



## USATF Rules of Competition 2018 Highlighted Changes



**Track & Field**  
**Long Distance Running**  
**Race Walking**

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## 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.**



## Rule 125.2 Topic: Additional Authority Given to 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.**



## **Rule 125.9 Topic: Identifying the Area under the control of the Call Room or 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.



## 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.



## Topic: Reconsideration of a decision by a Judge

### 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.



## **Rule 134 Topic: Announcer**

Rule 134 was deleted. Information regarding the Announcer is now under Rule 124 - Event Presentation Manager in 124.4 and 124.5



## 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.



## **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.



## **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.”



## **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.



## **Old Rule 144.3(f) Topic: Physical Assistance to Athletes**

The rule added 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”



## **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 allowed to compete (under protest) in any subsequent round of competition with marks being valid only if the protest is upheld.



## **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.



## **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.”**



## **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).



## **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.



## **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.



## **Rule 168.3 Topic: Hurdling Technique**

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

**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.



## **Rule 168.3 Topic: Hurdling Technique**

**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).



**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.



## **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.



## **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



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

Except within Combined Events, the Referee shall not allow an athlete to take a trial in a different order in the final round of trials but may allow it in any earlier round of trials.

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.



## 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.

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.**



## **Rule 180.11 Topic: Field Event Time Limits,** **Determining unreasonable delays** **(continued)**

180.11(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.



## **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.

## **Rule 181.11 Topic: The Crossbar**

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



## 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.”



## **Rule 187.1 Topic: Failure in the Throws**

187.1(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.



## **Rule 187.1 Topic: Failure in the Throws**

187.1(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.



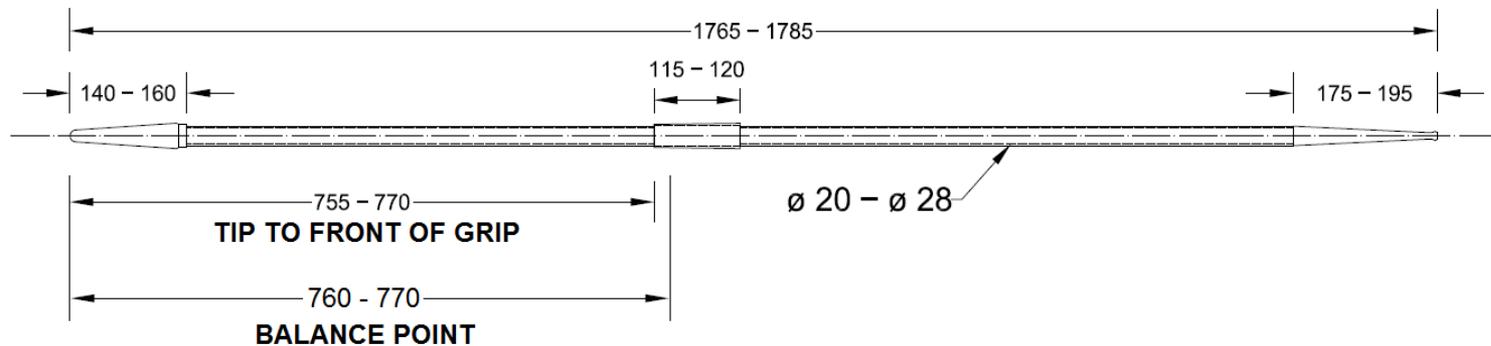
## **Rule 187.2 Topic: Leaving the circle when a trial is interrupted**

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.



## **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).



THANK YOU

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