

September 2022 Clarifications and Interpretations

The following item was released in October 2021 and remains current:

This SECTION was omitted during the restructuring of the current rules book and is to be added and implemented immediately:

2021-2022 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 official 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 a written protest.

c. The referee shall review the protest or report leading to 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 disqualification once the event begins.

What is the rule for restarting a cross-country meet after lightning and thunder has been detected within the stoppage radius? The same question regarding outdoor track distances longer than 1 mile.

The following is an interpretation from October - November 2020:

Your question has been asked several times in the past but I will try to simplify.

First, the referee should work closely with the meet administration and medical team prior to the race gathering weather data to determine if there is a good window of time to run and complete the race. If there is not a good chance that the race will be completed, it's best to postpone the start of the race until an opportunity comes about where the chances of completing the race are good.

Second, if it is determined that the race has a good chance of being completed, prior to the start of the race work closely with the timers and lap scorers. Ask the timers to capture the placings for each lap completed. Ask the lap scorers to record the lap completed placing of each competitor. Once the race has started and lightning does occur requiring the immediate halting of the race, the referee then has options.

Taking into account the number of completed laps and the data received, the referee may consider:

(1) Declare the race invalid and schedule a rerun at another time after a reasonable rest period.

(2) Declare the race invalid and decide no scores due to an incomplete result.

(3) Work with the games committee to determine scoring places for the completed lap data provided by the timers and lap scorers.

Option three is not the preferred scenario but would be allowable for scoring purposes.

What is the rule regarding Apple Watches?

Runners wearing Apple wrist watches timing their XC run and then stopping them as they cross the finish line where chip timing is used, interfere with the electronics and are canceling their time. In addition, by using the opposite arm to stop their timer, the arm blocks the view of their bibs from the back up cameras. Thus, their time and place are not electronically recorded in the results, and the camera cannot be used to establish their place. Starters and Clerk of the Start, please inform the runners to run through the finish line and then stop their watch after they are clear of the cameras.

1. A track was constructed after Jan. 1, 2021. Railings are available but the contractor claims they do not need to be attached (secured) to the track surface.

Rails do not need to be permanent fixtures to the track. Aluminum curbs (rails) are commonly used and are made by the manufacturer to fit your specific facility

2. Should though, there be a way for the railings to be secured to the track/ground during the competition. This contractor talks about just laying the railing on the track. This seems to me to be dangerous.

Aluminum curbing has spikes on the bottom side of the rail to hold it in place.

3. Is it appropriate (within the rules) in a collegiate meet to have – one throwing event contested as 4 and done, and another throwing event to be trials and finals?

A competition may have an invitational and open competition. These are separate events therefore the conduct of each event may differ. Example: the Invitational section may be conducted as a trial and final and the Open section may be conducted as a 4 throw final.

4. Is it appropriate for women to have trials and finals in say the discus and the men 4 and done in discus?

The different gender divisions are separate competitions run concurrently. Therefore it is allowable to conduct the competitions differently, as long as the conduct allowed by rule

5. At the meet should all field events, throws and horizontal jumps be contested in a similar manner?

A similar manner of competition conduct is preferred to eliminate confusion but not required. It is imperative that in the pre-meet information that the conduct of all events, running and field, is communicated.

If there is not an invitational and open competition, and looking at this as one gender - can one throwing/jumping event be 4 and done and another be trials and finals? If so, this does not appear to offer equitable opportunities for all competitors but what is the interpretation?

Yes, you may conduct events under different formats as long as it is allowed by rule and clearly communicated in the pre-meet instructions

We're working with a college to resurface their track. We'd hoped that we could move the inside lane line of Lane 1 10cm to accommodate a raised curb. However, that would place it on the concrete curb for the infield border. Rule 10, Section 1, Article 6 states that new or resurfaced tracks shall have a raised curb. Is there any way that a facility can be grandfathered in with a 20 cm measure line if it is not physically possible to relocate the lane line?

We have considered the request to waive Rule 10-1.6 for the track in question.

The last sentence of current Rule 10-1.6 has been in place for at least 4 years which would have given the facility time to prepare for the resurfacing and rule compliance. "Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, all newly constructed or resurfaced tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition."

The request for a waiver of Rule 10-1.6 is denied

October 2022 Clarifications and Interpretations

As the membership enters the Cross Country Championship season, the “Frequently asked Uniform Questions & Contest Delays” clarification link has been added for your quick reference:

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/rules/2022-23PRXTF_UniformsContestDelaysFAQ.pdf

a. Our conference would like to use a drone (operated professionally) to stream its XC races. Are there any NCAA regulations pertaining to this effort?

*Rule 22-2.2 specifically states, “Electronic Devices - Coaches, athletes, competitors, and officials shall not use video or audio communication devices [e.g., radio transmitters or receivers, mobile phones, smart watches, computers, unmanned aerial systems (i.e., drones) or any similar devices in the competition area] **except as authorized by the games committee for meet administration.***

The last statement authorizes drone usage as it pertains to meet administration.

b. I have a quick question as it concerns arm sleeves for competitions during the regular season for NCAA cross country competitions. If more than one athlete is racing in the same competition (on the same team), are the arm sleeves allowed to be different colors? For example, one athlete has white arm sleeves and one athlete has black arm sleeves.

*Rule 22-3.2(b) specifically states the following, " Other visible garments useful in team recognition (that is, T-shirts, **arm warmers**, tights of any length, leg warmers, each taken separately) **worn by team members must be of an identical solid color.** This does not apply to items of apparel above the shoulder or those covering the hands/feet.*

November 2022 Clarifications

NEW RULES BOOK ERROR CORRECTION:

Page 75 Rule 8-1.2(d) and Page 159 Rule 16-1.2(d):

*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 ~~one and one half (1.5)~~ **two (2)** minutes and pole vaulters shall have ~~two~~ **three (3)** minutes to initiate a trial.*

Clarification: A games committee, (conference) may impose more stringent rules than those written in the rules book, but never more lenient.

Clarification: Rule 8-1.4(f) . Warm-up approaches, in all jumping events, shall only be run in the direction the event will be conducted. An athlete that measures their approach by using their feet as their measuring device (heel to toe) in a reverse order is allowed. Running in the opposite direction is not allowed, as a safety measure.

Interpretations

a. I am prepping for a conference championship cross country meet this Saturday. I thought I read where the NCAA banned or at least suggested that “lead” vehicles not be used in cross country races. I thought it sited drive safety and also giving pace and directional advantages to the front runners only. I can’t find it in the NCAA Rule book anywhere. Please advise. My apologies if I missed it. Or just dreamed up a new rule.

Your last statement is correct, it's a dreamed-up rule. In the sport of cross country, lead and trail carts are most certainly allowed.

b. We had a question come up regarding the use of smart watches and Garmin's during the meet. We just wanted to verify that this is permitted. I was under the impression it was not under Rule 22, Section 2, Article 2, Which states –
ARTICLE 2. Coaches, athletes, competitors and officials shall not use video or audio communication devices [e.g., radio transmitters or receivers, mobile phones, smart watches, computers, unmanned aerial systems (i.e., drones) or any similar devices in the competition area] except as authorized by the games committee for meet administration. But we would like

to confirm if this applies to their use as a communication device, not their use as a timing device. Would you be able to help us clarify that?

An apparatus that has the ability to provide video or audio communication is prohibited. If the transmit function of the device can be turned off and is used for time or distance covered then this is not considered assistance.

c. We typically host several small track meets, both indoors and out. If we were to host the pole vault, triple jump, or 10k as a mixed-gender event, what are the ramifications? I would assume the performances would not be eligible for any national-qualifying purpose, and now they would be disqualified from being eligible for any conference-level qualifying as well? Just hoping to get my mind around the context of how these changes might affect any decisions we need to make with our meets.

The removal of mixed-gender events means explicitly that this practice is not allowed. On page 9 of the new 2023-2024 NCAA Rule Book is the Code of Conduct, and the first two sentences are very clear:

"NCAA member institutions are required to conduct their contests according to these rules. Violations are subject to NCAA enforcement procedures..."

Ramifications for not following the rules can be pretty serious. Misconduct could be enforced due to the blatant ignoring of competition rules. The divisional NCAA Sports Committee will oversee the penalties that would be imposed. Their options could be as simple as disallowing the performances in the mixed-gender events. The committee has the option to disallow the performances of the entire competition because the rules were not followed. To the extreme, the Sports Committee could sanction the program, disallowing the institution the opportunity to host competitions over a defined period of time.

d. Our university is in our second probationary year of three as we transition from NAIA to NCAA DIII. We are building a T&F facility that will be ready for the spring of 2024. We have declared outdoor Track & Field this year for the first time, so we have to get in six meets with at least 12 participants per gender to meet the minimum participation requirements. Our team will be very small (mostly cross country runners) this year before we bring in our first recruited T&F team for 2023-24. In early March we want to host a small meet on a newly resurfaced local high school track with a couple of nearby small college teams. No steeple, Javelin, or hammer facilities are available. We will have licensed officials and starter, FAT timing, official scoring, etc. What are the required number of events that must be contested for a competition to officially count as a meet?

Follow the requirements for your division listed in the 2022-2023 NCAA Track and Field Qualifying Criteria:

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2022-23XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

December 2022 Clarifications

CORRECTION of Rule 8-1.2(d), pages 75-76 and 16-1.2(d), pages 159-160

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 one and one half (1.5) minutes and pole vaulters shall have two minutes to initiate a trial.

