

## Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for June, 2014 – May, 2015

### September, 2014:

- a. Is a Jury of Appeal required for a XC championship, or does the Referee have the final decision? Rule 3-2c allows the Games Committee to appoint a Jury for either T&F or XC. If they do not, then the decision of the Referee is final.
- b. Are there alternatives that are authorized for starting a race other than a pistol? NCAA Rule 5-1.2 allows for such a device. There are several manufacturers.
- c. Is it permissible to allow the painting of the donor's name or sponsor's name on the synthetic surface of the track oval? There is no NCAA Track and Field Rule that addresses this subject; however, there is a Football Rule that forbids any such painting unless it is the name of the institution or the stadium. There may be an issue if the oval surrounds a football field. It is quite common to see the name or logo of the institution on a field or a track surface.
- d. Do the changes to Rule 3-4 now mean that the Referee can only rule on what is given to him? In other words, if he saw a clear cut Flagrant Foul, but the Umpire didn't report it then he cannot rule on it? This is correct. The changes to Rule 3-4 now mean that the Referee cannot act on violation that are viewed and not reported in any other manner. The Referee can only rule on calls made by other officials or on filed protests. A protest can be made on an official's call or non-call. A viewed violation can be used as evidence by a Referee after an issue is presented for Referee's action.
- e. Is it permissible to have unattached runners compete in scored meets? There was a letter ruling from the NCAA issued on 3 October, 2013 to Grand Valley State regarding this topic. The short answer is yes.
- f. Since consolation finals in a running event are not allowed, is it permitted to have rounds (prelims, semis, finals) or a single round of timed sections? Yes. These two methods are permitted and are stated in Rule 5-10.1. It is also permissible to have a totally separate qualifying competition.
- g. In field events, what is the correct number to take to the final rounds of trials? Rule 6-2.3 indicates one more than the number of scoring places with a maximum of nine.
- h. When a performance is affected by failure of, or interference due to equipment, such as a pole that broke or the interference of a hurdle, and through no fault of the competitor, and that competitor fails to advance because of this failure/interference, can the competitor be advanced in the competition? There is no rule provision that provides for automatic advancement due to equipment failure or interference. There have been varied Referee decisions, based upon a protest filed at the competition.
- i. How are the cage doors set for the discus on a combined hammer / discus cage? A hammer cage can be used for the discus, either with concentric circles, or with two circles with the discus preferably being forward. Doors are not used for the discus, therefore for the two circle version, the doors are part of the cage for the discus and the outermost points of the doors are set at the required opening for the discus.
- j. Is the Gill AGX crossbar legal for use in the NCAA? The answer is yes, as was previously stated in the monthly reports of March, 2010 and March, 2012.
- k. What is the minimum required distance between the landing pits of two parallel long jump facilities? There is no minimum separation required. Facilities exist with two runways into one very big pit. However, there is a need to have separated landing areas defined within one big pit, usually done with tape, and each has to be 3 meters wide. The normal is to stagger the separate pits so that the exits from each do not interfere.
- l. What is the allowable variance for the level of the circle versus the landing area in the Shot Put? Rule 1-1.1b indicates the maximum downward inclination as 1:1000 between the center of the circle and the most appropriate landing region for the competition.

- m. Is the reduction in protest time in Rule 4-3.7a applicable to Cross Country? Yes, starting with the 2015 season. The 2015-16 Rules Book has an effective date of December 1, 2015.
- n. Rule 5-6a is now specific in that a competitor must not advance or trail a leg 'outside the width' of the hurdle and below the top plane. Is it now not possible to disqualify a competitor who is below the top place of the hurdle by hitting every hurdle with their heel? Rule 5-6a is only one element of compliance. Rule 5-6c, deliberately knocking down a hurdle, could apply as described if that were the opinion of the Referee.
- o. Does new Rule 6-1.8a(3) disallow the addition of water to a hammer ring in order to make it slicker? There is basically no change between the individual rules that were in each discipline and this new combined rule. Water is only allowable as a cleaning agent. If used as a cleaning agent, there may be a resulting change in texture. No substance is otherwise allowed to deliberately alter the texture of the surface or the bottom of the shoes.
- p. Is the additional assistant starter in Rule 8-5.6e intended for use only in the case of a staggered start? No. The goal of the additional assistant starter at the rear of the starting field is to provide adequate observation of any abnormalities that occur within the first 100 meters which may require a recall.
- q. Do all college competitions now need to be contested in a single division? At college indoor meets, some events because of the large number of entries, there are separate College and Open competitions. Is this allowed?  
-- The effect of Rules 4-4.3, 5-10.1 and 6-2 is that different grouping or sections, staged separately, within the same meet are not authorized within the rules. Therefore, one Shot Put limited to only D1 competitors and another for all others, each with their own separate preliminary and final rounds, is not legal unless each is within its own separate meet. Different grouping or sections of this event (flights), of all entered competitors, could be staged with each taking their preliminary trials and only those achieving advancement continuing on to the final rounds.  
-- Different divisions, such as College and Open, assumes that each is conducted as a separate meet and that each adheres to the qualifying regulations set by the Sport Committee.  
-- The inclusion of an 'Invitational' section within any meet implies that it is non-scoring, without cross-over and is limited to a single one-section race or a single-flight field event final. There cannot be an 'Invitational' that has multiple sections with its own advancement to a final.
- r. For an indoor facility with a six-lane oval, what is the maximum number that can be in the final and is there a mandated method of staging the final? What about a ten-lane straightaway? The maximum number in the final is limited to the number of permanent lanes, except for a facility with less than 8 lanes. There can be situations for both indoor and outdoor facilities. For indoor, the maximum for a six-lane oval is eight and there is a mandated formula in the Rules Book for staging the final as two sections.
- s. On a 300 meter facility, should the second waterfall line for the Mile be staggered for the end of the partial first turn, or for end of the first full turn? Rule 10-4.2 provides the procedure as to where the first opportunity for leaving the alley can occur, the end of the first turn. This may prove to be an unwanted model due to the congestion at that point of convergence. Therefore, facility layout should be examined and considered for this event, which may lead to a Games Committee choice of using a stagger that requires a longer use of the alley.
- t. What is the NCAA rule regarding the use of video by coaches during a competition? It is permissible for coaches to take and to use video to coach as long as the video is taken from outside the competition area and the athlete does not view the video during the competition. Rule 4-3.6a(1) forbids the viewing of video by a competitor during competition. Rule 4-3.12 disallows the use of video in the competition area and Rule 4-3.11 defines an infield coaches-box as part of the competition area.
- u. During the competition, is it prohibited the use implements to stay loose or even to hold while practicing footwork or approaches between throws? Per Rule 6-1.9, a throwing implement must not be used by the competitor while practicing footwork or approach technique unless within a scheduled warm-up period at the site of the competition. The practicing of footwork, etc. between throws is not

prohibited and does not require the use of an implement. Access to implements is not denied. Use as part of a non-scheduled warm-up routine is prohibited.

- v. More runners are allowed the opportunity to score in the finals of a running event than field event athletes? Why it is okay to take eight to the finals in running events but only seven in the field events when a meet scores six places? The Rules Committee recognizes a strong difference between the type of interactive competition in a sprint event and that in a field event. The idea of using the number of lanes to calculate finalists in a field event was dismissed years ago. The opportunity, competition limitations and method for advancement are very different in sprints and horizontal field events. The current Rules Committee does not believe sportsmanship is compromised nor that the competition procedures for running events provide a precedent for field events.
- w. The amended Rule 4-3.6a(4) now prohibits pacing by any technical device that benefits the field. The digital clocks around the track displaying elapsed time are “technical devices that benefit the field.” Are these devices now prohibited? The rule is about the physical act of pacing, or pace setting. The digital clocks do not set the pace, therefore they are not prohibited.
- x. A runner wears another team mates' number and completes the race / crosses the finish line and this is only exposed by either a declaration from the coach or declaration from another teams' coach. What action should be taken? Rules 3-6d and 3-4.2d indicate that all uniform, numbers and spikes are to be inspected by the clerk prior to the start of competition and that appropriate action is authorized by the Referee when the Rules make no other provision. If the wearing of another's number is an act of deception, then the issue is more than a uniform violation.
- y. Which radius measurement should we be using to determine if a lane nine is legal to be used for NCAA qualifying and/or records, the lane line or the measured running line? Rule 1-1.2 states: No lane around a full curve with a constant radius in excess of 50 meters shall be eligible for a record or championship qualifying. And Rule 1-1.5 indicates the method of measuring. Therefore, the running line is used to determine the radius.
- z. Over the last 5-6 years, a meet has contested the 60, 60HH, 100, 110/100 HH with 24 or fewer entries using 3 semi-final heats advancing top 2 and the next two to the final. With rule 5-11.2b, should we be running three rounds once we move beyond 16 competitors? The short answer is yes. However, special conditions can exist that make that nearly impossible. That is why the beginning of 5-11.2 provides a method for alteration by the games committee.
- aa. Is Honest Effort applicable to the Combined Event? Yes. Just as with any other event, if there is a withdrawal or an abandoning without any justification, then Honest Effort applies.
- bb. Does the phrase in Rule 5-5.3a ‘any action that causes another runner to break stride or lose momentum is grounds for disqualification’ now create a conflict with Rule 5-5.2a? Rule 5-5.2 is for in-lane races, while Rule 5-5.3 is for races not conducted in lanes. The change that occurred in each is an attempt to gauge the severity of the impeding, jostling or obstruction for the referee. Simply being ‘grounds for disqualification’ does not mandate disqualification.

