

Monthly Interpretations / Questions and Corrections for July, 2013 – May, 2014



September, 2013:

- a. How should the lane numbers be painted on the track at the finish line? The IAAF recommends that the numbers be orientated toward the spectators and before the finish line. Figure 3 on page 14 of the NCAA Rules Book has the numbers after the finish line. This is not correct and will be changed in the next edition of the Rules Book .
- b. Please clarify the current rule regarding the use of a two-section final and a consolation final for indoor competitions? A consolation final is never allowed. A two-section final is allowed in races which start in lanes only if the number of advancers to the final is greater than the number of lanes on the track. The maximum that can advance to a final is eight, unless the facility has more than eight lanes. If the facility has fewer than eight lanes, then a two-section final, with specific seeding according to Rule 10-5, is allowed. A facility with eight lanes must run a single section final using all eight lanes.
- c. The width of the javelin runway at a facility is not always 4 meters. Should the white line defining the edge of the runway follow the actual contour width of the runway or be 4 meters wide throughout? The runway for the javelin need not be, and is common to not totally be, an artificial surface. The white line signifying the runway edges are the limits within which a competitor can make their approach, whether this be on turf or other surface type. No matter what the surface type of the runway, the runway edge markings should always be 4 meters apart.
- d. A conference wishes to use a High School outdoor facility for the conference meet. It is surveyed for no curb. Is it legal to be used for qualifying? Yes. Qualifying performances can be attained on a track with no curb as long as the bends are marked by cones. Records cannot be set on a facility without a curb.
- e. What are the requirements for the minimum number of events and minimum number of participants in a meet in order for the performances to be accepted as qualifying marks? These issues are detailed in the Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee.
- f. Is a Long Jump and Triple Jump board that is painted such that two-thirds of its total 12 inch width is painted white and the rest painted yellow, with a clear line of change between the two colors, meet the conditions for a legal take-off board for the events? Also, can the placement distances for the Triple Jump take-off board be altered from those provided in the Rules Book? The take-off board as described is a legal piece of equipment for the events. The placement of the take-off board in the Triple Jump is dependent on the ability of the competitors more so than strict fixed distance positions.
- g. Is it permissible for the lanes on a new facility to be less than 42 inches? Will the NCAA certify the facility? The NCAA does not certify any facility. Survey results are to be on file locally for inspection as needed. The recommended minimum for current construction is 42 inches, Rule 1-1.9, even though the minimum is specific in Rule 1-1.2.
- h. A facility was planned in 2012 and constructed in 2013. The lane width upon completion is a constant 41-3/8 inches. Will qualifying marks be acceptable from this facility? The current rule in effect for the width of the lanes of a facility is stated in two rules in the Rules Book and, unfortunately, there is a slight abnormality. In one case the width is stated as an absolute, not less than 1.067m, the other states this as a 'recommended minimum'. It is truly the intent of the Rules Committee to have 1.067m as the minimum width. 'Recommended minimum' had been language that the Committee used frequently to convey a strong message of compliance. In addition, whenever a change such as this has occurred in the Rules Book, it is frequently accompanied by an effective date. This was also omitted as an oversight when the change was put in place.

Since the actual construction of the facility, including design, was occurring during the overlap period of the rule change, and there can easily be other facilities that do not meet the current minimum width, current provisions have not made those facilities 'out of compliance' while those conditions exist. What that means is that all performances on those facilities would be permissible as valid performances for any use within the NCAA, such as Championship Qualifying. However, this allowance is totally limited to and for the rules of competition. It is not a ruling that requires the Championship Sport Committee to accept this facility as one that complies with all they might require for championship competition.