When a competitor is taking consecutive attempts at the same bar height while other competitors remain in the competition, high jumpers shall have two (2) minutes and pole vaulters shall have three (3) minutes to initiate a trial.

Except for the Combined Events, after all other competitors have failed, a competitor who has won the event shall be allowed three minutes for the High Jump and five minutes for the Pole Vault to initiate a trial. One minute shall be allowed for the first trial of a competitor first entering the competition.

In the Combined Event High Jump, each competitor shall be allowed two minutes between consecutive attempts even when they are the only remaining competitor.

In the Combined Event Pole Vault, each competitor shall be allowed three minutes between consecutive attempts even when they are the only remaining competitor.

Note: The number of competitors remaining in the competition includes those who could be involved in a jump-off for first place.

Rule Citing Corrections:

On page 53, Rule 5-7.1e, the citing of 6-1.4 is incorrect, the correct citing should be 6-4.1.

On page 79, Rule 8-1.12, the citing of 5-8.4 is incorrect, the correct citing should be 5-9.4.

On page 137, Rule 13-7.1e, the citing of 14-1.4 is incorrect, the correct citing should be 14-4.1.

On page 163, Rule 16-1.12, the citing of 13-8.5 is incorrect, the correct citing should be 13-9.5.

Interpretations

a. On a 200m meter Indoor track, the 4x200m Relay is run with a 3-turn stagger.

- The pass from runner 1 to runner 2 takes place in lanes.
- Runner 2 must complete the curve before cutting in at the break point.
- Runner 3 and runner 4 are not in lanes.

My question is, " Is the first exchange zone (runner 1 to runner 2) 30m or 20m?"

All indoor relay exchanges are 20 meters.

b. We are in the early planning stages of an indoor athletic facility that could potentially have an indoor 400 meter track. It's a bit of an odd scenario, but we have received a sizable donation for an indoor athletic facility. Due to space constraints, one viable option is to construct the facility over the top of our existing outdoor track.

In planning the facility, we are trying to understand what we will and won't be able to do with it. A big question is whether we would be able to host indoor or outdoor competitions. I found some NCAA regulations online, but I don't know if they are current or apply to all NCAA divisions (link below). The regulations indicate that an indoor 400 meter track may not be suitable for any NCAA competitions. This is because an outdoor running track "shall not be enclosed within a covered structure," and an indoor running track "constructed after January 2004 shall not exceed 300 meters".

Do you happen to know if it's accurate to say that an indoor 400 meter track is not suitable for NCAA competition, either indoors or outdoors?

Rule 2-1.2(a) states: Construction of Facilities - Track

The standard running track shall be 200 meters. This distance may be reduced or exceeded. The track should have at least six lanes. The length of any track shall not exceed 300 meters.

The 400 meter track would not be legal for competition purposes due to it being oversized for an indoor track.

Rule 10-1.2(a) states: "The Track - ARTICLE 2.a. The standard track shall be 400 meters in length, not enclosed within a covered structure and not less than six lanes wide.

c. We just had our Conference coaches meeting and there was a proposal to run the 1500 at our outdoor Conference meet in two timed final heats (if there are more than 15 entries) with the top 12 in the fast heat and the rest in a second heat, which would run first. One of the coaches opposed this saying it was against NCAA rules. I know that there are at least a few other conferences that run their 1500's this way at their Conference meets. Can you tell me if this is allowable or not?

Rule 15-10.1(b) states: " 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."

If the games committee is in agreement, timed section finals are allowable.

d. I have a question about the rule change 1-45 (eliminate the mixed gender competition in any event). Does this rule apply to the horizontal jumps where there are 2 women, and 3 men competitors? Also, when does this rule go into effect? We have a meet on December 9, 2022, and this rule is in the 2023 and 2024 rule book. Would I be able to use the old 2022 rule for this upcoming meet?

The New 2023-2024 NCAA Cross Country and Track & Field Rules Book went into effect as of December 1, 2022. Therefore, please abide by the new rules book.

e. Is it permissible to run an exhibition shuttle hurdle race outdoors but make it co-ed, with 2 women and 2 men making up a team?

NCAA track and field does not sponsor mixed-gender events or sports teams. As of December 1, 2022, mixed gender events are not allowed.

Does an exhibition event that NCAA athletes run in effect their eligibility?

Eligibility questions are outside of the Secretary-Rules Editors purview. Please consult your compliance officer.

f. I am looking for clarification of rule 8-1.1d - all legal trials shall be measured and recorded. Is a meet director allowed to indicate a minimum mark for a competition and still be in compliance with this rule?

Minimum mark allowance was removed from the rules book. This practice in the field events is no longer allowed. All legal trials by an athlete are to be marked and recorded on the official results. The games committee and/or the meet director do not have the authority to impose minimum marks to a field.

g. I have a question on the new NCAA rules especially concerning mixed gender events, and possible outcomes if these occur. I work at a school whose jumps coach is one of the top 5 women HJ athletes in the US. At home meets, she usually jumps with the men, because the women stop jumping a foot below where she comes in. She usually isn't scored, but she just jumps. As a HJ official, how would this impact me if I let her jump? Any recommendations as to how officials handle these scenarios? I want to obey the rules, but I also know there are extremely headstrong coaches putting these meets together who are going to ignore this. How do I handle this without getting myself sanctioned?

Mixed-gender competitions are not allowed if the competition is conducted under NCAA rules. Regarding your reprimand question, I would like to point you to the NCAA Code of Conduct on page 9 of the current rules book. This will spell out the responsibilities of the coaches and officials and potential consequences for willfully disregarding NCAA rules.

h. 1. If a foot fall occurs in the HJ, somehow, with a clearance, are you suggesting that the jump is a foul? (Rule 8-4.4a and 16-4.4a) It's not specified in your presentation, and I haven't seen a rule book yet, but I know for years that officials called that a missed jump, erroneously. It seems like a clarification could be needed.

1) I am assuming that you are talking about the horizontal jump events due to the rule citations. The NCAA rule differs from the USATF/World Athletics rules. If the shoe/foot is behind the vertical plane of the foul line at the plant the jump shall be deemed legal from that perspective.

2. With the elimination of 5 alive, I was wondering if there was a discussion on how many jumpers would be considered an acceptable number for a single flight. I did a HJ event where there were 18 jumpers, yet never more than 11 at a height. I'm concerned that, without guidance, 18, 20 competitors will be broken into 2 flights. I would imagine that 24 athletes could compete in one flight quite easily. Without that guidance, I foresee a lot of confusion and meets lasting longer than necessary.

2) The decision to run flights in the vertical jumps is determined by the games committee prior to the competition. If it is not established and published prior to the meet, the official will run the competition as one continuous flight.

3. I think I know the answer to this, but if a site decides to do 5 alive anyway, would that invalidate any qualifying marks?

3) Five-alive is no longer an option and if the competition is conducted outside of NCAA rules the marks achieved could be disallowed for advancement to the national championship by the NCAA Sports Committee.

i. We are going to build an elevated pole vault runway (cost reasons keep us from ordering from a company) and would like it to be able to be used for competition if possible. We have a pit outdoor now that we could use, but we would like to actually vault inside the track on our turf infield where the lighting is better and to allow for mobility to adjust more for wind. Other than the rules listed in the NCAA track and field rule book are there things that would restrict us from using such a runway for competition?

A specific question we do have is if we are allowed to have permanent feet marked on the side of the runway for coaches to see plant marks? The athlete wouldn't be able to see them who are on the runway, but from the side the coaches could.

Raised runways are allowed for outdoor qualifying purposes.

Permanent distance markings on the side of the runway are allowable as a coaching aid.

January 2023 Clarifications and Interpretations

The NCAA's position is the banking of a hydraulic track shall be set for all races at the degree-setting angle of the surveyed and certified documentation that is on file.

For example, if the facility is marked and certified at 12 degrees then all races on the oval shall be contested at that setting. Moving the banking is not allowed from the certified setting, any deviation of the banking angle will take the track out of certification.

a. Say a hammer thrower loses control, the hammer lands, the thrower has fallen and an arm or some other body part (other than the foot) hits outside the back half of the circle. The thrower for whatever reason gets up and walks out the front with the “foot” now hitting the ground outside the ring.

Based on what I heard tonight, that scenario would be a foul. In the past I would have called it fair under that scenario when the contact was made by the other body part on the outside back half of the ring. The “foot” being the key. Another official says the foot only applies to the horizontals. Something that hardly ever happens and would probably be presented to a referee. Does the foot under *leaving* only apply to the horizontals?

In the circumstance you describe, I would consider the action of walking out of the front of the ring as an intentional foul. Don't read into the rules beyond what it states. Comparison from one event to another is not a good practice. The foot is only mentioned in the horizontal jumps, not in the throwing events.

b. Here is my question, just before the gun is fired a competitor flinches, but it is not a “commencement of the start.” As the starter, I would stand the runners up, show a yellow card (warning), and then restart. Is this the correct procedure, and does a start infraction like this have to be reported?

In my opinion, I would show a green card in this scenario. Encourage the athletes to remain stationary, and you will get them out of the blocks in a fair manner. If the same athlete does the same thing the next time, the yellow card should be displayed.

c. Is there a "window" of time after the verbal protest when a written protest must be submitted? Does that window commence at the time the verbal protest is made? At the conclusion of the flight? At the conclusion of the preliminaries?

