

2019 USATF Rules Changes

- ▶ Selected and edited rules changes - Refer to the 2019 USATF Rule Book for additional information.

- ▶ Content credited to Laurie Boemker, edited by Bruce Long

▶ Rule 143.2 Topic: Competing without a shirt in hot weather

▶ In addition to LDR, Road, Track, Mountain, and Trail are now included. This will be allowed with the approval of the Referee and Games Committee. *

The rationale is that there is no reason to limit this to road races.

Delete Rule 163.6(b), Add New Rule 180.11 - Topic: Leaving the Competition Area

A Competitor may not leave the immediate area of a field event during the progress of the competition unless the competitor has the permission of the Chief Judge and is accompanied by an official.

Athletes excused to compete in other events need not be accompanied.

If possible, a warning should first be given but for subsequent instances or in serious cases, the athlete should be disqualified. This needs to be in compliance with Rule 144, Assistance to Athletes.

** The rationale is to separate running and field events and place language in the appropriate section of the Rule Book.*

Rule 164.4 - Topic: Finish Line Requirements

This makes the **requirements for a finish line for events finishing outside of the stadium 5cm to 30cm in width and of a contrasting color from the surface of the finish area.** Refer to rules **244.1** and **256.2** for finish line requirements dealing with road races, cross country, mountain and trail.

** The rationale is IAAF compliance and the creation of a consistent finish line definition.*

Rule 166.2 (h) - Topic: Determining Heats and Advancement

The TABLES in the Rule Book are changed and **no longer include a six lane track**. Part of this change is **the addition of special tables for the 800, 1500, Steeplechase, 3000 and 5000**. This gives the tables to be used in the absence of extraordinary circumstances or when tables are published and distributed no later than the start of any **declaration period**. For the Youth exception, see Rule 303.1 (i). For the Masters exception, see Rule 332.2 (k).

** Meets selecting US Teams or when other factors such as time constraints, etc., exist, there is often a need to establish special procedures. Also, it is important to note the difference between races run in lanes versus non-lane events.*

New Rule 170.12 - Topic: Shuttle Hurdle Relay

This puts **a definition of the Shuttle Hurdle Relay** and **how it is to be contested** in the Rule Book.

Companion Rules 170.1 and 332.2 (i) will be amended. **For Masters Competition, the shuttle hurdle height, spacing and distance will be determined by the youngest member of the relay.**

** This definition has not been in the Rule Book for at least 15 years and should be.*

Rule 170.16 - Topic: Retrieving A Dropped Baton

This adds that an athlete may leave not just his or her assigned lane but also leave the track to retrieve a dropped baton. Rule 163.6 will NOTE the relay exception.

** It is important to add this language to clearly note that this is not a disqualification.*

**Rule 180.10 (c) NOTE - Topic: The Order Competitors
Take Trials in the Final Round of Trials**

**In Combined Events the Referee may allow a change
within any round of trials.**

** This clarifies the Rule and more closely follows the
language used in IAAF Rule 142.3.*

Rule 180.12 (a) NOTES - Topic: Starting the Clock, or to Time Out and Call a Failure in a Field Event.

Officials and Referees must be fully aware of the competition environment. This amendment lists a number of factors (as examples) that should be considered when deciding to start the clock or to time out and call a failure.

**When the time for a trial begins needs better clarification. This is consistent with IAAF 180.17 and some USATF current practices.*

**Rule 180.12 (e) - Topic: Language Change in the Table
regarding Time for Initiating a Field Event Trial**

This replaces the word competing with remaining in the competition at the start of a round.

** This language is thought to leave less room for misinterpretation.*

Rule 230.3 (j) - Topic: Pit Lane Considerations

This adds that athlete who fails to remain in the Pit Lane for the applicable period of time shall be disqualified.” It also states, after a third Red Card if it is not practicable to use the Pit Lane, the referee shall add the appropriate amount of time and adjust the finish order, if needed.

** This change adopts the IAAF modification made on March 5th, 2018.*

Rule 244.4 - Topic: Finish Line When Using a Transponder on the Running Surface

In events using a transponder reading device on the running surface, the device shall be of a color in contrast to the running surface and other parts of the device to indicate the finish line.

** This agrees with the IAAF rule and helps create a consistent definition of the finish line.*

Rule 302.3 (a) - Topic: Entering a Youth Relay

This says the procedure for entering a relay can be found in the Youth Training and Development Manual and in Meet Entry Information and deletes Youth Guide

*. * The Youth Guide is no longer published and has been replaced by the Youth Training and Development Manual. (available on the USATF website)*

Rule 302.3 (d) - Topic: Youth Relay Uniforms

All participants on a team shall wear a top of the same color. At Regional and National Championships, tops and bottoms shall be the same color.

** This is clearer language. Also, replacing shorts with bottoms accommodates athletes whose religious beliefs do not allow them to wear shorts or briefs.*

Rule 302.4 (a) - Topic: Specifications for Youth Hurdle Events

The new chart establishes the specifications for all indoor hurdle events.

** This gives the specifications for all current youth indoor hurdle events.*

Rule 303.1 (d) - Topic: Advancement in the 800 at National Youth Championships

Regardless of the number entered, the 800 will be contested as two rounds with the top 8 times advancing to the final.

