

## September 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations

### Notes:

1. There was no June - August 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations document produced.
2. If a question is asked that requires only a rule citing, the question will not be added to the monthly report.

a. Been searching the rule book without any luck. I am looking for clarification on the outdoor landing areas grade/slope. I am under the impression it should be flat as a pancake. I inherited an almost new outdoor facility when I arrived in 2019. The throws landing areas are different slopes and grades. I will not host until it is rectified. Can you direct me to documentation on throws area specifications?

*Rule 10 - Construction of Facilities: First paragraph directs individuals looking for Technical Information to the World Athletics Facilities Manual. I have attached the link for your convenience, you will find what you are looking for in this document:*

<https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>

b. Our conference patch is 2" by 3" on the left shoulder of the uniform. I hope this meets the size requirement for NCAA competition.

*The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) just recently approved to increase the size of conference, institutional, commemorative, memorial and social justice patches from 2¼ to 4 square inches. Your new conference patch that is 2" x 3" is not in compliance with NCAA rules. For your convenience, I added the link to the announcement from the NCAA. My concern for your school is that more than just the track & cc programs may have conference logos that are too big under NCAA rules. Please share with your appropriate institutional personnel and make certain that the new logos meet the 4 square inch requirements.*

[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/resources/rules/PR\\_UniformPatches.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/resources/rules/PR_UniformPatches.pdf)

## October 2021

### Clarifications and Interpretations

The following section was inadvertently omitted during the restructuring of the current rules book and is to be added and implemented immediately:

#### 2021 and 2022 NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field Rules Book

#### **CROSS COUNTRY - RULE 21 – NEW SECTION 8, page 194**

##### *Protests/Disqualifications*

*ARTICLE 1.a. Protests relating to singular matters that develop during the conduct of the race should be made at once and shall not be later than 15 minutes after the results have been announced or posted. All implicated coaches shall be notified of a tendered protest or any disqualification.*

*b. Any such protest may be immediate and oral by a competitor or a competitor's coach in order to protect and preserve the conduct of the competition but must be appropriately filed as written protest.*

*c. The referee shall review the protest or report leading to a disqualification and shall render a decision after determining and considering available evidence. Evidence specifically excluded is all visual material, except that produced:*

- 1) For public broadcast, public streaming, or public video board presentation.*
- 2) By an organization specifically employed for the purpose of providing video review.*
- 3) In conjunction with officiating an event.*
- 4) For official photo-timing.*
- 5) As additional official video designated by the games committee before the meet*

*d. Results revised because of a protest or disqualification shall be posted and announced. Coaches of competitors affected by any referee's decision shall be notified.*

*e. Protests relating to Rules 22-3.1 & 22-3.2 shall not interrupt an event, nor result in a disqualification, once the event begins*

a. Does the start line have to be curved like the rule book states?

*Rule 18.4 on page 180 describes how to establish a cross country starting line and states that the starting line should be surveyed to permit each competitor to line up equidistant from the first turn, thus the starting line should be curved.*

*The curved start line is not required as it should be surveyed not shall be surveyed, therefore a straight starting line is legal but teams farthest away from the midpoint of the start line will be theoretically farther than the team in the middle of the start line.*

b. To give you a concise version of my question and how we got here - for about 40 years our football team played at an off-campus facility. We were told in December 2020 that the stadium would no longer be feasible for us to play at, in front of fans, so we needed to pivot quickly and find our team a new home. We decided the best course for us to take was to play at our on campus facility, which included some bleachers, a turf field, which also happens to be home to our T&F program. We expect this move is temporary but it's something we have for at least the next few years.

Our coaches got in touch with me and let me know that because of the temporary changes, our track is now not compliant to host events. Specifically, our pole vault and high jump areas do not conform with regulations. Is there some type of waiver we need to host events?

*It's unfortunate that your current situation does not have rules compliant high jump or pole vault areas. Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, what makes the high jump and pole vault areas not compliant? There may be a rule interpretation where we can assist with the perceived non-compliant areas.*

**Worst case scenario:**

*This situation of non-compliance more than likely will not allow your institution to host a championship competition, but does not prevent your institution from hosting other events. The NCAA Qualifying Criteria (link attached for your convenience) states that a minimum of 10 events per gender must be contested in order for marks to be considered for championship advancement. Even if you eliminate the High Jump and Pole Vault from your schedule of events, there are enough events remaining per gender to comply with the minimum requirement.*

**T&F Qualifying Criteria**

[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF\\_QualifyingCriteria.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf).

## **November 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations**

### **Clarification**

Old Rule 6-3.3 Guaranteed Measurements, NO LONGER EXISTS

In the current 2021-2022 NCAA Rules Book this old rule was deleted which disallows the meet director this option.

*It is intended that all field event marks achieved legally by a competitor shall be measured and recorded, without exception.*

### **Interpretations**

a. Could you please clarify something for me? I understand that without a curb we cannot use the time for championship qualifying. However, could we compete if the track is certified in order to use the meet as a countable NCAA meet but not use any track times for championship qualifying? For example, if another local small school chose to accept the conditions of our meet (not being able to use a time for qualifying), and it meets every other criteria, could we count the meet?

*Your question regarding sports sponsorship does not fall under my purview, this question should be directed to your institutional or conference compliance officer.*

*This being said, the proposed competition would not be contested on a track that meets NCAA playing rules specifications. All marks on the oval will not be acceptable for advancement. If 10 events per gender and 14 athletes per gender are not met the competition would not meet qualifying criteria requirements. The eligible indoor events that I can foresee would be the following: 60M 60H,HJ; PV, LJ, TJ, SP, WT equaling 8 total events per gender. Personally, I think it would be hard to find a rationale how the proposed competition could meet sport sponsorship requirements, however this is not my area of expertise.*

b. I had a situation arise during my cross country administrative meeting today during discussion on logo policy. The way I interpret it is that you should have one manufacturer logo for a jersey and shorts. The coaches insisted that different manufacturer's logos were ok on the jersey and/or shorts as long as they didn't have two

manufactures logos on each part of the uniform. The coaches stated in DII their budgets are lower than DI and have to order different pieces of the uniform from different manufactures. Our committee was ok with this as long as the uniforms match and the referee can delineate different teams from each other. Some said this has been an issue for years. Let me know your thoughts.

***The interpretation of this rule is that there shall only be one manufacturer's logo per garment and the logo must meet the size specifications per Bylaw rule. It does not matter if a team has 2 different manufacturer's logos (e.g. shorts Nike and jersey adidas) as long as there is only one logo per garment.***

c. Our primary uniform color is cardinal/maroon for our tops and bottoms. Our throwers have worn black bottoms (school issued) along with a cardinal/maroon top. Is this okay? I know that we have been allowed to do it, but there are coaches in our conference who seem to be more adherent to the rules at the conference championships and again, I would like to circumnavigate any headaches. The rule is helpful, but not completely clear to me.

***Rule 6, Section 4, Article 1a is very clear:***

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

***Therefore, if the team throwers wear a maroon top garment and a black bottom garment then all team members shall wear a maroon top garment and a black bottom garment. There is no room for further interpretation.***

d. We are running a 300m at our meet on Friday. I would like to run it Fast to Slow, like the rules allow for the 200m and 400m. I realize it's not an NCAA qualifying event so maybe nobody cares but I didn't want to put anything else in the meet in jeopardy if we did that. Do you think there would be any issues?

***Rule 7.9.1(b) states the following:***

***"If the limits of time or facilities require, to ensure equity of competition, races (including relays) may be contested as a final in timed sections. When used, the structure for administering the final as timed sections, such as slow to fast, shall be determined by the games committee and must be consistent throughout the meet. In addition, no race in an event using timed sections shall have fewer than two***

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

*As the rule reads, the only events (not just NCAA qualifying events) in a competition conducted under NCAA rules that have an exemption are the 200 Meters and 400 Meters.*

e. Our current oval is 6 lanes with a 320 meter distance (oversized). Our straightaway is also 6 lanes. We are in the process of expanding our straightaway to 8 lanes to allow us to run a one section final in our 60 M. Dash/Hurdle races. We would accomplish this by adding two lanes to the interior of the straight, in essence creating a lane "0" and "-1". This addition would only be to the straight away and not modify the oval itself.