The immediate verbal protest must be officially put in writing to preserve the integrity of the competition. Generally, the referee will tell the coach that a formal written protest must be filed right away. The referee should act upon the verbal protest in order not to delay the proceedings of the competition while the written protest is filed. Once the official written protest is filed the referee can render their official decision. All of these actions should take place without hesitation.

Is there a "window" of time in which the referee must review the protest? How long is that window, and when does it commence (as above)?

As mentioned above, the referee should act as purposefully and without hesitation in gathering the information to render a decision. The referee does not have a specific time window. They should gather the information required to make the correct call.

Under 5.7.2 (pg. 53) an appeal of a referee decision must be made within 30 minutes after the decision has been announced. If the decision has not been announced prior to the commencement of the final rounds, are the final rounds to be held up until such an announcement has been made of the referee decision, and any subsequent appeal has been made to the Jury of Appeals or the referee panel when no Jury has been appointed?

Do not delay the final rounds of competition. If the protest is complicated and the referee needs time to research, advance the individual under protest to the final round. The results can be amended once the final decision has been rendered and the appeal window has closed. Remember it is the responsibility of the referee to communicate with all individuals involved.

d. We're hosting a meet this weekend and I have a question about the 60H. We have 3 of each gender. Can we run a prelim and a final, or does it have to be a final only? If I want to run a prelim, do I have to enter kids, have them show up to the start line and just not finish? There was a discussion at a convention two years ago about this topic and I just wanted to be clear.

The number of entries does not warrant a preliminary. As for the second question regarding entering competitors without the intent to finish, it is not within the spirit of the rules and could be considered misconduct.

e. There was discussion and disagreement about hurdle infractions during a recent clinic we conducted. I am hoping that you can clarify for us. Is it an infraction under NCAA rules if a hurdler knocks down hurdles with the sole of their feet during a race? I think USATF rules are very clear that that is an infraction, but the NCAA rule book doesn't provide the same detail. That leads to the rule being interpreted and administered differently.

Rule 7-6.2(c) states, "deliberately knocks down any hurdle," therefore, an athlete coming up short of the hurdle might knock the hurdle over with the sole of their foot while performing the hurdling action. This is not a violation. Conversely, an athlete that does not attempt to clear each crossbar of the hurdle, the lower portion of the lead leg and foot are consistently and repeatedly below the height of the hurdle crossbar, thus kicking the hurdle over. This non-hurdling action is deliberate and is a violation.

f. Can white and red LIGHTS be used in place of flags to indicate fair and foul?

Rule 8-1.1(a) states: " An attempt is all of the competitor's actions that occur from when the time limit begins until the official has determined, through the indication of the flag, a fair or foul trial." Flags shall be used.

When a visible time indicator is used, must the yellow flag be raised?

Rule 8-1.2(3) states: " If visible time indicators are not used, the event timer shall give a warning by raising, and holding overhead, a yellow flag for the final 15 seconds of the time allowed. When time has expired, the yellow flag shall be lowered." A flag is not required but encouraged.

g. When taking 9 to the finals, there are only 6 total competitors. USATF all can go even if they do not have a legal attempt. I am saying in the NCAA there needs to be a legal attempt. Am I correct?

Rule 5-2.7 Automatic Advancement states: "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. In order to advance, each competitor must actually attempt one trial in the preliminary rounds." The wording of the rule indicates that the athlete must make an attempt in the preliminary round, in which a foul attempt would fulfill this requirement.

h. Re: page 63 -indoor and 148- outdoor, in the new NCAA manual. Concerning the "on your marks" command when blocks are used. At that point the athlete assumes their final pre-set position, hands behind the line and feet in the blocks. Over this past weekend I began to notice athletes - after the "On Your Marks" command is given and the athletes are ready for the "Set" command— while their hands are appropriately behind the line, and they have done everything needed as they wait for the "Set" command to be given, both feet are not touching the starting block pads. As the recall, on the opposite side, after moving to the rear of the athletes prior to "Set" command and the start, I began noticing a number of athletes only having one foot in contact with the starting block pads. Then in that small span of time after the "Set" command is given and the pistol report, it is unknown if both feet are ever touching both block pads.

On page 64 & 148 - top of the page - notes 1 and 2, referring to both feet must be in contact with the starting block pads, whether standard blocks or ELECTRIC blocks, it is my understanding that both feet must be in contact with the block pads when the athletes are in their final pre-set position.

I had to stand up far too many times, I had to recall the start because of that issue, then gave up, until I had definitive clarification- thinking that maybe I was wrong. It is my opinion that both feet must be in contact with the block pads when called to the "On Your Marks". It is impossible to see all feet between the "Set" command and start.

The way the current rule reads, athletes must have both feet in contact with the pads of the starting blocks in the set position.

i. If a school chooses to do four attempts in the Long Jump/Triple Jump (due to only one landing area), do they also have to do four attempts in the Throws? As I mentioned earlier, this particular venue has one LJ/TJ runway but multiple rings for Throws. In order to finish the Horizontals with the rest of the meet, meet management would like to do four attempts in Horizontals but still keep prelims & finals in the Throws. Is this allowed?

Conducting the horizontal jumps as a 4-attempt final and running the throws with a preliminary and final round is acceptable.

j. We're having a little debate on whether to break ties for the last competitor to go to finals for the horizontal and throws. The Games Committee has this duty. Rule 4.2,k. Decide procedures to resolve ties for the last qualifying position in subsequent rounds;

Under Rule 5. Section 4. Preliminary Competition and Advancement ARTICLE 5. It states "The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tiebreaking is designated by the games committee before the competition."

However also under Rule 5 Section 4, Determining Order of Competition ARTICLE 2.

it states, "In the final rounds of these events, competition shall be in reverse order of best performance in the preliminary rounds, using tie breaking procedures and then original order if needed"

Rule 4-2(k) Prior to the competition the games committee shall determine and publish in the meet information if tie breaking procedures for final advancement will take place.

Rule 5-2.5 If tie breaking procedures are in place then only 9 qualifiers shall advance. However, if tie breaking is not in place prior to the competition all athletes tied for the last qualifying position in the horizontal jumps and throws shall advance to the final round.

Rule 5-3.2 Assuming that the games committee does not implement a procedure to determine only 9 advancers to the final. Then to establish the reverse order of competitors, the chief judge will assign tied final qualifying start positions by comparing second best attempts, then third etc until the tie is broken. In this circumstance a tie breaking procedure is only used for the starting position in the finals.

k. Over the weekend we had an event come up that I would be glad to hear your input on. An athlete brought his shot put to be weighed in, and I could best describe the implement as a 16-lb stress ball. When he placed it on the table, it deformed so that the part resting on the table flattened out. It was also possible to squeeze the shot and have your fingers make noticeable impressions. The 2 other implements inspectors and I rejected the shot for competition based on Rule 3, Section 7, Article 2, which stated that the shot must be unalterable in shape. Was this the correct decision? The athlete's coach told us that the shot had been rejected previously at some competitions with similar reasoning but allowed at others.

A noticeable impression when pushing on the surface of the shot would be considered a finger hold and would provide the user an advantage. The implement should be impounded at Weights and Measures.

l. My question is that the meet information requires ¼ inch spikes, with length checked in the lobby and shoes identified as compliant or not. If the rule book (6.6) allows 9 millimeters, which I assume is 3/16", does a facility have the leeway to supersede the rulebook? What about the high jump and pole vault at 12 millimeters?

Rule 6-4.6 Shoes: In paragraph 3 it discusses the maximum allowed length of spikes. The last sentence in paragraph 3 states, "Facility considerations may further limit the type of spikes allowed." This last statement only provides the facility the right to limit the style or type of spikes not the length of the spikes.

m. Seeking clarification on this question. High Jump competition is down to three jumpers. They all clear on the second attempt at 2.12. Tied in the competition for total misses with each jumper having 9 total jumps so far. Bar moves to 2.15 and they miss all three attempts. Jump-off begins. All three missed their one attempt at 2.15. Jumper A says he is done and withdraws. Bar moves down to 2.13. Jumper B and C both clear. Jumper B talks to his coach and withdraws since he already cleared 2.15 earlier in the year and is tired. Jumper C is now the winner because Jumper A and B dropped out. Jumper C wants to continue to jump to clear 2.15 to possibly qualify for NCAA DII Indoor Championships.

Questions. Can Jumper C continue to jump in the jump-off? If no one continues, the Coach for Jumper C is very upset because of Jumper B dropping out and his jumper can't go for 2.15. If yes to continue, does Jumper C continue in the jump-off progressions of 2.15? Can Jumper C pick his height since he is the winner?

In the vertical jumps once a winner is determined in a jump-off, the competition has concluded and no further jumps are required.

n. Can you clarify? The following are referenced in the Indoor section of the 23-24 Rule Book.