### **October, 2014:**

- a. Does an overhanging roof from a seating area that extends over the running surface of an outdoor facility make that facility not eligible for outdoor competition? No, the overhang does not put the facility into the indoor category. It is still an appropriate outdoor facility.
- b. Please confirm that the NCAA now allows 22 caliber starting pistols outdoor. A 22 is now allowed for outdoor NCAA competitions as long as provision is made to allow any hand timers to do their job properly by viewing adequate smoke or other visual start signal. Otherwise, a 22 is not allowed.
- c. What are the rules allowing qualification into the outdoor qualifying rounds when an institution does not sponsor outdoor Track and Field but does have an appropriate Cross Country sponsorship? This is a good question, but not a competition rules questions. Please seek out the answer from either NCAA Sponsorship, or the NCAA T&F Sport Committee.

- d. Is it legal for a single member of a team to wear an 'honor patch' awarded by the institution? The patch is approximately 2 x 2 inches saying "Eagle Scholar." Yes, this is allowable. There have been several instances of 'additional patches' worn for special circumstances such as to honor a fallen teammate.
- e. Can you provide guidance on coaching boxes such as how many coaches are allowed in them, who controls that and whether electronic devices are allowed? Electronic devices are not allowed in any on-field area by NCAA rule. See Rules 4-3.1, 4-3.11, 4-3.12. The number of coaches allowed in an authorized box is determined by the games committee. It is frequently one per competitor. However, it can be set at any limit desired to make it manageable, either by competitor or by school. The method of control varies. At the National meet, the clerk distributes a wrist band to the competitor as they check-in, who then gives it to the coach for wearing. The event official does the checking.
- f. As long as it is decided in advance by the games committee, would it be legal to have some running events use a coin-flip and other running events in the same meet use a run-off as the method of breaking ties for advancement qualifying? The rule does not say that all tie-breaking procedures have to be the same. It just has to be stated and published before the meet.
- g. Must the indoor order of events listed in the Rules Book be followed precisely, in order for competitor's marks to be accepted for NCAA qualifying? The order of events listed in the Rules Book is, as stated in the rule, the order that should if at all possible be followed. Changes are allowed for good reason and unusual circumstances, but not for accommodating competitors in multiple events. The Sport Committee has the authority and discretion to determine if a violation has occurred and therefore to disallow a performance.
- h. Please direct me where to find information on the survey requirements for a facility. The information for survey requirements is in the Rules Book at Rule 1-1.3, complying with the provisions of Rules 1-1.1, 1-1.2 and 1-1.5. A local survey professional can do the job.
- i. The minimum distance for the Long Jump runway is 40 meters. For pits at either end of the runway, can the distance include running over the top of the jump boards for the opposite runway? Does it matter if the take-off boards are actually painted on the runway rather than a board? The distance can include running over existing boards at the opposite end and also single end extensions onto the oval track surface. Painted, or even tape lines have been used when absolutely necessary. They are not preferred by coaches and/or competitors.
- j. Our hammer landing sector is at the same level as the hammer ring for 230'. The ground beyond 230' is uneven and actually drops off by several feet shortly past 230'. If someone threw beyond the 230' mark, would the mark count? Rule 1-1.1 indicates the total allowance over the full distance of the sector. There would not be an allowable record if the overall downward slope from the ring to the point of impact is exceeded. Most likely, marks beyond the 230' mark would not be considered legal. However, the decision to 'count' any mark for qualifying is one for the Sport Committee to make.
- k. Please provide information on the status of the following proposals that were presented last year.  
1) The requirement that all participating NCAA institutions be represented by the NCAA minimum number of eligible competitors per gender, as defined for sponsorship. 2) The requirement that all competitions contest the same list of events, the entire list of events, and that all events are contested in the same order. 3) The requirement that all NCAA contests are scored. None of the listed proposals have been implemented in the 2015/2016 Rules Book. However, some may be current requirements for Championship qualifying and/or sponsorship, not Rules of Competition. Please see the appropriate regulations for these.
- l. Is there any change that can be made to the Rules Book to assure uniformity in the application of the rules at NCAA competitions, such as the various Championship Meets, especially with regard to inspection of implements? The rules are in place. If the issue is not following the rules, then steps should be taken to alter the method of officiating, which might include communication, education or the changing of personnel.

- m. The new rules require all protests to take place within 15 minutes after the 'posting' of results. Please clarify the meaning of 'posted'. The only change is the time frame, not the method. The rule says 'announced or posted'. The underlying meaning is that the results have been made public so that reaction can occur. Physical posting is most common, but not the only option.
- n. Please comment on the following situation in light of the new rules.
- We contest "A" and "B" Field Event Sections, each follows the same procedures including advancement to their own final. Is this still permissible? Rule 6-2 does not allow the option of contesting separate sections of a field event, each having their own advancement to a set of final rounds.
  - Are Championships and meets with "final" rounds the only meets where it is mandated that the format, order of events, follow the specific order listed in the Rules Book? With regard to the scheduling of events, please see Rule 4-4.3 and Rule 4-4.4. You will notice that the order of events is not mandated, and is subject to change for specific purposes.
  - Do all college competitions now need to be contested in a single division? For example, at college indoor meets with large attendance, some events are contested as separate College and Open competitions. Is this allowed? Different grouping or sections, staged separately, within the same meet are not authorized within the rules. Therefore, one Shot Put limited to only D1 competitors and another for all others, each with their own separate preliminary and final rounds, is not legal unless each is within its own separate meet. Different grouping or sections of this event (flights) could be staged with each taking their preliminary trials and only those achieving advancement from all the flights continuing on to the one set of final rounds. Additionally, the inclusion of an 'Invitational' section within any meet implies that it is non-scoring, without cross-over and is limited to a single one section race or a single flight field event final. There cannot be an 'Invitational' that has multiple sections with its own advancement to a final.

#### **November, 2014:**

- a. Is it permissible for a female to run in a men's Cross Country race and still have the race be legitimate for qualifying purposes? The Rules Book does not specifically mention Cross Country, but it does say that the only running event that allows runners from both genders is the 10,000 Meter run.
- b. What are the requirements for the take-off board in the Long Jump or Triple Jump? The specifications for the take-off board are found in Rule 1-6. It includes a fixed board, usually made of wood, painted white, which is immediately followed by a board of a contrasting color that defines the foul area.
- c. In Cross Country, is it required to break a tie? Yes. Tie breaking in Cross Country became mandatory for all places starting with the 2013 season. The procedure for breaking the tie is in Rule 8-6.3d.
- d. Is there an acceptable distance range for the women's cross country course, or must it be exactly 6,000m? Rule 8-2.1 specifies that the length of a championship course for a women's race must be between 5,000 meters and 6,000 meters in length. That is the inclusive range. The distance must not be longer or shorter.
- e. During regular season meets, are meet directors required to contest preliminary rounds, semi-finals and a final in the 60m and 60m hurdles if you have more than "X" number of entries or can regular season meets just utilize semi-finals (one round of qualifying) to advance to the finals. Current Rule 10-4.1a and 10-4.1c provide the options available to a meet director. If the option for rounds is chosen, then the provisions of several Articles within Rule 10-4.6 apply, and will govern the number of rounds required.
- f. What is the minimum size of the start box in Cross Country? The minimum size is 50cm for each person. At least four members of a team are permitted on the front line of the box. Therefore, a 200cm space is the required minimum across each box used by a team.
- g. What is the official determination of place for a close finish in Cross Country when a transponder (chip) is worn on the foot? Is it the time from the chip, or is it the torso supplemented by FAT and a video recorded finish? Rule 8-5.6, sections d, e and f, as well as Rule 8-6.2b provide the answers

regarding close finishes. Transponders may be used to create a finish place list but must be verified with torso placing from a video source for certain conditions.