With that being said, would we be allowed to continue to host NCAA sanctioned competitions that would count for the purpose of NCAA postseason qualifications? Obviously, we would still not be allowed to count towards NCAA records; but as long as we would still be able to compete and qualify for postseason competition we would be happy.

*The way you explained the project, you will be adding 2 interior sprint lanes. By doing so, the original geometry of the oval on the indoor track has not changed. Provided that the oval remains unchanged, the indoor facility will continue to be eligible to host NCAA eligible contests.*

## December 2021

### Clarifications and Interpretations

#### Clarifications

Old Rule 6-3.3 Guaranteed Measurements, which allowed the games committee to establish a minimum distance in field events, NO LONGER EXISTS.

In the current NCAA 2021-2022 Rules Book this rule was deleted, which disallows the games committee this option. It is intended that all field event marks achieved legally by a competitor shall be measured and recorded, without exception.

#### Clarification & Correction:

*Part 1: Rule 8, Page 77 Indoor Track & Field*

*Disregard the field event timing table on page 77 and*

*ONLY use the field event timing table on page 78*

*Part 2: Rule 16, Page 162 Outdoor Track & Field*

*Disregard the field event timing table on page 162 and*

*ONLY use the field event timing table on page 163*

#### Interpretations

a. Rules 8-1.2(d) and 16-1.2(d) conflict with the field event timing tables on pages 78 and 163.

*Yes, you are correct, that error was identified and noted earlier. It will be corrected in the upcoming NCAA 2023-2024 Rule Book. ONLY use the charts on pages 78 for indoors and 163 for outdoors for accurate field events timing tables.*

b. Rule on infractions personally observed which was not reported by another official. Does it change whether there is a Jury of Appeals in place?

*Rule 4-4.1 Primary Responsibilities state: "The primary responsibility of a referee shall be to render a ruling on all perceived rules violations reported by meet officials or protests filed by coaches of competing teams once the competition starts until the protest period of the competition has ended. The referee(s) shall be knowledgeable and qualified to enforce and, if necessary, interpret the NCAA track and field rules. The referee shall not serve as any other official or as a member of the jury of appeals or games committee."*

*Rule 4.4-3 Finality of Decisions states: "The referee's decisions in all matters shall be final and without appeal, except in those meets in which an appointed jury of appeals has been established for that specific purpose. The jury of appeals then will have the final authority."*

*Therefore, a referee that is working without a Jury of Appeals may not act on incidents that they observe. If the referee was able to do so, the affected athlete/coach would not have the ability to appeal the referee's decision, thus forfeiting their right for due process.*

*If a referee is working with a Jury of Appeals they may act on incidents that they observe because due process is not forfeited.*

c. A conference school would like to wear a special 125th Anniversary patch on their track and cross country uniforms for the 2022 calendar year. Are there any NCAA rules that prohibit them from wearing these patches and what do they need to do to get permission to wear them?

*Rule 22, Section 3 ,Article 4 will give you the parameters for the Commemorative/Memorial Patches:*

*"As authorized by the institution or conference, a commemorative or memorial patch to be worn by an institution is allowed as long as no safety hazard is created (e.g., names, mascots, nicknames, logos, and marks intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes). The patch shall not exceed 4 square inches and must be placed on the front or sleeve of the uniform and may not interfere with any required markings. While not all team members are required to wear the patch, the patch must be identical for those who choose to wear the patch. As authorized by the institution or conference, other names/ words intended to celebrate or memorialize persons, events, or other causes are allowed on the back of the jersey/uniform where the player name is traditionally located. The names/words may vary by team member. "*



## January 2022 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. I am writing in regards to Rule 8, section 4, article 4e. I was hoping you could clarify this rule for me. I have had officials fault my triple jumpers when their free leg swing scraps/brushes the ground during their jumping phases and I'm wondering if it is because of this rule or is there another rule that I am unaware of?

*Rule 8.4-4(e) does not apply to this "dragging" situation that you described. It shall be a foul if: (e) "The competitor makes first contact with the ground outside the landing area closer to the takeoff line than the nearest break made in the sand upon landing;" This particular segment of the rule only pertains to the athlete during the landing phase of the jump. The contestant falls backward and a part of their body touches outside of the landing area before the jump has been deemed legal.*

*Years ago there was a rule in the triple jump that disallowed dragging of the foot in between phases but that has been removed because it was determined that no advantage was gained by the competitor. What you described is allowed by an athlete in the triple jump.*

b. I wanted to confirm the advancement rule that was discussed at convention:  
There are 8 hurdlers entered in the 60 Hurdles. Can we run a preliminary round and final round? We have 8 lanes on the straight. Also, I am assuming the ruling would be the same for all straight away races (indoor and outdoors).

*Indoor Rule 7.9-5(f) on page 69*

*f. "In all races started in lanes, if there is the same number of or fewer entries than there are lanes on the track, the event shall be run as a final."*

*Indoor Rule 7.9-2 Canceling Heats on page 68*

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

c. I am going to be the CE Referee for a conference outdoor competition in May. The officials coordinator and I were kicking some things around, and realized the NCAA rule

book doesn't delineate a role called Technical Manager. Many of the things a Technical Manager typically does is within the Games Committee list a) through z) and the Meet Director duties; but not all. So who does the rest? Referees? For example, verifying venues are setup properly and safely, and verifying hurdle heights before a race. Does the games committee typically delegate some of these things to a knowledgeable person at big meets?

*First, the games committee may assign a technically knowledgeable person(s) to attend to the set up of the field of play to make certain that the competition area meets safety and competition standards. Second, the referee should also make certain that the field of play is safe and meets competition standards. Finally, the chief of each event checks their competition area. If there is a concern the appointed facility person can fix it prior to the competition.*

d. We have a question about Rule 8, Time Limit, ARTICLE 2 (d):

“In the High Jump and Pole Vault, when there are two or three competitors remaining in the competition at the start of a bar height (or when a competitor is taking consecutive attempts at the same bar height while other competitors remain in the competition), high jumpers shall have two minutes and pole vaulters shall have three minutes to initiate a trial.” Page 76

VS the table two table labled Time in Minutes for Initiating Field Events. Page 77 & 78  
The article 2d seems to be in conflict with the table.

The first part seem to be in error (In the High Jump and Pole Vault, when there are two or three competitors remaining in the competition at the start of a bar height) with the last part of the sentence (high jumpers shall have two minutes and pole vaulters shall have three minutes to initiate a trial.) The (or when a is taking consecutive attempts at the same bar height while other competitors remain in the competition), seems to be correct. It can't be both per the tables. The article says 2-3 competitors in HJ 2 minutes and in PV 3 minutes however both tables show 2-3 competitors HJ 1.5 minutes and PV 2 minutes?

*This error was noticed when the 2021-2022 rules book was released last year and the correction was released at that time. Please see below to assist with the clarification:*

*Clarification & Correction:*

*Part 1: Rule 8 Page 77 Indoor Track & Field*

*Disregard the field event timing table on page 77*

***ONLY use the field event timing table on page 78***

***Part 2: Rule 16 Page 162 Outdoor Track & Field***

***Disregard the field event timing table on page 162***

***ONLY use the field event timing table on page 163***

e. I have a question about what is a permissible way to contest Indoor 60 Meter Dash qualifying. Is it permissible to separate the Collegiate and Unattached entrants into 2 separate 60M dash events? It looks like there will be 60+ entries (8 lane straight) with 15 unattached/post-collegians I want to make sure what we do is acceptable to TFRRS.

***Your question regarding running separate Collegiate and Unattached 60M races is legal.***

f. I am working at a local D3 meet this weekend. There will be 4 men's teams and 5 women's teams. The host coach sent information to officials and visiting coaches that 9 would advance to finals in throws and horizontals.

I advised him to check rule 5-2-5. He did and saw the rule about 1 more than number of scoring places. He also saw rule 5-5, articles 1, 2, and 3 that seem to contradict. Article 1 says for 4 teams to score 8 places as default but no more than 2 per school can score. Article 2 refers to 5 or more teams but then talks about scoring 6 places when there are 5 or less teams involved. But all entries can score.

So we could have a 4 team competition with 9 finalists and 8 scorers and a 5 team competition with 7 finalists and 6 scorers.

Am I missing something? Has there been an interpretation issued that clears this up?

