



**INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**TECHNICAL MANUAL**

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## INTRODUCTION

This manual outlines the technical procedures for competition for the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships and provides case studies of situations that may arise during the Championships. This manual contains three sections:

- The technical procedures for administrating the Championships;
- The relay policy for the Championships; and
- Case studies, to assist coaches by reviewing and answering questions generated by situations.

This manual should be used in conjunction with the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Pre-Championships Manual, the 2026 and 2027 NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rules Book, and NCAA Bylaw 31 of the 2025-26 NCAA Division III Manual, which pertains to the administration of NCAA Championships. These publications will provide information about the general policies governing NCAA Championships.

Although this manual and the other publications attempt to cover all phases of the Championships, if questions arise prior to the start of the Championships, contact NCAA Championships Manager Laura Peterson-Mlynski ([lpeterson@ncaa.org](mailto:lpeterson@ncaa.org)) at the NCAA national office. Once the Championships begin, questions related to procedures not covered in this manual should be referred to meet management at the Championships site.

**CHAMPIONSHIP SITE REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 1. General Administration.

The administration of the Championships is the responsibility of the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee, the NCAA Championship manager, and the director of athletics of the host institution. They shall delegate duties and responsibilities and assign other personnel as necessary to ensure the efficient and effective administration and promotion of the Championships. The following will be used for assistance in the capacities indicated:

- a. Meet Director. The meet director will be appointed by the director of athletics of the host institution.
- b. Meet Management. Meet Management will be the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee. Meet management will serve as the site review committee and have the responsibility to make any decisions or determinations necessary to protect the integrity of the Championships.
- c. Medical Doctor. The official medical doctor will be appointed by the meet director and will be on-site during all aspects of the competition to perform the duties prescribed in Rule 4-17 and Rule 4-18.
- d. Referee. All referee positions will be appointed by the NCAA's National Coordinator of Officials for Track & Field, and have the authority prescribed in Rule 4-4. A minimum of two referees are required to address and agree on a decision. The referees' decision can be appealed to the Jury of Appeals.
- e. Jury of Appeals. A three-person Jury of Appeals will be appointed by the NCAA's National Coordinator of Officials for Track & Field, and the Jury of appeals will have final authority as prescribed in Rule 4-5.

### 2. Qualifying for the Championships.

Qualification to the championships is based on the descending order list for the current 2026 indoor season, prepared solely from the mandatory submission of meet results during the current 2026 indoor season and adhering to the Qualifying Regulations published in the Pre-Championships Manual. For each individual event contested at the Championships, the top twenty (20) declared male student-athletes and the top twenty (20) declared female student-athletes will be accepted into the competition. For each relay event contested at the Championships, the top twelve (12) declared relay teams will be accepted into the competition. The stated maximums are absolute and will not be extended because of ties.

Any descending order list ties, by mark, for the last position to be accepted, will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best valid qualifying meet performance submitted during the current 2026 indoor season, including field event series, and so on until there is no basis for a mark comparison. For a tie not resolved after all available mark comparisons, acceptance will be awarded to

the competitor who achieved the original tying mark later in the season. For a tie still not resolved, acceptance will be awarded to the competitor who achieved the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best valid qualifying meet performance later in the season, and so on until there is no basis for date comparison. As a last resort, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin. An example of this tie-breaking procedure is presented in the Case Studies section of this manual.

In the combined events (Heptathlon/Pentathlon), prior to deciding the last qualifying position by the toss of a coin, once all previously described tie-breaking methods have been exhausted, ties will be resolved by examining, of those tied, the student-athlete who, in the greater number of events, has received more points than the other student-athlete(s). If a tie still exists, the student-athlete(s) with the highest number of points in any one event will win the tie. If still tied, the student-athlete(s) who have the highest number of points in a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) event will win the tie. If a tie still remains, a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) event will be examined and so forth until there is no basis for point comparison. As a last resort, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

