

Rule 119.4a Topic: Jury of Appeal

In resolving an issue relating to the decision of a referee, the Jury shall consult with all relevant personnel, **including the relevant Referee**.

Discussion – The words “**including the relevant Referee**” were added to clear up any ambiguity and make it clear that the referee should be consulted.

NCAA rules require that the when considering appeals, the jury must interview the Referee.

NFHS – Rules don’t address this

Rule 125.2 Topic: Additional Authority Given to the Referee

After personal observation, a Referee may overrule a decision of a Judge.

Discussion – New words added and authority added to the role of the Referee. The Referee shall not act in a dual capacity but may take action or decision according to the Rules based on personal observation, “**and may overrule a decision of a Judge**”.

NCAA – This is not addressed directly in the NCAA rule book, but the authority given to the Referee would infer that he/she has that ability.

NFHS – Rule 3 Section 4.4 states “The referee has the sole authority for ruling on infractions, except as provided in Rule 3-6-1 (*starter*). The referee has the sole authority for ruling on irregularities not covered within the rules. The referee may seek the advice of the head umpire or field referee/head field judge before making a ruling. The referee is also authorized to disqualify a competitor who commits an infraction personally observed by the referee.”

Rule 125.9 Topic: Identifying the Area under the control of the Call Room or Clerking Referee.

Discussion – This change more clearly defines the area of jurisdiction for the Clerking Referee. In disciplinary matters, the clerking area Referee has authority starting from the Warm-Up Area up to the Competition Area. In all other instances, the Referee applicable to the event in which the competitor is or was competing, shall have authority.

NCAA and NFHS rules don’t mention a Clerking Referee, only The Clerk of the Course. Such authority would fall on the meet Referee.

Topic: Reconsideration of a decision by a Judge

Rule 126.1 – Added to Finish Judges Section

Judges may reconsider any original decision made by them if the decision was made in error provided the new decision is still applicable. Alternatively, or if a decision has subsequently been made by a Referee or Jury of Appeal. They shall refer all available information to the Referee or the Jury of Appeal.

Rule 126.9 – Added to Field Judges Section

The Judge may reconsider a decision if he/she believes an incorrect flag was raised. See Rules 180.11 and 180.12.

Discussion – I believe that by adding these provisions to the rules, we allow ourselves to ensure that we get it right.

NCAA Rule change last year states in a Note “Actions by a competitor after the official has ruled the trial fair cannot be a foul. This does not negate the immediate correction of an error, such as raising the wrong flag.”

NFHS rules do not address this issue.

Rule 134 Topic: Announcer - Deleted

Discussion - Old Rule 134 listing the Announcer separately was deleted. Information regarding the Announcer is now under the Event Presentation Manager - Rule 124 in the new rule book.

NCAA rules devote an entire section to the duties of the Announcer (Rule 3, Section 14)

NFHS rules mention the announcer with minimal guidance on duties.

In Rule 146.2 and 146.10 Regarding Protests,

Replacing the word “announcement” with “publication.”

A sentence was added at the end of **Rule 132.2 regarding the Competition Secretary keeping a log of the publication of all results.**

Discussion – This change is significant given that we commonly publish results on the web without actual announcements or posting boards. The time requirement for USATF has not changed and is 30 minutes after publication.

NCAA Rules require that protests relating to singular matters be made within 15 minutes after results have been “announced or posted”.

NFHS Rule 3 Section 5.3a states - Misapplication of the rules must be followed within 30 minutes after the announcement of event results.

Rule 143.3 (a) and Note 1 & Note 2 Topic: Competitor’s shoes

Update on legal shoes - It remains that a shoe may not give unfair assistance. Any shoe thought not to be in compliance may be referred by USATF for study.

Discussion –

Rule 143.3 (a) A competitor may compete in bare feet or with footwear on one or both feet. The purpose of shoes for competition is to give protection and stability to the feet and a firm grip on the ground. Such shoes, however must not be constructed so as to give the competitor any unfair assistance or advantage.

Note 1: Adaption of a shoe to suit the characteristics of a particular competitor’s foot is permitted if made in accordance with the general principles of these Rules.

Note 2: Where evidence is provided to USATF that a type of shoe being used in competition does not comply with the Rules. USATF may refer the shoe for study and if there is non-compliance may prohibit such shoes from being used in competition.

NCAA Rules are almost identical to USATF on the subject of shoes. Both limit the number of spikes to 11 and both limit the length for track and horizontal jumps to 9mm and 12 mm for the HJ and Javelin on synthetic surfaces. Both rule books also limit sole thickness to 13mm for the jumps with a maximum heel thickness of 19mm for the HJ.

