

September 2020 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. We, like much of the country, are working through a non-competitive season with our team, but a racing opportunity came up for us to be able to compete against another program. Per both our school's senior leadership teams are allowing competition as we follow strict testing guidelines, but the only constraint we up against is that our competition must be contested on school grounds. Both institutions are not space friendly or terrain friendly to a cross country race on campus. With that said, my question to you is that if we are not considering this an NCAA competition and not planning to report this competition, would it be acceptable to compete on an outdoor track to contest a 5K/6K for women/men. We don't feel the need to report to TFRRS if it is not required, but also, we want to make sure that running on the track doesn't affect track eligibility. Would this be considered NCAA competition? I reviewed the NCAA rules on cross country courses, but it did not specifically say we can't have it on a track. Thoughts?

Your question really deals with student-athlete eligibility which does not fall under the playing rule purview. I would strongly consider asking your compliance officer or have them contact the NCAA directly. If my recollection is correct, I don't believe a scrimmage (for lack of a better term) against another institution is permitted but please confirm with the proper authority.

Regarding your question about running a cross country meet on a track, this does not comply with Rule 1-12.2 on page 30 of the 2019-2020 NCAA Rules Book.

b. We are building a new outdoor track from the ground up. Our track builder is telling us we don't need a rail all the way around the track, just on the curves, and from what I recall reading the other day, this seems to say what the rule book states. At this very moment, I can't point to that very section of the rulebook because there is website maintenance at that location. Can you please let me know if it is correct that the rail does not need to go all the way around the track for competitions but only just on the curves

Rule 1-1.6 is what you are looking for in the book:

Cones and Curbing

ARTICLE 6. A track surveyed based on the existence of a curb shall, at a minimum, have the full curves bordered by a curb of suitable material approximately 5 centimeters high and at least 5 centimeters wide. The edges of the curb shall be rounded. See Figure 1.

Cones may be used to replace a curb temporarily when the curb interferes with other events, but not as a substitute for a curb. If a section of the curb must be temporarily removed for any reason, its place shall be marked by a white line 5 centimeters wide and by cones at least 15 centimeters high. The cones shall be placed on the track on top of the line so that the outward

face of the cone coincides with the edge of the white line closest to the track. The cones shall be placed at intervals not exceeding 4 meters.

For world, American and NCAA outdoor championship records, a regulation curb must be in place. For outdoor and indoor championship qualifying on a track surveyed for a curb, a regulation curb must be in place. For indoor records and all championship qualifying on a track surveyed for no curb, the inside white line must be marked additionally with cones. Beginning December 1, 2018, all newly constructed or resurfaced indoor tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition. Beginning January 1, 2021, all newly constructed or resurfaced outdoor tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition

c. What is the NCAA's position on the recommended radius for a 300m track? The rule book is vague with a recommended max measure line radius of 21m (68.9') for a 200m indoor track & 50m (164') for the maximum measure line radius in the outside lane (assume this is for a 400m outdoor track). I did not see where the rule book specifically addresses a 300m track. Since a lot of 300m tracks are around practice football fields, would the following apply as a guideline?

1. Football field is 160' wide
2. Assume 10' for runoff from the field to the infield edge of lane 1
3. 2" white line
4. 30 cm measure line
5. Radius = 80' + 10' + 2" + 30cm = 91.15' (27.8m)

For guideline purposes, what is proposed would be a good maximum radius for a 300 indoor meter track and field facility.

We're going to install a 10mm resurface on an existing indoor track. Currently the shot/weight circle is 25mm deep (right at the upper limit per NCAA Rule 1, Section 7, Article 1). We are considering adding 15mm of hydraulic cement to the inside of the throw circle to bring the depth back to around 20mm after resurfacing. Question: Will there be an issue if the top 10mm of the inside edge of the throw circle is defined by track surfacing instead of the metal ring?

Rule 1-7.1 states that, "the circles in throwing events shall be made of a band of metal 6 millimeters thick, or suitable rigid material firmly secured flush with the throwing surface, the top of which shall be flush with the surface outside the circle."

The track surface can be compressed therefore is not in my opinion a suitable rigid material a metal band would be recommended.

