

## Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for July, 2013 – May, 2014

### September, 2013:

- a. How should the lane numbers be painted on the track at the finish line? The IAAF recommends that the numbers be orientated toward the spectators and before the finish line. Figure 3 on page 14 of the NCAA Rules Book has the numbers after the finish line. This is not correct and will be changed in the next edition of the Rules Book .
- b. Please clarify the current rule regarding the use of a two-section final and a consolation final for indoor competitions? A consolation final is never allowed. A two-section final is allowed in races which start in lanes only if the number of advancers to the final is greater than the number of lanes on the track. The maximum that can advance to a final is eight, unless the facility has more than eight lanes. If the facility has fewer than eight lanes, then a two-section final, with specific seeding according to Rule 10-5, is allowed. A facility with eight lanes must run a single section final using all eight lanes.
- c. The width of the javelin runway at a facility is not always 4 meters. Should the white line defining the edge of the runway follow the actual contour width of the runway or be 4 meters wide throughout? The runway for the javelin need not be, and is common to not totally be, an artificial surface. The white line signifying the runway edges are the limits within which a competitor can make their approach, whether this be on turf or other surface type. No matter what the surface type of the runway, the runway edge markings should always be 4 meters apart.
- d. A conference wishes to use a High School outdoor facility for the conference meet. It is surveyed for no curb. Is it legal to be used for qualifying? Yes. Qualifying performances can be attained on a track with no curb as long as the bends are marked by cones. Records cannot be set on a facility without a curb.
- e. What are the requirements for the minimum number of events and minimum number of participants in a meet in order for the performances to be accepted as qualifying marks? These issues are detailed in the Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee.
- f. Is a Long Jump and Triple Jump board that is painted such that two-thirds of its total 12 inch width is painted white and the rest painted yellow, with a clear line of change between the two colors, meet the conditions for a legal take-off board for the events? Also, can the placement distances for the Triple Jump take-off board be altered from those provided in the Rules Book? The take-off board as described is a legal piece of equipment for the events. The placement of the take-off board in the Triple Jump is dependent on the ability of the competitors more so than strict fixed distance positions.
- g. Is it permissible for the lanes on a new facility to be less than 42 inches? Will the NCAA certify the facility? The NCAA does not certify any facility. Survey results are to be on file locally for inspection as needed. The recommended minimum for current construction is 42 inches, Rule 1-1.9, even though the minimum is specific in Rule 1-1.2.
- h. A facility was planned in 2012 and constructed in 2013. The lane width upon completion is a constant 41-3/8 inches. Will qualifying marks be acceptable from this facility? The current rule in effect for the width of the lanes of a facility is stated in two rules in the Rules Book and, unfortunately, there is a slight abnormality. In one case the width is stated as an absolute, not less than 1.067m, the other states this as a 'recommended minimum'. It is truly the intent of the Rules Committee to have 1.067m as the minimum width. 'Recommended minimum' had been language that the Committee used frequently to convey a strong message of compliance. In addition, whenever a change such as this has occurred in the Rules Book, it is frequently accompanied by an effective date. This was also omitted as an oversight when the change was put in place.

Since the actual construction of the facility, including design, was occurring during the overlap period of the rule change, and there can easily be other facilities that do not meet the current minimum width, current provisions have not made those facilities 'out of compliance' while those conditions exist. What that means is that all performances on those facilities would be permissible as valid performances for any use within the NCAA, such as Championship Qualifying. However, this allowance is totally limited to and for the rules of competition. It is not a ruling that requires the Championship Sport Committee to accept this facility as one that complies with all they might require for championship competition.

- i. Is there recommended distance markers placement that shall be in place along the runway for an NCAA facility or can distance markers be placed as desired by the Athletics Director of the facility? For runway events, the competitors normally place personal markers along, and outside, the runway to mark their take-off point and possibly one other reference point. To do this, a tape measure is frequently extended along the runway during the warm-up period. To facilitate this, many facilities have permanently marked distances along the runway as indicated in the rule. There is no recommended or standard pattern as to how many or at what distance separation this marking should be.
- j. How many events must there be in order for a meet to be considered official? This issue is detailed in the Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee.
- k. The radius from center of throwing circle to the material panels is listed as a minimum of 3.5m. Is this that no point of the material shall hang closer than 3.5m from the center of the circle? However, specifications from two reputable athletic equipment manufacturers have dimensioned out the minimum 3.5m to be from the joint anchor points rather than the closer middle points of the panels. Could you please clarify that an NCAA compliant discus cage requires a minimum of a 3.5m radius from center of circle to what location of the hanging panels? The NCAA and the IAAF both have diagrams that show the 3.5m from the center of the circle to the closest part of the cage ... not the anchor points. However, the USATF diagram shows that distance to the anchor points ... but refers to the printed IAAF rule, which does not. Please note the second paragraph of rule 1-9.2 which provides some leeway in design.
- l. Are 'lean lines' required or even advised for an NCAA facility? Why are they even used? The NCAA does not require the existence of 'lean lines' nor does it provide any diagrams that have them shown. It is not forbidden to have such lines. The IAAF Facilities Manual shows the lines to be 'optional', and only shows them in a diagram. There is no mention of the lines in any text. The lines were meant for the competitors. They are an indication that the finish line is approaching ... which was sometimes difficult to determine.
- m. In a 1500, during the first 100m, a runner falls and the 'pack' passes an umpire who raised a white flag to indicate no violations. A question arose whether or not the umpire should have raised any flag at all? One opinion was that the runners were under control of the starters for the first 100 meters and therefore the umpire should not make any call. Another opinion was that the starter's charge is to recall if a runner goes down but the umpire is looking for any violations that might occur but would not cause a runner to fall. What is proper? The recall rule for the starters during the first 100 meters is totally their issue. No flag would affect a recall. The umpire flag is a signal of a violation or incident that is referred to the Referee. If such a violation did occur, then the flag is appropriate.
- n. Would a track oval with a measure line length of 400.070 be acceptable for NCAA competition? It exceeds the IAAF limit of 400.040. The NCAA subscribes to the IAAF limits, therefore no.
- o. If you start the decathlon on Friday, and you are entered in other events on the same day, can you continue on to day two of the decathlon if you do not report to your other events on Friday? Yes. The decathlon is one event. The participation rule is satisfied upon starting the first event