- h. Where can the policy be found to stop and restart a championship race if weather becomes an issue? There is no formal policy within the Rules Book. However, the NCAA does have a lightning policy which is reprinted in the Rules Book and general answers have been provided in previous interpretation documents. See items from November, 2011 and February, 2014.
- i. Are there any restrictions in NCAA Track and Field with regards to blade runners? Can they be used in competition for either a running or field event? There are no restrictions in the NCAA Rules Book other than the following which is considered assistance. 'The use of any technical device that incorporates springs, wheels or any other element that provides the user with an advantage over another athlete not using such a device.' The Rules Book makes no attempt at making the determination of 'advantage'.
- j. Is the only role of the Referee to rule on violations at a competition? No. Rule 3-4.1 specifically states the primary role of the Referee, not the only role. Rule 3-4.2 is a listing of some, not all, duties of the Referee. Duties or authority of the Referee, regarding specific issues, can be found throughout the Rules Book. Included in the listing in Rule 3-4.2, as examples of non-violation responsibility, are decisions regarding issues for which the Rules Book makes no specific provision, decisions regarding the safety of the competitors, decisions regarding the re-staging of an event and the verification of all record performances.
- k. A conference allows unlimited runners for a team in their XC Championship race. However, ten must be declared at 15 minutes before the race and that is considered the entered team. Can a replacement be made to this group of ten if one of them becomes ill and cannot participate? No. The games committee is authorized to establish the policy for team composition. They did this in stating that a scoring team consists of five runners, plus an additional two for displacement purposes, plus an additional three as substitutes / alternates, named by a specific time. The purpose of the additional three, beyond the seven used to calculate the race score is to allow for a replacement situation so that there will always be seven used in the scoring process. The games committee has set the maximum and the deadline for making changes.

#### **December, 2014:**

- a. Can a conference create its own rule for breaking a tie in Cross Country? No. The NCAA Bylaws mandate that all members of the Association conduct all competitions in accordance with the published NCAA rules of the sport. Rule 8-6 provides the procedure for breaking any and all ties in Cross Country.
- b. Is it allowable to not score a Cross Country competition? Rule 8-6.2a provides that all runners who finish the race be given a finish place. Rule 8-6.3b indicates that 'the score shall be determined by totaling ...'. There is no mention that either is optional.
- c. Rule 4.3.1 (e) says "Additional visible clothing is an undergarment. It must be worn under the uniform and be of a solid color." Uniform manufacturers have developed coverings for the arms or calves which are not worn under uniform, but are separate pieces covering whichever part of the body. Is it required that these arm or calf coverings must be of a solid color and, if more than one team member is wearing them, all should be wearing the same color, Rule 8-3.2b. The interpretations from November 2013 had the following: Arm warmers, hats and socks are not uniform and are not undergarments. The same would apply to calf warmers. The interpretation has not changed, therefore they are not regulated.
- d. Does the single logo provision of Rule 4-3 mean that all apparel worn by a competitor has to have the same single manufacturer's logo? The logo provision of the rule applies to each item of apparel separately, even if not classified as 'uniform'. Each item may have the log of a different manufacturer.
- e. During the running of a 2 mile, is it permissible to take auto times en route at the 3k mark? Can such marks be used for NCAA qualifying? While this is not a rules book issue, the posted Qualifying

Regulations in item 4e indicates that an intermediate time taken from a longer race is not allowed for qualifying.

- f. What are the limitations for the slope of a sector in the long throwing events? The maximum allowable downward slope is stated in Rule 1-1.1b. There is no limitation regarding upward slope or lateral slope, therefore drainage concerns are minimized.
- g. Is there any document that provides guidance regarding the inclusion of unattached competitors within an event and how they are treated regarding advancement? A document from the Rules Committee, Staging a Competition, addresses this topic along with the other topics of staging an event and will be available on the NCAA Rules web page in mid-December, 2014.
- h. What are the allowable advancement procedures for large entry fields at indoor competitions? A document from the Rules Committee, Staging a Competition, addresses this topic along with the other topics of staging an event.
- i. Are the following scenarios acceptable in the Long Jump?
  - Advance the top 9 athletes from SCORING teams PLUS unattached in the overall top 9 with a maximum of possibly 12 finalists?
  - Advance the top 9 athletes from SCORING teams ONLY, not allowing unattached to jump in the final rounds even though they were in the top 9 after preliminaries?The answer to the first scenario is a definite no. The second scenario is possible if the unattached are listed as exhibition competitors at the beginning of the competition. Please see the on-line document for Staging a Competition.
- j. It looks like the NCAA is discouraging the use of the 'five-alive' procedure in the horizontal jumps. For a field of 20 or more what procedure would you suggest? The 'five-alive' procedure is restricted to the vertical field events, and is one of three options, stated without preference.
- k. When two XC teams that have identical team scores, and if the finishers for any one finishing place on each team are tied, then the comparison for tie breaking would still result in a tie. Is there any further procedure for breaking the tie? After performing the procedure for XC tie-breaking a tie still exists, the tie remains.
- l. Does the 15 minute window for the filing of a protest apply to each separate event within a Combined Event? Yes. The rule uses the announcing or posting of results to start the time period. This applies to any result announcing or posting, not just final results. Therefore, it includes the separate events within a Combined Event and also applies to the preliminary rounds / flights of other events.
- m. The new rule for vertical jumps, Rule 6-4.3b, indicates that when more than one flight is used, 'ties for first place shall not be broken'. Does this apply to all cases for the vertical events when they are contested in flights? If a Pole Vault is divided into a 'high' and 'low' pit and the end result has a tie for first place only involving competitors in the 'high' pit, can there no longer be a jump-off to break the tie? Yes, this is the application of the new rule. The use of a 'high / low' or any other separation now requires no breaking of a tie for first place. The new rule applies for any separation.
- n. Two individuals crossed the finish line holding hands. The finish line officials came to the games committee and announced their desire to disqualify the two competitors. Is this proper? The proper procedure is that an official reports any incident or violation to the referee. The referee is the only person who can disqualify. There should be good cause, and a rule authorization, for the referee to make the decision. Regardless of the referee's decision, the ruling can be appealed to the Jury. As a note, there is no specific rule that forbids the 'holding of hands' while crossing the finish line. The incident may have been judged to be a violation of another provision of the rules.
- o. From XC Nationals:

A competitor, possibly due to a medical condition, collapses just before the finish line. Two other competitors, one a teammate, come to the aid of the fallen competitor and carry her across the finish line. Is the referee justified to disqualify all three competitors? What rules apply in this situation?

Rule 4-3.6 provides consequences for a competitor who has been aided. Rule 5-5.1 provides consequences for teammates who provide aid by committing a foul. Rule 8-8 provides consequences for specific situations in Cross Country. The referee needs to determine the applicability of the rules and determine if the situation is covered by the rule. The referee has the authority to decide and then make a ruling on any incident within a competition. That ruling is then subject to appeal.

- p. On an indoor 188 meter facility, we wish to start of certain races to be on the normal starting line and then move all running for that race out to lane two. For the relays, it will mean that the marking for the zones will be the same for each leg since the running distance would now be 200 meters per lap. Is this legal? No. Rule 10-4.12 and Rule 10-4.14 provide that, for indoor facilities, 'after the start, the race shall continue in lane one'.

### **January, 2015:**

- a. In regards to the throws for indoor or outdoor in a dual meet. We allow 3 athletes per school to enter the event. In the rules it says one competitor more than the number of scoring places can advance to finals. Is there a rule that gives the option to allow 6 to advance as long as they have a valid mark? Current Rule 6-2.6, Automatic Advancement, allows the games committee to make six attempts available to all competitors as long as there is nine or fewer and each has a valid attempt. A valid mark is not needed.
- b. Is it legal to have a consolation and championship final in the 60m Hurdles and the 60m Dash? No. Consolation finals are not authorized by any rule. Please see the Guideline for Staging an Event posted on the NCAA Rules web page for a discussion and examples of acceptable formats for running and field events.
- c. Concerning the indoor or outdoor short dash and hurdles, prelims to finals, must there be separate prelims and finals for the non-DI schools? Can the Divisions be combined in the prelims and then have separate finals for each Division? Can the Divisions be combined in the prelims and then only advance DI competitors to the final? Any competitor who is a legitimately listed entrant in an event ... not exhibition ... must be eligible for advancement and compete as such. If the different divisions compete together, they must do so at all stages. It is appropriate to have separate Divisions at all stages or no separation at all. In essence, staging multiple 'meets' at a single competition is the method for separating Divisions.
- d. Must the exit from a throwing circle be with both feet making contact from the rear half of the circle? The exit from a throwing circle is determined by the first point of contact with the top of the ring defining the circle or the ground outside the circle. That first point of contact must be from the rear half of the circle. This contact is singular and not restricted to any particular part of the body.
- e. Is the wearing of a hat in the throws by a competitor illegal? A hat is not part of the uniform definition in Rule 4-3.1a. There have been previous interpretations on this subject. Please see the NCAA rules web page. Hats are not uniform, nor are they under garments. Any type of hat is legal; however the logo rule applies to everything, not just uniform.