- i. Is there recommended distance markers placement that shall be in place along the runway for an NCAA facility or can distance markers be placed as desired by the Athletics Director of the facility? For runway events, the competitors normally place personal markers along, and outside, the runway to mark their take-off point and possibly one other reference point. To do this, a tape measure is frequently extended along the runway during the warm-up period. To facilitate this, many facilities have permanently marked distances along the runway as indicated in the rule. There is no recommended or standard pattern as to how many or at what distance separation this marking should be.
- j. How many events must there be in order for a meet to be considered official? This issue is detailed in the Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee.
- k. The radius from center of throwing circle to the material panels is listed as a minimum of 3.5m. Is this that no point of the material shall hang closer than 3.5m from the center of the circle? However, specifications from two reputable athletic equipment manufacturers have dimensioned out the minimum 3.5m to be from the joint anchor points rather than the closer middle points of the panels. Could you please clarify that an NCAA compliant discus cage requires a minimum of a 3.5m radius from center of circle to what location of the hanging panels? The NCAA and the IAAF both have diagrams that show the 3.5m from the center of the circle to the closest part of the cage ... not the anchor points. However, the USATF diagram shows that distance to the anchor points ... but refers to the printed IAAF rule, which does not. Please note the second paragraph of rule 1-9.2 which provides some leeway in design.
- l. Are 'lean lines' required or even advised for an NCAA facility? Why are they even used? The NCAA does not require the existence of 'lean lines' nor does it provide any diagrams that have them shown. It is not forbidden to have such lines. The IAAF Facilities Manual shows the lines to be 'optional', and only shows them in a diagram. There is no mention of the lines in any text. The lines were meant for the competitors. They are an indication that the finish line is approaching ... which was sometimes difficult to determine.
- m. In a 1500, during the first 100m, a runner falls and the 'pack' passes an umpire who raised a white flag to indicate no violations. A question arose whether or not the umpire should have raised any flag at all? One opinion was that the runners were under control of the starters for the first 100 meters and therefore the umpire should not make any call. Another opinion was that the starter's charge is to recall if a runner goes down but the umpire is looking for any violations that might occur but would not cause a runner to fall. What is proper? The recall rule for the starters during the first 100 meters is totally their issue. No flag would affect a recall. The umpire flag is a signal of a violation or incident that is referred to the Referee. If such a violation did occur, then the flag is appropriate.
- n. Would a track oval with a measure line length of 400.070 be acceptable for NCAA competition? It exceeds the IAAF limit of 400.040. The NCAA subscribes to the IAAF limits, therefore no.
- o. If you start the decathlon on Friday, and you are entered in other events on the same day, can you continue on to day two of the decathlon if you do not report to your other events on Friday? Yes. The decathlon is one event. The participation rule is satisfied upon starting the first event

and you are allowed to continue in an event that has been started. Please see the note within Rule 4-2.2.

- p. If a hurdler knocks his/her entire hurdle into the next lane obstructing the hurdler in that lane, is that a disqualification for the hurdler causing the incident? Is the hurdler who was obstructed able to rerun the race? A disqualification for the runner who caused the incident is a HS rule and not applicable for any other group. The decision regarding the DQ in NCAA and any remedy for the one 'obstructed' is totally in the hands of the referee.
- q. In the NCAA Rules Book for indoor events there is a general statement (Rule 10-1) that the procedures for indoor championships are established by games committees. Does this mean that the games committee has flexibility to set procedures, other than what is in the Rules Book, within the competition in races such as the 800, 1000 etc.? Rule 10-1 is meant to authorize decisions for which the Rules Book does not have a requirement. Therefore, if the Rules Book specifies a particular requirement for the 800 or 1000 ... such as Rule 10-4.2 or 10-4.3, then those must be followed, since they are Rules.
- r. Does the new rule regarding pole vault box padding apply if the pit design has side pads that are aligned with the edges of the PV plant box? The main elements of the rule are that there must be protective padding in use for the plant box, which was in the old rule, and that the padding (collar) meets the specifications stated in ASTM F2949-12. The ASTM standard calls for an overlap of all edges with a protective material, therefore, just the use of the landing system side pads would not be sufficient to satisfy the rule.
- s. Can the final three rounds of a field event, after qualifying, contain eight competitors if there are only six places scored in the competition? Rule 6-2.3 states that 'one competitor more than the number of scoring places' shall advance. This is the minimum, not a mandated absolute. The rule also indicates a maximum.