### **3. Competition Format for the Championships.**

- a. The Championships will be conducted as a two-day event, with the women's and men's track events alternating throughout the schedule.
- b. The order of events will be determined by the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee. Exceptions for unusual conditions, facility constraints, and other concerns such as broadcast coverage will be considered. The actual time schedule for the Championships will be established by the NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee and published on the NCAA.org website.
- c. The events contested in the Championships are the 60 Meters, 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 800 Meters, Mile, 3000 Meters, 5000 Meters, 60 Hurdles, 4x400 Relay, Distance Medley Relay, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put, Weight Throw, Pentathlon (women), and Heptathlon (men).
- d. In semi-final rounds of the 200 Meters, 400 Meters and 4x400 Relay, lanes 3 through 6 will be used. In all other running events that start in lanes, all available lanes will be used. Semi-final round running event heats and lanes will be determined using Rule 7-10. Preliminary-round competing order in horizontal field events shall be drawn by lot using Rules 5-4.1 and 5-4.2. Competing order in vertical field events shall be drawn by lot using Rules 5-4.1 and 5-4.3. Specific event details are in Section 5 of this manual.

### **4. Lane Assignments.**

- a. Unless otherwise indicated, all lanes in the first round of competition in any event at the championships, including the only round, shall be drawn by lot as prescribed in Rule 7-11.2.
- b. In all rounds after the first round, the lanes will be assigned as prescribed in Rule 7-11.3, unless specifically superseded in this section.

- c. In the 60 Meters and 60 Hurdles, the preferred lane order will be: 4, 5, 3, 6, 2, 7, 1, and 8.

In the 200 Meters, 400 Meters and 4x400 Relay, the preferred lane order will be: 5, 6, 4, and 3.

## 5. Heats, Flights, Qualifying Procedures, and Stagers.

The provisions and procedures prescribed in Rules 7-9, 5-2 and 5-4, regarding the formation, grouping, competition order, cancellation, or redrawing of heats or flights will apply in each round unless specifically superseded in this section. Changes to heats or flights, predetermined by declaration, will be made only with meet management authorization.

### a. 60 Meters.

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of three (3) heats. Two (2) heats of seven (7) competitors and one (1) heat of six (6) competitors.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top two (2) from each semi-final round heat plus the next best two (2) times, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final round will be conducted in one (1) section.

- (2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.b.1.a).

- (3) Lane assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-9.3a).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.2.a.2.a).

- (4) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

### b. 60 Hurdles.

- (1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of three (3) heats. Two (2) heats of seven (7) competitors and one (1) heat of six (6) competitors.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top two (2) from each semi-final round heat plus the next best two (2) times, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final round will be conducted in one (1) section.

- (2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying

performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.b.1.a).

(3) Lane assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-9.3a).

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.2.a.2.a).

(4) Student-athletes will be allowed time for runouts before each heat.

(5) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

c. **200 Meters.**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of five (5) heats of four (4) competitors.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top eight (8) times, from the semi-final round heats, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final will be conducted in two (2) timed sections.

(2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.b).

(3) Lane assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.1.a.1 and 7-11.2.a.2.b).

Lanes three (3) through six (6) will be used in all rounds containing four (4) or fewer competitors.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.1.a.1.b and 7-11.2.a.2.b).

(4) The **timed section final** will consist of two (2) sections seeded based on semi-final round heat qualifying times. The third (3<sup>rd</sup>), fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers will run in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) timed section final. The first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), fifth (5<sup>th</sup>), and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers will run in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) timed section final.

(5) Lanes within each section of the final round will be assigned using preferred lanes based on qualifying performances from the semi-final round heats (Rule 7-9.3.c).

(6) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

d. **400 Meters.**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of five (5) heats of four (4) competitors.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top eight (8) times from the semi-final round heats, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final will be conducted in two (2) timed sections.

(2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.b.1.b).

(3) Lane assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.1.a.1.b and 7-11.2.a.2.b).

Lanes three (3) through six (6) will be used in all rounds containing four (4) or fewer competitors.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.2.a.2.).

(4) A lane start with a two-turn stagger will be used in all rounds.

(5) The **timed section final** will consist of two (2) sections seeded based on semi-final round heat qualifying times. The third (3<sup>rd</sup>), fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers will run in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) timed section final. The first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers will run in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) timed section final.

(6) Lanes within each section of the final round will be assigned using preferred lanes based on qualifying performances from the semi-final round heats (Rule 7-11.2.a.2).