### **February, 2015:**

- a. For a scored dual meet, what are the restrictions for running events regarding the number of competitors? Any event for a scored dual meet may be restricted as to the number of competitors. Rule 4-4.9 indicates that such a decision must be made by the Games Committee of the competition. However, depending on the scoring method chosen for the meet, Rule 7-1.1 or Rule 7-1.3, the allowable number of scorers may be further restricted. The format for staging any event should be compliant with rules for the total number of entries allows by the Games Committee.
- b. Please provide clarification on the correct method of staging an event when the number of competitors is large and the meet schedule only provides for a limited amount of time. A document, Guidelines for Staging an Event, is available on the NCAA Track & Field Rules web page.
- c. Is the use of a portable Pole Vault runway acceptable? A Pole Vault runway may be truly portable, in that it can be dismantled and reassembled at a different location. This type of runway is most often seen as raised wood sections with or without a synthetic surface. The Pole Vault runway may also be

separate synthetic layer placed on top of an existing floor that is not conducive to the use of shoes associated with the event. Special considerations for slippage and event measurement are needed for this application.

- d. The NCAA Rules Book does not list a maximum length for the Javelin runway. What is the maximum? Rule 1-11.2 indicates that the minimum length must be 33.5 meters. There is no other restriction.
- e. Are there any restrictions regarding whether multi-team meets can be scored as double-duals? There is no competition rule that governs the varied ways a multi-team meet can be scored. The rules provide the methods to be followed based on the number of teams that are being scored against one another.
- f. Can the Pole Vault be contested in flights? Is there any issue with adding the 300m or 600m events to a meet? Is it required to follow the rule book specified order of events? The Pole Vault can be contested in flights. When doing so, there is no tie-breaking, even for first place. See Rule 6-4.3. Rule 4-4.3 allows the scheduling of additional events in a meet, and Rule 4-4.1d allows for event alteration. Note 1 within Rule 4-4.3 allows for alteration of a meet schedule.
- g. Does Rule 4-3.4b disallow the use of sticky-backed numbers on the chest? A competitor number, assigned by meet management, is authorized. This is commonly referred to as a 'bib number' and usually worn on the chest or back. Any 'additional' number, Rule 4-3.4b, is now restricted in its placement. There is no restriction that the 'bib number' cannot be sticky-backed.
- h. If a competitor in the Indoor Heptathlon starts the 60m Dash and then pulls up, not finishing that race, is that competitor still eligible to compete in the next event in the Heptathlon, the Long Jump? The answer to 'eligible' is yes since the conditions negating Rule 4-2.2, Failure to Participate, have been satisfied. However, it is up to the Referee, if requested, to decide on the provisions of Honest Effort, Rule 4-2.1. There must be a valid reason for the actual effort given, or not given, in any performance. The usual solution, which also protects the well-being of any competitor, is the seeking of medical advice as provided in Rule 3-19.
- i. The new rules book uses the word 'flagrant' in many places. What does 'flagrant' mean? Dictionaries use the phrases 'glaringly bad' or 'outrageous'. Synonyms such as: blatant, glaring, obvious, overt, conspicuous, barefaced, shameless, brazen, undisguised or unconcealed provide guidance.
- j. In a 'triangular' meet with six scored places, how many field event competitors may advance to the final three trials? Using Rule 6-2.5, if there is advancement to the finals, meaning someone is eliminated, the max for a triangular would be that 7 advance. This would occur for a field of 8, 9 or more. If there are 9 or fewer, using Rule 6-2.6, all could be afforded all 6 trials if the games committee has chosen to do so before the competition begin. This option is not required. Please note that Rule 7-1.1 limits the scorers to only 2 from each team and Rule 4-4.9 allows for the limitation of entries in an event.
- k. In a small college meet of less than 10 scoring teams, bib numbers are not distributed. The Meet Director does not attempt to enforce the honest effort rule since the clerks are short staffed and, without bib numbers, identification is not easy. Is there any concern about this?
  - A direct answer to the question is yes, there is concern. There is no rule that mandates use of a bib number, but the fact of not having them making competitor ID not as efficient, does not negate the honest effort rule. Competing with honest effort is a rule within the NCAA. A document available on-line, at the NCAA T&F Rules page discusses this rule and its implementation. In most cases, this is not a violation that is identified and reported by an official, which then requires action by a referee. It is usually reported as a violation through a filed protest which then requires action by a referee. An intentional false start is the most common exception. Honest effort violations need not result in a disqualification.
  - The mention of the clerks being of insufficient number to control the problem suggests that the question is not really about the Honest Effort rule, but the Failure to Participate rule. The Failure to Participate rule does mandate a disqualification for a violation. It is most commonly tracked and controlled by the officials performing Clerk of the Course functions, but can also be enforced after-the-fact as the result of a filed protest. In this case, the issue of identification would be based on an

established occurrence. The topic of Failure to Participate is also part of the on-line document referenced above.

-- Additionally there is concern regarding the statement that 'meet directors do not attempt to enforce'. There is no indication in the NCAA Rules Book that the Meet Director or the Games Committee has any authority or responsibility to 'enforce' a rule. That authority and responsibility rests wholly and squarely with the officials. The sections of Rule 3-4.2 clearly identify that the responsibility of enforcement rests with the meet officials. The Meet Director has no part in this process. Competition officials are fully responsible to ensure that the competition is safe, fair and follows the rules of competition. It is their responsibility to not allow any process or procedure which would be contrary to this. Officials determine if a venue is safe. Officials determine if a competition rule violation has occurred. With regard to Honest Effort and / or Failure to Participate, the Meet Director cannot choose to not enforce the rule. In addition, it is not the responsibility of any official to search-out such a violation. However, if such a violation is reported, then the responsible official must act and enforce the rules.

- l. NCAA rule 6-2.2. With the addition, in Rule 6-2.2, of the words to the event, or flight if checked in by flight and in the event/flight, does this mean a competitor, if assigned to the third flight of a field event, can first report to the event before the first competitive attempt in the third flight and be allowed to compete in the event? The rule does not say that being assigned to flight three means that you can report just prior to flight three. Being 'assigned' to a third flight does not determine when the report for the event must occur. At most meets, all competitors report, check-in, for a field event at one time, before the first flight starts. There may be a second roll-call to make sure all are present at the beginning of a subsequent flight, but that is not the required report or check-in. Some meets that have 'flight specific start times' and, as such, each flight has its own report or check-in.
- m. Can the final event of the Combined Event be seeded sections based on that event's performances, or must the sections be based only on the point scores of the Combined Event? Rule 9-2.5c requires that the current point leaders compete in the final section. This is not the same as the sections need to be created based on the point scores of the Combined Event. The creation of the sections based on event specific performances would be within the rule as long as the point leaders, more than one, are in the last section.
- n. Does the overall length of the Weight Throw implement include the netting holding the metal head? Rule 10-5.5 defines the 'overall length' to be measured 'from the inside of the middle of the handle to the bottom surface of the head'. The webbing is not part of the head. USATF rules indicate 'metal head or harness'; however the statement in the NCAA Rules setting those specifications as the default is not included in the rule, as it is for other implements.
- o. The rule book states that in field events, once a competition starts, there is no further practice on the runway except in the verticals after 1 hour and a competitor is entering the event. Is it permissible for a competitor in the Pole Vault, during change of heights, to get on the runway without a pole and do a run-up short of the plant-box? What would be the penalty, since none is indicated in the Rules Book? First, please remember that an event official cannot make any ruling other than that which is directly related to the event. These are most generally determinations of fair or foul attempts. Next, the Referee is the only official authorized to disqualify a competitor. There is good reason for Rule 3-4.2a. Every situation or remedy cannot be covered within the printed rules. Finally, the opinion as to whether the incident is indeed classified as 'warm-up' only manifests itself in whether or not a report is made to the Referee. The outcome rests solely with the Referee.

### **March, 2015:**

- a. Does the NCAA require the use of blocks, and when blocks are used, is it required that the feet be against the pedals and the hands on the ground? The NCAA does not have a requirement to use blocks and there is also no requirement when using blocks as to how they are used.
- b. Has there been a change in the rules so that there is no restriction on the number of replacements allowed on a relay team? There has not been any change in the rule. The maximum number of replacements on a relay team is two, Rule 5-8.2.