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

- p. If a hurdler knocks his/her entire hurdle into the next lane obstructing the hurdler in that lane, is that a disqualification for the hurdler causing the incident? Is the hurdler who was obstructed able to rerun the race? A disqualification for the runner who caused the incident is a HS rule and not applicable for any other group. The decision regarding the DQ in NCAA and any remedy for the one 'obstructed' is totally in the hands of the referee.
- q. In the NCAA Rules Book for indoor events there is a general statement (Rule 10-1) that the procedures for indoor championships are established by games committees. Does this mean that the games committee has flexibility to set procedures, other than what is in the Rules Book, within the competition in races such as the 800, 1000 etc.? Rule 10-1 is meant to authorize decisions for which the Rules Book does not have a requirement. Therefore, if the Rules Book specifies a particular requirement for the 800 or 1000 ... such as Rule 10-4.2 or 10-4.3, then those must be followed, since they are Rules.
- r. Does the new rule regarding pole vault box padding apply if the pit design has side pads that are aligned with the edges of the PV plant box? The main elements of the rule are that there must be protective padding in use for the plant box, which was in the old rule, and that the padding (collar) meets the specifications stated in ASTM F2949-12. The ASTM standard calls for an overlap of all edges with a protective material, therefore, just the use of the landing system side pads would not be sufficient to satisfy the rule.
- s. Can the final three rounds of a field event, after qualifying, contain eight competitors if there are only six places scored in the competition? Rule 6-2.3 states that 'one competitor more than the number of scoring places' shall advance. This is the minimum, not a mandated absolute. The rule also indicates a maximum.

### **October, 2013:**

- a. There have been conflicting reports regarding the type, availability and requirements for the new pole vault box collar. Please clarify what must be done according to the new rule. A statement has been written and made available through the NCAA Rules Liaison. That statement reiterates the wording of the new rule and the policy position of the NCAA to go forward with the planned implementation of the new padding design, according to the ASTM standard. Assurances regarding product availability have been confirmed by manufacturers.
- b. Recent NCAA Rules Books have only referred to a 'painted line' for the arc on the javelin runway. The UCS and Gill websites show no product for the flat metal ring in place of the painted line. Is a metal ring legal? The actual rule says 'painted white', not a 'painted line'. The small distinction is that anything can be painted white. So, it can be metal ... just paint it white.
- c. When running the 800 meter indoor using 3 alleys, is it required to cone the inside of each alley to the break line? Rule 1-1.10 mandates the use of cones for a 'single' outer alley, not each of many alleys. However, the practice of using cones for each alley is not forbidden. Rule 1-1.6 specifies the distance between cones.
- d. When seeding an 800 meter final after a semi-final that included 3 sections would the heat winners need to share the same alley? Rule 10-5.3c allows the games committee to use the method described. However, the normal 'assigned to preferred' is completed in a sequential manner with the highest ranked first getting the most preferred and then the second ranked first the next preferred and so on. Accordingly, by rule, both methods are acceptable.
- e. Is it true that indoor qualifying marks will not be accepted from a flat 8-lane facility? The Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee must be the guide to answer this question. However, no such restriction is in the current Regulations.

- f. There is a desire to not run three rounds in the 800 Meter in a conference championship and there may be approximately 40 entrants. The conference would like to seed the top ranked 24 into three heats where the advancement would be top 2 places from each heat plus the next best two times. All other entrants would run in separate 'qualifying sections' where the best two times overall would be compared to the two advancers on time from the seeded heats, and would bump them from the final accordingly. Is it possible to have this as the advancement for the 800 at an indoor conference championship? Rule 10-4.3 governs the number of entrants in a race. Rule 10-5.3 provides the seeding and advancement procedure. It may seem that these put restrictions in place to not allow the desired method. However, two rule sections would provide for the desired seeding, or one other alternative. Rule 10-5.3a only recommends that the top two from each heat advance, but mandates that at least two must advance on time. One solution is to serpentine all entrants as per Rule 10-5.3b and advance all eight on the basis of time. Another solution is based on the meaning of 'requiring qualifying heats conducted under specified conditions and preceding the competition proper' in Rule 5-10.1a. The entrants ranked below 24 may be those defined to compete in a 'qualifying competition' where advancement is only afforded to the best two entrants who also attain a performance better than the two advancers based on time from the seeded sections. A third solution is for the conference to use the other provision of Rule 5-10.1a and establish standards that would effectively reduce the overall number of entrants.