October, 2013:

- a. There have been conflicting reports regarding the type, availability and requirements for the new pole vault box collar. Please clarify what must be done according to the new rule. A statement has been written and made available through the NCAA Rules Liaison. That statement reiterates the wording of the new rule and the policy position of the NCAA to go forward with the planned implementation of the new padding design, according to the ASTM standard. Assurances regarding product availability have been confirmed by manufacturers.
- b. Recent NCAA Rules Books have only referred to a 'painted line' for the arc on the javelin runway. The UCS and Gill websites show no product for the flat metal ring in place of the painted line. Is a metal ring legal? The actual rule says 'painted white', not a 'painted line'. The small distinction is that anything can be painted white. So, it can be metal ... just paint it white.
- c. When running the 800 meter indoor using 3 alleys, is it required to cone the inside of each alley to the break line? Rule 1-1.10 mandates the use of cones for a 'single' outer alley, not each of many alleys. However, the practice of using cones for each alley is not forbidden. Rule 1-1.6 specifies the distance between cones.
- d. When seeding an 800 meter final after a semi-final that included 3 sections would the heat winners need to share the same alley? Rule 10-5.3c allows the games committee to use the method described. However, the normal 'assigned to preferred' is completed in a sequential manner with the highest ranked first getting the most preferred and then the second ranked first the next preferred and so on. Accordingly, by rule, both methods are acceptable.

- e. Is it true that indoor qualifying marks will not be accepted from a flat 8-lane facility? The Qualifying Regulations distributed by the T&F Championship Committee must be the guide to answer this question. However, no such restriction is in the current Regulations.
- f. There is a desire to not run three rounds in the 800 Meter in a conference championship and there may be approximately 40 entrants. The conference would like to seed the top ranked 24 into three heats where the advancement would be top 2 places from each heat plus the next best two times. All other entrants would run in separate 'qualifying sections' where the best two times overall would be compared to the two advancers on time from the seeded heats, and would bump them from the final accordingly. Is it possible to have this as the advancement for the 800 at an indoor conference championship? Rule 10-4.3 governs the number of entrants in a race. Rule 10-5.3 provides the seeding and advancement procedure. It may seem that these put restrictions in place to not allow the desired method. However, two rule sections would provide for the desired seeding, or one other alternative. Rule 10-5.3a only recommends that the top two from each heat advance, but mandates that at least two must advance on time. One solution is to serpentine all entrants as per Rule 10-5.3b and advance all eight on the basis of time. Another solution is based on the meaning of 'requiring qualifying heats conducted under specified conditions and preceding the competition proper' in Rule 5-10.1a. The entrants ranked below 24 may be those defined to compete in a 'qualifying competition' where advancement is only afforded to the best two entrants who also attain a performance better than the two advancers based on time from the seeded sections. A third solution is for the conference to use the other provision of Rule 5-10.1a and establish standards that would effectively reduce the overall number of entrants.

November, 2013:

- a. Is it required for a hammer or discus cage to be to the specifications in the NCAA Rules Book in order for the cage in use to be legal for NCAA competition? Specifically, is the IAAF hammer cage illegal for use at an NCAA competition? The NCAA rule calls for a minimum specification. The IAAF cage minimum is more restrictive than the NCAA minimum. The specifications listed in the NCAA Rules Book are minimums and are also not absolute; therefore the IAAF cage is not illegal for use in NCAA competitions.
- b. At a large college XC meet one D2 coach had a runner with a pink hat. The question: Since it was not a team item, can the runner/coach be told that it is illegal? In addition, the team also ran with face paint in the two school colors. They were advised to not do for that for the upcoming regional, since it was a violation of the logo rule. Hats, arm-warmers and socks are not part of the uniform indicated in the Rules. However, the logo rule does apply to any worn apparel. Face paint is not regulated.
- c. Our school has a javelin sector that crosses an area of cement 8 meters from the foul line and crosses a drainage swall at 14 meters. After that, the landing area is grass and conforming to the NCAA slope requirements. Is it required that the full landing area for an implement be of the same material or that it totally conform to the slope requirements? There is no rule requirement that the whole and complete landing sector must conform to specifications, especially an area where it is unlikely that the implement would land.
- d With regard to scoring indoor competitions for the 2014 season ...
1. Let's say we have 20 teams competing and 10 would like to compete in dual-meet scoring. The other 10 would like to compete in 'invitational' scoring. Is the possible and allowable within the same meet?
 2. Let's say we are having a dual meet. One team has 14 athletes competing, but the other only has 10 athletes. Is either team still able to score it as a dual meet, and does it meet D1 competition requirements for either team?

The competition rules do not forbid any type of break-out scoring. The Qualifying Regulations have no requirement for scoring above four teams. There have been

sponsorship interpretations regarding the issue you address. Please check with your Compliance Office. In #2, the competition rules do not address how many competitors are required in order to score a competition. The D1 requirement for a legal competition, sponsorship and allowing the performances to be used for qualifying, are all issues of by-law and qualifying regulation. The answers to this must come from your compliance person or the appropriate Championship Sport Committee.

- e. Does the new XC rule on tie-breaking mean that we need to break all team ties and make sure the various scoring systems do it correctly? Yes, that is exactly what the new rule means.
- f. Our men's and women's XC teams both wear a combination of shorts/bun huggers/boy cut and half shorts so we wear varying lengths. The primary color is black (buns are solid black) however some of the shorts/boy cut and half shorts have white striping on the side and others are solid black. Does this fit the proper uniform rule? Assuming that the tops are identical, the overwhelming predominant color of the shorts is black and that the only difference would be the bottom lengths or the strip, then a normal person would be hard pressed to say that the runners were from different teams. Therefore, the uniforms meet the rule requirement.
- g. What type of material is acceptable for the landing area of the Shot Put? An acceptable material will allow for a soft landing that absorbs the impact and also leaves a discernible mark to facilitate the measurement. Options include grass, cinder, red-brick dust and crushed lava rock.
- h. Is wearing a wrist watch in competition prohibited? The meet referee allowed it in a conference meet last weekend, but the meet information for the region says no watches can be worn. This is a rule specific to, and only applies to, D2 championship competition under the control of the D2 Championship Sport Committee. D2 is the only division that has this rule. There is no general rule that forbids the use of a watch during any competition.
- i. Rule 5-8.4 allows for the use of an international run-up zone whenever the incoming leg of a relay is 200 meters or less. Is this permissible for each of the three exchanges in the 4x200 Meter Relay? The 4x200 can be contested totally in lanes or by having only a limited number of legs run in lanes, depending on how the facility is marked. Rule 5-8.4 also states that the outgoing 'runner must be positioned entirely inside that zone within the runner's lane'. Since no 'lane' exists for the outgoing runner, an international zone cannot be used in any case where the exchange is not completed totally within a lane. That is, both the incoming and outgoing runners must have a dedicated running lane in order to make use of the international zone.
- j. Are the popular arm warmers (lower arm - separate from any t-shirt) and leg warmers considered undergarments? Arm warmers, hats and socks are not uniform and are not undergarments.

December, 2013:

- a. Is it permissible to classify a group of entrants in a single round of a single event into two categories and then have separate advancement procedures to a final from those two categories? No. This is not permissible from a single round of an event. Two categories can be established based upon entries with the creation of a standard, those meeting the standard those not achieving the standard, who then are required to compete in a qualifying round before the competition proper.
- b. Our conference Cross Country championship manual states:
 - Rules and procedures not covered by this administrative manual and the Conference Handbook will fall under the rules and procedures of the current NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country and Track and Field Rule Book.
 - Ties in team and/or individual competition at the Conference championship shall not be broken.