October - November 2020 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. Is there an NCAA rule for NCAA DII Cross Country Championships and participants. Specifically, a minimum number of runners needed for a team to compete at the NCAA championships. Could they enter as a team with four runners? Five, etc?

Rule 7-3.1 through 3 on page 101 of the 2019/2020 rules book is where you can find information. However, to be brief, the minimum number of cross country athletes that constitutes a team is five finishers.

Is there a rule for a minimum number of runners to compete/start the race? Could they bring four (4) individual runners and compete?

Certainly, individuals can compete but would not be included in the team scoring.

b. In a conference championship, do we have to run a prelims and finals for the 60m hurdles and 60 meters at our conference championships in order for those times to qualify for the indoor national championships?

It is not necessary to run a preliminary and final. The rules allow the running of timed section finals. As long as seeding procedures and all other rules of competition are followed as written in the new 2021-2022 rules book, the performances should be acceptable for advancement.

c. Reading the NCAA rules I am interested in the application used once competition has been suspended because of a lightning delay. If the 10,000m run is into the 10th lap of the race and it's decided to suspend competition because of lightning therefore the runners did not get to complete an entire 10,000m how do you determine finishing order for team points?

If in a field event you have already started the event and take for example a pole vault that has had some competitors out because of misses and some competitors that have not competed and other competitors that are in the middle of a competition. When competition resumes in such an event after an appropriate warm-up would you continue to compete as before the delay?

Your question has been asked several times in the past but I will try to simplify. First, as the referee, work closely with the meet administration and medical team prior to the race gathering weather data to determine if there is a good window of time to run and complete the race. If there is not a good chance that the race will be completed, it's best to postpone the start of the race until an opportunity comes about where the chances of completing the race are

good. Second, if it is determined that the race has a good chance of being completed, prior to the start of the race work closely with the timers and lap scorers. Ask the timers to capture the placings for each lap completed. Ask the lap scorers to record the lap completed placing of each competitor.

Once the race has started and lighting does occur requiring the immediate halting of the race, the referee then has options. Taking into account the number of completed laps and the data received, the referee may consider:

(1) Declare the race invalid and schedule a rerun at another time after a reasonable rest period.

(2) Declare the race invalid and decide no scores due to an incomplete result.

(3) Work with the games committee to determine scoring places for the completed lap data provided by the timers and lap scorers.

Option three is not the preferred scenario, but would be allowable for scoring purposes.

d. I am wondering if you have any idea if it is legal to have lettering on the track and also if you can put advertising/logos that aren't the NCAA approved logos directly on the track surface?

There is nothing in the 2021-2022 NCAA Cross Country/Track and Field rules book that prohibits lettering or a logo on the surface. It would be advised that you check with your compliance officer for other legalities. If allowed, I would suggest that the proposed lettering/logo not obstruct the lines on the track in any way. The preference is that the lettering or logo is in a non-competition area or in the "D" zone.

e. Where can I find a resource for field event facility layouts?

This link will help you answer some of your questions regarding field event layout.

<https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>

Look under the Track & Field Facilities Manual Chapters 1-3 and 4-8 tabs.

f. In Minnesota this year we are only allowed to host indoor meets as dual meets as required by our state health department. With dual meets many of the Minnesota D2 teams do not carry athletes in all the events. Are there waivers that we can apply for because of COVID and state mandates that will allow us to count national qualifying marks for events that only have athletes competing for one team? Example, only a handful of teams in our conference have pole vault. It will be likely that when we host a track and field meet that multiple events may only have athletes from one team competing in them.

There is nothing in the rule book or qualifying criteria that prohibits only one school being represented in an event. I can tell you that the desire of the rules and championship

committees are to have two institutions represented if possible as it encourages true competition, but they recognize extenuating circumstances, even in years without COVID, have necessitated this (e.g. scratches onsite, team withdraws last minute from meet, etc.). With the nature of the situation you outline below it is completely understandable. The entire qualifying criteria can be found at:

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/d1/indoortf/2020-21DIXTI_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

Note all changes and updates for this year are noted in red.

December 2020
Clarifications and Interpretations

Clarifications

*The 2021-2022 NCAA Track & Field Rules are in effect as of December 1, 2020.
For your convenience the new rules book is available online at:
<http://www.ncaapublications.com/productdownloads/TF22.pdf>*

The 2019-2020 NCAA Cross Country Rules will be in effect and applied through the Division I Championships which are scheduled for March 15, 2021.