**November, 2013:**

- a. Is it required for a hammer or discus cage to be to the specifications in the NCAA Rules Book in order for the cage in use to be legal for NCAA competition? Specifically, is the IAAF hammer cage illegal for use at an NCAA competition? The NCAA rule calls for a minimum specification. The IAAF cage minimum is more restrictive than the NCAA minimum. The specifications listed in the NCAA Rules Book are minimums and are also not absolute; therefore the IAAF cage is not illegal for use in NCAA competitions.
- b. At a large college XC meet one D2 coach had a runner with a pink hat. The question: Since it was not a team item, can the runner/coach be told that it is illegal? In addition, the team also ran with face paint in the two school colors. They were advised to not do for that for the upcoming regional, since it was a violation of the logo rule. Hats, arm-warmers and socks are not part of the uniform indicated in the Rules. However, the logo rule does apply to any worn apparel. Face paint is not regulated.
- c. Our school has a javelin sector that crosses an area of cement 8 meters from the foul line and crosses a drainage swall at 14 meters. After that, the landing area is grass and conforming to the NCAA slope requirements. Is it required that the full landing area for an implement be of the same material or that it totally conform to the slope requirements? There is no rule requirement that the whole and complete landing sector must conform to specifications, especially an area where it is unlikely that the implement would land.
- d With regard to scoring indoor competitions for the 2014 season ...
1. Let's say we have 20 teams competing and 10 would like to compete in dual-meet scoring. The other 10 would like to compete in 'invitational' scoring. Is the possible and allowable within the same meet?
  2. Let's say we are having a dual meet. One team has 14 athletes competing, but the other only has 10 athletes. Is either team still able to score it as a dual meet, and does it meet D1 competition requirements for either team?

The competition rules do not forbid any type of break-out scoring. The Qualifying Regulations have no requirement for scoring above four teams. There have been sponsorship interpretations regarding the issue you address. Please check with your Compliance Office. In #2, the competition rules do not address how many competitors are required in order to score a competition. The D1 requirement for a legal competition, sponsorship and allowing the performances to be used for qualifying, are all issues of by-law

and qualifying regulation. The answers to this must come from your compliance person or the appropriate Championship Sport Committee.

- e. Does the new XC rule on tie-breaking mean that we need to break all team ties and make sure the various scoring systems do it correctly? Yes, that is exactly what the new rule means.
- f. Our men's and women's XC teams both wear a combination of shorts/bun huggers/boy cut and half shorts so we wear varying lengths. The primary color is black (buns are solid black) however some of the shorts/boy cut and half shorts have white striping on the side and others are solid black. Does this fit the proper uniform rule? Assuming that the tops are identical, the overwhelming predominant color of the shorts is black and that the only difference would be the bottom lengths or the strip, then a normal person would be hard pressed to say that the runners were from different teams. Therefore, the uniforms meet the rule requirement.
- g. What type of material is acceptable for the landing area of the Shot Put? An acceptable material will allow for a soft landing that absorbs the impact and also leaves a discernible mark to facilitate the measurement. Options include grass, cinder, red-brick dust and crushed lava rock.
- h. Is wearing a wrist watch in competition prohibited? The meet referee allowed it in a conference meet last weekend, but the meet information for the region says no watches can be worn. This is a rule specific to, and only applies to, D2 championship competition under the control of the D2 Championship Sport Committee. D2 is the only division that has this rule. There is no general rule that forbids the use of a watch during any competition.
- i. Rule 5-8.4 allows for the use of an international run-up zone whenever the incoming leg of a relay is 200 meters or less. Is this permissible for each of the three exchanges in the 4x200 Meter Relay? The 4x200 can be contested totally in lanes or by having only a limited number of legs run in lanes, depending on how the facility is marked. Rule 5-8.4 also states that the outgoing 'runner must be positioned entirely inside that zone within the runner's lane'. Since no 'lane' exists for the outgoing runner, an international zone cannot be used in any case where the exchange is not completed totally within a lane. That is, both the incoming and outgoing runners must have a dedicated running lane in order to make use of the international zone.
- j. Are the popular arm warmers (lower arm - separate from any t-shirt) and leg warmers considered undergarments? Arm warmers, hats and socks are not uniform and are not undergarments.

### **December, 2013:**

- a. Is it permissible to classify a group of entrants in a single round of a single event into two categories and then have separate advancement procedures to a final from those two categories? No. This is not permissible from a single round of an event. Two categories can be established based upon entries with the creation of a standard, those meeting the standard those not achieving the standard, who then are required to compete in a qualifying round before the competition proper.
- b. Our conference Cross Country championship manual states:
  - Rules and procedures not covered by this administrative manual and the Conference Handbook will fall under the rules and procedures of the current NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rule Book.
  - Ties in team and/or individual competition at the Conference championship shall not be broken. With this language stated in our championships manual are we able to continue to operate as stated or do we need to modify our procedure to the new NCAA rule? The language regarding rules and procedures needs to be reversed. Rules and procedures not covered by the current NCAA Rule Book will fall under this administrative manual and the Conference Handbook. An NCAA Bylaw requires that the rules of the association be prominent, following by other

procedures. As a result, I cannot tell you to not follow an NCAA rule, which means that ties in XC must now be broken.