***Each scoring system is unique to itself. If you wish to advance as many athletes as possible with only 4 teams the only scoring system that works is 5.5-1 which requires only two athletes from each school to score. If the desire is to have more than 2 individuals score from a team then 5.5-2 is the method that should be used scoring 6 and advancing 7 to the finals.***

***The meet with 5 teams must use 5.5-2 and score 6 places as there is no other option.***

g. We are hosting an indoor meet soon and have some unattached athletes in the field events. For the Long & Triple Jump, am I allowed to bring 9 collegiate (scoring athletes) to finals plus any unattached athlete who was in the original top 9? Top 8 score obviously, and so we will be bringing one more than that into finals, and since unattached don't score in our meet I am curious if that is possible.

*Rule 5.2-5 on page 49 is very specific that,  
"the number of advancers shall never exceed nine."*

*There is no provision in the rules to advance additional unattached athletes to the finals plus nine collegiate athletes. In all throwing or horizontal jump competitions no more than nine athletes are allowed to advance to the finals.*

## February 2022 Clarifications

*This clarification was released in December of 2020 and is still in effect:*

*The NCAA rules committee met and discussed the question regarding the use of particular shoes once again. The NCAA as an organization does not certify equipment. World Athletics has a very extensive policy for different disciplines and an officiating protocol in place which includes declaration of what shoes the athlete will wear in competition.*

*The committee also considered the three divisions and the disparity in the level of officiating at competitions throughout the nation and could not find a reasonable way to monitor and adjudicate the use of these shoes in question.*

*At this time the NCAA rules committee's position is to allow the use of the shoes in question and to wait for a ruling to be rendered by World Athletics on their legality for competition.*

*A Point of Emphasis:*

*Publishing Entries [Rules 4-2(x), 12-2(z) and 20-3(i)]*

*The rules committee is concerned about entry marks and wants to emphasize that the meet director shall publish, as part of the online information for the competition, a ranked list of event entries disclosing all performances used to determine entry in each event and the source of those performances.*

## Interpretations

a. In the Women's TJ an athlete took off legally from the board, landed within the runway at the end of her first phase, but landed outside of the runway on her second phase, and landed the third phase legally in the pit. The jump was ruled a legal jump. A coach then raised the issue that the athlete was outside of the runway lines on her second phase landing and asked if it should be a foul.

8-4.4.c states that it shall be a foul jump if "In attempting a jump, takes off outside of the runway whether beyond or before the takeoff board." It seems like in this instance the key determination is whether takes off happens only at the start of the first phase of the triple jump or at each phase of the triple jump. Any clarification that you could provide is appreciated.

*Rule 8.4-4(c) is only addressing the take-off portion of the attempt. It does not address the individual phase portion of the triple jump technique.*

*The official made the correct call.*

b. With our meet this weekend we are looking at setting up an 'Invite' and 'Open' section of the throws. The top-9 seeds would be put in our Invite section (3 throws in prelims, 3 in finals).

And then the remaining seeds would be put into the Open section (3 throws in prelims, 3 in finals). We would conduct the Invite section to completion and then start the Open section.

The only thing I could come close to finding was an old document referencing that set up:  
[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/rules/2018-19PRXTF\\_GuidelinesStagingNCAAEvents.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/rules/2018-19PRXTF_GuidelinesStagingNCAAEvents.pdf)

***Yes, an invitational section that is a final only and an open competition with preliminaries and finals is an allowable format for a competition.***

c. When there are 6 lanes on the straight and 8 advance to the final, can we do the heat winners and the next best times? Then can we seed by time only? Or are we required to advance by time only and follow Rule 7.10-3?

***Rule 7.9-5(d) is very specific. Under the circumstances explained, you shall only qualify by time. Then you shall apply rule 7.10-3.***

d. The rules book does not mention needing an indicator line for HJ. Does this keep officials from laying down one or do officials have the liberty to do this? Is this strictly a matter for the referee to decide?

***The laying down of an indicator line is a current USATF and WA rule. It is not a rule within the NCAA therefore it is not required. If an official is inclined to go the extra step during set up of the competition site to ensure that the standard and pit are square there is nothing that prevents this from happening. However, I reiterate, it is not required for NCAA competition.***

e. I wanted to clarify one thing. If we are holding a dual meet (two teams, ten events), does there need to be a member from both institutions in an event? Or could you have an event, say the 10,000, where the only competitors are from one team.

***The information provided comes from the NCAA Sports Committee. This should provide the answers you are looking for. If not, please contact your appropriate NCAA representative that is located on the bottom of the Qualifying Criteria:***

[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF\\_QualifyingCriteria.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf)

f. Can an athlete in the high jump and pole vault look at video outside of the competition area after they have been called up for trial and timing clock has started? Interpretations have not been consistent based on my discussions with other officials. Fairly common this winter for me when 3 or less competitors left and have extended time to initiate trial.

*An athlete may review a video in a designated area outside of the competition area even if they are on the clock. It is their time to utilize wisely. Once on the clock you should never extend an athlete's time to initiate an attempt.*

g. Can you please clarify the use and review of Video of competitor trials? I have seen examples of coaches videotaping their athletes trials from next to the venue inside the oval (competition area). First, from my reading of the Rule book (1-13) the coaches are not allowed in the competition area unless there is a designated area (coaches box) for them. Second, it appears Video of their trial is allowed only if it is taken from outside the Competition Area (6--3-1b2). It may be reviewed by the athlete outside the competition area. It is incumbent on the Meet Management to provide a area for video review which does not interfere with the competition (Outside the competition area?). I am seeing coaches inside the competition area videotaping their athletes and then reviewing it with them. Does the required behavior for coaches and meet management change whether it is a Championship meet versus a local meet with various levels of Colleges/Universities participating? Can you please address, if possible, how to move forward if Meet Management has not provided a space for viewing that doesn't interfere. And whether a coaching box inside the competition area would meet this criteria?

*Electronic Devices and Assistance (Rules 6-3.1 and .2 and 14-3.1 and .2):*

*It shall not be considered assistance for athletes competing in field events to view images of previous trial(s), recorded on their behalf by individuals not placed in the competition area. The viewing device or images taken from it shall not be taken into the competition area.*

*Note: Meet management shall identify an area for viewing video that does not interfere with the ongoing competition*

*Clarification and Interpretation:*

*The meet management shall identify a video reviewing area outside of the competition area. Prior to the meet and during the venue walk through, if the referee notices that a designated area has not been set aside, this oversight should be fixed immediately.*

*Coaching boxes are considered part of the competition area and shall not be used for video review. The video reviewing area is a separate space, generally outside to the oval where the athlete will cross the track to view the video.*

*Observed video review within the competition area is considered a violation and could result in a warning, yellow card to the athlete and coach, with further observed video viewing violations can result in a red card disqualification.*

h. I believe you recently provided guidance on using a “zero line” foul plane in the NCAA high jump and stated something like “use of the line is not required in the NCAA rules but it is a good idea”. I cannot find my copy, can you guide me to that nugget of information.

*The laying down of an indicator line is a current USATF and WA rule. It is not a rule within the NCAA therefore it is not required. If an official is inclined to go the extra step during set up of the competition site to ensure that the standard and pit are square there is nothing that prevents this from happening. However, I reiterate, it is not required for NCAA competition.*

i. Our conference office was just notified of the ruling made on running our conference meet on a flat track that is certified as a hydraulically banked track. I wanted to ask some questions to get clarification and hopefully work toward something that is better for our sport.

The ruling said the track has to be certified for the configuration the meet is run in. By definition a track certified as 200m at the maximum bank is over 200m at lower banks and flat. Unless the track has a different finish line no hydraulic track could be 200m at multiple settings. Why if the track is over 200m but the normal start and finish lines are used is it not legal to run on? If we chose to run a longer distance so we don't have to have the conversions, how is that an advantage?

*We understand your desire to run on a flat track but the facility in question is certified as a 200 meter banked track only. The certification for all facilities include all measurements for each lane and the appropriate staggers, break lines and finish line. This track facility is not certified any other way, therefore in the flat position, the only races that are legally certified are the 60 and 60 hurdles; all other races on the oval will be contested on a non-certified facility which would bring the marks achieved into question.*

*Rule 2.1-3 clearly states, that the track shall be surveyed, all measurement shall be certified and the certificate of measurement shall be maintained and made available upon request.*

j. Wasn't there something a couple years ago that said you had to have a curb installed on an existing facility by X date? I know the rule book mentions newly constructed, but what about existing facilities without a curb?