- c. Is it legal to use a raised runway for the Pole Vault? What conditions are required for qualifying and records? A raised runway is legal for the Pole Vault. The specifications for a Pole Vault runway, either indoor or outdoor, are in Rule 1-1.1b and Rule 1-5.2.
- d. Regarding the use of tape on the hand for a field event, is it now legal to tape the hand around the palm and even connect to the wrist. The rule regarding taping is exactly the same for NCAA, USATF and IAAF. Yes, the example given is allowed. The only restriction is that fingers cannot be taped together.
- e. Is it legal to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships on an oval that is longer than 300 meters? There is no restriction in the Qualifying Regulations regarding the maximum size of an indoor oval. The Rules Book sets an absolute maximum for an indoor oval at under 400 meters and no indoor oval may exceed 300 meters if constructed after 2003.
- f. Can a timed-section final format in the indoor 200m be structured so that the top two seeds are in separate sections, so that they can receive the most preferred lanes? No. Rule 10-5.5 states that events staged in the timed-section final format must be seeded slow to fast and compete in that order.
- g. Rule 6-2.5 states that one more than the number of scoring places advance to the final rounds in a field event. If six places are scored, are there any conditions where nine can advance? No.
- h. Rule 6-2.5 allows the number of advancers in a field event to be one more than the number of scoring places, and it also states with a maximum of nine. Since the rules only allow for eight scoring places, why is the statement of a maximum needed? There are both scored and non-scored competitions; therefore there is a need to state the absolute maximum.
- i. What is the maximum number of competitors allowed in the final rounds of a field event at a championship? Rule 6-2.5 indicates that the number of advancers to the final rounds is based on the number of scoring places, and also with a maximum of nine. The number of scoring places in a Championship is determined in Rule 7-2.
- j. Does the Failure to Participate rule apply to a competitor who qualifies for a subsequent round in a running event but fails to report for that round? Yes. The last sentence of Rule 4-2.2a states: 'Such participation is also required in subsequent rounds as a result of qualifying'.
- k. Can you have an event that has one section of the first day of a three-day meet, one section on the second day and a third section of the last day? Sections of the same event can be on different days and different events can be on different days. Rule 4-4 provides enough flexibility for this to occur.
- l. Can the indoor 800 Meter with five competitors be contested from a single waterfall start line? Rule 10-4.12 allows the use of lanes or alleys. A waterfall start is one form of an alley start.
- m. Is it allowable to use only the odd numbered lanes in the hurdles of the Combined Event and not have a hurdle outside of lane one? Yes, the requirement is that hurdles shall be placed in all lanes.
- n. As the head of a vertical jump, during warm-ups, an athlete consistently lands on the edge of the pit. There is a concern that the athlete will land off the pit. Is it proper to approach the athlete and their coach and indicate that unless the athlete adjusts their steps/take off/pole plant so that they consistently land more in the center of the pit, they, as a safety measure, will not be allowed to compete/continue in the event? Safety is a primary responsibility of all officials. Together with the Referee, appropriate remedy should be taken, which is authorized in Rule 3-4.2b.
- o. For a track that is not surveyed for a curb, is the placement of the cones on the inside white line of lane one or are they placed to the inside of the white line whereby the outside edge is even with the inside edge of the white line? The current rule is: 'The cones shall be placed on the track on top of the line so that the outward face of the cone coincides with the edge of the white line closest to the track'.

- p. Can an athlete compete in two separate meets in one weekend? Neither the Rules of Competition nor the Qualifying Regulations prohibit this from occurring.
- q. If there is evidence that a relay team crosses the finish line without carrying the baton and it was caused by contact with a member of an opposing team just before the finish line, does that contact and interference negate the rule that requires the baton to be carried during the entire race, from start to finish? All rules of interference and resulting remedies are to be decided by the Referee at the meet, however a competition rule cannot be abated.
- r. Is it allowable in a scored meet to advance only those eligible for scoring to the final rounds of a field event? If all participants in an event are entered and compete with equal status, then advancement is equal among those competitors and limited to nine. Non-scoring competitors could be entered as 'exhibition' competitors and thereby not be eligible for advancement.
- s. If there are no measurement indicator lines on the runway, is it allowed for the measuring tape to stay down during competition after the warm-up period and after the 2 markers are put down by athletes? There is no rule that specifically addresses your question. A permanent painting of measurement is allowed along the runway, which would be no different than having some other device show the measurement during the competition. It has been normal to lay a tape measure and then leave it in-place for the entire competition.
- t. What constitutes a 'declaration' as used in Rule 4-2.2? A 'declaration' is a commitment to compete. In many cases, the commitment is made as a result of the entry process. The commitment is usually very formal for Championships; however it exists for all competitions. There may be provision for this commitment to be negated, such as a specific period for withdrawing from an event. Rule 4-2.2a mandates that the 'declaration' process be published.
- u. Since there can be mixed gender in field events, what is the advancement to the final rounds in an event that contains 5 women and 6 men at a scored meet with 3 places being scored? The rules allow the two genders to compete at the same time, not to compete against each other. The administration of the event still requires separate scorecards, scoring, etc. The advancement is based on each of the genders separately as if they were held separately.
- v. What are examples of 'extraordinary circumstances' that would allow alterations within Rule 10-4? Real and existing safety issues that occur in the conduct of a race, race outcome predictability and facility restrictions that cannot be overcome are conditions that may be determined to be 'extraordinary circumstances'. Examples include: runners almost always colliding or being pushed off the track at the break-in of a 400 Meter race; the predictability of finish places when using the inside two lanes in a 200 Meter race; the irreconcilable conflict between facility, equipment use and schedule.
- w. Is the Games Committee allowed to not use verified marks and a single format for all timed-section final events? Rule 10-4.1b allows for the timed-section final format to be used based on a structure determined by the Games Committee. The rule strongly recommends that this structure be consistent throughout the competition. Rule 10-5.5 mandates that a single-round timed-section final be contested in slow to fast order. There is no rule determining the creation of the ranked list structure or the number of entrants in a section. The Rules Book makes no determination of penalty; therefore it defaults to a Referee's decision as to whether a violation has occurred.
- x. Is Honest Effort applicable to a Combined Events? A common interpretation is that starting the first event of a Combined Event satisfies Honest Effort. Starting the first event of a Combined Event satisfies Failure to Participate, Rule 4-2.2. Honest Effort, Rule 4-2.1, is about the manner of competing in an event. Honest Effort applies to all events.
- y. If an official gives permission for a field event competitor to take a trial out of order in the final rounds, does that make the trial legal? No. The rule specifically states that trials in the final rounds cannot be taken out of order. No official can negate the rule.
- z. Can a field event competitor be assigned to a different flight in order to accommodate competing in another event? No. Rule 6-1.6 specifically addresses this prohibition.

- aa. Can a Referee make a ruling based only on the information presented within a formal written protest, without any other evidence from officials? The Referee is empowered to make decisions based on gathered evidence. There is no requirement as to where that information comes from, with a few limitations. It is not normal to make a decision only based on the information presented within a written protest.
- bb. A Referee is only allowed to use 'official video' in making a decision. Is a Conference allowed to forbid official video? The Games Committee makes the designation of what is 'official video'. There is no requirement to make such a designation. If a designation is not made, then there is no video review allowed by the Referee. This includes verbal information from another who has viewed a video.
- cc. If it is determined that an official in a field event incorrectly identified the mark to be measured, can a new measurement then be made from where the official thinks it should be? There is no guarantee that the new mark would be any better than the first, which was incorrect. A new measurement, based on a guess should not be allowed. Other remedies for the Referee are possible.
- dd. A conference manual is in conflict with the NCAA rules regarding the administration, seeding and/or advancement in an event. Since it is the result of a vote of the conference, is it allowed? No. The NCAA rules for event administration cannot be negated.
- ee. As a result of a decision at a meet, a performance is disqualified. What further appeal is possible? No further appeal resulting from incidents at a competition are possible regarding the results of the competition.