- c. One division Cross Country manual states that the wearing of watches is prohibited. Does this apply to all divisions? No. This provision is not an NCAA rule of competition. It is a restriction put in place by one championship sport committee for their championships
- d. A student athlete with a prosthetic wants to compete in track. Is there any issue related to the Rules of Competition? The NCAA does not forbid nor restrict the use of prosthetics.
- e. If the new box padding for the Pole Vault is not in place by the required time, should the assigned official allow the pole vault to be practiced or contested without the legal box padding is in place? What if the meet organizer insists the event be contested despite the legal box padding not being in place? Non-compliance with a safety requirement would subject the host institution (and any school/coach that chooses to participate without the required equipment) to any ramifications should an incident occur. It is the responsibility of officials to report any violation of the rules to the appropriate referee. It is the responsibility of the meet referee to provide "fair and safe" competitions for all competitors. If the required equipment is not in place, a decision must be made to determine if the problem can be remedied and whether the event can proceed. Similar to other events or sports that require certain equipment to be in place, it must be determined if the event can be conducted safely. Ultimately, the continuance of the event is based on an informed decision by those involved.
- f. How is a three-way tie resolved in Cross Country. Under current rules, each team is compared to the other two teams so that a rank order can be established.
- g. In the Cross Country/Track & Field Rules Book, there is a description of non-championship vs. championship courses in the Cross Country section. Does championship refer to any course that is hosting the NCAA Regionals and Championship or does it extend to Conference Championships as well? The word and phrase 'championship' throughout the Rules Book, even in T&F, has always included conference 'championships'.
- h. Can a championship meet be held with a 3-day format and still have the performances eligible for use as qualifying for the NCAA championships? The Rules Book only references a 2-day meet format. The meet format in the Rules Book, regarding number of days, is there as an example. Yes, a three day meet is legal is a legal meet.
- i. The Rules Book suggests that the order of events be followed and should not be altered to accommodate athletes in multiple events. What is an example of an accommodation? In most cases the examples of accommodation and the associated problems all occur on the last day or in a one- day meet where the normal order of events is changed so that there would be more time afforded to a person competing in more than one event. With a multiple day championship, there is less chance of a conflict possible.
- j. Can a petition be made to the Rules Committee to waive the rule that requires to use of all eight lanes for the final of an indoor 200 Meters where the facility has 8 lanes and allow the final to be run as a 2-heat final using lanes 5-8 or lanes 3-6? Under the currently published rule, if the facility has 8 lanes and you advance 8 competitors, which is the max, all 8 lanes must be used unless extraordinary circumstances exist. The Rules Committee is not authorized to waive a rule.
- k. The SkyDex 'Soft Box' is not a collar, so the ASTM Standard for box collars does not apply. The SkyDex Soft Box was tested, and passed, the HIC and Gmax requirements of the collar standard using the collar testing protocol. The NCAA rule allows the specifications to be "incorporated into the design of the pole vault box". Does the SkyDex Soft Box comply with the new requirement pertaining to the use of a Box Collar? The NCAA will issue no ruling other than what has already been done. Every device used must comply with the ASTM standard.

There are no exceptions. It is suggested that an inquiry to SkyDex be made to determine if they are in compliance with the ASTM standard. The current NCAA Rule clearly identifies the goal of the rule and mandates the use of a padding device that meets the ASTM standard both around and within the pole vault box. The method of meeting the standard is not the responsibility of the NCAA, but of the manufacturer, who should certify to the consumer that their product complies with the standard.

### **January, 2014:**

- a. At a new 200m, 6 lane facility there is only one starting line in each of the lanes for the 200/400. The surveying company insists that separate lines are not needed. Is this correct? There should be a separate start line for the 200 and the 400 due to the cut-in. This is the same as the separate outdoor start lines for the 800 and reverse direction 200.
- b. If a competitor, who is legally blind, competes in a meet and advances to the final of an in-lane event, is it then a requirement that only seven advance to the final since an open lane must be provided? The athlete must be of either a T11 or T12 Visually Impaired classification. It is then the athlete's choice regarding the type of guide assistance provided. An additional lanes is required if the choice is the use of a guide. However, if there is no use a guide, there would be no reason to provide that accommodation. Other accommodations, such as contrasting outer lane lines with a black tape making a dash type line, may be all that is desired and needed. Accommodations for all athletes with disabilities are published in the USATF Rules Book.
- c. Please explain the differences and ramifications for an athlete entered into a meet as Unattached or as Exhibition. Even though these two terms are not 'defined' in the Rules Book, there is some commonly accepted understanding regarding their meaning. An unattached competitor has all the rights and privileges of any other competitor. They earn an advancement slot just like anyone else. They MUST be included in all advancement procedures no differently than any other competitor. They score. They cannot be treated differently than a competitor who has an affiliation.

An exhibition athlete is one who has no rights, cannot advance, cannot score, cannot displace or be awarded a lane, even in the first round during the initial seeding of the event. The exhibition athlete is at the competition for some perceived convenience or desire of the meet host. The most common case would be an empty lane in the first round of an event that is allowed to be filled by someone who has no standing within the competition itself. It is common for the performance to be public, but not used for any official purpose.

It is essential to remember that this discussion does not address regulations that may be in place, or ramifications that may occur, regarding eligibility or sponsorship when athletes complete using either of the mentioned designations.

