

## October 2025

### Clarifications and Interpretations

Submitted by, D.O. Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick

I have a rules edit question for you. In Rule 22 Section 3 it does not specifically say that the undergarments (like a shirt under a uniform tank) have to match. In the past the wording was a bit different. Was there an intentional change or did the previous line get left off?

I have a conference office staff member wanting to have clarification for their officials at their meet.

*In Rule 22-3.1(c.2) it speaks to undergarments as not being part of the uniform. Therefore the undergarments do not necessarily need to be identical to other team members.*

Submitted by, Coach Glen Drexler

Reaching out to inquire about rules and regulations regarding High School athletes participating in NCAA Sponsored, Collegiate Track & Field Meets. You may not even be the individual I need to connect with, but in my mind this was a rules question...

Bottom line- is it allowable to have High School kids competing as “Open” athletes in an NCAA Sanctioned meet?

*Your question is a very good one, but it does not fall under the rules that govern the conduct of a competition. I would ask your institutional Director of Compliance for an interpretation. Also, your conference or the NCAA compliance office can assist.*

*It seems to me that this is something that would possibly be considered a potential recruiting advantage. Also, I would talk to the state high school federation to inquire if allowed to compete if doing so would affect the S/A's eligibility.*

Submitted by, A.D. Katelyn Smith

Random question for you , for cross country nationals, our team is planning on doing a throwback uniform to honor and recognize Joe Vigil (former coach here who passed away a few months back). The uniform itself will have ASC across the chest. Are there any issues with this from an NCAA standpoint because it will say ASC instead of ASU?

From what we see in the rules, it looks like as long as they're all matching and identifiable, it should be okay. But we just wanted to double confirm!

*No issue, the institution's uniform question meets the specifications of the rule.*

Submitted by coach, Peter Miller

Are we requiring a legal mark to advance to finals when 9 or less are entered in field events or just an attempt? I was at a usatf/WA certified meet this past season where they advanced people to finals who did not have a valid mark in prelims.

*The Automatic Advancement rule has changed.*

*An athlete must "have a valid mark" in the preliminary round in order to advance to the final round of jumps or throws.*

*This is a difference from the USATF / WA rules.*

## November -December 2025 Interpretations and Clarifications

Submitted by commissioner, Mike Vuraich

We are getting ready to run our Conference Championship at the University at Buffalo and, because of weather conditions tomorrow, a couple questions have come up regarding the NCAA's uniform rule, specifically as it relates to undergarments.

The NCAA Pre-Championship Manual 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."

The Cross Country Rulebook states the following: "Additional visible clothing is an undergarment. It must be worn under the uniform and is not considered as part of the uniform."

A couple questions:

- If student-athletes want to wear long sleeves or arm sleeves, do these all have to be the same color for all student-athletes of that team?
- If student-athletes want to wear a headband, do these have to be the same color for all student-athletes of that team?

*The undergarments or head coverings do not need to be same color. The rule was relaxed in the current rulebook.*

Submitted by coach, Benedict Draghi,

I hope all is well! I had a quick clarification question for you.

1.) Are NCAA meets allowed to bar unattached athletes in the field events from competing in the event finals, even if they legitimately qualified during preliminary rounds?

*No, if unattached athletes are allowed into a competition, the meet is considered an Open Competition. In Open Competitions all athletes have equal right to advance and subsequent rounds. Only the maximum of 9 individuals that earned the right, by performance, to advance to the final round may compete.*

2.) If so, can they take a lower ranked athlete and replace them with the unattached athlete they barred from competition?

*If you want only NCAA eligible competitors in the final, you must run a Collegiate Competition. In Collegiate Competitions, only college eligible athletes are allowed to compete in all events. This means, no elite, open, unattached, red shirt, etc athletes are allowed to enter the competition.*

I recall this being specifically not allowed in a guidance or discussion sent out last year, but I cannot find anything in the NCAA 25-26 rulebook that specifies allowing unattached athletes to compete in the final if they legitimately qualified for it

Submitted by commissioner, Bobby Weygand

During the NCAA indoor and outdoor track & field championships, are coaches allowed to protest any incident during an event if there were no violations/flags reported by the officials? For example, during the 200m, if an athlete makes a running violation and no official notices the violation and no flag is raised, can a coach protest that unseen violation? Or does a violation need to be reported by an official first?

*Coaches can protest any incident even if there were no flags or violations reported by the officials.*

Submitted by official Jeff Johnson

With the start of the NCAA Indoor track season there's uncertainty re. WA shoe list checks. Are we still under the moratorium that occurred during XC season? Or are we supposed to be checking against the WA approved shoe list again?

*Rule 6-4.5 is in effect. Shoe checks are part of the competition procedures.*

Submitted by official Maurice Campbell

I wanted to see if you had a written procedure that should be followed when an athlete breaks a NCAA record or World record in terms of shoes, drug testing and certification of the record. I wanted to have something in place that is consistent with the current rules.

*The NCAA only keeps records for the championships. All NCAA performances during the regular season are recognized as NCAA best performances. No forms are necessary for NCAA best performances. Follow the directions on the form.*

*For American records use the USATF record form: [Record Applications for Track & Field Events | USA Track & Field](#)*

*For World records use the World Athletics form: [Technical Information | Official Documents](#)*

Submitted by official, Bryan Lorge

I will be working a meet next week where we will be running 2 pole vault pits. I have a couple of questions.

a. Rule 5, Section 4, Article 3.c. states you do not break a tie for first place between pits unless they are "concurrent." I am curious about the definition of concurrent. Does this simply mean at the same time or does it mean we raise the bar simultaneously at each bar height like the procedures used at the D1 outdoor first round meet?

*A concurrent competition in Rule 5-4.3c is referring to the utilization of two pits at the same time while conducting a single competition.*

b. Several interpretations over the past few years indicate the time intervals are based upon the number of competitors remaining in the competition on both pits. So, if we have 1 vaulter on one pit and 3 on the other, both pits would start with a 1 minute time limit?

*In a concurrent competition there are 4 jumpers remaining, therefore one minute is the correct amount of time for an attempt.*