

USATF Rule Change Proposals

75 proposals discussed by the Rules Committee

4 withdrawn

20 rejected

9 tabled

42 accepted or accepted as amended

19 Youth rules

12 Masters rules

6 General rules

2 Para rules

1 LDR rule

2 Race Walk rules

Selected 2023 USATF Rule Changes

STARTER'S ASSISTANT / LINE CLERK – Add Rule 130 as follows

1. Upon receiving the competitors in transit from the Call Room, the Starter's Assistant shall verify the presence of each competitor as indicated on the start list for that heat or race. Verification of correct bib and other numerical identifiers, as well as their use on the uniform, shall also occur.
2. The Starter's Assistant shall place each competitor in the correct lane or position. The Starter's Assistant shall place the competitors "under the command of the Starter" by assembling them in each lane or on the common startline, at the direction of the Starter between 1m and 3m behind the start line, with each competitor in a standing position and facing in the direction of the race. When this has been completed, the assigned Starter's Assistant shall signal to the Starter that all is ready. When a new start is ordered, the assembly shall occur again. The Starter's Assistant shall advise the Starter of the number of races in the event, empty lanes and any other condition pertinent to the assembly of the competitors.
3. The Starter's Assistant shall be responsible for the readiness of batons for the first leg competitor in a relay race.
4. The Starter's Assistant shall be the Start-Line point of information regarding qualifying and / or advancement procedures for the event and event procedure including staggers and break-points.
5. The Starter's Assistant shall coordinate with media presentation personnel to have competitors in-place for appropriate introductions.
6. In handicap events from marks, the Starter's Assistant shall place each competitor behind the proper mark.
7. In time allowance handicap events, competitors shall be assigned their positions by the Starter's Assistant, who shall also furnish the Starter with the number and time allowance of each competitor.

Rationale: WA compliance. Defining the function of the current USATF Official, Line Clerk, in terms of WA listed officials.

Amend Rule 146.4 and Delete Rule 146.6 as follows and renumber:

4. (~~In races where a start information system is used, if an immediate oral protest is made regarding a decision by the Starter to charge a false start, the Referee may, if in any doubt, allow an athlete to compete under protest in order to protect the rights of all concerned and provide the time required to determine if the information provided by the system is obviously inaccurate and other evidence is inconclusive with regard to the commencement of the start.))~~

An immediate oral protest regarding a decision by the Starter to charge a false start, made by the competitor being charged, shall be accepted by the Start Referee. In order to protect the rights of all concerned and provide the time required to consider all evidence with regard to the charged false start, the competitor shall be allowed the opportunity to compete under protest, unless the evidence of a false start immediately available to the Start Referee is extremely obvious, in which case the protest shall be denied. After that decision, no further opportunity to protest that specifically charged false start shall be available to the competitor. For an athlete allowed to compete under protest, a red and white (diagonally halved) card shall be raised in front of the athlete. The false start decision of the Starter shall remain in place pending execution of Rule 146.3 and then a determination by the Start Referee.

NOTE1: *After being allowed to compete under a false start protest, all future false starts charged to the same athlete in the same race shall be treated independently. If in this case a subsequent false start results in disqualification, the Referee may declare all of the athlete's previous false start protests invalid.*

NOTE2: *An "extremely obvious" false start is a false start visible to the naked eye of a member of the start team and is recognized without doubt.*

Amend Rule 301 as follows:

13-14 DIVISION

100 Meter Dash

200 Meter Dash

400 Meter Dash

800 Meter Run

1500 Meter Run

3000 Meter Run

2000 Meter Steeplechase – 30'

3000 Meter Race Walk

4 x 100 Meter Relay

4 x 400 Meter Relay

4 x 800 Meter Relay

100 Meter Hurdles - B-33"

100 Meter Hurdles - G-30"

200 Meter Hurdles - 30"

High Jump

Long Jump

Triple Jump

Shot Put - B-4 kg

Shot Put - G-6 lb.

Discus -1 kg

Pole Vault

Javelin – 600 g

Pentathlon: 100m Hurdles

Shot Put - B 4 kg, G 6 lb.

High Jump

Long Jump

800 Meter Run - G

1500 Meter Run - B

Add Rule 302.2(j) as follows:

When there are more lanes than athletes in lane events, Rule 166.2(f) Note 1 shall apply unless the Games Committee, before the competition, decides otherwise.

Rationale: The treatment of empty lanes has not always been treated consistently at national meets. The proposal would give clear guidance in the Youth section of the Rule Book.

(Rule 166.2(f) Note 1 – When there are more lanes than athletes, the inside lane(s) should always remain open.)

Amend Rule 302.4(a) as follows:

OUTDOOR EVENTS						
Division	Distance	Hurdles	Height	To First	Interval	To Finish
11-12 GB	80m	8	30"	12m	7.5m	15.5m
13-14 Girls	100m	10	30"	13m	((8.0m)) 8.5m	((15.0m)) <u>10.5m</u>
13-14 Boys	100m	10	33"	13m	8.5m	10.5m

INDOOR EVENTS						
Division	Distance	Hurdles	Height	To First	Interval	To Finish
11-12 GB	50m	4	30"	12m	7.5m	15.5m
11-12 GB	55/60m	5	30"	12m	7.5m	13m/18m
13-14 G	55/60m	5	30"	13m	((8.0m)) 8.5m	10m/15m

Rationale: This change will add consistency in racing for this age group during track season as they transition from high school to summer competition. This is the only age group that has to convert to a setting change during summer competition. All other age groups are consistent during the High School/Summer seasons.