**April, 2015:**

- a. Does the note in Rule 4-2.2b negate the need for a competitor to get a medical clearance for other events after abandoning a Combined Event? The note in Rule 4-2.2b only affects Failure to Participate. Abandoning any event, including a Combined Event, may be a violation of Rule 4-2.1, which is the responsibility of a competitor to compete with Honest Effort. A medical reason is a valid reason for abandoning an event, and requires clearance for continued participation as indicated in Rule 3-19.
- b. If there is a tie by best mark for advancers in a field event, what determines the order of competition in the final rounds for these tied competitors? The tie-breaking rules for the event are used to determine the ranking, and thus the order of competition.
- c. After the completion of a relay, a protest was filed that one team was not in compliance with the uniform rule. One competitor had a totally different color shorts. Is this ground for disqualification? The rule provides for corrective action at the time of check-in so that any issue can be avoided. For cases where a violation still exists, Rule 3-6d puts the matter with the Referee and the penalty or remedy is governed by Rule 3-4.2a. Disqualification is one of many options.
- d. In an NCAA competition can the host school allow a 'rabbit' in a distance race as long as all entered know it? Can an individual 'rabbit' multiple events? There is no specific rule regarding the use of a rabbit, however guidelines, as interpretation, have been issued. Use in more than one event would be a violation of Rule 4-1.1.
- e. A hammer throw athlete made two of her four attempts using an elastic band at her knees to keep them together. Is this permissible? There is no prohibition for such a device. Any device is open to protest and scrutiny by the referee as to whether it provides such an advantage that it should be ruled to be not useable.
- f. Is it permissible to obtain a qualifying time for the 5k while running in a 10k race? The qualifying regulations indicate that this is not permissible.

- g. Is it permissible for men and women to compete at the same time in the Pole Vault. Yes. Rule 4-4.8 allows for mixed gender in all field events. Separate score cards must be kept. Since they are competing at the same time, the progressions may not be different.
- h. Is there a provision that allows two rounds in a running event and advancement by time only for an outdoor competition? No. Rule 5-10.6a requires that at least the heat winners advance for in-lane races. A qualifying competition held prior to the normal rounds may have advancement to the competition proper by time only.
- i. Do the last qualifiers for the final rounds in a field event advance if they are tied? Rule 6-2.5 indicates that if the last qualifiers for the final rounds are tied by mark, then those tied shall advance unless otherwise ruled by the games committee before the competition.
- j. What provisions are there in the rules for dealing with interference caused by a person not in the competition? The Position Statement of the Rules and Rule 4-1 each refer to acts of misconduct, which can be attributed to all attendees of a competition. There is a penalty provided for such conduct affecting the cause of the misconduct. Rule 4-2.3 provides a penalty as a result of aid being given to a competitor. Neither of these provides a remedy to the competitor affected by any misconduct or aid. In the case of interference by a non-competitor, the Rules Book provides no specific rule. Therefore, whether it is a penalty or a remedy needed Rule 3-4.2b applies, which authorizes the Referee to create such in order to provide each competitor with a fair and equal opportunity.
- b. Is hair to be counted as a body part? An interpretation in 2011 regarding hair touching the ground in front of the starting line indicated that hair was not to be counted as a body part for the rules pertaining to starting violation. In the Long Jump and Triple Jump, a mark in the sand made by several listed things is the mark to be used for measurement. The intent was to include anything attached to the body at the time of the trial. In the case of the Long or Triple Jump, it makes little difference whether hair is counted as a body part or as an attachment; a mark made by hair is relevant. The relevant IAAF/USATF rule is: All jumps shall be measured from the nearest break in the landing area made by any part of the body, or anything that was attached to the body at the time it made a mark, to the take-off line, or take-off line extended.
- c. If one of the original four members of a qualifying relay team is replaced, either by a substitute or an alternate, is that original person still eligible for other events in the competition? Anyone who is originally qualified stays qualified. They do not lose their eligibility. There is no Failure to Participate violation.
- d. Is there precedent in determining the outcome of a distance race where only some competitors completed the required distance in the proper manner due to a lap counting failure? Each incident has specific elements that make it impossible to create a standard resolve. Rule 3-4.2a is the authority for the referee to find a resolve that provides 'each contestant a fair and equal opportunity' where the rules provide no specific provision.
- e. A thrower in the Shot Put threw with an elastic brace on her throwing wrist. This brace had a piece that had a thumb loop and crossed the palm of her hand and the back as well. The officials at the meet said it was a legal device because it did not cover her fingers. Rule 6-8.2e has the following restriction: "Wears any illegal device or illegal taping on the putting hand, thumb or fingers". Is this an illegal device? The term 'illegal device', without definition, has been in the Rules Book for at least a decade. This puts the determination into the hands of the Referee under Rule 3-4.2a. The rules for throwing aids, including the acceptable use of taping, are now consolidated in Rule 6-1.8. The only use of tape that is not allowed is the joining of two or more finger in a single tape wrap. Rule 4-2.3a.2 makes advantageous devices prohibited.

## May, 2015:

- a. What is the current status with regards to having unattached participants compete in a team scored event? A letter ruling from within the NCAA Compliance department was that unattached could participate if there was additional space not used for those in the formal competition. Therefore, if an empty lane existed in a race after entries from the participating teams, then an addition could be made. In addition, if any participant was not 'exhibition' on the original start list, then that participant had full rights within the competition and advanced as if they were a formal competitor. Advancement to the final would displace a scoring person. In a field event, only one more than the number of scored places can advance to the final rounds, after tie-breaking if desired, of those having full privileges in the event.
- b. If a 'street vault' is held several days ahead of and in addition to the normal vault at a competition, is it legal for competitors to compete in both? Item 4g in the Qualifying Regulations clearly states that competing in an event only once per meet is acceptable. The inclusion, in any manner, in a second occurrence of the same event would be under the scrutiny of the Sport Committee and could easily result in a disallowance of their performances for qualifying purposes. There have been many instances of invitational running events held within the same meet as open sections of the same event, and it has been very clear that participation is only acceptable in one or the other in order for performance to be considered valid for qualifying purposes.
- c. Is it permissible in Outdoor Track and Field to hold a Qualifying Round, as the only round prior to the event proper? Guidelines issued for the indoor season states 'The structure of the heats in the Qualifying Round, as well as the advancement method is determined by the games committee. The Qualifying Round heats could be seeded and the advancement can be by performance only.' If only 8 qualify to the competition proper, can the subsequent Series of Rounds consist of a single Round, i.e. Final only, with the best 8, by time, qualifying? The use of time only is not an option for advancement within a running event rounds or to a final. Within the document for indoor, the use of 'Qualifying Round' should have been 'Qualifying Competition' since it is totally separate from the formal competition.
- d. More than one hour after the beginning of the Pole Vault, when more than one jumper enters the competition, the officials at a competition allowed one entering jumper to complete their 2 minutes of warm-up before allowing the next to warm-up for their two minutes. Upon questioning, the official referred to the note in Rule 6-1.9 disallowing an aggregate of time for the entering group. While their method seems to be a correct application of the rule, it is unfair to those in warm-up and is very inefficient. No guidance is given in the rule. What can be done to change this? The officials are not mandated to execute the 'two-minute per entering jumper' in any specific way, except to not allow any single jumper to warm-up during a time within an aggregate period, thereby providing more than the two-minute allotment.
- e. Is it normal for coaches to seek interpretations and answers to questions on the Rules directly from the Secretary Rules Editor? This process is not allowed for Bylaw questions. The instructions published in the Rules Book for obtaining such information lists the SRE and the appropriate phone number.
- f. Is it permissible for the Pole Vault and High Jump events to be moved indoor during the outdoor season and still have the performances used for outdoor qualifying? Are there any other events than can be moved indoor? The most current qualifying regulations indicate that the HJ and PV are the only events where moving indoor is permissible and still have the performances count toward qualifying.
- g. Since snow and ice on several of the runways create a definite safety situation, is it permissible, with approval from the referee, to move the Long Jump and Triple Jump indoor and still have the performances eligible as qualifying for the outdoor championships? The qualifying regulations

issued by the Sport Committee only lists the High Jump and Pole Vault as being eligible for being moved indoor