The games committee or meet management do not have the authority to change or override the written rule.

Indoor Rules 8.5.2c, 8-6-2.c and Outdoor Rules 16.5.2c, 16.6.2c and 16.8.2b on foul put:

These rules are to be interpreted that the shoe sole can now brush the top of the metal band in the back half of the circle as long as the sole of the shoe does not touch the surface outside of the metal band.

Indoor Rule 1.27 and Outdoor Rule 9.26: The next to last sentence should read as follows: “When nine or fewer competitors remain at any given height, five alive is abandoned.” This is done to come into agreement with Indoor Rule 5-4.3(d) and Outdoor Rule 13-4.3(d)

Rules Book Corrections

*Part 1: Rule 8, Page 77 Indoor Track & Field
Disregard the table on page 77
Use only the field event timing table on page 78*

*Part 2: Rule 16, Page 162 Outdoor Track & Field
Disregard the table on page 162
Use only the field event timing table on page 163*

Rule Sighting Corrections:

On page 81 - The correct rule sighting for 8-1.12 is to see Rule 5-8.4.

On page 166 - The correct rule sighting for 16-1.12 is to see Rule 13-8.5.

On page 83 - The correct rule sighting for 8-3.1 is to see Rule 3-6.1.

Interpretations

a. As a part of the NJCAA we are seeking an exemption so we are able to host ‘meets’ and get qualifying performances. Can you tell me what the rule is and where it exists about the minimum number of events that must be contested to count as a meet. For instance, to limit people and provide opportunities we want to host a throws only meet or a jumps only meet

The NCAA qualifying criteria provides guidance regarding your questions.

Due to Covid-19 some restrictions have been loosened, items in red are the 2021 changes.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/d1/indoortf/2020-21D1XTI_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

A friendly reminder these qualifying criteria are only for NCAA membership institutions, they are not playing rules and shall not violate the 2021-2022 rules. The NJCAA can implement different qualifying criteria as they see fit as they are not rules. It is my understanding that the NJCAA does adopt NCAA rules, therefore the rules should not be violated. The NCAA can provide guidance but does not have jurisdiction in any matters pertaining to the NJCAA.

b. We have questions regarding shoes and spikes and if they are legal. Below is more information about each:

The two trainers the Alphafly Next % and ZoomX Next% are in question due to the height off the ground. According to Patrick the Next% sole is too high off the track for athletes to wear in races. The victory spike is in question due to the bubble at the ball of the foot. Right before the pandemic hit, we were testing a pair very similar and told them to send them back since they are not legal for NCAA athletes. The Dragonfly is in question because it is new. I have not heard anything specific but with all the other restrictions I have heard about track shoes I want to be sure.

The NCAA rules committee met and discussed the question regarding the use of these particular shoes once again. The NCAA as an organization does not certify equipment. World Athletics has a very extensive policy for different disciplines and an officiating protocol in place which includes declaration of what shoes the athlete will wear in competition.

The committee also considered the three divisions and the disparity in the level of officiating at competitions throughout the nation and could not find a reasonable way to monitor and adjudicate the use of these shoes in question. At this time, the NCAA rules committee's position is to allow the use of the shoes in question and to wait for a ruling to be rendered by World Athletics on their legality for competition.

c. When hosting a dual meet, two teams, are we allowed to have prelims/finals in the 60m/60m hurdles if the number of entries allow for it?

Yes, if the number of entries warrant/allow for a preliminary and final as stated in the 2021-2022 rule book.

d. I have a question about the new running back from the pit rule. I understand the safety issue involved and since the high schools are moving in this direction, athletes will get used to it in time, I'm sure. I'm wondering about the wording, however. Particularly in the high jump, athletes frequently abort a jump and because of the time constraint, will run back from the bar. I assume this is perfectly legal, since they are on the clock and are the only one active? But shouldn't some wording go with this?

Yes, this is perfectly legal while the athlete is on their attempt clock. The prohibition in the rule is intended for the warm-up period to increase safety at the high jump venue.

Another instance which takes place in practice and is more problematic, is when athletes first begin practice jumps, the majority of jumpers will take the first few runs as run-throughs. Quite a few don't go into the pit, but run completely across the plane of the bar (usually with the bar down) and head toward the other side continuing to run. Is this no longer allowed?