### **February, 2014:**

- a. In Rule 10-4.6, pertaining to the recall point indoors, are races that start in alleys considered the same as races that start in lanes for the purpose of determining the recall point? Please refer to Rule 10-4.2, where the language specifically says 'in lanes or alleys'. The two types of starts are different, but have the same recall point for the races mentioned in this rule.
- b. Please advise the website address for viewing the interpretations and case book? The web page has a new design but can still be accessed through the address [ncaa.org/playingrules](http://ncaa.org/playingrules), and choosing the specific sport.
- c. What is the permissible gradient that would be allowed in the pole vault runway? Rule 1-1.1b specifies that the maximum overall downward slope for a runway shall not exceed 1:1000. That measurement is taken between the two end points of the runway, not greater than 40

meters apart. The restriction only applies to a downward slope in the running direction. In addition, there is a lateral slope restriction of 1:100.

- d. During the 55 Meter trials, athletes that are entered in later heats of the same event are off to the side practicing starts to the cadence of the starter. An official tells them to stop practicing during the meet and that it could result in their disqualification for unsportsmanlike like conduct. Is this proper? Please see the last sentence in Rule 5-1.1. The practicing of starts in the immediate area of the starting line is prohibited.
- e. In the High jump, 10 competitors are entered in the event. Eight start at the opening height. After two height increases, seven competitors have been eliminated. The single remaining jumper continues for several heights and finally reaches the height where the remaining two will enter the competition. The official at the event allows the already jumping competitor two minutes for each jump but tells the two entering competitors that they only have one minute because they have not yet made a height. Is this proper? The issue is not whether they have made a height, but it is that they are just entering the competition. Please see the last sentence of Rule 6-1.4. Only one minute is allowed.
- f. If there are two separate divisions/sections of a 60 Meter and each has its own semi and final, can the semi be set-up as fast-slow sections? No. The semi-round heats are attained by a serpentine of the entrants in the event.
- g. What is the maximum number of competitors that can advance to the field event final rounds when there is an 8-lane straight, a 6-lane oval and the scoring is for six places? Advancement to the final rounds of a field event is not determined by the number of lanes, but by the number of scoring places. Rule 6-2.3 provides for one more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of 9.
- h. Can a large number of entrants in an event be separated into separate event competitions with no overlapping? Yes. More than one grouping for an event can be contested, each with its own set of rounds and advancement. Rule 4-4.5 requires that these separate grouping not be counted as separate events.
- i. Can there be a 'pacer' for an entire field without violating the assistance rule? Assistance by pacing is defined in Rule 4-3.6a.4 and is primarily individual to individual. A 'rabbit' of the same gender, participating in the race, entered in the race, identified to all in the race as a 'rabbit' with a known pace is not assistance to any other selective race participant.
- j. Can a competitor in one event in a competition be the 'rabbit' in another event? This issue was addressed in a Case Book item in 2007 and re-affirmed by the Rule Committee in 2010. An individual being used as a 'rabbit' cannot be a competitor in another event in the competition.
- k. Are there any regulations concerning the use of numbers, other than bib numbers, on the singlet? Rule 4-3.4b provides the authorization. There is no requirement to use or prohibition against the use of such numbers. However, their use must be supervised by the clerk of the course and placement restrictions must be observed.
- l. Can a running event have a two-section final? No. This is strictly forbidden, governed by Rules 5-10.7, 10-5.2 and 10-5.2.
- m. Is the 800 Meters in the Combined Event limited to 12 individuals? No. Rule 9-2.5c allows the Combined Events 800 to be staged in a different manner than the individual 800 event.
- n. What can a coach do with regard to videotaping and showing the result to their athletes? There seems to be some confusion about videotaping from a 'coaches box' and when the athlete can view the images. Is there provision for viewing between rounds, and what does a round mean? From Rule 6-1.1d, a round is the completion of all trials at a bar height in a vertical event or the completion

of one rotation of the order of competitors for other field events. From Rule 4-3.6a(1), the viewing of videotape or photos, or the use of any wireless communication device by a competitor during event competition is prohibited. Rules 4-3.10 through 4-3.12 provide additional restriction for video devices and where they are allowed. An infield coaches box is, by rule, part of the competition area. USATF and IAAF Rules are different and provide for the viewing of images of previous attempts in a field event. The images must be taken from outside the competition area and never brought into the competition area.