- h. Is there a rule that requires both hands touching the ground during a start when blocks are used? There is no rule making the touching of the ground with both hands a requirement during starts that use blocks.
- i. Is it permissible for a competitor in a Combined Event to not participate in some events? Rule 9-2.8 forbids such a practice. After failing to attempt a start or make a trial in any event, the competitor is not allowed to participate in any other event in the Combined Event.
- j. Is it permissible to include both a 3,000 Meter and 5,000 Meter event in a meet schedule, and to run the entrants together in a single race? There is no restriction regarding the inclusion of non-championship events in a meet. The qualifying regulations do not permit obtaining intermediate times taken from a longer race. A rule forbids the combination of any mixed gender race other than the 10,000 Meter.
- k. If the allowable wind is in the Rules Book at 2.0 meters per second, then why are performances listed on performance list with winds above that limit? The Rules Book limit for wind velocity is for records. The qualifying regulations determine the velocity for the acceptance as qualifying.
- l. Is it permissible to advance the top four from each of two semi-final races to a final? Yes. The rule indicates that at least the winner shall advance.
- m. A coach who was present at a Long Jump witnessed what was believed to be a mismarking of a trial. A complaint, after the competition, is filed for a voiding of the mark. Can the mark be voided? A protest regarding the proceedings at a competition must be adjudicated by the officials at the competition within a prescribed time frame. No other group or individual has the authority to alter those proceedings except for errors defined in Rule 4-4.12.
- n. Can the order of events in a Combined Event be altered in order to accommodate special circumstances, such as weather? Any contesting of a Combined Event in an order other than that specified in the Rules Book renders the Combined Event performance as not legal, and therefore not useable for purposes beyond the actual competition. The Combined Event points are usable as needed within the confines of the meet, such as in a conference championship, and individual event performances remain valid for any purpose.
- o. Are hand times allowable for qualifying purposes? The qualifying regulations provide the answer to this question. In general, hand times are not acceptable for posting on the TFFRS qualifying list if they are for event distances of less than 3000 meters.
- p. Section of a single round 100 Meters are split and held within an afternoon and an evening session of a meet. Is it required that the direction of running be the same for both of the sessions? No. Each session can have a specific determination regarding the direction of running for the sections.
- q. Does an athlete have a right to do run-outs after setting their blocks? Is it permissible for the starter to limit or end the 'run-outs' in order to maintain the meet schedule? It is doubtful that 'having a right' is the proper question. It is always permissible for a competitor to test the settings of their starting blocks. For whatever the reason, Rule 3-7.1 and Rule 5-1.1 are clear as to who has total control of the start and its related processes.
- r. Once a team turns in a relay card are they committed to run the persons on that card? If a team refuses to turn in their card until the race has already started is there any penalty? The relay card is usually the 'declaration' for the team. The games committee controls when that occurs and sets penalty for it not happening. A relay card is frequently completed, listing eligible competitors,

well before the event. The 'final declaration', which does commit the team to certain runners, is usually when the card is updated with the running order at the clerking table.

- s. Is it a violation for a hurdler to have their trail leg outside their lane? Rule 5-6a makes it violation when a competitor advances or trails a leg or foot outside the hurdle width and below the top of the horizontal plane or plane extended of the hurdle. The action must have both components.
- t. Is it allowable for some competitors in the regular staging of the open Discus Throw to also compete in an Invitational section? Rule 4-4.2 defines an event as all grouping within a competition. The qualifying regulations from the Sport Committee allows participation in an event only once per competition.
- u. Please confirm that since there will be a ten lanes available for the final of in-lane races at a conference championship, the number of advancers to the final rounds of a field event should also be ten. The number of advancers to the final rounds of a field event is not determined by the number of lanes available for any running event. The number of advancers to the final rounds of a field event is one more than the number of scoring places, with a maximum of nine.
- v. Do the feet of an relay runner have to be inside the exchange zone for the pass to be legal? Rule 5-8.5 defines the beginning and end of the baton passing process. Rule 5-9 indicates the violation based on the position of the baton. There is no mention of the position of the competitor or their body parts with regard to the zone.
- w. Where are the NCAA Dual Meet Rules? Does Honest Effort still apply in a dual meet? Is the alternating lane procedure by event or by gender? The NCAA Rules for Track and Field apply to all competitions. There is no set of rules just for dual meets. Honest effort is not a rule only applicable to certain types of competitions. The alternating lane assignment procedure, specifically for dual and triangular competitions is administered on an event-by-event basis. This could be done separately for each gender, or once per event, as a games committee decision.
- x. Are there different rules for advancement in a field event for scoring and non-scoring competitions? Scoring and non-scoring competitions have the same rules regarding the number of trials and the method to go on to the final rounds. The only variation is in the number of advancers. Please note, there is no advancement based on the number of lanes.
  - Situation 1. For less than 9 competitors at the start of the event, the games committee must CHOOSE to allow all competitors to take all six trials. It is not a mandate. For this condition, there is a requirement that each competitor, to be allowed to compete in the final three rounds, must have made some attempt during the first three rounds.
  - Situation 2. For more than 9 competitors at the start of the event, there is an absolute maximum of 9 who can advance to the final rounds, scoring or not. Additionally, in order to advance, a competitor must have a valid mark (a recorded performance) in the preliminary rounds and only one more than the number of scoring places can advance. There are some other special considerations for scored meets with very few teams.
- y. Is the use of lighter fluid on a vaulting pole a legal substance? Rule 6-6.4 allows for the use of an adhesive substance. Lighter fluid is not considered an adhesive substance.
- z. Is it correct that Rule 6-3.3, allowing the guaranteed measurement procedure, since it is a provision of Rule 6-3, Alternate Procedures, is only applicable to other provision of Rule 6-3 such as in a Four-Attempt Competition? No. Each of the articles in Rule 6-3 is an alternate procedure that can be used independently of the others. Each of them is an option available for a competition.
- aa. In a dual meet with only three scoring places, how is it reconciled that in some field events only four competitors would be allowed all six trials, Rule 6-2.5, while in others nine would be allowed all six

trials, Rule 6-2.6, dependent on how many competitors are in the event? Rule 6-2.6 requires a choice made by the games committee before the competition. It is not an automatic provision based on number of competitors. Without such a choice, the provision of advancing one more than the number of scoring places would apply.

- bb. There seems to be a conflict between Rule 7-1.1 and 7-1.2 in that Article 2 indicates '5 or fewer' while Article 1 already covers those situations. Should the 'or fewer' be eliminated? The resolve for this is in the text of Article 2. The chart is for five or more teams, except for team scoring in championship meets, where it is any number of teams. The 'or fewer' is there to accommodate the championship meet element of the rule.
- cc. A competitor in the Hammer Throw, after starting his motion, steps on the top of the iron circle. He then stops all movement of himself and the hammer; Sets the hammer down inside the circle; Repositions himself in a stationary stance and starts again. Do the last two sentences of the first paragraph in Rule 6-11.1 negate the ruling of a foul? The sentence about 'restrictions' was intended to indicate that a definite position and action required in some of the other throwing events did not exist in the Hammer Throw. It was not intended for any other purpose. The normal and accepted practice in the judging of a field event is that a foul, once committed, cannot be negated.
- dd. Is the reporting of split times in Cross Country to be in full seconds or tenths? There is no rule or regulation for the reporting of split times. However, the rules for the reporting of finish times make the distinction between manual timing and automatic timing. Therefore, it would appropriate to use those same rules as guidelines for the reporting of split times.
- ee. It is clear from Rule 6-1.8a that the use of water to clean the bottom of shoes before entering a throwing ring is allowed. Is this also true for saliva and is it prohibited for the liquid to be tracked into the circle? Use of saliva is common for cleaning the bottom of shoes. It is allowable. Any excessive amount of liquid of any kind that could be spread onto the surface of the ring is, as stated in the rule, not allowable. The simple creation of a single wet spot, due to the bottom of the shoe not being fully dry, is not the 'spreading' of a substance as stated in the rule.
- ff. Rule 6-1.8 allows for tape to be used in any manner on the hand or fingers as long as no two fingers are joined within the tape. Rule 6-8.2 disallows illegal devices or illegal taping. Is the item shown allowable? The item is not tape; therefore Rule 6-1.8 is not applicable. It is a device. The referee ruling should therefore be based on Rule 4-2.3, which addresses advantage, not whether there are fingers involved.



- gg. Please clarify the rules surrounding non-participation and the Combined Event.  
ITEM 1 .. A conference championship includes the Combined Events for both men and women conducted one weekend prior to the rest of the championship. If a student-athlete is entered in the Combined Event and then does not compete in the first event, that would mean they are out of the Combined Event and out of the rest of the championship the following weekend as well - unless there is medical documentation, correct? It is important to understand that this references two different situations and two different rules. The first is Failure to Participate. Without a cause, the failure to start the Combined Event invokes Rule 4-2.2c. The second is Honest Effort, and the existence of a cause, which happens to be medical. The statement for continued participation is correct with the following requirement: The medical 'excuse' / documentation for not starting the Combined Event participation must occur and be verified by the medical personnel at the competition, or whatever is determined to be proper by the games committee. 'A note from the doctor' is usually not sufficient. There must also be a medical re-evaluation in order to gain re-instatement, Rule 3-19. This procedure is the same for any event in the competition, not just the Combined Event.  
ITEM 2 .....A student-athlete starts the Combined Event but withdraws from an event within that competition (but has started the competition); would they be out for the rest of the Combined Event competition as well as the rest of the meet the following weekend? Are they able to compete the

following weekend only if they show medical documentation of an injury? These elements are stated slightly differently below, but the overall outcome is the same.

--- After the first event, if a competitor fails to start an event in a Combined Event, they are automatically barred from further participation in the Combined Event. Rule 9-2.8.

--- The Honest Effort Rule, Rule 4-2.1, governs whether or not further participation is allowable outside the Combined Event. This becomes the same scenario as stated in Item 1. The issues related to Honest Effort are the same in all cases for further participation. There must be a valid cause to abandon an event. A medical evaluation is the most common. A medical re-evaluation, as stated in Item 1, Rule 3-19, is also needed.