*Rule 2.1-6 on page 22 .....” Beginning Dec. 1, 2018, all newly constructed or resurfaced tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition.”*

k. Our conference will be hosting our championship. This is my first time working with a hydraulic track and I had a question come up that I am not familiar with. So one of our coaches asked if we can change the angle of the bank for distance races? For example, have the angle be higher for the 200 and lower for the 800+

How do meets typically deal with the angle of the bank? Do they adjust based on the event?



I saw in the rule book that there is a max of 18 degrees, but could it be lower for the distance races?

*The track is measured and certified in the full up position. Therefore, all oval races are to be run with the track in the full 100% up position.*

l. We have both men's and women's outdoor track and as a smaller distance-only programs we always seem to find ourselves right on the edge of meeting NCAA sport sponsorship requirements so that is the basis for my question. Is there a minimum number of events that needs to be completed to be considered a meet? In the situation where we would want to put on our own meet with similar programs, we would only have distance events due to the makeup of our teams.

*Your question seems to be more of a sport compliance question than a competition rules question which is my purview.*

*The NCAA Sports Championship Committee releases a yearly, qualifying criteria document. I have added the link for your convenience:*

*[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF\\_QualifyingCriteria.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf)*

*All coaches received this document in November.*

*If you have any further questions please contact the divisional NCAA Sports Committee liaison listed on the document or NCAA Sport Compliance office directly.*

m. Regarding NCAA rule 8.1.2.d (Time Limit): An athlete enters a pole vault competition after all other athletes are out. He passed all previous heights and is the only athlete remaining.

After being called up, how much time does he get for his very first attempt? Assuming he misses that first attempt, how much time does he get for his second and third attempts? Is it a requirement that the athlete has "won the event", i.e. successfully cleared at least one bar height, before he gets 5 minutes? Or does the "Time in Minutes for Initiating Field Events" table take precedence such that even though he hasn't actually "won" the competition yet, he still gets 5 minutes for his second and third attempts.

*The athlete will receive 1 minute for their initial attempt. (when first entering the competition). If the athlete misses the initial attempt, then they shall be given 3 minutes for a consecutive attempt. This is also true if the athlete misses the 2nd attempt in preparation for the 3rd and final attempt at that height. If the athlete clears the bar, at that point they are declared the winner and then the 5-minute rule applies for future attempts.*

n. This XXXX Conference Track and Field Book shall be the final word whenever information contained within is at odds with information released from any other source. That is, information within the XXXX Conference Track and Field Book supersedes all other. (i.e. This conference book supersedes the NCAA Rule Book). As an official, what do you recommend as a way forward with this kind of a circumstance?

*The below is the first point of emphasis in the 2021-2022 NCAA Rule Book:*

*Follow the Rules as Written.*

*NCAA member institutions are required to conduct their contests according to these rules.*

*Violations are subject to NCAA enforcement procedures.* While the rules are intended to provide direction and be as concise as possible, they are not meant to be comprehensive or cover all situations. Rules may not be altered, unless flexibility is indicated in a rule. A rule that provides a recommendation or indicates that a provision should be followed is one for which the rules committee believes the provisions of the rule are expected to be followed except when extraordinary, normally noncontrollable, circumstances exist.

*The XXX conference administrator needs to be informed that their conference manual must not be in direct violation of NCAA rules. If the XXX conference would like to impose more restrictive rules that is permissible, but never shall any of their rules be more lenient.*

o. I have a question concerning the thumb band on the wrist supports used by athletes throwing the shot put. I noticed that nothing is stated in the rule book that an athlete must remove the thumb band prior to throwing the shot once the wrist brace is secured to the wrist. Does this mean that the athlete can keep the thumb band in place when they throw? There has been some debate about this issue.

*Rule 8.1-5 on page 79 will explain your concern. Bottom line, the band on the thumb is allowable.*

### *Throwing Aids*

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

- 1) Use gloves, except in the Weight Throw. For this event, the gloves shall be smooth on the back and on the front. The tips of the glove fingers, other than the thumb, shall be open. An additional layer of leather may be affixed to the palm of the glove for additional protection.*
- 2) Tape two or more fingers together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually.*
- 3) Spray or spread any substance onto the throwing surface of the circle or onto the bottom of their shoes, except for water as a cleaning agent.*
- 4) Alter the surface of the circle, except as part of allowable procedure.*
- 5) Carry or affix anything in the non-throwing hand during an attempt.*

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

*1) Use, in order to obtain a better grip, a suitable substance on the hands only, or in the case of the Weight Throw, on the gloves. Such substances may be used on the neck in the Shot Put.*

*2) Apply chalk or a similar substance directly on the implement. Any such substances shall be easily removable with a wet cloth and shall not leave any residue.*

*3) Use taping on the hands and fingers that is in compliance with section a.(2) of this article. Use of taping on the hands and fingers may be continuous provided that, as a result, not two or more fingers are taped together. The taping must be shown to the head event judge before the event starts.*

p. I received these pictures today of an Indoor Weight. Your thoughts on the legality of this implement?









*It appears the metal ring that is incorporated in the harness is an attempt to move the center of mass farther away from the handle.*

*Rule 3.8-1 and 8.1-3 states the following:*

*The Weight*

*Head ARTICLE 1. There are two head types for the weight:*

*a. All Metal Head:*

*The head shall be a solid sphere made of metal not softer than brass. There shall be no internal movement. The center of gravity shall not be more than 9 millimeters from the center of the sphere.*

*b. Filled Head:*

*The head shall be a shell made of plastic or other suitable polymer material in the shape of a sphere, designed to protect the landing surface. The head shall be filled with lead or other material inserted in a manner that minimizes any internal void or movement and has a center of gravity not more than 9 millimeters from the center of the sphere certified by the manufacturer. The head may deform upon impact, but must return to the shape of a sphere.*

*Note: Rubber is not an acceptable material for the shell.*

*Harness ARTICLE 3.*

*If the implement includes a harness, it shall be fabricated from a minimum of four straps sewn together to form a sling. Netting shall not be used for this purpose. The harness must not stretch or show evidence of elasticity or malformation before, during or after the competition.*

*Nowhere in the rule is there any mention of a metal ring in the harness. This is considered an additional item to the design of the implement and is not allowed.*

q. I'm curious about the phrase "usable lanes" in rule 7-9-5d. I'm refereeing a conference meet this weekend and some want to declare lanes 1 & 2 as unusable for the 200 & 400, then run a two-section final in lanes 5-8. I've told them so far that even if the lanes are unusable (not sure what defines that), by 7-10-3b they could only use lanes 3-6 (the word 'shall' carries that weight).

What makes a lane usable or not? It seems to me that if they want it to be unusable for a final (in this case, 1-4) then all their preliminary heats should deem those lanes unusable as well. But that may interfere with the tables that specify how heats should be arranged. Right now, my interpretation to them is saying they could run a 2-section final based on preliminary times only using lanes 3-6 only and the heat assignments per 7-10-3b. Am I doing this correctly?

*Coaches thought that lane one and two were at a competitive disadvantage over lanes 3 - 6. These rules were written with a 6 lane 200 meter track in mind with the idea of running a 2*

*heats of 4 individuals final. Lanes 1 and 2 are not used in the final leaving lanes 3-6 available. Lanes 7 and 8 were never considered eligible for use at any time for the indoor 200 or 400 or 4 x 400.*

*Rule 7.9-5(d) Qualifying - " When a facility has fewer than eight usable lanes and eight competitors/teams advance to the final, the competitors/teams shall qualify only on the basis of time from preliminary rounds.*

*Advancement based on time only is not permitted for any other circumstance.-*

*Rule 7.10-3(a) Regulations for Forming Heats - Advancement by Time "A preliminary round that has advancement to the final based on time only shall be formed by seeding competitors from the performance list, left to right only throughout the heats.*

*Draw heat order by lot.*

*Heat 1    Heat 2    Heat 3*

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>

*Rule 7.10-3(b) " A final round, contested as a result of Rule 7-9.5d (eight competitors advancing when the facility has fewer than eight usable lanes), shall be contested in two sections formed by seeding competitors from the ranked advancement list, using the following heat assignments and using lanes three through six:*

*Section 1      Section 2*

<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>

*If a 2 heat final was desired, it was deemed that the use of lanes 7 and 8 on any indoor track created an unfair advantage for national advancement purposes and are not eligible for use at any time.*

r. Your thoughts on this wrist brace that has a firm piece that extends on the back of the wrist to prevent hyperflexion of the wrist is a pushing motion. NFL linemen wear these to help avoid wrist sprains.