NFHS rules state that “shoes shall be worn on both feet and shall have an upper and definitely recognizable sole and heel.” It must be securely fastened to the foot. Slippers and socks do not satisfy the rule. Rules for jumping events state that competitors shall not wear a shoe or shoes that incorporate or contain any device that gives the competitor an unfair advantage. The Games Committee may limit the length of spikes allowed on all-weather surfaces.

Rule 143.5 Topic: Competitor's bib(s) in jumping events

Formerly, language said that bibs in the pole vault and high jump may be worn on the back or front. The rule now refers to "Jumping Events."

NCAA rules specify that the number must be visible while competing. The Games Committee may decide how the bibs are to be displayed.

NFHS rule only state that when numbers are used, competitors shall wear their assigned, unaltered contestant number.

Old Rule 144.3 (i) Topic: Athlete's personal safeguards

This was moved to Rule 144.4(d). Under the examples given for personal safeguards, "wrist cooler and breathing aid" were added.

Discussion – The list of examples of permissible personal safeguards in USATF rules now includes bandage, tape, belt, support, wrist cooler and breathing aid. No definition has been given to breathing aid.

NCAA examples are less inclusive listing torso belt, wrist band and shoe strap. We do know however that tape (with restrictions) is also allowed.

NFHS – Wearing of a support belt and taping of the wrist is allowed. Knee and ankle braces are also allowed. Any hard items like casts or ridged braces may require padding (rule 4-4). Other specific items may require written authorization from the PIAA (head covering and insulin pump mentioned).

New Rule 144.3i(f) Topic: Physical Assistance to Athletes

The added rule states that "Receiving physical support from another (other than from another competitor in the event helping to recover to a standing position) that assists in making forward progress in the race is considered assistance."

Discussion: The intent of this rule is obvious. Cross Country would be more likely to have this new rule come into effect.

NCAA rules state that the referee may warn or disqualify a competitor who gives or receives assistance.

NFHS rules include as illegal assistance "Competitor receiving assistance from another competitor to complete the race. Both competitors shall be disqualified unless a competitor is injured or becomes ill and an appropriate health-care professional is not available, only the injured/ill athlete is disqualified."

Rule 146.6 (b) Topic: Protest in preliminary rounds of field events

146.6 (b) is moved to 146.7 (b) - An athlete who protests a foul in any round of the trials is now allowed to compete in any subsequent round of competition if the protest is upheld.

Discussion – Rule 146.7 (b) states “Regarding an attempt during the first three rounds of trials of a horizontal field event that would have advanced the athlete to any subsequent rounds of trials only if the protest or subsequent appeal was upheld; or regarding an attempt in a vertical field event that would advance the athlete to a higher height only if the protest or subsequent appeal was upheld; the Referee may allow the athlete to continue competing under protest to preserve the rights of all concerned.”

The performances achieved while competing under protest are valid only if the appeal or protest is upheld.

NCAA – Discuss the dark mark situation with Eagle Eye and judgment calls if no video evidence.

NFHS - Judgement calls cannot be protested

New Rule 147.1 Topic: Universal and Mixed Competitions, relays and team events

This new rule introduces Universal Competitions, such as relays and other team events, in which men and women participate together without separate classification of results.

Discussion – This only pertains to the new classification of events and in special cases of field events and races of 5000 meters and longer. Two notes were also added to Rule 147 for clarification.

Note 1: Mixed Competitions in Track Events as permitted under this Rule shall be conducted only where there are insufficient competitors of one or both genders competing to justify the conduct of separate races.

Note 2: Mixed Competitions in Track Events shall not, in any case, be conducted so as to allow competitors of one gender to be paced or assisted by competitors of another gender.

NCAA rules state that Mixed-gender Competition is permitted in any horizontal field event with fewer than five competitors per gender. It is not permitted in Combined Event competition.

NFHS – Mixed gender competition is ok if coaches unanimously agree or the Referee deems it necessary.

Rule 161 Topic: Starting Blocks

This is a large amendment and needs to be read in the 2018 Rule Book. The rule reorganizes the information concerning the starting blocks. The **major highlight comes in section 161.3. No part of the starting block may overlap the starting line or extend beyond the lane in which it is placed, with the exception “provided there is no obstruction to any other competitor, the rear part of the frame may extend beyond the outer lane line.”**

NCAA rules state “The starting blocks must be set within each competitors assigned lane without overlapping the starting line.”

NFHS rules state that starting blocks must be placed in the respective competitors lane

Rule 162.15 Topic: Competitor Charged with a False Start

Now included for situations when lane markers are being used, a corresponding indication should be placed on the respective lane marker(s).