Track Markings

ARTICLE 4. The following international color code should be used when marking a track:

- a. Starting line (white) — 55/60 Meters, 55/60 Hurdles, 200 Meters, 300 Meters, 400 Meters, 1500 Meters, Mile, 3000 Meters, 5000 Meters,
- b. Starting line (white with green insert) — 800 Meters, one turn stagger;
- c. **Starting line (white with red insert) — 4x200 Relay, three turn stagger;**
- d. Starting line (white with blue insert) — 4x400 Relay, two turn stagger;
- e. Multiple waterfall starting lines (white);
- f. Finish line (white) — all;
- g. Relay exchange zones — 4x200 Relay (red), 4x400 Relay (blue);
- h. Hurdle locations — Women's 55/60 Hurdles (yellow), Men's 55/60 Hurdles (blue); and
- i. Break line (green).

Common Relay Events

ARTICLE 3. Relays commonly run include:

- a. **4x200 Relay, a four-turn stagger is recommended.**
- b. 4x400 Relay or Mile Relay, a two-turn stagger shall be used.
- c. 4x800 Relay.
- d. Distance Medley Relay (1200, 400, 800, 1600).

Qualifying

ARTICLE 5. **For the races run entirely in lanes** (55 Meters, 60 Meters, 55 Hurdles, 60 Hurdles, 200 Meters, 300 Meters, 400 Meters, 500 Meters, 600 Meters, **4x200 Relay** and 4x400 Relay):

The NCAA refers to the World Athletics (formerly IAAF) markings as its guide. The link below is the template.

file:///C:/Users/koste/OneDrive/Desktop/NCAA/Track%20and%20Field%20Facilities%20Manual%202008%20Edition%20-%20M%20(1).pdf

Rule 2-1.5 Track Markings 4x200 relay markings are correct.

Rule 7-7.3 Common Relay Events is incorrect; it should be a 3-turn stagger

Rule 7-9.5 Qualifying refers to events that start in lanes also. 400, 500, 600, 4x200 relay, and 4x400 relay. all these events start in lanes and then break.

o. I am looking for clarification on Rule 8- 1.3 Absence from competition

An athlete who is in flight 1 of 3 is excused to compete in PV without taking an attempt. Is that athlete required to return to competition before their FLIGHT ends or before ALL ATHLETES IN ALL FLIGHTS have taken their trials in order to be allowed to take their trials.

The excused athlete may jump out of order in their flight. If they do not return before their flight has concluded, the athlete forfeits their opportunity to compete. There should not be a delay for the other contestants because of an absence. The first few sentences of Rule 8-1.3 are very clear.

p. I have a quick and hopefully an easy question regarding the steeplechase in the new rule book.

With the ST water jump located on the inside of the track oval, does the inside painted line require a 2" x 2" portable curb (30cm rule) like the track oval? If the ST was designed, surveyed & certified with a 2" x 2" (30cm rule) portable curb, can cones be used in lieu of the portable curb?

You may wish to revisit the ST water jump drawing in the rule book - the 30cm flat portion. I've attached a drawing depicting the rules and focusing on the angle of the ramp exiting the water jump where WA requires $12.4^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}$.

Q1. Rule 10-1.6, the last sentence reads, " As of Jan. 1, 2021, all newly constructed or resurfaced tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition." Therefore, the curb is required for the steeplechase.

Q 2. Rule 10-1.6, second paragraph, "Cones may be used to replace a curb temporarily when the curb interferes with other events, but not as a substitute for a curb."

Q 3. Thanks, Don; I will look at this carefully and make corrections in the next rulebook. I truly appreciate the diligence in reviewing the rulebook from an architect's point of view.

q. My question is what is the procedure in determining if the tying competitors wish to participate? I have been told that you have said that the proper procedure is to separate the competitors and ask them individually if they wish to participate in the jump off. Please confirm that this is the proper procedure or explain what the proper procedure should be.

Speak to the athletes individually to see if they wish to continue to compete. If both wish to cease, then the competition is over and the tie stands.

If one chooses to cease and the other wishes to continue, go back to the individual that wants to cease and let them know that the other athlete wishes to continue. Giving them an opportunity to change their mind. If the athlete changes their mind the jump-off is conducted. If the athlete still wishes to stop competing, the competition is concluded. The athlete that withdrew is awarded 2nd place and the athlete that intended to continue is declared the winner.

r. I was at an event this weekend where 2 HJ and 2 PV pits were used on 2 days and discussions among the officials came up.

If 2 flights are run simultaneously (hopefully, a high pit and a lower pit), the winner of the lower pit would not be able to choose their height, because they are not the winner of their event?

Correct, In this scenario you are contesting one competition on 2 pits.

Just the winner of their flight?

Just the declared winner of the competition, not, the winner of the flight.

I guess no jump off for 1st place would occur for the same reason. They may be tied for 1st place in their flight but not for the event?

Correct, you must think of it as a singular competition

I would imagine that the winner of the elite flight could be determined by a jump off and the outright winner could choose to continue at their chosen height, as long as there were no 'surprise' performances by the jumpers in the lower flight?

Correct

If the flights are run consecutively, then the lower flight would be competed first with no jump off or allowance for that winner to choose their heights?

Correct

With the change in the jump off rule to allow for someone to opt out, can a winner be declared simple because they choose to continue?

Yes, the winner is declared, and the competition has concluded

If one person says 'no I'm done' and the other says 'I would continue', is that enough to declare a winner?

Yes

I would be inclined to ask the jumper who opts to continue to make, at least, one attempt, whether successful or not and for the jumper who opts out to be absent for the one minute when called up to jump.

This step is not necessary.

s. The new rule for the verticals (5.5.7.4 and 13.5.7.4) states explicitly that if all competitors in a jump-off withdraw before it begins, it can end in a tie and the points split. This implies to me that once it starts, the competitors cannot decide to call it a tie after several attempts have been taken with no resolution, correct?

Scenario, both athletes agree that they wish to compete in the jump-off. After several jumps the athletes both agree to simultaneously withdraw. What should the official and referee do in this situation?

With the agreement between the competitors, the competition is declared a tie and competition is concluded.

t. At a meet this weekend - they have a 9 lane straightaway - they have scheduled in the men's 60M dash 77 guys - so that would be 9 preliminary heats - with top 1 and no other time qualifiers to finals correct?

Rule 7-9.5(b) states When the number of advancers to a final round is less than or equal to the number of lanes, at least the heat winner shall advance to the next round. All other qualifiers in the round shall advance on the basis of time.

Since there are 9 heats in the preliminaries and 9 lanes available in the final round and by rule, you are required to advance the heat winners first. Then your assumption is correct.

If this scenario is not preferred by the games committee the options are to run either a qualifying round prior to the preliminaries or run a semi-final round.

February 2023 Clarifications

Rule 7-9.1 *The games committee shall use the following methods to administer track events: Indoor 200 and 400 clarification when running as final in timed sections. (no preliminaries)*

b. *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.*

c. *In addition, no race in an event using timed sections shall have fewer than two competitors.*

d. *The criteria in Rule 7-9 and Rule 7-10 shall be used for all heats/finals unless extraordinary circumstances exist, normally not controllable, that require the games committee to alter them.*

Rule 7-10.4

a. *...“For an event in which no preliminary round is contested, or when the preliminary round consists of a single race, the games committee may assign preferred lanes, starting positions or alleys by entry performance.”...*

Note: Before the start of competition, the games committee shall decide the ranked order of preferred lanes/alleys one at a time and event by event for use when lanes/alleys are assigned. The best available lanes/alleys should be used albeit in other circumstances. The athlete seeded No. 1 should be placed inside the athlete seeded No. 2. When unusual conditions make the original drawings unfair to one or more runners, the referee may make such changes as will produce greater fairness.

In the interest of fairness across all indoor 200 and 400 competitions lanes 3-6 shall be used minimum on a six (6) lane track or larger.

Interpretations

a. Was there a change in NCAA rules relative to having minimums in field events?

The allowance of event minimum distances in the field events is no longer allowed. This rule was removed from the rules book. All legal marks shall be measured and recorded.

b. I was the Running Referee for an indoor conference championship over the weekend and had an interesting situation with the Men's Heptathlon. In the 60m hurdles, runners were in lanes 1, 3, and 5, with hurdles set up in all 8 lanes. The runner in lane 3 hurdled with his lead leg in lane 3, but the trail leg was in lane 4 for at least the last 3 of the 5 hurdles and all his steps were completely within his assigned lane; I was standing back from the finish line observing the race. I walked over to the PV official to notify her of the start time for that event and spoke with the CE Referee regarding what I observed. After some discussion with the CE Referee, I elected to DQ

the athlete from the race for violation of Rule 7-6.2a, but the athlete would be allowed to continue in the competition and would score 0 points for the hurdles.

Both I and the CE Referee informed the athlete and his coach of the decision of the race DQ, at which time they elected to appeal my decision to the Games Committee. The GC asked me to explain what I saw, which I did, and after discussing it, overturned the race DQ for the athlete. The reasons they gave were that he did not interfere or impede anyone in lane 4 (since it was empty), and no advantage was gained during the race. I then informed the CE Referee of the GC decision (he was called away on another matter), as well as the coach and the athlete. As I read Rule 7-6.2a, I feel I was correct in my DQ of the athlete from the race, but I will admit that I struggled with that decision for the very reasons that the GC overruled my decision.

In a situation such as that, what should have been the outcome of the incident? The Games Committee was made up of three coaches, who, in addition to functioning as the GC, also heard appeals from schools for any events.