*This wrist brace device is designed to limit the joint movement in a backwards direction. The extension is made of a rigid material to prevent hyperflexion and will recoil the wrist when flexed back into a relaxed position. This brace or any bracing device in a similar design is not legal for competition.*

s. Where can I find the Combined Event Scoring Tables?

*Use the Goldbook or the table that is in HyTek.*

## March 2022 Clarifications

*There seems to be some confusion with Rule 13-2.5 Preliminary Competition and Advancement. It states, “In the throwing events and the horizontal jumps, each competitor shall be allowed three trials. In scored competitions with five or fewer teams, not more than one competitor more than the number of scoring places, including representation from more than one team, shall advance by best mark in the preliminary rounds to the final rounds, provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds. The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition.”*

*Note the term, “provided each has a valid mark in the preliminary rounds.”  
To clarify a foul attempt is not a valid mark.*

## Interpretations

a. I'm looking for an interpretation about the check-in process at our meet.

Specifically – Rule 6, Section 1 of the NCAA rule book states that:

“A competitor shall report to the clerk of the course, or the head judge for a field event if so instructed, not later than the check-in time designated by the games committee, and shall promptly be at the starting point of each competition in which entered.”

Our association's governing body is looking for clarification on whether the Games Committee would have the authority to allow for a competitor to be checked in by a coach, without violating the NCAA rule book. We are specifically thinking about instances where an athlete might be currently competing in another event during the check-in period for a different event, and trying to create an environment that is as athlete-friendly as possible without obviously violating the NCAA rules. This is an issue we've specifically run into at our outdoor championships where the throwing venue was located pretty far away from the stadium, and an athlete might be competing in the javelin and the long jump, for example. As long as the athlete still makes it in time to compete in the event, would the Games Committee be permitted to provide some relief by setting a check-in policy that allows the athlete to be checked in either by themselves or their coach?

*Rule 6-1 does state, “... A competitor shall report to the clerk of the course, or the head judge for a field event if so instructed, not later than the check-in time designated by the games committee, and shall promptly be at the starting point of each competition in which entered....”*

*This rule does not provide the Games Committee the authority to change the check-in procedure, only to establish the time and place. For future reading of the rule book, when you encounter the word "shall " there is no interpretation needed, the word shall is definitive.*

b. This weekend I was involved in a conversation with a coach about advancement and this person insisted that an athlete [in horizontals] could advance with no valid mark. Is there any unpublished or pending rule change that allows for advancement with no valid mark? All I can find in the rule book is this and it's Outdoor equivalent:

5-2-5

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

*In a normal competition with a preliminary and final round the athlete must produce a valid (legal) mark to advance to the finals. However, the confusion could come from Rules 5-2.7 and 13-2.7.*

#### *Automatic Advancement*

*ARTICLE 7. Before the competition begins, the games committee may allow automatic participation of each competitor in the final rounds in the throwing events and horizontal jumps when the number of competitors at the start of the preliminaries is not greater than the maximum number in the final rounds allowed in Rule 5-2.5 or 13-2.5. In order to advance, each competitor must actually attempt one trial in the preliminary rounds.*

c. I am not certain who this question needs to be directed to specifically, but I wanted to reach out for any clarification that can be provided. We have 1 competing athlete that wears visible socks. I know the rules are very specific when it comes to manufacturers logo limitations. Are athletes permitted to wear decorative socks that have multiple university logos or university specific designs at the indoor championships? I've attached a few examples of the type of socks. They are a generic brand that does not have any visible manufacturer's labeling.



*Yes, the uniform/relay rule "does not apply to items of apparel above the shoulder or those covering the hands/feet." The socks are allowed.*

d. How should we interpret Part II, section 8, article 1 line 1 that states "... NCAA championships record..."?

Are marks achieved only at championships (conference, regional or national) eligible for a record and not any other collegiate track meet? To whom shall the record form be sent?

*The NCAA only keeps records of performances achieved only at the NCAA Championship events. All other marks are considered "Collegiate Bests" and record recording procedures are not required.*

e. Is there a minimum number of positions in order to have a valid track meet? For example, no referee, or a referee but no umpires or jury? Since according to 4-4.1 "The referee shall not serve as any other official or as a member of the jury of appeals or games committee". In the event of no named umpires and since "The primary responsibility of a referee shall be to render a ruling on all perceived rules violations reported by **meet officials** or protests filed by coaches of competing teams once the competition starts until the protest period of the competition has ended". Can the referee act on reports from the Starter, Clerk of Course, Jury member, or a Marshal? Does this have any impact on the validity of marks for TFRS?

*Rule 4-1 (1-3) provides the structure of the officials needed to run a proper competition. Each area is needed to be filled in order to attend to all of the details that surround the*

*different areas and disciplines of a track meet. As it mentions in the rules, the number of officials may vary but the areas must not be ignored. Articles 4 - 18 are the duties of the officials, medical personnel and the volunteers to run a proper competition. The meet director or officials coordinator should be able to provide the list of officials for the competition. The referee can investigate and rule on reports of any official. In the absence of a Jury of Appeal the referee cannot initiate a call because of finality of decision and the lack of due process (protest or appeal).*

*No officials equals an invalid competition and should be reported as such. The marks at the meet would be scrutinized on their validity and there is a strong potential that all marks would be disqualified.*

f. I have two questions related to the conduct of a large meet 800 meters. Can we run a portion of a large field in lanes and then move to alleys? If not, can we declare an Invitational 800m of multiple heats?

Related question - Can an invitational division have multiple heats?

*Rule 15-10.6(b) "The games committee may authorize with consistency an alley or waterfall start with a greater number of runners in timed section finals of the 800 meters and authorize a maximum of 12 competitors in a non-final round of the 800 meters. The 800 meters shall be run with one person per lane or with lane alleys, each using a one-turn, or with a waterfall.*

*Only one invitational section may be run in any event.*

*You may run time section finals for the main body of competitors using lane alleys or a waterfall start. Then run an invitational section of 8 on a one-turn stagger.*

g. We are headed to a multi-team (10+) competition this weekend. One of the coaches reached out to me to make sure the 10k at this meet was "legal". Can you help me clarify? I tried to find specific info in our rules books but was unable to do so. Here is the scenario.

They will run a combined gender 10k (I know this is permissible for meet purposes but not qualifying purposes). The question lies in the fact that on the women's side there are only 3 entrants but they are all from the same team. I know there is a rule about a section must have more than 2 competitors but is there any type of rule that there must be more than 1 team entered in the event. I might be confusing this with an NCAA Championships qualifying rule. If you can, please guide me to the correct area of the rules book to find this information.

*There is nothing in the rules book regarding the number of contestants in a race. The only place you will find that type of information is in the Qualifying Criteria. The race as explained in terms of the competition rules is legal.*

h. A question I was reminded of during the World Indoor Championships: I have been told that the NCAA Interpretation regarding the horizontal jumps is that if the shoe breaks the plane of the foul line as the shoe "rolls over" on the jump, it is not a foul. It is only a foul if the shoe breaks the plane on the "plant". Is this an accurate interpretation?

*Regarding the calling of the fouls in the vertical jumps in NCAA competitions. If the competitor's shoe breaks the plane of the foul line during the planting action of the foot it shall be deemed a foul attempt.*

i. We are hosting a meet on Saturday that will have large fields in the throws. Could you clarify for me what the current rule is regarding minimum marks? If I remember correctly, there was a change in the most recent edition of the rule book, but I don't remember what that change was.