- o. Several questions pertaining to a 'qualifier meet'.
  - 1. Is it required to take the same number of athletes to final in the 55 dash and 55 hurdles as are taken to the final in the field events? The number that advance to the final in a running and field event are not dependent to each other. They are frequently different. For field events, the number that advance is one more than the number of scoring places, with a max of nine. Running events is almost always based on number of lanes.
  - 2. On an eight-lane straight, the pole vault mat sits in lane one so technically only a seven-lane straight is usable. Therefore, can a two heat final be contested in the straight races? You have an 8-lane straight. Move the mat. There is no 'technically'.
  - 3. For a two heat final do heat winners automatically go into a heat together with the next fastest time/times or can those heats be based strictly off times? If a two-heat final is allowed and needed, as per Rule 10-5, then the full procedure for staging and advancement is dictated in the rule.
  - 4. Can nine advance to a two-heat final with 4 in a first heat and 5 in the second. Nine cannot advance to the final of a running event of two-sections, per Rule 10-5.
- p. Are there standard operating procedures that the NCAA uses when faced with a weather related issue such as the heat of the day when staging an event? There is no competition rule in the NCAA that governs the staging of an event based on weather conditions, such as heat, humidity, rain or cold. Most of the decisions regarding the holding or delaying of an event is fully in the hands of the Games Committee or the head official for the event. The only exception is the edict regarding the existence of lightening. In all other cases, those entitled with the responsibility of staging the event are the decision makers regarding whether to stage, delay, reschedule or cancel. Each sport must use the expertise of management to decide and determine the best course of action. Research into current conditions, plus the history of past conditions, allow for a very well educated decision regarding this matter. No one can be 100% sure of anything weather related, but best guesses and diligent observation are the prudent plan that has always worked. Be very cognizant of the conditions and forecast during the days immediately prior to the event. Be open to making alterations based on real data instead of supposition. Additionally, many major competitions use a device to measure the heat index to monitor conditions prior to and during an event. That allows for decision making based on real evidence. The heat index is a formula that combines temperature and humidity into a single number that can be compared to a healthy / unhealthy scale.
- q. Is it legal to have two different advancement procedures from the same set of preliminary races in an event? No. For any single group of entrants and set of preliminaries, there can only be one advancement procedure leading to one final for the event, Rule 5-10.1c.
- r. Does the first sentence of Rule 6-4.1, about maximum flight size of 16, refer to all field events or just horizontal jumps and throws? Rule 6-4.3 advises to use 5-alive for vertical jump fields over 15. Is it correct that the use of 5-alive is limited to the maximum flight size in Rule 6-4.1? The common thought over the years has been that the HJ and PV do not have flights, with Rule 6-4.3 being the result. It is most uncommon to have a HJ with 16 followed by another HJ with another 16. Therefore, the intent of Rule 6-4.1 seems to be for events that normally have and are conducted in flights ... that is the horizontals.
- s. Is there a preferred protocol for abandoning the 5-alive method and reverting back to the continuous rotation? Under normal conditions, the next one or two in the jumping order have already

been notified when the mandated point of conversion occurs. Therefore, it is best to continue with that announced order, possibly finishing the current 5-alive rotation, and then establishing the continuous order. The goal is to not create any back-to-back or reduced time attempt intervals. As a direct answer, there is no 'preferred' protocol.

**March, 2014:**

- a. Is there a provision that allows for curbing to not be used on the straights? Yes. See Rule 1-1.6.
- b. In a two flight Triple Jump, it has been discovered that the boards were not placed properly for the ability of the competitors. Many never had the opportunity to even make the distance to the landing area. Is it within the authority of the Referee to rule that the error in board placement is sufficient to void the competition before the second flight and restart the entire competition, totally discarding all performances from the voided flight? Yes. The Referee has the authority to void and restart an event for circumstances that arise during a competition
- c. Is there a requirement for the block holders to be in a specific position, such as standing or sitting, when performing the task? Block holders are used at, and under the total control of the starter. There is no rule specific to how they are to perform their function. They are to act under the direction of the starter. Doing so from a sitting position seems to provide the cleanest visual presentation for the event.
- d. Can a Conference establish seeding and advancement procedures for the 200 and 400-meter events indoor and publish them in their manual? The Conference can establish procedures. However, they must not be in contradiction to the NCAA Rules for such events as stated in Rules 10-4 and 10-5.
- e. If an athlete competes in the first event of a Combined Event, does that mean that the athlete does not have to take an attempt in the Long Jump to be able to move onto the Shot Put? All rules books are the same on this issue. A competitor failing to start an event, attempt to start or make a trial, shall be considered to have abandoned the Combined Event competition and is barred from further participation in the Combined Event.
- f. What is the protocol for administering a protest and any disqualification by the referee? The duties of the referee, the issue of protests and required notifications are within Rules 3-4.2 and 4-3.7. Protests must be lodged within 30 minutes of a result being announced or posted. In cases of a referee decision other than that determined from an event result, the allowable protest period is from the time of the decision. Rule 4-3.7d provides the procedure for informing parties involved, so that the time period can be established.
- g. -- The two prelim heats of the 60-meter dash have been run with advancement on place and time. No picture or timing was obtained from the first heat. Is the referee authorized to void both heats and re-run them? Yes, this is one of the options available, and the referee is empowered to decide.  
-- During a Combined Events High Jump, it is determined that the heights have been incorrectly measured due to the official not recognizing the offset of the zero-point on the tape. How is this corrected? Once verified, performance credit cannot be given for a performance not achieved. All heights should be adjusted to the actual height jumped. There is no consideration given to speculation or competition strategy based on what were the perceived heights.  
-- Is there a specific method for conducting the 400 Meter on a six-lane facility when eight are being advanced to a final, including which advancers compete in which final section? Yes. The procedure is specified in Rule 10-5.1a.  
-- Can a pacer, 'rabbit', who only participate in a part of a race on one day of a meet be a full-fledged competitor during the second day of the meet? No. This is a clear violation of the honest effort rule.  
-- Can there be pacer during the first leg of the DMR? There is no current rule that would prohibit this practice.

-- Is it legal to run trials and a final in an event when no competitor would be eliminated? Rule 5-10.4 provides the procedure and determining factors to cancel or re-draw heats.