In the combined event hurdle scenario you explained, you and the Jury of Appeals acted properly. Your call cited rule 7-6.2(b), which by rule is appropriate. The Jury of Appeals felt the athlete gained no advantage since the individual ran the entire 60 meters and hurdled all barriers. I am assuming the athlete finished the race in their assigned lane which was not mentioned. These are judgment calls, and I believe the system of checks and balances worked in this situation.

Regarding 3 coaches serving as the Jury of Appeals and Games Committee, this is not correct. The last statement in Rule 4-5.1 states: A jury of appeals members shall not serve as any other official or as a member of the games committee.

c. There was a scenario relating to the new jump off rule this weekend. Two jumpers tied for first place, one jumper decided they had enough and would settle for second place so the other jumper, who wished to continue, would get first place. No problem, right?

Both jumpers cleared 3.60 and failed at 3.75. The winner wanted to continue jumping and was allowed to take her 4th jump at 3.75 per jump off rules. She missed and wanted to continue because the next height, again, per jump off rules would have been 3.70. Had she cleared that, it would have been a qualifier for another, higher level meet. It was decided that she couldn't continue because she had missed on her 4th attempt at the last height.

What would you have done? Initially, upon hearing of this case, I thought that letting her jump until she missed was a good call and that I would have done the same thing. Upon further consideration I think that once the other jumper settled for second place, a jump off isn't necessary, because there is a winner. There is no longer a tie. But I can understand the athletes

desire for another chance to get that qualifying mark. The jump off is not necessary, but had she continued, would any of her new marks have been valid?

In a jump-off situation, the competition concludes once an athlete chooses to withdraw. The purpose of a jump-off is to determine a winner. A winner has been declared in this situation, and the competition stops.

d. Is it NCAA rule that HJ/PV there is tie first, can athlete not jump. Tied for first, can athlete not participate when there is tie for first.

The rule can be found on page 51 of the 2023-2024 NCAA rules book:

If all competitors eligible for a jump off withdraw from the competition before it begins, those competitors shall tie for first place, and any team points shall be added to together and divided equally between the tying competitors.

e. Our official is telling us the if we have less than 9 competitors in the Field Events, specifically the WT/SP, they go 6 straight throws and do not offer a warm-up in between the Prelim and Final...

I think it is an option to straight to the Final, but not a requirement...

Only if the automatic advancement procedure is listed in the meet information prior to the competition. Otherwise, it would be a preliminary and final in reverse order from the preliminary round.

f. Can a meet choose to take just top 8 times to finals and not by place? If they have less than 8 preliminary heats in the 60 and an 8 lane track?

Rule 7-9.5(d) applies. For the races entirely running lanes...

When a facility has fewer than eight usable lanes and eight competitors/teams shall qualify only on the basis of times from the preliminary rounds. Advancement based on time only is not permitted for any other circumstance.

g. I have a question about the use of official video review for our upcoming Conference Championship. We have both a Games Committee and Jury of Appeal in our Conference Manual. Coaches can protest a referee's decision which then goes to the Jury of Appeals. Last spring our Jury of Appeals used the live broadcast as "official video evidence" to overturn a call. My question for you is...Can the live broadcast be considered "official video evidence?" And if so, can the Jury of Appeals use it to overturn the referee's decision.

Rule 4-2(v) The Games Committee has authority to approve official video review equipment prior to the start of the competition. Therefore, the official video is available to the referee and jury of appeals as a source of information to assist in rendering their decision.

h. What is the maximum distance between cones on a non-curved track. I don't believe the rule book is clear on this.

Rule 2-1.6 regarding the placement of cones still applies.

"The cones shall be placed at intervals not exceeding 4 meters."

i. My administration is in the early stages of planning construction of an indoor facility. We're looking at a Clearspan project (fabric covering) that would allow for a very large enclosed area.

Here are my questions:

(1) If we were to build an enclosed 400m track, could we get it approved for use in Outdoor Track & Field. I understand it would not be approved for Indoor Track & Field use.

Outdoor Rule 10-1.2(a) clearly states the following, "The standard track shall be 400 meters in length, not enclosed within a covered structure and not less than six lanes wide."

(2) If we were to build an indoor track less than 400m, but greater than 300m, would we be able to get it approved for use in Indoor Track & Field? I understand that U of Washington and Notre Dame have indoor tracks greater than 300m.

No. Indoor Rule 2-1.2(a) states clearly. "The standard running track shall be 200 meters. This distance may be reduced or exceeded. The track should have at least six lanes. The length of any track shall not exceed 300 meters."

The University of Washington and the Notre Dame tracks were built prior to 2004 when this rule was implemented and therefore grandfathered in with exception.

The following language was taken out of the rules book in 2021, "The length of any indoor track constructed after January 2004 shall not exceed 300 meters."

j. Can you please clarify the proper procedure in the following situation:

I was officiating the pole vault at one of the indoor Conference Championships over the weekend. There were two competitors left in the competition. Both women cleared the 3.56 bar - competitor A on 1st attempt and competitor B on her 2nd attempt. Following the progression the bar was raised to 3.66. Competitor A who is in 1st place at the time elects to pass 3.66. Competitor B fails to clear the 3.66 in her 3 attempts.

Even though competitor A will win the competition due to tiebreaker at bar 3.56 I believe she still needs to follow the progression because she declared to pass 3.66. If she clears 3.66; then

she can pick her own height. The other official told me I was incorrect and she can pick the height she wants the bar to go to now. I believe she doesn't win the competition until she attempts 3.66 or elects not to; thus ending the competition. I looked for a rule that can be applied to this situation but can't find the answer.

As you are aware, an athlete passing a bar of height with 3 consecutive passes at a particular bar is a strategy that can be employed in vertical jumps. In the scenario you explained, the jumper in 1st place, after clearing 3.56m, chose to pass the next bar at 3.66m. The jumper in 2nd place after the clearance at 3.56m chose to jump at 3.66m. After missing 3 attempts at 3.66m there was a clear winner of the event. Therefore, the event winner has the right to choose their next height, which shall be higher, 3.66m.

k. Can you get me a rules interpretation on combined events? Can an athlete start a combined event and complete only a portion of the combined event (1 or 2 events) and get the points earned? If yes, can that athlete that left the combined event compete in another open event after leaving the combined event.

Rule 6-2(c) An athlete failing to attempt a start or make a trial in any event of a Combined Event shall be considered to have abandoned the Combined Event and shall not be allowed to participate in any following event within the combined event competition. At the time of abandonment, the athlete will receive a Did Not Finish (DNF) and zero points for the competition.

Note: A Combined Event, such as the Heptathlon, is one event. Failure to participate in a Combined Event, affecting other events in the meet, occurs only if the competitor fails to start the first event within a Combined Event competition.

l. Can you shed light on which distances are “required” to be FAT, and which could be MT (manual time)? Both indoors and outdoors?

All timing for all events must be fully automatic. Please see item 3 in the 2022-2023 NCAA Track & Field Qualifying Criteria.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2022-23XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

m. If the referee officially warns a coach about not staying out of the competition area and assisting participating athletes. Who is penalized?

The coach and/or the athlete being assisted can be penalized by either issuing a yellow or red card.

Rule 6-3.1" On the report of an official, or from a properly filed protest, the referee shall warn or disqualify a competitor who gives or receives assistance, a competitor who is determined to have been directly or unduly aided by a coach, a teammate not in the event,

or a noncompetitor associated with the competitor's team, or a competitor who is indirectly aided from inside the competition area by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a noncompetitor associated with the competitor's team.

The coach is yellow carded, then ejected if done again? or the athlete(s) in the event that the coach they are providing assistance to?

If the coach does not comply after the yellow card warning, then a red card disqualifying the coach from the competition area is appropriate. This is harsh, but the athlete being assisted can also be disqualified due to the coach's actions.

If it's an athlete who has finished competing, how can they be penalized?

Similarly, if already warned, the individual that is assisting can be issued a red card that disqualifies them from the competition area.

Is it the athlete in the event they are assisting?

Again, this is harsh, but the athlete being assisted can also be disqualified due to the assisting individual's actions.

n. I was one of the referees at a conference championship this past weekend. One of the coaches did not know the rule in the triple jump that a jumper is not allowed to change their boards once competition has started. He then asked me why that is a rule and I could not answer him as to why that is a rule but I would find out. Do you know why the NCAA has the rule of not changing boards?

I looked back as far as 2001 on the electronic versions of the rules books. The exact language about not switching boards in the triple jump has been there before that date. I cannot speak specifically to why, but I am confident in saying that it has to do with the officiating of the event and avoiding a potential measurement-taking error.

March 2023 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. One of our Track & Field coaches has asked that if they end up at a meet without another Division I team can the marks achieved count towards NCAA Qualifier? We require all marks to be verified on TFFRS, but I was unsure on this.

The competition must meet the requirements that are in the NCAA Track & Field Qualifying Criteria in order to be accepted for advancement purposes. I have included the link for your convenience.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2022-23XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

b. I have a couple of questions regarding the track and field playing rules in order to ensure my outdoor conference meet is administered properly.