*The below clarification was last published in the December 2021 monthly rules interpretations:*

*The old 2019-2020 Rule 6-3.3 Guaranteed Measurements, which allowed the games committee to establish a minimum distance in field events, NO LONGER EXISTS.*

*In the current NCAA 2021-2022 Rule Book this rule was deleted which disallows the games committee this option. It is intended that all field event marks achieved legally by a competitor shall be measured and recorded, without exception.*

j. Can you tell me where I can find the definition of what constitutes a bona fide competition in the sport of outdoor track and field? I have a school that may be struggling to meet the minimum contest requirements and has asked me to give them that definition.

*Within the NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field 2021 & 2022 Rules Book you will not find a definition that suits all three of the NCAA divisions. What constitutes a competition for qualifying advancement purposes is defined by the sports committees and is released yearly on the Qualifying Criteria document. The link has been added to the body of this email for your convenience.*

[https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF\\_QualifyingCriteria.pdf](https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2021-22XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf)

*If your question pertains to sports sponsorship, I suggest that you reach out to someone in NCAA Governance to help provide you with the correct ByLaws that addresses competition requirements for sports sponsorship.*

## April 2022

### Interpretations and Clarifications

a. If Indoor Rule 7-7.3.b. "4x400 Relay or Mile Relay, a two-turn stagger shall be used" is correct. Then 2-1.4.d. "Starting line (white with blue insert) - 4x400 Relay, three turn stagger" is at least confusing.

*2-1.4.d is a mistake from the carry over from the previous rules book and it will be changed in the new book as an edit.*

*7-7.3.b a two-turn stagger is correct for indoor. Never should a 3-turn be used indoors for the 4x400 meters.*

b. We had 2 separate issues in the horizontal events yesterday, and I would like to make sure they were handled correctly.

First, 2 LJ failed to report/check in prior to the start of the event (they were in the second of 2 flights), but then wanted to check in while the second flight was warming up. Check ins were done by event, not flight, therefore they were denied participation due to not having checked in prior to the start of the LJ.

Second, there were 10 TJ entered, but only 7 competed. The first jumper had 3 consecutive fouls in the preliminary round. Since he did not have a legal mark, he was eliminated from participating in the finals, leaving 6 to finish the competition.

*Technically you were correct in both cases.*

*In the first scenario, if the information was not listed in the pre-meet information a little leniency could be used but not required. In the second scenario, you were correct in your ruling. Automatic advancement would only happen if it was listed in the pre-meet information and 9 or fewer athletes started the competition.*

c. At a recent team-scoring collegiate invitational, the following incident occurred:

100h hurdles - one heat only (all nine lanes were filled). I was the Start Line Clerk. When I'm in that position I always double-up as a Start Line Marshal. We had two veteran Starters on the race.

On your marks - everyone settled into their blocks, with hands behind the line. Recall Starter signals to Starter - ready to go. Starter says set (loud and clear over the PA system). Everyone except one responded to the set command. The gun is fired - no recall was fired - eight athletes ran the race, while one athlete is still down in her blocks.



There wasn't any noise around the start line, that would have caused the Starters to call the runners up. Also, the woman who didn't run the race gave no indication that she wasn't ready (no raising hand, etc.). The athlete who didn't respond said she wasn't ready. (According to the two Starters all athletes were ready.) So now the coaches are getting involved - going to the Referee, asking to rerun the race. (Even some of the athletes who completed the first race wanted to run again.) I spoke up (maybe as the Start Line Clerk, I shouldn't have?). I showed the Referee the current Rules Book - Rule 7 Article 1 - Control of the start. The Referee asked the two starters numerous times - What happened? They both said the one runner did not respond to the set command. The race was not re-run.

I know the coaches were advocating for their athletes but felt they needed to stick with the current rule. Any comments would be helpful.

*Similar scenarios have occurred over time but remember outdoor Rule 12-8.1 states, "the starters shall have entire control ....without appeal..." This means the start team has complete autonomy over the start of the race. This area is the starters sole responsibility until after the race has begun and the start team deems a fair start without recall. The referee has no jurisdiction in this area. The referee's jurisdiction of a race begins only after the start team has completed their task of releasing the race without recall.*

d. In looking through the rule I wasn't able to gain the clarity I was hoping for and there is a lot of chatter in the community about how the rule has changed and certain things are now legal. My athlete has been running the bottom of his foot along the corner edge of the toe board. Here is an image showing the position:

His foot is inside the toe board clearly but there is contact with the edge corner at the top without actual contact on the top of the toe board.

The rule has 3 parts about touching with any part of the body, before the shot hits the ground should be a foul:

1) In the front half of the circle, any surface area outside of the circle's metal band, except the inside surface;

2) In the back half of the circle, any surface area outside of the top of the circle's metal band; or

3) Any surface outside of the top of the stopboard except its inside surface

Part 2 is irrelevant to this area. Part 3 I'm interpreting to mean touching the sides of the toe board or the backside towards the sector. Therefore part 1 is maybe the only one relevant to my inquiry. Is the edge the inside surface or top? I am inferring it as both, which means it may not be only the inside so touching it would be a foul. Is this correct or is there some other interpretation for this area of the toe board?



*In this still shot, I am interpreting that during the recovery of the throw the athlete's right foot may be brushing the top inside edge of the toe board.*

*While observing the athlete trying to regain balance, if the sole of the foot brushes the inside edge without showing a deflection of the sole of the shoe, I would deem it a legal throw.*

*While observing the athlete trying to regain balance, if the sole of the foot deflects (bends) on the top of the toe board, I would deem it a foul throw. This is very difficult to call without video review but a very focused good official will make the right call.*

e. During the starting sequence, an athlete raised a hand to abort the start. The experienced starter, who is also our Officials Training Chair, called everyone up. Athlete who raised hand then proceeded to set the blocks and foot pads while the other athletes all stood around and watched. Starter told the runner not to do that and called "on your marks." Later, the starter wondered if he had done the right thing. There seems to be two views among our starters:

1. Starter was correct to be fair to other competitors and to keep the meet on time; or

2. There is nothing in the rules to prohibit an athlete from doing this; and, indeed, it was a legitimate reason for the runner to raise a hand and abort the start.

*While during the start sequence an athlete raises their hand, it is appropriate for a starter to abort and allow the athlete time to adjust their blocks, no run outs.*

f. I understand the NCAA rule 14-3-1-a-4 that says technical pacing "that benefits the field" is prohibited. So if an athlete is competing at the Pre Classic and the meet uses pacing lights for the WR in the mile, no college marks from that race would count, even if they are not aiming to run a 3:44 mile.

*Marks produced in races that are contested using timing lights are not permitted for advancement to the NCAA Championships.*

## May 2022 Clarifications

*This clarification was released in December of 2020 and is still in effect:*

*The NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee met and discussed the question regarding the use of particular shoes once again. The NCAA as an organization does not certify equipment.*

*World Athletics has a very extensive policy for different disciplines and an officiating protocol in place which includes declaration of what shoes the athlete will wear in competition.*

*The committee also considered the three divisions and the disparity in the level of officiating at competitions throughout the nation and could not find a reasonable way to monitor and adjudicate the use of these shoes in question.*

*At this time the NCAA rules committee's position is to allow the use of the shoes in question and to wait for a ruling to be rendered by World Athletics on their legality for competition.*

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*The following is a response to the potential of seeing Crop Tops being worn as part of team uniforms. This document shows all rules that pertain to legal competition uniforms. This document was put together in response to a conversation regarding the wearing of "crop tops" as part of the team uniform. As you will see in the written rule that if the top does not touch the waistband it does not meet parameters set forth as a legal uniform and that corrective measures should be made immediately and the response if corrective measures are not made.*

### *Rules which apply to the competition uniform*

#### *Rule 14*

##### *SECTION 1*

##### *Competitor Responsibilities*

*A competitor shall be responsible for checking implements and equipment with the proper officials, wearing the proper uniform as prescribed within Rule 14-4.1 and displaying the correct bib as assigned by meet management. A competitor shall report to the clerk of the course, or the head judge for a field event if so instructed, not later than the check-in time designated by the games committee, and shall promptly be at the starting point of each competition in which entered. Competitors are to abide by the letter and spirit of the rules and shall be responsible for conducting themselves in an honest and sporting fashion at all times toward opponents, officials and spectators. Competitors who conduct themselves in an unsporting manner, who are offensive by action or language, or who are found to be in violation of the code of conduct, shall be warned or disqualified by the referee from the event*

and from the remainder of the meet. A competitor who commits a referee-ruled infraction toward another competitor in any event of a Combined Event shall lose all the points gained in that event but shall be permitted to compete in the remaining event(s), unless the referee determines that the loss of points is not a sufficient penalty.