(7) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

e. **800 Meters.**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of three (3) heats. Two (2) heats of seven (7) competitors and one (1) heat of six (6) competitors.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top two (2) from each semi-final heat plus the next best two (2) times, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final round will consist of one (1) section.

(2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.a).

(3) Starting positions and alley assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.3.a.3).

The **men's and women's semi-final round** will assign two thirds of the field to the back starting line and one-third on the forward starting line.

In the **final**, the top three (3) qualifiers from the semi-final round heats will be assigned to the staggered waterfall start and their starting positions will be drawn by lot. The five (5) remaining competitors will be assigned to the main waterfall start and their starting positions will be drawn by lot.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.2.a.1.a).

(4) A two-ally, waterfall start with a two-turn stagger will be used in all rounds.

(5) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

f. **Mile.**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will consist of two (2) heats of ten (10) competitors.

**Final.** Ten (10), the top four (4) from each semi-final heat plus the next best two (2) times, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final will consist of one (1) section.

(2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.a).

(3) Starting positions and alley assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.3.a.3).

The **men's and women's semi-final round** each will have seven (7) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and three (3) competitors on the staggered waterfall start in each semi-final heat.

In the **final**, the top three (3) qualifiers from the semi-final round heats will be assigned to the staggered waterfall start and their starting positions will be drawn by lot. The seven (7) remaining competitors will be assigned to the main waterfall start and their starting positions will be drawn by lot.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round (Rule 7-11.2.a.1.a).

(4) A two-ally, waterfall start with a two-turn stagger will be used in all rounds.

(5) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

g. **3000 Meters and 5000 Meters.**

(1) One (1) round, a final, will be contested.

The final will be conducted in one (1) section.

The **men's and women's final** will have fourteen (14) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and six (6) competitors assigned to the staggered waterfall start.

(2) Starting positions and alley assignments will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.2.a.1.a).

(3) A two-ally, waterfall start with a two-turn stagger will be used.

(4) In the **final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

h. **4x400 Relay.**

(1) Two (2) rounds will be contested, a semi-final and a final.

The **men's and women's semi-final round** will each consist of three (3) heats of four (4) relay teams.

**Final.** Eight (8), the top eight (8) times from the semi-final round heats, after tie breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.

The final round will be conducted in two (2) timed sections.

(2) The semi-final round heats will be formed by seeding competitors, from their qualifying performances, left to right (Rule 7-9.2.b.1.b).

(3) Lane assignments in the semi-final round heats will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.1.a.1 and 7-11.2.a.2.b).

Lanes three (3) through six (6) will be used in all rounds containing four (4) or fewer competitors.

Heat order will be drawn by lot in the semi-final round.

(4) A lane start with a two-turn stagger will be used in all rounds.

(5) The **timed section final** will consist of two (2) sections seeded based on semi-final round heat qualifying times. The third (3<sup>rd</sup>), fourth (4<sup>th</sup>), sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) and eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers from the semi-final round heats will run in the first (1<sup>st</sup>) timed section final. The first (1<sup>st</sup>), second (2<sup>nd</sup>), fifth (5<sup>th</sup>), and seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) fastest qualifiers from the semi-final round heats will run in the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) timed section final.

(6) Lanes within each section of the final round will be assigned using preferred lanes based on qualifying performances from the semi-final round heats (Rule 7-11.3.a.2.a).

(7) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

i. **Distance Medley Relay.**

(1) One (1) round, a final, will be contested.

The final round will be conducted in one (1) section.

The **men's and women's final** will each consist of one (1) section of twelve (12) relay teams.

(2) Starting positions and alley assignments will be drawn by lot (Rule 7-11.4.a).

The **final** will have eight (8) competitors assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and four (4) competitors assigned to the staggered waterfall start.

(3) A two-ally, waterfall start with a two-turn stagger will be used.

(4) In the **semi-final round** of the event, competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule.

j. **Long Jump and Triple Jump.**

(1) A preliminary round and final round of attempts on a single runway will be contested.

The **men's and women's** preliminary round of each event will have ten (10) competitors assigned to each of two (2) flights.