- h. Is there a new but yet unpublished NCAA rule would now allow a coach to film an athlete's competitive performance and then show the athlete that performance DURING the competition between attempts? No. There is no such rule.
- i. In the vertical jumps, the rules allow for a warm-up of 1.5 minutes if entering the competition more than one hour after competition begins. If there are three athletes entering the event after one hour, would you allow the athletes to warm up together for 4-1/2 minutes or allow each athlete 1.5 minutes individually? The second method is proper. By rule, each competitor gets 1.5 minutes. There is no cumulative amount of time open for a group warm-up. The official must determine a method to administer this provision.
- j. In a horizontal field event, with a total of six competitors, can all advance to the final rounds even though one had three fouls in the preliminary rounds? To advance to the final rounds, using Rule 6-2.4, a competitor must have a valid attempt. A foul is a valid attempt. A pass is not a valid attempt. A foul would not be a valid mark under Rule 6-2.3, procedure for no automatic advancement.
- k. Can unattached competitors in an event be treated separately from the rest of the field and not included in the scoring? No. Any competitor within an event has all the rights and privileges of any other entrant.
- l. Does the NCAA have a provision that requires a competitor to stay in the competition area during an event? Also, is there a rule that forbids continued practice after the event has begun? The NCAA has no rule that requires a competitor to stay in the area of competition; however Rule 4-3.6b.3 infers that there are periods of time when leaving the competition area might not be allowable. The Games Committee usually sets these restrictions. Rule 6-1.9 restricts when warm-up can occur and what facilities can be used for warm-up. As written, this rule does not apply to additional near-by facilities.
- m. Can a starter warn or possibly penalize a competitor for rising too slowly after the 'set' command in a race that uses blocks at the start? Yes. The starter has total control of the start. The rule indicates a need to 'at once and without delay assume their full and final' position. It is not that the competitor starts to assume. A slow rise does create a delay to the normal cadence of the start commands and procedure, which can have a disruptive effect on others in the race. Therefore, a violation of the rule has occurred and the starter has the authority to act on that violation accordingly.
- n. Is it legal to block a lane on the track and create a reconfiguration for the facility that in effect establishes a new surveyed distance for a new lane one? The current rules specify how to measure a facility based on the full track as it is constructed, and there is a rule that indicates there can be no restriction as to where a competitor can run. There is no rule that regulates or prohibits a properly surveyed reconfiguration.
- o. If a competitor catches a spike and stumbles within the first few steps at the start of a race, is it proper to rule that the start was unfair and recall it, or is that action considered after the start? If the action is in close proximity and within the actions of starting, then the call is usually justified. However, the recall for an unfair start is totally subjective and made solely by and within the authority of the starter.

#### **April, 2014:**

- a. Does the rule regarding taping of fingers have a provision that allows for two fingers to be taped together in the case of a broken finger? No. There is no such waiver or provision.

- b. Does the Implement Inspector have to be a certified official? There is no competition rule requiring the certification of any officials.
- c. Is there a rule that requires the use of a throwing cage for the Hammer Throw during practice? No. There is a rule that requires a cage be used for the event during competition. There is no provision that governs practice. However, the underlying reason for a cage is safety, and that should not be compromised at any time.
- d. Two teams are tied by mark on the entry list for an event that has only one round of timed-section finals. Since there is assignment of lanes for this event based on the order of the list, how is the order of that list determined for the two performances that are the same? There is a random assignment of position. This can be effected by the computer, a coin tossed or any other recognized method.
- e. Do the runway border lines for the Pole Vault and Long Jump need to be white? USATF and IAAF rules require white lines for the runway borders. NCAA does not mention of the color of the border lines. Other NCAA rules recommended that the international colors for markings be adopted.
- f. In a Long Jump, with only seven competitors, some competitors only had fouls in their first three attempts. Is a foul attempt considered a 'valid mark' and therefore sufficient for 'automatic advancement' to the final rounds? A valid, actual, mark is needed for advancement in Rule 6-2.3, when there is qualifying. When there is 'automatic advancement', Rule 6-2.4, then the need is only for a valid attempt; therefore all seven compete in the final rounds.
- g. A hurdler running in their own lane unintentionally contacts the hurdle which then displaces a competitor's hurdle. Is the hurdler making contact with the hurdle disqualified due to causing the displacement of the competitor's hurdle? This is not a rule within the NCAA. Disqualification for impeding is a ruling that must be made by the referee, keeping in mind that the rule refers to a competitor 'who' impedes. There have been many instances where impeding by an object has not been considered grounds for disqualification, but since there indeed was impeding, the referee granted some relief to the impeded competitor. Current international rules require a deliberate action for disqualification.

**May, 2014:**

- a. Can the ring of the throwing circle be a separate piece attached to the top of a flat concrete surface, instead of imbedded into the concrete? Yes, but then the area outside of the metal ring must be brought up to the top of the ring with some additional material. Rule 1-7.1 indicates that the top of the ring shall be flush the surface outside the ring.
- b. Is it a violation if the lead foot hits a hurdle and knocks it over? Is it different for a trail leg? Even though Rule 5-6a seems to say that a hurdle must be cleared, previous interpretations adhere to the accepted international condition that the violation for this condition only occurs outside the edges of the top bar of the hurdle. It is a very common occurrence that hurdlers hit the top bar with a portion of their foot or leg. Therefore, such a restrictive rule would negate a vast majority of all hurdle performances. It is not uncommon to see many hurdles on the ground after a hurdle race caused by contact with a foot.
- c. Can a hurdler who does not attempt to jump in order to clear a hurdle be in violation of the Honest Effort Rule? The Honest Effort Rule can be applied to any situation where it can be shown that a competitor is not performing to the best of their ability for a given circumstance. It is the responsibility of the Referee to gather sufficient evidence to support such a decision.
- d. Is it legal to advance twelve to the final in a horizontal field event? No. The maximum number that can advance to the final three attempts is nine.