Protests – Jury of Appeals. My conference outdoor track and field championships handbook includes a protest procedure and states, “In each case, the meet referee will render a decision. The decision of the meet referee is final.” Is a conference permitted to make the meet referee the final appellate authority (and not have a jury of appeals)? The following is Rule 12-4.3 of the outdoor playing rules: “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.” The wording suggests a meet referee is not permitted to consider a protest (“The referee’s decisions in all matters shall be final and without appeal”), yet a jury of appeals is not required. If protests are allowed, is a jury of appeals required? The preference of the conference would be to allow protests and for the meet referee to consider protests and make the final ruling on protests, and I think we can do that per Rule 13-7.c (“For track and field, concurrence of two referees is required when no jury of appeal is appointed.”), but I am unsure if we are permitted to do so due to Rule 12-4.3.

If the games committee chooses to not utilize a jury of appeals, then the referee team (running, field, combined events, and video review) has final authority on all protests and is without appeal.

Length of Protest Period. My conference outdoor track and field championships handbook states, “Protests for field events shall be made by the head coach and submitted to the meet referee within 30-minutes of the incident in question. Protests for track events shall be made by the head coach and submitted to the meet referee during a 30-minute protest period, which

begins after the results have been posted.” Rule 13-7.1.a states, “Protests relating to singular matters that develop during the conduct of the meet should be made at once and shall not be later than 15 minutes after the results have been announced or posted for the section involving the protest.” Is a conference permitted to have a longer protest period than what is stated in Rule 13-7.1.a?

No, A conference may make rules more stringent than NCAA rules but never more lenient. The time period for protesting the result of an event is 15 minutes from the final announcement or posting of the official results.

Protests – Video Review. If we are streaming our conference meet to where it is free to the public on our website, are we required to use the stream for protests, or can the conference elect to only use video from a timing service (i.e., “official photo-timing” in Rule 13-7.c) for protests? Rule 13-7.c states, “Evidence specifically excluded is all visual material, except that produced: 1) For public broadcast, public streaming or public video board presentation.” Can a conference elect to not use “public streaming” in conjunction with a protest?

No, you are not required to use the live stream as an official video for review. The games committee in Rule 12-2(x) has the authority to, "approve official video review equipment". This must be declared prior to the start of the competition and is best if it is identified in the technical information of the competition.

c. Scenario, the anchor on the 4x400 team that crossed the line first tossed his baton into the crowd in celebration (in the manner of a basketball player tossing his shoes). We were told that this would be a disqualifying act, to which I replied that there’s no rule prohibiting it and that this act is only specifically prohibited in the NFHS book. We were told that this could be interpreted as an unsporting act and therefore be prohibited on the basis of that. If there is no taunting or action bringing discredit upon the team and institution or an act making a mockery of the competition, how can this be a disqualifying act in the absence of a rule prohibiting it?

Not knowing the entire situation, it is very difficult to determine if unsporting conduct took place. Even that being said, the referee has a choice to either warn or disqualify if they are considering unsporting conduct. If this incident was out of true exhilaration or celebration a referee should consider a warning only. If it was done in a taunting manner or if the action caused the baton to interfere with the remaining conduct of the competition, then a disqualification should be considered.

d. A pole vaulter breaks a pole during competition. What options do you offer the athlete? (Keep the athlete in the regular order providing extra time to clean the pit and find a replacement pole or jump the athlete out of order?)

Regarding an athlete's pole breaking during an attempt, I would jump them out of order. This provides the athlete time to regroup (a safety measure) and find another suitable pole. Once they are ready work them into the rotation once again.

e. What is the proper procedure if a competitor is hampered during a trial and is unable to complete the trial? For example, wind blows the crossbar off of the pegs before the athlete jumps or someone crosses the runway in front of the athlete causing the athlete to stop? Do you resort to USATF Rule 180.5

If an athlete is hampered in an attempt, the event chief should award the athlete with a fresh time clock. The athlete jumps in order.

f. I understand why the no foul for shoelaces in the shot put. In horizontals, if a person's hair hits the sand closer to the board we mark where the hair hits the sand. If a person has a pair of loose fitting shorts. You can see the butt cheek marks in the sand and the flap of the loose fitting shorts mark in the sand. We mark the clothing. Granted this is not a foul. It just costs the athlete a few inches or sometimes 12 inches plus. Why is this different than the shoelaces? Why are we not marking where body parts that hit the sand?

A danger that many officials have is when they compare one event to another, ex LJ/TJ to the SP. Measuring a Legal Jump Rule 16-4.5 is very clear for the LJ and TJ. In the SP, Rule 16-5.2(c) - Foul Put: a shoelace is not considered part of the body.

g. This one is a little complicated for an email, but I'll do my best to be precise. It is common in one of our local conference championships for the Hep HJ and the open PV to be contested at the same time and on day 2 for the Hep PV to be at the same time as the open HJ. There are always multiple conflicts. I know that it has always been the custom to require athletes to take their field event attempts in order. It was always plain that it was the case for LJ and SP but less obvious that it applied to vertical jumps as well. Within the last 4-5 years language stressing that it applied to vertical jumps was added to the rule book. In the LJ and SP, if an athlete is not present for an attempt (all field events in a combined being a final) they are marked as a pass. In vertical jumps, marking an athlete as a pass does not result in missing an attempt. I have always instructed the athlete that if they are not present for their attempt, that it would be recorded as a miss leaving them with their next 2 attempts in the order of competition. Alternatively, since they are always allowed to pass a height at any time in the event, I've allowed them to say to me "I'm in another event, if I'm not here, I'll just pass the height. Is this an acceptable way to apply the rule?

Passing by an athlete is certainly a strategy that can be employed. Remember, each attempt may be passed in the NCAA. Therefore, if they pass, it's for each attempt. Recording a time foul is appropriate only if the head official was not informed of the individual's pass. Recording a miss when they did not attempt a jump is inappropriate.

April 2023

Clarification

Official video review shall be used by the referee and/or jury of appeals for the purpose of confirming or denying a reported violation reported by a competition official.

Note: A reported violation is defined as a perceived violation reported by an official of the meet.

Interpretations

a. I have been renovating the track at our High School in conjunction with a University to a NCAA track so they can jointly use our track to hold competitions. A question/concern has arisen as the synthetic surface is being applied about the runway length of the Triple and Long Jump (Section 6). The events were designed according to the 2021-2022 Rules Book. The issue is we designed the runway distance (40m) from the edge nearest to the pit of the Foul Line/Takeoff Board (which is my interpretation of Rule Book). The University Coach is stating that the 40m is measured from the farthest line or Take-off Board away from the Landing Pit. Causing me to add an additional 10m to each runway. Please help us clear up the confusion.

If the long jump and triple jump are being contested on the same runway, then the 40-meter minimum is measured from the men's (farthest from the pit) triple jump board. This ensures that the runway has all runway minimum lengths covered.

b. Hope you are doing well. We are hosting a dual meet with another institution where we compete against a combined team from two other institutions. We will be utilizing both NCAA and WA rules for this event. I'm writing to confirm we are able to use the WA rules for advancement to finals in the field events. All field events for the men have 4-7 entrants and the women have 6-11 in each event.

The competition must meet the requirements that are in the NCAA Track & Field Qualifying Criteria in order to be accepted for advancement purposes. I have included the link for your convenience.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2022-23XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

All questions regarding advancement to the national championship should be directed to Jeff Mlynski, NCAA Sports Committee Liaison.

c. Is there a link to the questions you receive regarding rules? I've seen the web page in the past but I'm not sure how to access it. I believe the page is updated monthly. A link was provided in the last newsletter for previous months, maybe Jan/Feb?

In past rule books there was information regarding moving vertical jumps indoors as part of an outdoor meet. But I can't find it in the current rule book. I believe only vertical jumps may be conducted inside with any results accepted as part of an outdoor competition for purposes of qualification. Can they be moved inside only in the event of inclement weather? Who gets to decide to move the events? Games Committee? Meet Director? Referee?

Here is the link you requested please see item #10.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2022-23XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

d. We had a question on our coaches call about scratches and wanted to get your thoughts. A coach asked if when a SA is scratched between the entry deadline and when the performance list is published, can it just be from that one event or is it all or nothing similar to if someone scratches the day of the meet? The rule book has scratches under medical personnel and trainers so it sounds more like a day of, but I don't want to assume.

Within the Championship competition format, scratches are usually allowed on an event-by-event basis, without prejudice or ramification, during the declaration period of the Championship. After the close of declaration, a scratch can no longer be on an event-by-event basis regardless of the reason. Simply stated, the declaration of a competitor is not revocable. Committees have adopted a policy that any scratch after the close of the declaration period must be for all declared events for the competitor. The primary reason for this policy is the protection against the shifting of personnel after the full field has been disclosed.

e. To ensure a safe throwing competition, the Head Javelin official informs competitors in the event that they may not enter the "landing zone", after throwing and exiting the runway. All implements will be returned by meet personnel. An athlete does not comply with this directive.

1. Is it within the purview of the officials to establish this procedure? (*12.10.2b)

2. If an athlete does not comply are they subject to warning and disqualification? (14.1)

The javelin warm up procedure is a best practice to ensure safety of the event area. Athletes are expected to comply and should be warned by the referee if they do not comply.

Disqualification of an athlete by the referee is an option if willful disobedience to a referee's direction after a warning has been issued. Remember we are not in the business of disqualifying athlete's, the athletes disqualify themselves through their action or inaction.

f. If wind causes them to change the direction from the normal racing direction they are able to race the M100m, W100m and W100H in the opposite direction. However, when it comes to the men's 110 hurdles their track does not have the room to run the men's 110H in the opposite direction (lane 8 drops off too early). Would they be permitted to run the M100m, the W100m, and the women's 100H in one and then the men's 110H in a different direction (due to facility constraints)? I am guessing that they can do something different for the men and women since the men and women are separate competitions but is there anything that keeps them having to run the men's 100m and the men's 110H in the same direction?