This practice is considered a run through and continues to be allowed in an official controlled warm-up setting.

Does the head official have to give instructions prior to practice that this isn't allowed?

Not applicable.

Will an official have to monitor athletes who might attempt this during practice and physically stop them, causing a safety issue itself?

By rule, an official shall be at the venue to conduct warm-up activities specific to the event. The official should never put themselves or others in a position that potentially causes a safety issue or concern.

And what penalty is assessed after a verbal warning to a competitor who repeats this action?
If the individual does not comply with the request or verbal warning of the event chief, the field event referee shall intervene with the issuing of a yellow card followed by a red card for a subsequent offense.

e. I just wanted to clarify that the interpretation is that there are no longer any minimum marks, and that every legal throw/jump must be measured.

Your understanding is correct. All legal marks made in the field events shall be measured and recorded. Full field event series are to be kept and reported as such once the competition is completed.

f. I was reviewing the new rule book and see that it removed the alternate procedure to allow for a minimum mark to be gained to get a measurement. Was wondering why this rule was changed? We sometimes have larger meets with as many as 45+ throwers in a single event. The range of throwers can be nearly 10m from worst to best (8m to 18m). I see the alternate procedure for 4 throws is still in there, but with larger fields, that is actually more time consuming than prelim/finals with 8 or 9 advancing. Is there any way that the minimum mark rule can be a games committee decision? We had the rule that the first legal throw was always measured, but then subsequent throws had to be over X to get a second measurement.

All legal marks made in the field events shall be measured and recorded. Full field event series are to be kept and reported as such once the competition is completed. The games committee does not have authority to disqualify a legally achieved performance in any event.

g. Please send me the new steeplechase rule that was passed? Trying to figure out what it is, does our equipment still meet it, and/or are there steeple pits out there that need upgraded.

Please find attached the new language for the steeplechase water depth moving forward. Like the WA all currently installed steeplechase pits at the 70cm depth will remain legal, however all new construction after January 1, 2021 shall comply with the 50cm depth requirement.

Water Jump Construction

ARTICLE 5. It is recommended that the water jump be placed on the inside of the track. The water jump, including the hurdle, shall be 3.66 (±0.02) meters long and 3.66 (±0.02) meters wide. The water shall be at least 50 centimeters deep immediately after the hurdle, and the pit shall have a constant upward slope from a point 30 centimeters past the water jump hurdle to the level of the track at the far end. The landing surface inside the water jump should be composed of a nonskid, shock absorbent material. A suitable material between the vertical uprights of the water jump hurdle is recommended to aid the competitor with depth perception. See Figure 4. The hurdle at the water jump shall be firmly fixed in front of the water and be of

*the same height as the other hurdles in the competition. The approach to and run-out from the water jump shall be of the same material as the track surface. **Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, the new water jump depth of 50 centimeters is required for all new water jump construction. All currently installed water jumps for the previous water depth remain acceptable.***

h. I wanted to get a rules clarification. In the combined events, can you start a multi at one venue and conclude it at another?

This has been done before, as long as all competitors are competing at the same venue and all competition rules are followed.

i. For throws and horizontals, I told them the rule (Rule 5, Article 2, Section 5) about advancing 1 more than the number of scoring places with each team guaranteed an advancer. They have two questions. First, if scored in the default manner, they would have 5 advancers to finals. If all 5 are from the same team, do they drop the last one and add a fifth advancer from the other team or do the 5 from the same team advance along with one from the other, making 6 finalists?

Second, if they choose to hold the meet as an unscored one, are they no longer bound by that and can they then advance 9 to finals?

The bottom line is that if the coach wants to maximize the number of athletes advancing to the finals apply Rule 5-5.3 located on page 52 of the rule book. Automatic advancement can be used if it is declared prior to the competition and there are 9 or less competitors in the competition. See Rule 5-2.7 page 50. If using Rules 5-5.1 or 5-5.2 as the scoring method then advancement limitations are applied. See Page 52.

j. I have been charged to report and detail any and all protocols necessary to safely engage in Track and Field competition for the upcoming outdoor season. I have researched on the NCAA website and reviewed the "Resocialization of Collegiate Sport" (Second edition). It gives detailed information on a wide range of testing and masking scenarios. What I am trying to acquire is any track and field specific requirements that must be in place to conduct competition. (implement custody/retrieval, starting block sanitation, landing pad sanitation, lane usage, field sizes....etc...) I know USATF has a document that addresses some of these items . Am I to assume those will be operative for NCAA?