With this language stated in our championships manual are we able to continue to operate as stated or do we need to modify our procedure to the new NCAA rule? The language regarding rules and procedures needs to be reversed. Rules and procedures not covered by the current NCAA Rule Book will fall under this administrative manual and the Conference Handbook. An NCAA Bylaw requires that the rules of the association be prominent, following by other procedures. As a result, I cannot tell you to not follow an NCAA rule, which means that ties in XC must now be broken.

- c. One division Cross Country manual states that the wearing of watches is prohibited. Does this apply to all divisions? No. This provision is not an NCAA rule of competition. It is a restriction put in place by one championship sport committee for their championships
- d. A student athlete with a prosthetic wants to compete in track. Is there any issue related to the Rules of Competition? The NCAA does not forbid nor restrict the use of prosthetics.
- e. If the new box padding for the Pole Vault is not in place by the required time, should the assigned official allow the pole vault to be practiced or contested without the legal box padding is in place? What if the meet organizer insists the event be contested despite the legal box padding not being in place? Non-compliance with a safety requirement would subject the host institution (and any school/coach that chooses to participate without the required equipment) to any ramifications should an incident occur. It is the responsibility of officials to report any violation of the rules to the appropriate referee. It is the responsibility of the meet referee to provide "fair and safe" competitions for all competitors. If the required equipment is not in place, a decision must be made to determine if the problem can be remedied and whether the event can proceed. Similar to other events or sports that require certain equipment to be in place, it must be determined if the event can be conducted safely. Ultimately, the continuance of the event is based on an informed decision by those involved.
- f. How is a three-way tie resolved in Cross Country. Under current rules, each team is compared to the other two teams so that a rank order can be established.
- g. In the Cross Country/Track & Field Rules Book, there is a description of non-championship vs. championship courses in the Cross Country section. Does championship refer to any course that is hosting the NCAA Regionals and Championship or does it extend to Conference Championships as well? The word and phrase 'championship' throughout the Rules Book, even in T&F, has always included conference 'championships'.
- h. Can a championship meet be held with a 3-day format and still have the performances eligible for use as qualifying for the NCAA championships? The Rules Book only references a 2-day meet format. The meet format in the Rules Book, regarding number of days, is there as an example. Yes, a three day meet is legal is a legal meet.
- i. The Rules Book suggests that the order of events be followed and should not be altered to accommodate athletes in multiple events. What is an example of an accommodation? In most cases the examples of accommodation and the associated problems all occur on the last day or in a one- day meet where the normal order of events is changed so that there would be more time afforded to a person competing in more than one event. With a multiple day championship, there is less chance of a conflict possible.
- j. Can a petition be made to the Rules Committee to waive the rule that requires to use of all eight lanes for the final of an indoor 200 Meters where the facility has 8 lanes and allow the final to be run as a 2-heat final using lanes 5-8 or lanes 3-6? Under the currently published rule, if the facility has 8 lanes and you advance 8 competitors, which is the max, all 8 lanes must be used unless extraordinary circumstances exist. The Rules Committee is not authorized to waive a rule.

- k. The SkyDex 'Soft Box' is not a collar, so the ASTM Standard for box collars does not apply. The SkyDex Soft Box was tested, and passed, the HIC and Gmax requirements of the collar standard using the collar testing protocol. The NCAA rule allows the specifications to be “incorporated into the design of the pole vault box”. Does the SkyDex Soft Box comply with the new requirement pertaining to the use of a Box Collar? The NCAA will issue no ruling other than what has already been done. Every device used must comply with the ASTM standard. There are no exceptions. It is suggested that an inquiry to SkyDex be made to determine if they are in compliance with the ASTM standard. The current NCAA Rule clearly identifies the goal of the rule and mandates the use of a padding device that meets the ASTM standard both around and within the pole vault box. The method of meeting the standard is not the responsibility of the NCAA, but of the manufacturer, who should certify to the consumer that their product complies with the standard.