** This is the current and desired practice.*

Rule 303.1 (e) - Topic: The 1500 at National Youth Athletics and Junior Olympic Championships

For the 8 and under, 9-10, 11-12 divisions, the 1500 will be run as a timed final with no more than 18 per section. For 13-14 and older, the 1500 will be run in two rounds of no more than 18 per heat with the top 12 times advancing to the final. At Association and Regional Championships, the referee may allow more than 18 participants.

** This is the current and desired practice.*

Rule 303.1 (f) - Topic: Youth Events 2000 meters and longer

The referee has the right to allow more than 24 participants per section.

** This is the current and desired practice and NOT just for the National Championships.*

**Rule 303.1 (g) – Topic: 100, 200, 400, 80H, 100H, and 110H
*at the National Junior Olympics***

**There will be three rounds. / FAT must be used. / 24
advance to the semi-final (The top 2 in each heat, the
remaining by time) / Advancement from the semis (The
top 2 in each heat, the remaining by time) / Lane
Assignments will be ranked from each group of advancers
in order by place and ranked by time, followed by those
advancing by time only in rank order.**

** This is the current and desired practice and is JUST for
the National JO Championships.*

**Rule 303.1 (h) - Topic: 200m Hurdles and 400m Hurdles
at the National Junior Olympics**

**Regardless of the number entered, these events will
be contested as two rounds with the top 8 times
advancing to the final.**

** This is the current and desired practice.*

Rule 303.2 (b) - Topic: When Heats are Unnecessary in Youth Athletics

At Assn. and Regional Championships and the National Youth Indoor and Outdoor Championship. **When the number of competitors makes heats unnecessary, the event “may” be run as a final at the time scheduled for the heats.**

** This adds this option at all championship levels.*

Rule 304.4 - Topic: The Transponder/Chip System in Youth Cross Country

The finish place recorded by the chip shall be official provided the finishing order is reviewed by a finish line imaging system to determine the order of finish for any questionable placing.

**This recognizes that the torso is the deciding part of the body that determines finish position. When athletes are separated by more than 1/10 of a second, this is not an issue.*

Rule 306.1 (g) - Topic: Athletes' Affiliation within the Junior Olympic Program

Once an athlete begins participation in the Junior Olympic Program, the following shall apply

- (i) Athletes who are unattached must remain unattached,**
- (ii) Athletes who represent a club may not switch from one club to another,**
- (iii) An athlete may withdraw their club affiliation and compete unattached.**

** This was formerly provided in the Youth Guide which no longer exists. An update will be placed in the Youth Training and Development Manual.*

Rule 306.1 (e) - Topic: Advancement to National JO's due to Extraordinary Circumstances

The request shall be made in writing to the Association Youth Chair, who shall then submit it to the Regional Coordinator, who shall then submit it to the Zonal Representative, who shall then submit it to the Youth Athletics Executive Committee.

** This clarifies how the request needs to be submitted and will be processed.*

Rule 306.1 (f) - Topic: Advancement to the Regional Junior Olympic Meet for those who miss the Association meet due to extraordinary circumstance if such action would exceed the Association's allocation to the Regional meet.

The advancement should not displace someone who qualified at the Association meet. It will be allowed for above athlete(s) if all the Associations in the Region agree.

** This clarifies how the request will be allowed.*

Rule 306.2 (b) - Topic: Youth National Heptathletes and Decathletes advancing to National JO's

This adds the above to the list of events eligible for automatic advancement.

** This would not displace any Regional Qualifier. Also, three Heptathlons or Decathlons in a one month period is not desired for any Youth Athlete.*

Rule 320.9 - Topic: Masters Records

Masters records for both relays and individual events may be recognized if at least two athletes (or teams) are bona fide and have participated in the event in which the record purportedly was established.

** This brings Masters in line with recent WMA changes. Also, in older age groups it is sometimes difficult to put enough athletes on the track.*

Rule 330.5 - Topic: Masters Relay Uniforms

There are no competition uniform similarity requirements for Masters Relays. Team identification will be accomplished through the issuing of letters or numbers.

**Rule 332.1 (d) - Topic: Honest Participation for
Masters**

**The “honest participation” rule in 142.3 and 142.4
shall not apply in Masters Athletics.**

** Compliance with WMA*

Rule 332.3 (c) - Topic: Masters Vertical Jumps

A competitor who has not taken an initial jump in at least one hour from the first trial in the competition shall be allowed, under the direction of the event official, to use the runway and landing areas without the crossbar to warm-up with one attempt within one minute. Warm-up shall occur at the change of the bar to the height the competitor enters the competition.

** This is needed due to the extreme range of master's abilities.*

Rule 332.3 (h) - Topic: Long and Triple Jumps in Masters Competition

All take-off boards shall measure 0.20m in width. In the long jump, one or two take-off boards may be used. One shall be 0.5m or 1m from the nearer edge of the landing area. In the triple jump, (i) two or more take-off boards may be used. (ii) when more than one take-off board is used, each take-off board shall be placed in full meters apart from the take-off line closest the nearer edge of the landing area. --- Plasticine is not required.

** Compliance with WMA rules.*

Rule 333.4 - Topic: A Pit Lane in Masters Race Walking

A Pit Lane **SHALL NOT** be used in Masters Race Walking.

** Compliance with WMA rules.*