#### **Rule 14**

#### **SECTION 4.**

#### **Competitor Attire Uniform**

**When engaged in competition, each competitor must wear an official team uniform with components governed by these rules or be subject to disciplinary action. Competitors who are not in proper uniform compliance shall not compete until a compliant uniform is worn. The competition will not be delayed to accommodate compliance with the rule. Wearing any part of the official team competition uniform illegally (that is, top off or intentionally shortened, shoulder straps lowered) while in the area of competition shall lead to a warning by the nearest official and a report of uncorrected violations shall be made to the games committee, referee and offending competitor's coach.**

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

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

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

- 1) The uniform must be of a material and design deemed to not be objectionable or offensive by the athletics department of the issuing institution.

**2) The uniform top must, by design and size, cover the full length of the torso, meeting or hanging below the waistband of the bottoms, while the competitor is standing, and allow for competitors' bibs to be placed above the waist, front and back.**

- 3) Uniform tops must be worn so to not obscure hip numbers.

4) Additional visible clothing is an undergarment. It must be worn under the uniform and be of a solid color. c. Competitors shall not use or wear artificial noisemakers.

Note 1: Individual or team uniform, institutional logo, bib and shoe rules shall be enforced through inspection by the clerk of the course or the head field event official at initial event check-in. Violators shall be warned, given the chance to correct the violation, and reported as provided in the rule. Note 2: Clothing defined as an "undergarment" does not include items commonly defined as "underwear." Note 3: If single-color body suits are worn, they shall be the same primary color and have the same institutional logo of the top garment of the entire team on any given day

## *Rule 12*

### *SECTION 7*

#### *Clerk of the Course*

*The clerk of the course, with the help of assistant clerks as the meet may require, shall be responsible for:*

- a. Using the official list, clearing the starting and equipment area of everyone except the clerks, equipment marshals and competitors on the official list;*
  - b. Maintaining the track event time schedule;*
  - c. Calling together and placing athletes in their proper positions with needed instructions related to their event (including advancement procedures) before the start of each race;*
  - d. Placing all relay team members, especially sprint relays, in their proper positions on the track itself (in distance races, this is done with the assistance of lap counters);*
  - e. Enforcing uniform, bib, shoe and logo rules at the time of initial checkin through inspection, overseeing corrective action, and the issuing of a warning that repeated violation may result in disciplinary action. A report of uncorrected violations shall be made to the games committee, referee and the offending competitor's coach; and*
- Note: After final clerking and the event has begun, the flow of competition shall not be delayed due to a uniform non-compliance issue. At this time, it is not a protestable offense.*
- f. Related duties as requested by the starter, meet director and the games committee.*

## *Rule 12*

### *Referee Duties*

#### *ARTICLE 2.*

#### *The referee(s) shall:*

- a. After consulting with the appropriate officials, decide all questions, take such actions and make such decisions, including those for which the rules make no specific provision, that provide each contestant a fair and equal opportunity;*
- b. Ensure fair and safe competition for all competitors and disqualify those whose acts violate the rules of fair and safe competition;*
- c. Decide all questions regarding re-staging an event;*
- d. Have sole power to warn and/or disqualify competitors as provided by these rules or upon report from the head umpire or head judges of field events, except as provided in Rule 12-8.1.*

*second violation generally constitutes a disqualification, which the referee shall indicate to the athlete verbally and by showing a red card. If, in the opinion of the referee, the violation is severe, disqualification will occur without warning. The referee(s) shall note warnings and disqualifications in writing on appropriate meet results and shall identify the rule that applies;*

- e. Rule on violations reported by competition officials or on filed protests; and*

*f. Decide place winners in track events when the judges of the finish cannot reach a decision and when official films of the finish are available.*

*g. In the event of record track performances, the running referee shall verify the results of the place and time and shall check all related conditions.*

*h. In the event of record field event performances, the throwing or jumping referee, and three field judges, shall verify all measurements and all related conditions.*

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## **Interpretations**

a. I had this situation come up when officiating at a recent NCAA Conference Championship meet. During the warmup period for their flight, an athlete asked to change their board. They were in the second of two flights. There was no general warmup in this meet, only 20 min flight specific.

The Rules state: "before the start of the event".

Multiple Takeoff Boards

ARTICLE 3 In the Triple Jump, a maximum of two boards per gender may be used. Before the start of the event, each competitor must declare the board he or she will use throughout the competition.

My question asks if it is legal to declare his/her board before the athlete starts their competition? In my opinion it would be a big competitive disadvantage for anyone in a later flight to have to declare before they have had a chance to warm up. Or do the rules require that an athlete choose a board without the benefit of a warmup? Ie: inform the jumpers that they are not allowed on the runway for any reason before informing the head event official of their selection?

*The athlete declares the board in which they will use either prior to or during their warm-up period.*

b. What is the honest effort definition for a running event? Our rules officials are having difficulty figuring out the proper definition and how to apply it.

*Rule 12-18 (c) on page 131 states.....Should the decision be made to withdraw from or abandon an event, the competitor shall be scratched from any subsequent event(s) in the meet. However, a subsequent examination that results in a re-entry recommendation by the appointed/approved medical doctor/athletic trainer of the competition shall be final and without appeal. The appointed/approved medical doctor/athletic trainer shall notify the referee and other appropriate meet administration personnel of the competitor's re-entry into the competition. For transparency purposes, the posting of the re-entry notification is recommended.*

c. This occurred after I overheard instructions given to jumpers at a recent championship when the head official showed a flat foot position with toe just behind the takeoff line and curled position just prior to the foot becoming airborne with the tip of the shoe then slightly over the line. He noted that the position of the flat foot (with the toe just before the vertical plane) was legal, but that the one, because the toe broke the vertical plane, was not. I spoke with him privately to say that this is what the USATF and WA are doing but the NCAA has not done this because there is no mention about breaking the vertical plane. Can you please render a judgment?

***Currently the long jump and triple jump rule regarding a legal jump is interpreted as such: If the takeoff foot (shoe) does not break the plane of the foul line during the plant before takeoff the jump shall be deemed legal.***

d. A coach approached me about having our group discuss a potential substitution policy at our meets. The coach noted that, due to an injury, a student was no longer able to compete in the event. There was a student on the trip who was not entered in the event due to our limit on number of entries per event but could have stepped in once that injury came to pass. Before I start to get the group thinking on something like this, is this something that would be permissible within the rule book? Or would we potentially have the autonomy to incorporate something like that within our own manual?

***Rule 15-8.2 Relay Substitution***

***Any eligible student-athlete who is a member of an institution's team is eligible to participate as a member of an institution's relay team at any time during a competition.***

***This may interfere with your conference rule regarding a hard roster cap per team per institution.***

e. I wanted to ask a question to improve my rules knowledge. At a meet, the 4x1 athletes were NOT allowed to bring a roll of tape onto the track to set up their zones. They were told they had to rip off their tape and bring it with them to the zone. Yet others were allowed to bring their large premade, quadruple layered double sided electrical tape relay marks with them to their zones. Is there a legitimate reason that athletes would not be allowed to bring rolls of tape to their zones? I can see not wanting the discarded rolls of tape on the side of the track, yet there was much more "debris" with the discarded used tape and premade relay "boards."

This was a directive given from the track side holding tent, once they were ushered from check in down to the holding area, it was officials there that would not let them take rolls of tape with them. In the future, I will do a better job of teaching athletes how to rip off large enough pieces of tape and find a way to stick it to their bodies or uniforms as they carry it 200 meters in the wind to their zone.



*To be clear, there is nothing in the NCAA Track and Field rule 15-8.4 that mentions anything about forbidding a tape roll to an exchange zone. This decision to not allow tape rolls on the track was obviously a meet management decision. Unfortunately, that decision was not communicated to the coaches or athletes prior to the competition so that they could properly prepare.*

f. Some of us officials had a discussion on a rule and of course we were interpreting it two different ways. It has to do with consecutive jumps in the high jump. On page 163, “note 2: Applies within a height only; not for a consecutive attempt after the bar is reset to a new height”. On page 162 under the table it states “\*Within a height for individual, always for combined”. Could you please explain that statement.

