sports committee.

e. A question on the dual meet we have coming up this weekend. In reference to Rule 6-2.5: *“In the throwing events and the horizontal jumps, each competitor shall be allowed three trials. In scored competitions with five or fewer teams, not more than one competitor more than the number of scoring places, including representation from more than one team, shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds, provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds. The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie-breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition.”*

We will be scoring three so four plus any ties for fourth advance to finals. The question is on the term "valid mark." If an athlete fouls three times in prelims and would be the fourth to advance, do they? My reading is that they don't, but I wanted to make sure before we get to the meet.

You are correct in your interpretation. If a person fouls 3 times in the preliminaries they have not fulfilled the requirements for advancement. A foul is not considered a valid mark.

f. Several years ago, we moved the 5K to the morning, and essentially left a gap between the 200 and 4x400 in order to give sprinters that run that double more time to recover and not get hurt. Pat has indicated this violates the rules. Does the game committee have the authority within the rules to extend the gap beyond the 10 minutes (i.e. 15 or 20 minutes between these events)?

Rule 4-1.11a states: The interval between track events shall not exceed 10 minutes. The games committee does not have authority to change this.

g. I tried to find this information with no luck. We are looking at making our season opening meet a cross country relay in 2017 (ex. 4x2000m). Would this constitute a countable cross country meet?

This question is more directed towards sports sponsorship than playing rules.

A relay event on a cross country course is a relay event and not a cross country meet.

h. Is it permissible to put tape on the track for the steeplechase? It would be placed in the lane prior to the barrier like a relay exchange.

No, the placing of tape on any marker of the track would be considered an aid and thus not allowed.

May 2017

Clarifications

Rule 6-1.8 Throwing Aids

6.1-8a For the purpose of this rule, the following shall be considered assistance. As such, competitors are not allowed to:

2) Tape two or more fingers together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually.

6-1.8b For the purpose of this rule, the following shall not be considered assistance. As such, competitors are allowed to:

3) Use taping on the hands and fingers that is in compliance with section a. (2) of this article. Use of taping on the hands and fingers may be continuous provided that, as a result, no two or more fingers are taped together. The taping must be shown to the head event judge before the event starts.

During the warm-up period only, an athlete may have their hand taped in a non-complying manner. This practice is generally done to protect the hand from injury prior to the start of competition. As noted in item 6-1.8b(3) The taping (that must be in compliance for competition) must be shown to the head event judge before the event starts, which occurs just prior to their first competitive attempt.

Interpretations

I have been involved in several meets where the number of contestants have been less than nine total. Several officials have been of the opinion that all go to final round even if they foul on the first three attempts. The justification is that all throws are actually finals. I am of the opinion that the contestants must have a fair trial in the first three trials.

You are correct, the NCAA rule differs from the USATF rule. NCAA rule 5-2.5 states, "In throwing events and horizontal jumps, each competitor shall be allowed three trials....shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds, provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds."

Rule 6 Section 1 Article 2 In the throwing events, a competitor shall be charged with a foul if he or she does not initiate a trial within one minute after his or her name has been called, in addition to the event judge making a visual indication.

Section 9 Article 1 A competitor , who has not otherwise committed a foul, may interrupt a trail once started, return to a stationary position and begin again.-----similar words in the hammer section

Once the athlete initiates the event from the 1st initiation of a trial has the athlete met the requirement of section 1 article 2 ---1 minute to initiate the trail. Do the words "initiate the trial" mean the trial that ends up in the throw? Or, does the 1st trail satisfy the initiation of the throw.

Once the athlete's name is called "up" by the flight coordinator the athlete's clock starts for them to initiate their attempt. This is the athlete's prescribed time allotment and if an athlete chooses to restart an attempt, it is within the rule of the event and the clock continues to run. The term "initiate the trial" is the attempt that results in a complete execution of the throw or jump. As long as the athlete has time on the clock they are allowed to initiate their attempt, if the clock expires prior to initiation it shall be a foul attempt.

Thinking about the rule amendment, and looking ahead to our outdoor resurface project coming up this summer. There is not a similar rule for outdoor, is there? I'm not seeing one in the rule book. I only see that IF the outdoor track is surveyed for curbing, you need curbing on the curves at minimum. In other words, are we required to survey our outdoor track for a curb when we get it resurfaced?

You are reading the rule correctly and your outdoor track must be surveyed for a curb. The curb shall be in place on the curve at a minimum during competition as the rule states. There is not an exception as this rule has been in place for years.

At an NCAA Outdoor Conference Championship, Team "A" does not have a competitor in a particular field event. Is it permissible for Team "A" to file a protest on something that occurred in that field event?

At this time there is not a distinction in the NCAA rule book that prohibits a coach from protesting a result of any event.

When an athlete fails to start or abandons an event while competing and not receiving a note from the Meet Medical Team that he/she was under heat duress or a similar medical condition, should the results show a disqualification (DQ) based upon 4-2-2-e or a Did Not Start (DNS) or Did Not Finish (DNF) designation? I do not see in the Rule Book, any reference to DNS or DNF.

We had both (DNS and DNF) situations this weekend and as the Running Referee I asked that we use the DQ designation. However, some coaches thought that this would be too harsh a 'Penalty' and that we should use DNS or DNF.

If a person fails to start a race the initial designation is DNS. If a person fails to complete a race the initial designation is DNF. These designations are issued because the individual has the ability to be reinstated into the competition and for historical purposes this is the proper recording. DQ's are issued only after the individual has been deemed ineligible to return to competition.

I have a question about video recording by a coach and letting the athlete view the video. According to the HJ Rules Comparison [chart](#), no electronic devices are supposed to be used by NCAA coaches or athletes. But the NCAA 2017 Rulebook says “**Electronic Devices** ARTICLE 20. Coaches, athletes, competitors and officials shall not use video or audio devices, radio transmitters or receivers, mobile phones, computers, unmanned aerial systems (i.e., drones) or any similar devices in the competition area, except as authorized by the games committee.” Are coaches allowed to stand on the other side of our flagged off HJ area and video record? Are athletes allowed to go up to the flag and look at the video?

As NCAA Rule 4-1.20 states: SHALL NOT use video, except as authorized by the games committee.

NCAA rule 4-2.4(1) Assistance - On the report of an official, or from a properly filed protest, the referee shall warn or disqualify a competitor who gives or receives assistance, a competitor who is determined to have been directly or unduly aided by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a non-competitor associated with the competitor's team, or a competitor who is indirectly aided from inside the competition area by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a noncompetitor associated with the competitor's team.

a. For the purpose of this rule, the following shall be considered assistance, and therefore not allowed:

1) Viewing a video or photos, or a competitor using any wireless communication device during event competition.

As noted, video other than approved games committee is not allowed.

Never shall an athlete view video during their competition on the field of play or outside the event area.

The competition includes all warm up, flights and finals.