Flight assignments for the preliminary round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list. Declared descending order list performances ranked eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) through twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) will be assigned to flight one (1) and declared descending order list performances ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>) through tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) will be assigned to flight two (2).

The jumping order within the preliminary round flight(s) will be drawn by lot.

(2) All competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule. Clerking times are not flight specific.

(3) Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the preliminary round. The competitors with the nine (9) best performances in the preliminary round, after tie-breaking, will advance to the final round in one (1) section and compete in reverse order of performance from the preliminary round.

(4) Each preliminary round flight will be allowed a twenty (20) minute flight-specific warm-up. There is no general warm-up period.

The final round will start a maximum of ten (10) minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the preliminary round.

- (5) Scoring is determined per Rule 5-5.2, by all marks during the preliminary round and final round in the competition.

k. **Shot Put and Weight Throw.**

- (1) A preliminary round and final round of attempts on a single throwing circle will be contested.

The **men's and women's preliminary round** of each event will have ten (10) competitors assigned to each of two (2) flights.

Flight assignments for the preliminary round will be determined from the declared ranked descending order list. Declared descending order list performances ranked eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) through twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) will be assigned to flight one (1) and performances ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>) through tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) will be assigned to flight two (2).

The throwing order within the preliminary round flight(s) shall be drawn by lot.

- (2) All competitors will check-in according to the clerking schedule. Clerking times are not flight specific.
- (3) Each competitor will be allowed three (3) attempts in the preliminary round. The competitors with the nine (9) best performances in the preliminary round, after tie-breaking, will advance to the final round in one (1) section and compete in reverse order of performance from the preliminary round.
- (4) Each preliminary round flight will be allowed a twenty (20) minute flight-specific warm-up. There is no general warm-up period.

The final round will start a maximum of ten (10) minutes after the completion of the last attempt in the preliminary round.

- (5) Scoring is determined per Rule 5-5.2, by all marks during the preliminary round and final round in the competition.

l. **High Jump.**

- (1) A final round only, on a single jumping pit will be contested. The jumping order will be drawn by lot.

The **men's and women's High Jump final** each will consist of one (1) section of twenty (20) competitors.

(2) The one (1) hour time limit indicated in Rule 8-1-6.c will be in effect.

(3) A standardized flight check-in time will be applied.

**High Jump** competitors will check in with the clerk no later than one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area one (1) hour and fifteen (15) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

(4) High Jump competitors will be allowed a sixty (60) minute warm-up period.

(5) Starting heights and increments will be set by meet management after the qualifiers have been determined and published prior to the start of packet pick up at the Championships.

m. **Pole Vault.**

(1) A final round only will be contested on a single runway. The jumping order will be drawn by lot.

The **men's and women's Pole Vault final** each will consist of one (1) section of twenty (20) competitors.

(2) The one-hour time limit indicated in Rule 8-1-6.c will be in effect.

(3) A standardized flight check-in time will be applied.

**Pole Vault** competitors will check in with the clerk no later than one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event. Competitors will be escorted by a clerk to the competition area one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of the event.

(4) Pole vault competitors will be allowed a one (1) hour and thirty (30) minute warm-up period.

Starting heights and increments will be set by meet management after the qualifiers have been determined and published prior to the start of packet pick up at the Championships.

n. **Combined Events – Heptathlon and Pentathlon.**

The Heptathlon and Pentathlon order of events will be as indicated in Rule 5-1.5.a and 5-1.5.c.

Heptathlon and Pentathlon competitors must check in with the clerk a minimum of thirty (30) minutes prior to the published scheduled start time of their respective Heptathlon or Pentathlon first event of the day.

Competitors in the Heptathlon and Pentathlon will be allowed a thirty (30) minute warm-up on the track prior to the start of their respective first event of the day.

### **60 Meters.**

- (1) The **Heptathlon 60 Meters** will be conducted in three (3) sections.

Sections will be assigned based on qualifiers' seasonal best performance marks in a Heptathlon 60 Meters as verified by TFRRS, with the individuals with the seven (7) fastest performance marks assigned to a section, the next seven (7) fastest individuals assigned to a section, and the next six (6) fastest individuals assigned to the remaining section.

- (2) Lane assignments and section order will be drawn by lot.