Provided that the track is surveyed and marked professionally, switching the direction of the men's and women's 100M and the women's 100M Hurdles is permitted. It is understood that the facility is limited in regards to the men's 110M Hurdles and must be run in the traditional direction.

g. I wanted to double-check and make sure I am reading Outdoor Section 1 correctly related to Track Markings. One of our schools would like to run the hurdles with the wind (opposite finish line). The track was not surveyed for hurdle marks for an opposite finish line. The school would like to "spray paint" markings down on the track for hurdle placements.

My understanding is that per Section 1 Article 3 "surveying" it is not permissible for a coach to spray paint down the hurdle placement (or a different finish line) They would need to have a professional come out and put down the hurdle markings. Is that correct?

Your interpretation of the rule regarding hurdle marks and finish line that needs to be surveyed in and marked professionally is correct.

h. Veteran starters in our area are having a lively discussion on this issue. One group says that it is only OK if the starter gives permission, but the holder's feet cannot touch the pedals of the block. Block holder's can only touch the central part of the block on which the pedals are attached. I have not been able to find any NCAA rule regarding touching the pedals or even holding blocks.

Another group feels that block holding is not allowed in NCAA competition and uses the mandatory language "shall" in NCAA Rule 11-2-1d on page 111 to imply that block holders are not needed or allowed. What is the current NCAA policy on people holding starting blocks to keep them from slipping, and especially requirements to not touch the pedals?

The topic of block holders is not addressed within the NCAA competition rules.

The starting positions on the track and the starting blocks should be examined prior to the competition to ensure that all is in proper working order. It is preferred that block holders are not used; however, if unfair starts are occurring because the starting blocks slip, the starter may deem that a block holder may be allowed. If a block holder is utilized, the individual shall sit on the track, remain silent and motionless and may not touch or hold the pedals in place.

i. Could you please make a written response to, what would be your interpretation as the NCAA Rules Editor of the rule on an outdoor shot that has internal movement (rattle).

Rule 11-8.1 on page 115 is very clear when it states: " The shot shall be constructed of solid iron, brass or any metal not softer than brass, or of a shell of such metal completely filled with lead or other material."

In my opinion this statement indicates that the shot put shall have no internal movement. This ruling is not to be confused with the indoor rule 3-8.1.

j. I have a college facility that reached out to me about their throwing circle. They have a two-ring circle with the hammer circle in front closes to the sector with less than 5m to the center of the circle, which I think it's unsafe. A solution that I suggested was using the discus circle with legal inserts.

The discus ring is not a true circle, it's more like an egg. When installing the hammer ring insert it looks as if there is a little more than a 1" gap. Also, the insert is not flush with the throwing circle, by closing the gap. Are either of these legal for competition? I'm also going to reach out to the school to see what the measurements of the circle with the insert in.

Determine that the hammer insert is within the tolerances listed in Rule 10-7.1 through 10-7.3. This indicates that the ring is 2.135 m in diameter and the thickness of the insert is 19 cm. Shim the insert on the sides of the ring to secure in place. Pay close attention to the diameter at the back portion to front portion of the ring to ensure maintenance of the diameter. Once the ring is set, find your new ring center and layout your hammer sector.

Relative to the discus ring, check the diameter front portion to back portion to ensure that the ring is within the 2.50 m and tolerances established in rule 10-7.2. Once completed then plot your center to layout the proper sector.

May 2023 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. I had two uniform questions:

1. What are the uniform regulations regarding hats and sunglasses? Are there any restrictions? Does the hat need to be school-issued?
2. For shorts, if the team has black shorts, but one distance runner wants to wear a pair of team-issued black shorts with a white panel on the sides, would that be ok since the main color is the same?

Wearing a hat and sunglasses in competition is allowed and does not need to be institutionally issued.

Regarding the lower garment question, as long as the primary colors are the same for everyone, the design element is not considered. In your situation, the white panel on the lower garment is considered a design element.

b. In reviewing our appeals procedures, I wanted to get some direction on a foul attempt in the throws events.

If, in any of the throws, a foul is called on an attempt, can the athlete ask that the mark is measured and protest using official video review evidence? Rule 13.7.1 (Protest/Disqualification/Appeals) seems to indicate that the mark should be “preserved as evidence,” but then Rule 16 1.10 indicates that “Efforts judges to be foul shall not be measured, except as otherwise provided within these rules”.

This is the first year we will have an official video of each field event attempt, and I am trying to make sure I follow the correct process for the field events if a coach/athlete wants to protest.

If an athlete or coach has an immediate protest of an official's call, the mark is preserved and recorded on a separate sheet. If the protest is upheld, this practice avoids the referee having to award another attempt and keeps the flow of the event moving. A formal written protest must follow the verbal protest. In addition, the dark mark is not announced or given to the athlete until after the protest is resolved in their favor. If the protest is denied the mark is erased as if it never happened.

c. I'm headed to a conference championship and the weather isn't looking good. Their facilities are limited, especially with throws so a couple of questions:

1. If we're not able to complete all events due to weather issues out of our control, would the marks attained in the meet to that point still count for NCAA qualifying? I assume the "Extraordinary Circumstances"-Article 23 might come into play here?
2. If we have to move an event to Monday, is there any problem with that? I see that entries for NCAA prelims open at 8pm EST on 5/15 so I hope we'd be ok with entries.

Your questions have to do with advancement to the NCAA Championships and should be asked of the NCAA Sports Committee liaison or the chair. The following answers are from the information that is in print.

Question #1.

2022-23 NCAA TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS QUALIFYING CRITERIA

b. Qualifying marks in all divisions must be made using an outdoor facility, except that the high jump and/or pole vault may be moved indoors for safety reasons by a decision of the competition's game committee.

Question #2.

- *DEADLINE – Results from all meets must be submitted to TFRRS by midnight Eastern time, one day after the completion of a contest. Late or incorrect submissions will result in a fine.*
- *DEADLINE – Sunday, May 14 (last day of qualification): Last date a qualifying performance may be achieved, except for conference championships. Note: the only allowable competition that may occur and be used toward NCAA qualifying on Monday, May 15 is that of a conference championship.*
- *DEADLINE – Monday, May 15: All results must be reported to www.TFRRS.org by 5 p.m. Eastern, Monday, May 15 (refer to the Pre-Championships Manual for detailed information). Marks submitted after 5 p.m. Eastern will not be eligible for qualifying.*
- *Monday, May 15: Declarations for the outdoor track and field championships open at 8 p.m. Eastern on DirectAthletics.*

For any questions regarding the qualifying criteria, please contact the NCAA liaison or committee chair for your respective division.

d. If you would please send me in writing so I can pass on our conversation about timed section finals in the 800m that would be helpful.

First, Rule 12-2(j) provides the games committee the authority to, "Determine the structure for running timed section finals."

Second, Rule 15-10.6(b) states: " The games committee may authorize with consistency, an alley or waterfall start with greater number of runners in timed section final sections 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 stagger, or with a waterfall start.”

It appears that the games committee has chosen to run the competition as a timed section final, running the races with one person per lane using a one-turn stagger. This practice is within the authority of the games committee and is perfectly legal as stated above.

This confirms that the conduct of the 800 meter races at your championships are within the NCAA rules.

e. We changed our technical manual this past year for the 800 and 1500 to say that we will mirror the NCAA advancement formula. I see the advancement process for three heats of the 800 in your technical manual, but what is the NCAA advancement process for two heats of the 800 on an 8-lane track?

Second, I just want to confirm that for 1500 hundred, this is the correct formula:

“The semi-final round will consist of two (2) heats of twelve (12) competitors. Twelve (12), the top five (5) from each heat plus the next best two (2) times, after tie-breaking, will qualify from the semi-final round to the final round.”

Finally, can you show me where this is in the rule book? I have been reading through it and can only find language on creating heats, not advancement formulas.

First, regarding the 800 meters, see Rule 15-10.5(d) on page 153 QUALIFYING:

d. 'In races that start in lanes but do not finish in lanes (speaking to the 800 and longer races), the first two places in each heat shall advance and all other qualifiers shall advance on the basis of time. If there are four or more heats, the heat winner shall advance and all other qualifiers shall advance on the basis of time.'

Rule 15-10.6(b)

....."The 800 Meters shall be run with one person per lane or with lane alleys, each using a one-turn stagger, or with a waterfall.'

Second regarding the 1500 meters, see Rule 15-10.6(c) and 15-10.6(e)

c. "In the 1500 Meters, when more than one section is scheduled, and 15 or fewer competitors report, the event shall be run as a single race final. Not more than 12 shall qualify for the final from a preliminary round."

e. "In the 1500 Meters, 3000 Meters, 5000 Meters, or in the Steeplechase, at least four places from each preliminary heat should advance. However, at least two qualifiers must advance

on the basis of time. If there are three heats, at least three competitors must advance on place and at least two must advance on the basis of time."

f. If a runner enters and starts the 10000 meters but after 12 laps decides they started too fast and is "too tired" and drops out of the race and has no medical reason, is it assumed that they have abandoned the competition and are not allowed to run any other race in the meet?

