

NFHS Track & Field

2014 NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Comments on the Rules

Thursday, February 27, 2014

COMMENTS ON THE RULES

3-1-2 – Clarifies within the rules that the referee, meet officials or jury does not have authority to set aside a rule, except as provided under special circumstances in Rules 3-4-1 and 3-4-6.

3-2-8, 3-2-4k and 3-2-7 – Technology advancements in the area of electronic audio and video devices have made such items easy to use and very accessible. Their use, if not used for communication during the actual competition when a competitor is on the track or completing a trial, no longer creates an advantage or disadvantage among competitors or teams and can serve as a coaching tool. These items may be used in the coaches' box and/or unrestricted areas. They shall not be used to review an official's decision. The games committee no longer has authority to restrict their use.

3-19-3 and 7-5-5 – The implement inspector's expertise is in the throwing implements, not the vaulting poles. The scales typically used are limited to about 40 pounds, therefore, are not usable for this purpose. This provides for a more efficient and practical process by placing this responsibility with the field referee or head field event judge.

4-3-1c(7), NOTES 1, 4-3-2, 9-6-1c(7) and NOTES 2 – Compression-style shorts that extend beyond the length of the uniform short, but above the knees are frequently being worn as foundation garments, similar to a sports bra. The color of such visible undergarment plays no significant role for officiating purposes. The time and attention by officials to be certain athletes are in compliance when wearing such items delays progression of the meet and the severity of a penalty of disqualification for a non-compliant garment is too severe, as the item does not impact the competition. These foundation garments are not part of the uniform, are not subject to being a single, solid color and are no longer a uniform factor for relay or cross country teams.

6-6-1 NOTE – Updates the equipment requirements for the rubber tip javelin and places responsibility on the manufacturers.

7-2-10 and 6-2-9 – Adjusts the prescribed time limits for the pole vault to one minute and now places the time limits for consecutive trials in Rule 6, Throwing Events, which has not previously been addressed in the throws.

7-5-24 – For the purpose of minimizing risk of injury to a pole vaulter, the rule requires that planting box padding shall meet the applicable ASTM Specification Standards no later than the start of the 2014-15 track season. This required implementation date allows for product availability. The track season begins with the first meet of the season (indoor or outdoor) for the purpose of establishing

the required implementation date. Schools may use this padding now if state association policy does not determine otherwise.

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