### **60 Hurdles.**

- (1) The **Pentathlon and Heptathlon 60 Hurdles** will have five (5) sections of four (4) competitors, using only alternate lanes with hurdles placed in all lanes. The determination of odd or even lanes will be made by meet management and published prior to the start of packet pick up at the Championships. A set of hurdles will also be placed outside of lane one (1) or outside of lane eight (8) unless facility constraints cannot accommodate this procedure.

Sections will be assigned based on qualifiers' seasonal best performance marks in a Pentathlon/Heptathlon Hurdles as verified by TFRRS. The individuals with the four (4) fastest performance marks will be assigned to a section, the next four (4) fastest individuals to a section, the next four (4) fastest individuals to a section, the next four (4) fastest individuals to a section, and the next four (4) fastest individuals assigned to the remaining section.

- (2) Lane assignments and section order will be drawn by lot.
- (3) Student-athletes will be allowed time for runouts prior to each heat.

### **800 Meters.**

- (1) The **Pentathlon 800 Meters** will be contested in two (2) sections.

The top ten (10) competitors in the standings, following the Pentathlon Long Jump, will be assigned to the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) section. The remaining competitors will be assigned to the first (1<sup>st</sup>) section.

- (2) A two-alley waterfall start with a two-turn stagger will be used.

Two-thirds of each section will be assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and the remaining competitors assigned to the staggered waterfall start.

- (3) Starting positions and alley assignments shall be drawn by lot.

### **1000 Meters.**

- (1) The **Heptathlon 1000 Meters** will be conducted in one (1) section.

- (2) A two-alley waterfall start, with a two-turn stagger will be used.

Two-thirds of the full field after completion of the Heptathlon Pole Vault will be assigned to the main waterfall start across the entire width of the track and the remaining competitors assigned to the staggered waterfall start.

- (3) Starting positions and alley assignments will be drawn by lot.

#### ***Long Jump.***

- (1) The **Heptathlon Long Jump and Pentathlon Long Jump** each will consist of two (2) sections of ten (10) competitors.
- (2) Section assignment and competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.
- (3) A 20-minute warm-up will be permitted.

#### ***Shot Put.***

- (1) The **Heptathlon Shot Put and Pentathlon Shot Put** each will consist of two (2) sections of ten (10) competitors.
- (2) Section assignment and competition order within each section will be drawn by lot.
- (3) A 20-minute flight specific warm up will be permitted.

#### ***High Jump.***

- (1) The Heptathlon and Pentathlon High Jump will be conducted in two (2) simultaneous sections, on two (2) separate, but similar, competition venues.
- (2) The **Heptathlon and Pentathlon High Jump** will have two (2) sections. The competitors with the top ten (10) seasonal best performance marks in a Heptathlon/Pentathlon High Jump, as verified by TFRRS, will be assigned to a section, and the ten (10) remaining Heptathlon/Pentathlon High Jump competitors will be assigned to the remaining section.

Competition order will be drawn by lot within each section.

#### ***Pole Vault.***

- (1) The **Heptathlon Pole Vault** will be conducted in two (2) simultaneous sections, on two (2) separate, but similar, competition venues.
- (2) The competitors with the top ten (10) seasonal best performances in a Heptathlon Pole Vault, as verified by TFRRS will be assigned to a section, and the remaining Heptathlon Pole Vault competitors will be assigned to the remaining section.
- (3) Competition order will be drawn by lot within each section.

**6. Breaking Ties for the Last Qualifying Position**

- a. Running Events - If there is a tie for the last qualifying position for a subsequent round, and all options for tie-breaking or advancing an additional runner are exhausted, there will be a runoff to determine the advancer. (Rule 7-12.4).

If a student-athlete chooses not to participate in the run-off, they will not be subject to Rule 6-2.a. and 6-2.c, the remaining student-athlete with the tying performance will not have to compete in a run-off, and will qualify for the next round of competition.

- b. Field Events - If there is a tie for the last qualifying position for a subsequent round, Rule 5-5-6 will be applied to break the tie.

**7. Coaching Area.**

A coaching area, outside the area of competition, will be established for each field event and the distance events. The meet director will determine the locations of these coaching areas. Only coaches with proper credentials may access a coaching area.