--- The intent of Rule 4-2.2, Failure to Participate, is that after a declaration to compete, competing is required. Honest Effort, Rule 4-2.1, requires that competition must be at the best level possible for the competitor, making allowances for any circumstances that occur. The most common of these is verifiable medical. An allowance need not be invoked after an event starts.

hh. If you have to postpone the vault because of weather is there any particular time that it should be moved to. In a conference championship meet with events already scheduled for the next day is there a specific protocol for setting the new time and would it be good to make that known ahead of time. There is no guideline as to where, when or how rescheduling should be handled. Every situation is different enough to make a pre-determination almost impossible. Pre-planning and knowledge of possible changes is always the better option. There are a few guidelines that always seem to work.

-- If you know that weather will be a detrimental factor, do not start the event.

-- If a delay occurs, recognize that a restart cannot happen for at least an hour.

-- Avoid keeping athletes, coaches and officials in the dark, or waiting for a decision.

-- Unfortunately, the best time to reschedule is earlier than most want it to happen on the next day.

ii. Is it permissible to contest two divisions of the same event simultaneously? There is currently no prohibition in the rules regarding this procedure, except for gender in running events. Each division must be identifiably separate, such as with a separate scorecard and contiguous for the participants in each division.

jj. Is it permissible for a games committee to abandon a scheduled prelim round in the 800 Meters, go straight to a final of 10 runners, on a ten-lane track, where this is a different number of finalists than used in other running events? Must field events then also be allowed to advance 10 competitors? Field event advancement is not linked or based on number of lanes used. For a field of 10 competitors on a ten-lane facility, Rule 5-10.7b requires the games committee to stage the event as a single race final. This would occur for any event with numbers reduced to below the number of available lanes. There is no rule that requires the same number of advancers to a final for each and every running event. Rule 5-10.7 requires the number to not exceed the number of lanes for certain events.

kk. According the competition rules for Track and Field, is a competition that spans two days considered two separate meets? Rule 4-4.2 states that all grouping and sections are considered a single event. This applies to all rounds of an event. Events that occur in multiple sessions are considered the same event. Rule 4-4.5 allows for a single meet to be a multiple session meet, either on a single or multiple days. This is an indication that the staging of an event across multiple days does not constitute different meets. A meet is a continual staging of events, preliminaries through final, regardless of the length of time within a single day or the number of days. The best example of this is the National Championship. It is a single meet across multiple days. A published result showing rounds leading to a final in an event is another indication of a single meet.

ll. For the last exchange of the baton in the 4x400 Meter Relay, is it permissible for the heel portion of a foot of the outgoing runner, while not touching the ground, to extend before the leading edge of the

exchange zone? Also, must competitors be provided instruction on proper position? Rule 5-8.4 states the outgoing competitor 'must take preparatory positions entirely within the 20-meter passing zone'. Even if the feet are totally within the zone, it is common and normal for a hand or arm to be prior to the zone while in the preparatory period. This has never been a violation. 'Entirely within' must refer to the location of the feet. Violations regarding location of feet, throughout the rules, are based on physical contact with something on the ground, such as a lane line. With no physical contact with the ground outside the exchange zone, there would not be a violation. Providing instruction on a rule is not a requirement for any situation with the NCAA.

**June, 2015:**

- a. An error was found and reported more than 72 hours after a meet has concluded. Is it allowed to correct the meet results to reflect the correct scoring? The Rules Book does not allow the meet results to be changed after a 72-hour period.
- b. Please confirm that per NCAA rules all field events shall be arranged in flights not larger than 16 and not smaller than 5? This applies to all horizontal field events. An exception exists for the Combined Event.
- c. What events are eligible to be moved indoor and still have their performances legal for outdoor qualifying? According to the qualifying regulations, the only events that can be moved indoor and still be used for qualifying are the High Jump and the Pole Vault.
- d. Can more than the winner of each heat be advanced to the next round for in-lane races? The rule is that at least the winner from each heat must advance.
- e. Can a protest be filed for any aspect of the start, such as a false start not called by the starter? No aspect of the start can be protested. The start is under the total control of the starter.
- f. Is the sector put in place for the Discus Throw the same for the Hammer Throw when an insert is placed in the circle? Yes. The center of the circle is the same for both events.
- g. Before the start of an event, is it proper to reseed the sections whenever there is a scratch? Rule 5-10.4 authorizes the Referee to determine if the element of competition has been compromised in any running event, and if so, affect a redraw for the event. The redraw is not automatic. A redraw could apply to field events in unusual cases.
- h. If a competitor does not complete all events in a Combined Event, are the performances in the events completed still eligible for individual recognition? Yes.
- i. Are there any rules or guidelines regarding the playing of music at meets? Is it permissible during an event? There are no competition rules forbidding the playing of music at a meet or during an event. There is a rule that forbids the use of or wearing of artificial noisemakers by competitors.
- j. Is lighter fluid allowed as an application on the pole in the pole vault? The Rules Book allows for a substance to be applied to a pole in order to increase a grip. Lighter fluid is not such a substance. However, there would be no restriction on applying lighter fluid to a wrapping of tape in order to increase the adhesiveness of the tape.
- k. Does there need to be consistency with grouping track event prelims and preliminary flights in field events? For example, if there are sections in the 100 Meter Dash arranged worst to best, is this same grouping of worst to best also required in the field events since rule 5-10.1b says there should be consistency? Rule 5-10.1b only applies to a single round of timed running events as a final. Field event flights can be assembled by lot or by seed mark. The order within each flight is always random. There is no requirement to make a field event the same as a running event.

- l. A runner in the 10K runs approximately 15 laps before dropping out of the race with an injury. The runner scheduled to compete the next day in the 5K. Is this a question of honest effort or failure to participate? Can the runner compete in the 5K the next day? This is a question of honest effort and not failure to participate. The most common solution to show 'good cause' for not completing the first race is for the competitor to obtain verification of a medical condition that prompted the failure to complete the race. This would eliminate the honest effort condition. If a medical condition is used to eliminate the honest effort condition, there is a requirement to obtain medical clearance to compete further within the competition in any other event.
- m. Can a Meet Director report a running event violation in the same manner as an Umpire? Any meet official, with the exception of a Referee or a member of the Jury of Appeal, due to a conflict of interest, can report an observed violation in a running event. Only the Referee can rule on a reported violation. Appointed Umpires have a primary responsibility to observe running events and report violations. Other officials are not forbidden from making such reports.
- n. Is it proper for the Referee to consult with the Jury of Appeal before issuing a decision? This is most inappropriate. The two must act independently since they are successive levels in the violation review process. It is possible for a Referee to make no decision and totally defer to the Jury of Appeal.
- o. Does honest effort apply to the Combined Event? Honest effort applies to all events in a competition and it applies in the same manner. There is no exception for a Combined Event. When a competitor has started an event, there is the expectation that the competitor will compete in the event to the best of their ability. In almost all cases this translates into completing the event. Not completing an event without good cause is an example of an honest effort violation. The Combined Event is one event with multiple parts. Completing the event is completing all parts.
- p. The chief official at the Hammer Throw fully raises the white flag prematurely, not waiting for all provisions of a legal trial to be completed. A second official indicates a foul has occurred. Upon noticing the call of the other official, the chief lowers the white flag and raises a red flag. Is the trial recorded as fair or foul? Per the note in Rule 6-1.1a, once a trial has been ruled fair, any action by a competitor cannot be ruled a foul. Therefore the trial is fair. It is essential that all aspects of a trial be completed and that all officials provide a report before any indication of fair or foul is made.
- q. What is the extent of the failure to participate rule with regard to a relay team? Rule 4-2.2a specifically includes relay events. The determination of applicability for relay team members is when the relay team members are declared. The provisions of Rule 4-2.2 apply to each relay team member if the team fails to participate and the team members are declared.
- r. Rule 6-4.3c indicates that the rotating flight method is abandoned when the number of competitors remaining at a height is nine or fewer. Is this referring to the total number of competitors in the competition or to only those competing at the height? There is a distinction between the phrases used in Rule 6-1.4 and Rule 6-4.3. Rule 6-1.4 states 'competitors remaining in the competition', which includes all who have not been eliminated by three failures. Rule 6-4.3 states 'competitors remaining at a bar height'. This statement only includes those who are actually competing at the height.
- s. Is the wearing of a chip for lap counting required when it is issued as part of the meet administration? There is no specific language in the rules referring to the required wearing of chips. Chips, as a form of identification, can be considered a competitor number and therefore administered in the same manner as a competitor number.