*The chart and note on page 162 should be disregarded as this should have never been in the book. The chart and notes on page 163 is what is intended to use. This error was noticed as soon as the book was released and a clarification was submitted in the monthly report and interpretations immediately.*

g. We participated in heat one of the Men’s 4x4 relay, where there were 2 disqualifications. After the completion of the first heat the online results showed that it was under review. This continued to show until a few minutes after all 3 heats had been completed. A few minutes later it then showed a team as being disqualified and the results as being official. At some point that team protested the disqualification, and in their protest declared that it was not them that should have been disqualified for stepping on the lane line, but that it should have been another school (this was made known to us after the final ruling). I’m assuming they were given this information by some observers because they were in lane 2 and the other school was in lane 9, and it’s highly unlikely to be able to see both of those teams at the same time as well as get the lanes confused with one another. After the online results had shown that they were official and that the team was DQ’d and the other school had been moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> we were later informed that now the other school was also DQ’d. I then proceeded to the protest tent to find out why we were DQ’d after the official results were posted. I was then told that upon reviewing the lane violation they noticed that the other school also took 2 or more consecutive steps on the lane line

My questions are:

1. What is the rule on having results officially posted and then changing them?
2. What is the rule on going back and reviewing video and disqualifying a participant that was not initially identified in the original DQ, especially when it is highly unlikely that lanes were confused with one another when they are on completely opposite ends of the track and the runners are so far apart since you are dealing with a 3 turn stagger because it is a 4x4?
3. What is the reasoning for not allowing coaches to see the video evidence after the final ruling has been determined?

*Thanks for reaching out for clarification. This is the first I've learned of this situation and have not researched the entire happenings that surround the referee's decision. I will try to answer your questions in general operational terms.*

*What is the rule on having results officially posted and then changing them?*

*INTERPRETATION: When the games committee decides that the referees will act as final authority they also assume the responsibilities of the Jury of Appeal. Located in Rule 12-5.2 it states that decisions may be reconsidered if new conclusive evidence is presented.*

*What is the rule on going back and reviewing video and disqualifying a participant that was not initially identified in the original DQ, especially when it is highly unlikely that lanes were confused with one another when they are on completely opposite ends of the track and the runners are so far apart since you are dealing with a 3 turn stagger because it is a 4x4?*

*INTERPRETATION: When the games committee decides that the referees will act as final authority they also assume the responsibilities of the Jury of Appeal. Rules 12-4.1; 12-4.2(a) (b) (d) (e) and 12-5.2 all apply to a referee re-reviewing film if a properly submitted protest or appeal is submitted.*

*What is the reasoning for not allowing coaches to see the video evidence after the final ruling has been determined?*

*INTERPRETATION: This was a decision that was established years ago that is being followed today. The official video evidence is only viewed by those authorized to review to render a decision. The decision to close the viewing to only those authorized personnel is to assist in the flow of the competition.*

## **June - August 2022 Clarifications**

### **Rule 21-6.2(a) Cross Country Placing of Finishers:**

All runners who start the race shall be recorded in the official results. All runners who finish a race shall be given an overall finish place. All runners who do not finish the race shall be recorded as Did Not Finish (DNF) and listed alphabetically in the official race results.

### **Rule 21-6.3(c) Cross Country Team Scoring:**

Teams that start with at least five runners declare their intent to finish as a team. Incomplete teams, teams starting with a minimum of five runners but not finishing a minimum of five runners, shall be listed alphabetically in the last position of the official team results as Did Not Finish (DNF). Tie breaking procedures do not apply in this case.

### **From the NCAA Qualifying Criteria - Hydraulic Tracks:**

Prior to the meet, facilities must designate if the meet will be conducted on a flat or banked track for all oval events. The way the track will be positioned (either flat or banked in accordance with the rules) must be clearly communicated to all participating institutions and stated in all pre-meet materials.

*\*Meet hosts should also ensure that the track is appropriately surveyed and marked for the track position in which the meet is to be conducted. The track must stay in the appropriately surveyed position for the duration of the meet and the degree of the bank may NOT be changed on an event-by-event basis. The official survey certification document shall be made available upon request.*

### **Rule 3-9 and 11-12 - Calibration of Measuring Devices:**

It is recommended that all equipment used for timing, weighing and measuring implements, and measuring performance be certified for accuracy by an appropriate testing agency in accordance with methods specified by the manufacturer, before the first competition each year and preferably before each major competition, to comply with Rules 8-1.7 and 8-1.10 or 16-1.7 and 16-1.10. Verification of the accuracy of devices used to measure distance can be accomplished by comparison to an available surveyed distance.

## **Interpretations**

a. We are an Adidas school and our Track and Field student-athletes have been issued red track jackets and black track pants as warm-ups but not worn during event competition (they have singlets and shorts/briefs). I'm trying to get clarification of the uniform rule to determine the following:

1. Do warm-ups like the jacket and pants that are not worn during competition in a particular event classify as uniform and such have to meet the rules of uniforms?
2. Would a track jacket or pants with 3-stripes down the arms or legs be considered an additional manufacturer logo?

We no longer can match our team jackets from Adidas without getting the 3-stripes down the arms or legs which is why I am reaching out to you to clarify.

### **Rule 6-4.3**

#### **Manufacturer Logos**

*Per NCAA Bylaw 12.5.4, an institution's official uniform and all other items of apparel (that is, team jersey, socks) that are worn by student-athletes in competition may bear a single manufacturer or distributor's normal trademark, not to exceed 2 1/4 square inches, including any additional material (that is, patch) surrounding the normal trademark or logo. The logo or trademark must be contained within a four-sided geometrical figure (that is, rectangle, square, parallelogram).*

*An institution's official uniform cannot bear a design element similar to the manufacturer's that is in addition to another logo or that is contrary to the size restriction.*

*A student-athlete representing an institution in intercollegiate competition is limited to wearing apparel items that include only the logo of an apparel manufacturer or distributor. This restriction shall not include logos that identify the student athlete's institution or conference. These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of competition, including pre-meet or post-meet activities.*

*The 3-stripe design of Adidas that is over 2 1/4 square inches is considered an additional logo that does not comply with NCAA Bylaw.*

b. Can a conference add our own additional language in our conference bylaws that would better define and more definitively define what "unsportsmanlike conduct" is as well as prescribe the repercussions/consequences?

*A conference may add more stringent rules for their championship administration. NCAA rules cannot be made more lenient. Defining consequences is certainly allowable.*

Can our conference jury of appeals (who would be ruling on a protest) have the latitude to deem a punishment different than the ruling referee in a protest situation if "unsportsmanlike conduct" was cited?

*Remember, protocol dictates that the referee handle all protests first. If a formal appeal is made, then the jury acts upon the appeal. Therefore, the referee has the duty to review the protest and make a ruling, including the consequences. The appeal process occurs after the referee's decision. Therefore, the jury works independently of the referee and has the ability to overrule the referee's decision and render their own ruling which includes consequences.*

If in a relay situation, one member of the relay throws the baton and is deemed to have displayed unsportsmanlike conduct, we understand that the team would be DQ from the specific relay event – but can you clarify further:

Is the specific individual that threw the baton disqualified from the entire rest of the championship including other events?

*How egregious was the violation that was committed? For instance, was the athlete frustrated and in the heat of the battle threw the baton down? The ruling could be a warning or disqualify the athlete with the team being disqualified from the event or it could simply be a warning to the athlete with the mark achieved by the team allowed to stand. If the baton was thrown directly at another athlete or official in disdain or defiance, then this incident would be more egregious and would warrant consideration of an individual meet disqualification consideration.*

If so, does this extend to the entire relay team and all members of the relay team than or just the offending individual?

*In this circumstance, unless the entire team is involved in the infraction only the offending person should be punished.*

c. I'm working with the local HS AD on adding a Steeplechase Water Jump Pit to their facility. Beginning 1/1/21 all new outdoor tracks needed to have a curb in the inside of lane 1. Their facility was built prior to that date without a curb. If we add a Steeplechase Water Jump Pit, would we also need to add curbing?

*The steeplechase water jump installation and its track markings would be for the established track measurements which are without a curb. Once the entire track is resurfaced the current curbing rule must be followed.*