Honest effort is no longer in the rule book. The athlete fulfilled the requirement for failure to participate. However, with their abandonment from the competition without going to proper medical follow up they would be disqualified from all other all subsequent events. Conversely, if the athlete was evaluated by the meet medical professional after the abandonment and then reevaluated as a request for reinstatement then they could be deemed fit to compete by the medical professional.

g. A quick video review question from coaches. When reviewing video with their athlete, may the athlete hold the device or must the coach hold and show video?

The athlete may hold the device as long as the coach is with them during the review.

h. We received a technical question about the uniform logo we'd like to get clarification on. It's for a bottom where there is a permissible logo on the pants and a second non-permissible logo on the waistband. Question 1) Would this be permissible to wear if the waistband is covered? and if yes, question 2) what if it becomes visible in the process of the competition?

Rule 14-4.3 clearly states and quotes NCAA Bylaw:

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's or distributor's normal trademark, not to exceed 2-1/4 square inches, including any additional material (i.e., 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-athletes' institution or conference.

These restrictions apply to all apparel worn by student-athletes during the conduct of the competition, including pre-meet or post-meet activities.

Only one logo per garment. From what I have seen the logo language on the waistband is much larger than the required 2 1/4" restriction.

June - August 2023
Clarifications and Interpretations

Clarifications: Points of Emphasis

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.

Failure to Participate (Rules 6-2 and 14-2).

The rules committee feels strongly that this rule is to be applied throughout the entire season, as are all written rules. The committee also recognizes that during regular-season competitions this rule is difficult to adjudicate. The new modification to this rule will assist with the difficulty. Time schedule changes preventing competitor(s) from fulfilling their obligation is not considered failure to participate.

Measuring and Recording Legal Trials (Rules 8-1.1.d and 16-1.1.d).

As a result of removing former Rule 6-3.3 (Guaranteed Measurement) from the 2019 and 2020 rules book, new Rules 8-1.1.d and 16-1.1.d state that all legal trials (horizontal jumps and throws) shall be measured and recorded.

Five Alive Procedure Eliminated

The five alive procedure in the vertical jumps is no longer an option for competition. Former Rules 1-27, 5-4.3.d, 9-26 and 13-4.3.d were removed and are not included in this edition of the rules book.

Mixed Gender Competition Eliminated

Mixed gender events are no longer an option for competition. Former Rules 1-45 and 9-45 were removed and are not included in this edition of the rules book.

Interpretations

Submitted by engineer, Tim Murphy

We're working with a client & their facility height will be 27' from top of track surface to the steel joists. The spacing of the joists is roughly 8' on center. Will we need to place the pole vault box in between the joists to meet the recommended 30' (9.14m) as called out in Rule 2, Section 1, Article 2g, or is 27' acceptable?

The 9.14 meter (30') clearance is a strong recommendation. I would try to provide as much clearance to the pole vault, shot put, and weight throw as possible.

Rule 2 states these are the minimum specifications, please refer to the World Athletics Facilities Manual for absolute specifications.

This is the pending language from WA for their update to Chapters 4-8 of their Facilities Manual from 2 years ago. We're all still waiting for them to issue the update from the 2008 edition.

"8.2 Requirements, Design Principles and Guidelines"

The building housing the indoor track will normally be fully integrated into urban development and will conform to local and national requirements for design, construction and safety.

The building will frequently be a multi-event venue designed to adapt to the needs of a variety of sports, cultural events, displays and exhibitions.

Indoor track designs are complex and should only be undertaken by design professionals with considerable experience otherwise costly mistakes can be made and the constructed facility may not meet WORLD ATHLETICS and athlete expectations.

The clear height to the underside of the roof trusses will be determined by a number of factors. From an athletics point of view the following limitations apply:

- The optimum angle of the photo-finish camera (8.4.2.2) should be achieved;*
- A minimum 8m clearance above the pole vault runway from 4m before the box to 6m after the box; and*
- A minimum 8m clearance for at least 12m from the shot put stop board."*

Architectural requirements are quite likely to dictate the minimum height to the underside of trusses for a major venue requiring substantial seating capacity and to cater for other indoor

sports which require substantially more headroom than for athletics. A height of 8m or even 9m might result in a less than satisfactory “feel” because of the size of the arena space. Natural light, colour and finishes might relieve an otherwise claustrophobic result.

They currently have a recommendation of 9m for event halls in Chapter 8.

Submitted by Assoc. AD, Amy Maier

We have had recurring conversation amongst our conference about Central College’s indoor track facility. Our other conference school’s do not like going there for conference championships because the turns are super tight, times end up being much slower, it is hard on the athlete, etc. – so much that there was a proposal to eliminate them from the host rotation but that has the chance to open pandora’s box unless it does not actually meet required specs. My question was is it legitimately NCAA compliant. Rule 2, Section 1, Article 2.f (page 20) states that “the inside radius of the curves on the 200 meter track should be at least 18 meters and not more than 21 meters”. Central’s is less than 18 meters. They claim that is just a recommendation. It does say “should”, but to me since there is nothing that says for example “newly constructed or resurfaced tracks after X date”, that this would be the required specs and should not be able to be exempted. The beginning of this Rule 2 does state “the facilities specifications listed in this rule represent the minimums necessary to host intercollegiate track & field...” Is this something that you could take to Mark for clarification on or is there some other avenue I should take this?

When this rule was originally written the word should, was specifically used because of the existing buildings that had tracks already on their campuses. Currently, and particularly in the northeast campuses continue to be challenged with land and building design limitations. If the current rule used a more definitive word other than should it would outlaw several existing and potential future facilities nationwide.

In my opinion, this is not the desired outcome by changing to a more definitive word in Rule 2-1.2(f). There is no need to change the language.

As a reminder, the conference may place more stringent facility specifications (ex. minimum track radius) in its championship hosting requirements.

Submitted by Assoc. Commissioner, Bridget Johnson Tetteh

I wanted to see if you have any advice on when it is appropriate to “re-stage” a race. During our conference championship during the 4 x 100, Team # 1 ran into Team #2’s lane causing Team # 2 to stumble and go from second place in the race to seventh.

Team #1 was disqualified from the race per the rule book.

Team #2 wanted to re-run the race by themselves due to the fact they could have had a better time if Team #1 would not have bumped into them. In consultation with our meet referee, we decided not to re-run the race.

Rule 12 Article 2 d, states that the meet referee can “decide all questions regarding re-staging an event”.

In your opinion, if an athlete's race is impeded due to a running violation by another member, should the runner that was impeded have the option to re-run the race?

I am just trying to get some guidance as I review our conference procedures.

In the case you described, I believe the referee acted appropriately.

The re-running of a race is done if, in the referee's opinion, the event was interrupted due to extraordinary circumstances. An individual or relay team being fouled is not an extraordinary circumstance.

If the referee deems a re-run then the entire race becomes invalid and all competitors compete, not just one team or individual.

The referee could advance a fouled individual or relay team to the next round if there is flight or lane availability.

In my opinion, providing the athlete or coach the option to re-run is not advised.

Submitted by architect, Matt Heidloff

I know ASBA “Recommends” that there be a 1 Meter Safety Zone on the inside and outside of the track. I also see that IAAF “Preferred” to have it, but I do not see anywhere where it is “Required”.

Can you confirm that this is true for certification?

We are working on a remodel of a track and due to some existing conditions we will not quite meet this along a portion of the bleacher side straightaway.

The 1-meter safety zone surrounding the track is preferred/ recommended, it is not required. However, please consider the placement of officials during the competition, the flow of individuals to not interfere with the competition, the placement of hurdles and other equipment, etc

Submitted by director of operations, Matt Sparks

We are in the process of finalizing our bid to host the 2025 ACC Indoor Championship. Previously, we have hosted this event and it is my understanding that we had a "waiver" from the NCAA to have a 2-heat final (seeded properly). There is some debate among our conference coaches concerning whether or not those times from the final are able to be used for NCAA qualifying.

Clarifying Questions:

1. Do we need to complete a waiver process in order to run a 2-heat final of the 60m and 60m hurdles?
2. If waiver approved, do times contested in a 2-heat final count towards NCAA qualifying?

Please follow the conduct of your 60 and 60H events as written Rule 7,

"For races run entirely in lanes (55 Meters, 60 Meters, 55 Hurdles, 60 Hurdles, 200 Meters, 300 Meters, 400 Meters, 500 Meters, 600 Meters, 4x200 Relay and 4x400 Relay):"

Rule 7, Section 9, Article 5.(d) states, "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."

Additionally, Rule 7, Section 10, Article 3.(b) says, "A final round, contested as a result of Rule 7-9.5d (eight competitors advancing when the facility has few 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:

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

Submitted by coach Bryan Schiding

We are hosting the NCAA D2 Cross Country Championships. I asked our rep about the “Finish Line Judge” position and if it was necessary with the use of 4-5 cameras and video finish. I was told it is a mandatory position. Can you give me a brief explanation of what this position is expected to do? I looked it up in the rules book, and what I found was that it made reference to manual timing.

In rule 20 of the current NCAA rulebook, manual judges of the finish and manual timers are a requirement.

There is currently no provision to eliminate this position due to the number of cameras on the finish line.

This is a failsafe measure in case of a catastrophic power failure.