NCAA rules only state that officials must positively inform competitors, officials, meet management and spectators of disqualifications through the use of green, yellow or red cards and verbal communication.

NFHS rules only specify that a competitor be disqualified for a false start

Rule 162.17 (c) Topic: Athlete’s improper behavior at the Starting Line

It now applies to behavior after the commands “on your marks” or “set”. In addition to the other factors listed, movement that disturbs other competitors is now listed.

Discussion – Good opportunity to discuss (and read) start procedures

NCAA rule book page 68

USATF rule book page 61, 62, 63 rules 162.13,16 and 17

NFHS – page 38 – starting violations

Rule 163.5 (c) Topic: Material advantage in a running race

The language specifically mentioning the report of an umpire regarding a lane infraction is eliminated. The wording “material advantage is gained” is added.

Discussion – Good opportunity to review lane violations in the different rule books.

Read the USATF Rule 163.5 (page 64) – Note that a single step on the inside lane line on a curve is grounds for disqualification in USATF rules

NCAA Rule 5.4 Article 1 (page 69) – language mirrors USATF except lane violations on a curve state “steps on or over the lane line to the left with two consecutive steps of either both feet or a single foot.”

NFHS rules also mirror those in the other rule books except that lane violations on the curve stated as three or more consecutive steps with either or both feet.

Note - Running inside the track curb or lane line to gain advantage (like passing another competitor) is a violation in all rule books

Rule 168.3 Topic: Hurdling Technique

The term “jump” each hurdle now reads “go over” each hurdle.

NCAA rule lists “Does not hurdle each hurdle within the competitor’s lane” as a violation.

A Note is added under Rule 168.3 (b). It reads that a competitor may go over the hurdle in any manner provided that certain requirements are met. These requirements are listed in the Rule.

New Rule 168.3 (c) states that it will be a disqualification if he or she directly or indirectly knocks down or significantly displaces a hurdle in another lane (unless there is no effect or obstruction upon any other competitor(s) in the race).

NCAA hurdle violations do not include knocking down a hurdle which interferes with another competitor.

NFHS – A competitor who hitting hurdle that goes into another competitors lane and interferes with that competitor shall be disqualified.

Rule 170.3 Topic: 4x100, 4x200, the first and second legs of the Swedish Medley, and the Outdoor Sprint Medley relays

The new rule regarding the 30-meter takeover zone (also known as the exchange, passing or handoff zone) is applied. The scratch line will be 20 meters from the start of the zone.

Discussion – The new takeover zone is now 30 meters long and includes the old acceleration zone. No exception is made for youth. The existing markings do not change. The scratch line marks the center of the old exchange zone. The 4x400 and 4x 800 relays exchange zones have not been changed.

NCAA and NFHS have not adopted this change

Rules 170.12 Topic: Relay exchange zones

Rule 170.12 now states “In all relay exchanges, runners are not permitted to begin running outside their exchange zones, and shall start within their exchange zone. If a runner does not follow this Rule, his/her team shall be disqualified.

Discussion – This change goes along with the change to the 4x100 exchange zone. The runner must be positioned somewhere within the 30-meter zone to start.

Rule 180.4 Topic: Field Event Trials (except for HJ, PV)

Several changes have been made to allow variations based on information given in entry material. This potentially impacts the following.

- How ties for the final qualifying position are handled
- How to deal with events with eight or fewer competitors
- The order of competition in subsequent rounds

Discussion – Rules involving these items have not changed but do allow for variation based on published entry information. The words “**unless the entry material provides otherwise**” appear in the rules for each of the items listed.

Review of each item in the three rule books

Ties for the final qualifying position

NFHS – Horizontal field events

Ties are not broken for competitors tying for the last position in the finals.

To be eligible for the finals the competitor must have at least one legal jump or throw in the preliminaries.

NCAA – Horizontal field events

Ties are not broken for competitors tying for the last position in the finals **unless tie-breaking is designated by the Games Committee.**

When the number of competitors in a horizontal field event is not more than the number of qualifiers for the finals, **the Games Committee may allow** all competitors to automatically advance to the finals provided that they have at least one attempt in the preliminary rounds.

USATF – Horizontal field events

Unless entry material provides otherwise, ties for the final qualifying position for additional trials shall be broken by applying Rule 180.17

When there are eight or fewer competitors (nine if nine lanes used around the track) all shall be allowed six attempts, **unless the entry material provides otherwise.**

Rule 180.10 (c) Note 1 Topic: Order of Competition in Field Events

The new note reads as follows: “In field events except within the Combined Events, the Referee shall not allow a competitor to take a trial in a different order in the final round of trials. The Referee may allow a competitor to do so during any earlier round of trials. This subsection applies to one attempt at a time.”