### RELAY PERSONNEL AND PERFORMANCE POLICY

1. Only one (1) relay team from the descending order list per institution may be declared. That declared relay team's performance will be used for selection and seeding purposes. All other teams on the descending order list from that institution must be scratched.
2. All relay alternates must be declared separately and not later than the close of packet pick-up at the Championships. A relay alternate is a student-athlete not already in the Championships in any event. Please see Rule 7-7-2 for further information on relay replacement policies.
3. The four (4) members of the relay who actually competed and earned a qualifying position will be the 'declared' relay team for that institution and will be the only individuals for which NCAA Championships travel reimbursement will be provided. NCAA travel reimbursement will not be provided to alternates, even if they compete in the Championships.
4. A student-athlete on a declared relay, who is replaced with a relay alternate or substitute, may still compete in any event(s), at any time, in which he/she had previously been accepted into the Championships.

### CASE STUDIES

#### **Breaking a tie for the last accepted position to the Championships.**

SITUATION 1. After declaration, seventeen (17) are declared in the men's 60 meters with a mark of 6.66 or better. Six (6) additional are declared with a best descending order list mark of 6.67. Will all six (6) be accepted into the Championships?

RULING. No. Only twenty (20), total, will be accepted into the Championships. That means only three (3) of the tying six (6) will be accepted. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best valid qualifying performance mark submitted through the mandatory meet result reporting system will be examined for each of the six (6). Assume the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best submissions are 6.68, 6.69, 6.70, 6.69, 6.68, and 6.72. The two (2) individuals with the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best of 6.68 are accepted, and the tie breaking procedure continues, but only involves the two (2) individuals with submissions of 6.69. Assume that there are no other available marks to compare. This mark is the last used as tie-breaking for comparative purposes. The performance date of their original mark that created the tie is then examined to determine who achieved the mark later in the season, to determine which one (1) is accepted into the Championships. If a tie still exists, it is resolved by examining the performance date of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) mark. If the examination of the performance date of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) mark does not result in a break of the tie, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

SITUATION 2. After declaration, fifteen (15) are declared in the women's high jump with a mark of 1.84 or better. No one has a submitted best meet mark of 1.83. Two (2) are declared with a submitted best mark of 1.82. Seven (7) additional are declared with a best descending order list mark of 1.81. Will all seven (7) be accepted into the Championships?

RULING. No. Only twenty (20), total, will be accepted into the Championships. That means, only three (3) of the tying seven (7) will be accepted. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) best valid qualifying performance mark submitted through the mandatory meet result reporting system will be examined for each of the seven (7). Assume

that after examining the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) best qualifying performance mark submitted, four (4) still remain tied and there are no other available marks to compare. This mark is the last used as tie-breaking for comparative purposes. The performance date of their original mark that created the tie is then examined to determine who achieved the mark later in the season, in order to determine which three (3) are accepted into the Championships. If a tie still exists, it is resolved by examining the performance date of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) mark and, if needed, the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) mark in order to eliminate one (1). If the examination of the performance date of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) mark does not result in a break of the tie, the tie for the last qualifying position will be decided by the toss of a coin.

### **Relay Situations.**

SITUATION. Of the four (4) student-athletes listed on the Championships declaration form for the 4x400 (or distance medley) relay, three (3) have injuries that prevent them from competing in the Championships. Can the coach use other student-athletes who are competing in the Championships, or who are declared relay alternates, to fill the open spots on the relay?

RULING. Yes. There is no limit on the maximum number of replacements for a relay team.

### **Field Events.**

SITUATION. A long jumper takes a jump in the preliminary-attempt round of competition. Believing the mark to be sufficient to advance to the final-attempt round of competition and also score in the event, the student-athlete leaves the competition area. Is this one (1) valid mark sufficient to be used for scoring in the event?

RULING. No. This student-athlete would be in violation of Rule 6-2.a. Participation is required in subsequent rounds as a result of qualifying. The Championships has two (2) rounds of competition in jumping and/or throwing events. Each round (three attempts in each) has qualifiers for the next round. The student-athlete must participate (compete) in each round of the competition. Participation in the final round of a field event can be satisfied without actually making an attempt, if the competitor passes their attempt(s) by verbally communicating so to the head official of the respective event.