With every state having different protocols it makes your question very difficult. The information that you found on the NCAA website is what is currently being used. Each conference is establishing their own protocols that need to be met. My best advice is to follow the local health department and NCAA guidelines to develop your conference protocols. Use the USATF information as an additional reference.

January 2021

Clarifications and Rules Book Corrections

*Editorial Correction: In Rule 7-9.6(c) there seems to be some confusion with the current wording of this rule. To clarify, the rule should read: When the race or leg of the relay is less than 800 meters, the competitors shall start **using a two-turn stagger**. ~~and continue in lanes at least until the end of the second turn~~. On tracks of more than 200 meters, a one-turn stagger shall be used.*

Rule Reference corrections:

*Rule 5-7.1(e) . Protests relating to Rule **6.4** ~~1-44 (indoor)~~ and ~~Rule 9-44 (outdoor)~~ shall not interrupt an event, nor result in a disqualification, once the event begins.*

*Rule 13-7.1(e) . Protests relating to Rule **14.4** ~~1-44 (indoor)~~ and ~~Rule 9-44 (outdoor)~~ shall not interrupt an event, nor result in a disqualification, once the event begins.*

Interpretations

a. I use a tack rag to help with my grip for throwing a discus and I've allowed my athletes to use one in practice earlier this week, they seem to like it as well. I wanted to check to make sure it's legal to throw with before they become too accustomed with it. It's basically a cloth with a waxy substance (beeswax) on it and I believe meets the rule that it can be "wiped clean with a wet cloth" but I wanted to get your thoughts. It's tacky rather than sticky and far more easy to remove compared to the sprays that I see others using. Here's a link to the exact one I use, followed by the description:

https://www.bigttennis.com/ProductDetails.asp?ProductCode=TRNTCRG&gclid=CjwKCAiA14WABhAJEiwATUnEF6gVY103Je6Gz5kQK7_ogJRO9C8s1jejybjM7t673aX6WOH1bqzGoBoCeZIQAvD_BwE

Tacky bee's wax is permeated in the Tac Rag. It gives you instant gripping power. Just wipe your hand or racquet grip. The tackified cloth delivers a safe, non-toxic layer of moisture repellent. The more you rub or dab on, the tackier it will feel. It will not stain and it dissipates quickly. Use as often as needed. Store in a reusable zip lock bag and when it turns completely gray just throw it away.

With my experience with this type of substance, I would like to see evidence that the bees wax does not leave a residue on the implements before making a ruling.

I could see referees not allowing this throwing aid because of the residue not being able to be easily wiped clean with a wet cloth as stated in Rule 7-1.5 (a) 3 on page 79.

b. Do ALL meets now have to be scored? Per the new rule (5-5.4), it states that each institution with a meet entry will begin with a score of zero. So doesn't that effectively say that all meets need to be scored? This is confusing as well because the header of that section says "Non-Scoring Institutions" so what does that refer to then?

If the competition is a scored event then Rule 5-5.4 is applied.

c. Athletes more certainly perform better in finals that are preceded by preliminaries. We have always been under the impression that if the competitors are less than or equal to the number of lanes (60m/60mH), you can only contest a final round. Rule 7-9.5a, b seem to allow for this. If they do not, is there any scenario where we can do preliminaries and finals with less than the number of lanes on the track in those two events? If it exists in horizontal events that fewer competitors (such as 6) can contest 3 preliminary jumps/throws and advance to a final round of 3 more jumps/throws, why is it handled differently in track events.

7-9.5a - This rule is stating that in any preliminary round there shall be at least two competitors. A singular competitor shall not run alone in any preliminary round.

7-9.5b - This rule is stating that a minimum of at least the heat winner must advance to a final.

d. Can you give some insight on conducting mixed gender competition. We have done this in the past, however we are preparing for some scenarios. Such as, if we conduct the long jump as a mixed competition with 4 men and 4 women, and all take 3 jumps, how do we structure the finals? Do we simply rank on performance? Or perform one gender before the other but separately?