- e. With six scoring places, how many can advance to the final of a horizontal field event? Is it the same number that can be in the final of a running event? If not, why is there a difference? In a running event final, the limit in the final is the number of lanes on the track, without regard for scoring places, except for certain indoor conditions. For field events, the maximum allowed for the final three attempts is one more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of nine. The number allowed in field event finals is not determined by lanes used in running events, and no longer has a minimum mandatory number. Field events and running events are treated differently due to the different nature of the type of competition.
- f. At a recent competition hammers were suspended in the netting of the moveable gates for the last portion of the men's hammer throw and were left there for the entire men's and women's discus events. The institution has a policy preventing the climbing of ladders to retrieve the implements and requires the use of a bucket truck, which was not available during the competition. What can be done by the officials to alleviate this unsafe condition? In the NCAA, an official is authorized to make the determination as to whether there is a safety issue and, if necessary, suspend competition until that issue no longer exists. This is the same for all NCAA sports. Without any doubt, it is a responsibility of an official to ensure safety to the best of their ability.
- g. In competitions where five-alive is being used, does the rule for abandoning five-alive mean that once the number of competitors jumping at a given height reaches fewer than nine active jumpers at the height, five-alive is abandoned for the remaining jumpers at that height? Or, does it mean that if there are fewer than nine jumpers left in the competition at the start of jumping at a height, five-alive is to be abandoned? Five-alive is to be administered on a height-by-height basis and when the number of active jumpers at a height is below the stated level, the procedure is to be abandoned for the remainder of attempts at that height.
- h. Can a competitor be medically excused from competing in one event in a competition and then be able to compete in an event later in the competition? Yes. This is provided for in Rule 3-19.2. There is specific procedure that must be followed, detailed in an on-line document.
- i. Is there any restriction regarding the wearing of shoes, or not, during a competition? Shoes are totally optional during any part of the competition, in either running or field events.
- j. Is it legal for a competitor to place the shot on the ground outside the circle, then enter the circle and reach outside the circle to pick-up the shot? Per Rule 6-8.3, this has occurred before the 'starting of the put', therefore no violation has occurred.
- k. In a field event with only nine entries, three competitors did not have a valid trial during the first three rounds. All three fouled each of their trials. How many competitors should be allowed to continue to the final three attempts? Is it mandatory that there must always be nine in the finals? Rule 6-2.3 applies only to competitions where there is an elimination of competitors between the preliminary and final rounds. This occurs whenever the number of entries is greater than nine or when the number of advancers is less than the number of entries and limited due to restriction resulting from scoring. There is no rule to always advance nine. Advancers, under this Rule must have a valid attempt to advance. However, before the competition begins, the games committee can invoke Rule 6-2.4. This allows, with a field of nine or fewer, for each to take all six attempts as long as each has some type of attempt during the first three rounds.
- l. Because of safety concerns is it permissible to have the discus cage, which has doors, set with the right door one meter off the sector line and the left door on the sector line for a right handed thrower and vice-versa for a left handed thrower? For the discus, the doors are normally not part of the cage configuration. However, if there is a determination that safety does dictate a more restrictive opening than indicated, then the rules allow the games committee to make this determination. The rule, as written, provides minimums and a goal of safety.

- m. If a person is disqualified in the final of a sprint race, after qualifying through prelims, is the performance for that person from the prelims eligible for scoring in any way performance, and, if not, is an additional person eligible for scoring? The pool of participants used in scoring is fixed after the prelims are completed. No additional participants may be added to this pool. Therefore, if a person is disqualified, they are eliminated from all scoring scenarios and there is no replacement.
- n. After a field event is completed, upon the review of the results by the referee, it is observed that the event official made an error in the advancers to the final rounds of the event, which if corrected would change the scoring. Is it allowable for the referee to correct the published outcome of the event, by disallowing the attempts of the extra advancer and correcting the final results of the event? Is this covered under Rule 4-3.9, Correctable Error? The error in advancement is indeed administrative, since the advancement was published prior to the competition and should be corrected. Rule 4-3.9 is intended for use after the conclusion of a competition, but the intent to correct an error is clear made in the administration of a competition. The review of event results by the referee during the competition is for the purpose of detecting and correcting abnormalities that occurred during the competition, but not limited to placing and scoring. A Rule is not needed to correct this type of error.
- o. There seems to be a conflict in Pole Vault officiating concerning the new box collar. Existing language clearly states that a foul is committed if either the vaulter or the pole makes contact with either the ground beyond or the landing pad beyond the plane of the back of the vault box. When the collar is in place, there is no possibility of contact with the ground, however, the collar slightly overhangs the actual top of the vault box and a vaulter's pole may lightly brush the collar if the pole bends upon planting. Is this contact a foul? The slight brushing, touching or hitting of the collar during the vault by a properly planted pole is not a violation of the rule, especially if it is before the plane of the back of the box. Also, think of any touching as being similar to the same action of a foot brushing against the landing pad in a high jump, for which there is a written rule. The collar is not and cannot logically be construed as part of the landing pad beyond the back plane of the vault box.. If the pole were to bounce out of the box, or not even make the box, and touch the top of the collar, then it would be the same as the pole touching the ground beyond.