No Change to Youth Rule 302.5 (q) which allows trials to be taken out of order or in succession in both the preliminaries and the finals.

Discussion – This rule pertains to an athlete who has a conflicting event. Previous to the rule change, trials could be taken out of order one round at a time in either the prelims or finals. It is no longer allowed in the finals.

NCAA – Rules allow attempts to be taken out of order in the prelims but not the finals. In prelims, attempts may be taken in succession.

NFHS Rules are the same as USATF Youth

Rule 180.11 Topic: Field Event Time Limits, Determining unreasonable delays

*Many issues in 180.11 have simply moved into different sections of 180.11.

(e) The “Time in Minutes for Initiating a Field Event Trial” chart remains the same EXCEPT the time to initiate a trial when there are more than three competitors or when the competitor is taking the very first trial. That time will be .5 minutes (30 seconds). Pole Vault remains at 1 minute. **This change does not apply to Youth Athletics.**

(f) The time limit for consecutive trials shall be applied “whenever” a competitor has two or more consecutive trials. If another situation allowing more time is applicable, the greater time limit is to be used.

Also in (f) when one competitor remains in the HJ or PV and is attempting a World Record or record relevant to the competition, the normal time limit increases by one minute.

Discussion – This change impacts all field events other than the PV where there was no change. There is no change to youth.

NCAA – No changes at this time but times for trials are different than USATF in many cases.

NFHS – Different than NCAA and USATF

Rule 180.11 (c) Topic: Application of the “consecutive” trials rule in HJ and PV

This rule applies to consecutive trials within or between a bar height.

Discussion - This change applies to USATF youth

NCAA – The consecutive trial time applies only within a height.

NFHS does not address this

Rule 181.11 Topic: The Crossbar

Added is that “It shall be colored so as to be visible.”

Discussion – This applies to both the HJ and PV

Rule 184.8 Topic: Horizontal jump measurement

The wording “any part of the body of the competitor or anything that was attached to the body at the time it made a mark” HAS BEEN CHANGED TO “any part of the body of the competitor or anything **while** attached to the body at the time it made a mark.”

Discussion – This was a topic of significant discussion on the last Master’s level Rules Review. The new wording doesn’t change anything but more clearly states the rule.

NCAA – Slightly different wording but the same meaning

NFHS – Much simpler wording with the same meaning

Rule 187.1 Topic: Failure in the Throws

(b) Changes touches to “touches with any part of the body and adds the area, “the surface outside the circle.”

NOTE: This says if a touch occurs without providing any propulsion during any first rotation and is completely behind the line running theoretically through the center of the circle it shall not be considered a foul.

(c) In the Shot Put, it shall be a foul if any part of the body touches any part of the stopboard other than the inner side. The top inside edge is considered to be part of the top.

Discussion – Other than rearranging wording, the only real change here is that during the first rotation, it is not a foul if the thrower touches the surface outside the circle as long as there is no “propulsion” involved.

NCAA and NFHS – No such exception

Rule 187.2 Topic: Leaving the circle when a trial is interrupted

This change involves throwing events when a trial is interrupted and the athlete leaves the circle. The change is the removal of the requirement that he or she must leave from the rear half. In such situations it is now legal for the athlete to exit in any manner.

The Note remains requiring that this action be included within the time limit for the trial.

NCAA – No language regarding leaving the circle when a trial is interrupted but such action is not considered a foul if the athlete has not started the throw. Time limits remain.

NFHS – Per the Case Book, this action is allowed but the direction of exit is not addressed, therefore any direction legal. Time limits remain.

Rule 193.11 Topic: Aero Javelin

Now in addition to a description, a figure (#17) of the aero javelin is in the Rule Book.

Rule 195.5 Topic: Weight Handle

Reference to Figure #15 had been inadvertently omitted from Rule 195.5. It is once again referenced in the Rule.

The change also emphasizes that hammer handles are not allowed for the weight.

Rule 232.4 (d) and 241.2 (g) Topic: Refreshments, Water and Sponges for Race Walk, LDR and Road Events

This NOTE appears under both rules.

NOTE: A competitor may receive from or pass to another competitor refreshment, water or sponges provided it was carried from the start or collected or received at an official station. However any continuous support from a competitor to one or more others in such a way may be regarded as unfair assistance and warning and/or disqualifications as outlined in the rule may be applied.

Rule 302.2 (d) Topic: False starts in Youth Athletics

Now included for Youth Divisions: 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14 for situations when lane markers are being used, a corresponding indication should be placed on the respective lane marker(s).

Rule 332.2 (c) Topic: False starts procedures for Masters

Now included for situations when lane markers are being used, a corresponding indication should be placed on the respective lane marker(s).