Rule 1-45 on page 16 states, "Mixed gender competition is permitted in any horizontal field event with fewer than five competitors per gender. Mixed gender competition is not permitted in any event within a combined event or in any track event. A separate event sheet shall be maintained for each gender."

e. I know the games committee can do about anything it wants. Are they allowed to have a minimum line in the throws, and horizontals? I have a coach asking and what I see in the rule book is any legal throw shall be measured.

Your comment about the games committee is very concerning. A games committee can only work within the confines of the written rules. Ignoring a rule would be a violation and competition marks could potentially be disallowed for qualifying. All legal marks shall be measured, the establishing of a minimum mark was eliminated from the current rule book.

f. On page 69 article C under the “requirements for Heat/Finals”, the rule reads, “When the race or the first leg of the relay is less than 800 meters, the competitors shall start and continue in lanes at least until the end of the second turn. On tracks of more than 200 meters, a one-turn stagger shall be used.”

My question is, can we use a 3-turn stagger in the 400m & 4x400m indoor races? The “At Least” portion of these rules seems to allow for this. We have the lines for this on our track and would use it if possible.

In the 2021-2022 NCAA Rule Book on page 66 - Rule 7-7.3 (b): Relays commonly run include: "4 x 400 relay or Mile relay, a two-turn stagger shall be used."

The word shall in this rule does not allow for any deviation. A two-turn stagger is the only method for the 4x 400 or mile relay.

Editorial Correction, In Rule 7-9.6(c) The wording should read: When the race or leg of the relay is less than 800 meters, the competitors shall start and continue in lanes ~~at least~~ until the end of the second turn. One tracks of more than 200 meters. A one-turn stagger shall be used.

February 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. Looking for some clarification: For video review, if we designate an area (such as a coaches box), is there an area within the competition facility where athletes can review video taken by their coaches?

Yes, the athlete may look at video taken in competition in the pre-selected designated area that is outside of the competition area. The note in Rule 6-3.1 (b) 2 is placed to ensure that the viewing and discussion does not interrupt the other coaches, athletes or the conduct of the competition.

So in defining the competition area, is that the entire indoor facility? The definition appears to suggest that. Or can each venue be defined as a competition area and coaches areas near each to allow video review between coach and athlete?

A separate area for video review must be defined outside of the competition area. The games committee will designate the competition area and the defined video review area. Obviously, smaller meets will be easier to manage than larger competitions.

So if we designate each field event venue as the competition area (say runway and sandpit), but not the area surrounding it, and then put a coaches box there for athletes to view video with their coach during competition, that would be following the rule correct? The definition of the “competition area, article 12 seems loose in that sense.

Here is the wording of the rules you are questioning:

Competition Area - An area designated by the games committee or meet administration, normally the designated area of the stadium that is separate from the area spectators use, or an offsite area specifically designated for competitor use in an event. The competition area may include the warmup area.

"For the purpose of this rule, the following shall not be considered assistance, and therefore allowed:

- 1) Communication between competitors and their coaches within designated areas.***
- 2) Viewing by athletes competing in field events of images of previous trial(s), recorded on their behalf by persons not placed in the competition area. The viewing device or images taken from it shall not be taken into the competition area.***

Note: Meet management shall identify an area for video viewing that does not interfere with the ongoing competition.

Simply stated, designate an appropriate area in your facility that is separate from the competition area and does not interfere with the ongoing conduct of the competition.

b. I have a question for you regarding scoring at our Indoor Championship. We are down to four teams per gender and the coaches have discussed adjusting scoring for this year, but would like to continue to adhere to the 10-8-6-4-2-1 scoring format. I saw the different options for four teams in the Rules Book and just wanted to be certain that we are complying with NCAA Championship Rules before moving forward with any of the options.

Rule 5-5.2 may be utilized.

Meet Scoring—Five or More Teams

ARTICLE 2. Scoring in meets with five or more teams, and all championships meets regardless of the number of teams, shall be recorded as follows:

<i>No. of Teams in Meet</i>	<i>Individual Events</i>	<i>Relay Events</i>
<i>5 or fewer</i>	<i>10 8 6 4 2 1</i>	<i>10 8 6 4 2</i>
<i>6 or more (6 scoring)</i>	<i>10 8 6 4 2 1</i>	<i>10 8 6 4 2 1</i>
<i>6 or more (8 scoring)</i>	<i>10 8 6 5 4 3 2 1</i>	<i>10 8 6 5 4 3 2 1</i>

All individual entries shall have the ability to score in the competition.

One relay entry per institution shall score.

c. Situation- Triangular -Only 2 can score from a team- unlimited entries.

Scenario- 800m

7 entries from 2 schools

School A attains places 1-6

School B attains place 7

Question- Does School B get 3rd place points and why?

In this scenario you present, it is utilizing Rule 5-5.1 on page 52:

Meet Scoring—Four or Fewer Teams

ARTICLE 1.

Scoring in meets with four or fewer teams shall be recorded as follows:

<i>No. of Teams in Meet</i>	<i>Individual Events</i>	<i>Relay Events</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>5 3 2 1</i>	<i>5 3</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>7 5 4 3 2 1</i>	<i>7 5 4</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>9 7 6 5 4 3 2 1</i>	<i>9 7 6 5</i>

Only two individual entries per institution shall score. One relay entry per institution shall score.

Following this rule the top 2 finishers from Team A scores 9 + 7 points for 1st and 2nd place. Team B would score 6 points for 3rd place. All remaining points are vacated.

Rational: Per Rule, "Only two individual entries per institution shall score. One relay entry per institution shall score."

When the word "shall" is placed in a rule, it is definitive and without protest.

d. I am the equipment manager and was just confirming that all of Nike's current spikes and training shoes including the Next% and the new Victory Elites are still legal to use in competition?

The following statement was just recently sent to the USTFCCA:

'The NCAA rules committee met and discussed the question regarding the use of particular shoes once again. The NCAA as an organization does not certify or test equipment. World Athletics has a very extensive policy for different disciplines and an officiating protocol in place which includes declaration of what shoes the athlete will wear in competition. The committee also considered the three divisions and the disparity in the level of officiating at competitions throughout the nation and could not find a reasonable way to monitor and adjudicate the use of these shoes in question. At this time the NCAA rules committee's position is to allow the use of the shoes in question.'

e. One issue I have had to address is the rule change relative to video viewing. I have advised that you cannot have a non-competition area inside the competition area. Viewing should take place in the designated area outside the competition area.

Meet management identifies the competition area for their meet, each venue is different. "Meet management shall identify an area for video viewing that does not interfere with the ongoing competition."

Then, it is not viewed as assistance, "Viewing by athletes competing in field events of images of previous trial(s), recorded on their behalf by persons not placed in the competition area. The viewing device or images taken from it shall not be taken into the competition area."

f. What are your thoughts on the wording of the Time For Initiating Attempts etc? In the Verticals it says "Athletes remaining in the competition at the start of a bar height or round." I'm pretty sure the intent is to indicate the number of kids starting at a new height. But, as someone pointed out to me at a meet I did recently, it COULD also be interpreted as the TOTAL number of kids (even those that haven't taken an attempt yet) in the event.

It's not 100% applicable but USATF Rule 180 12 (f) "The time allowed shall be the greater if more than one situation is applicable.)

(I haven't seen it's equivalent in the NCAA Rules. But, in my opinion, it should be.)

Simply, it is the number of competitors that are currently jumping at that particular bar that determines the time for initiating an attempt.

g. Is there a particular number of degrees that the NCAA DII Championships will be at the Birmingham Crossplex? I know they can adjust it with a hydraulic track, but I am wondering what the official number of degrees will be at the NCAA Championships.

The track shall be set at one angle height for the entire competition on the oval with the maximum banking being 18 degrees. Normally, the track banking is raised to its maximum 100% setting for all oval races.

h. What are the rules for using rabbits in a race? Can a rabbit of the opposite gender be used in a race? Is there a stipulation as to who can and cannot be a rabbit, ie. teammate, coach, GA, DI athlete, professional? How long can the rabbit stay in the race?

Please see Rule 6-3.1(a) on page 57 of the 2021-2022 Rules Book:

Assistance and Electronic Devices Assistance

ARTICLE 1. On the report of an official, or from a properly filed protest, the referee shall warn or disqualify a competitor who gives or receives assistance, a competitor who is determined to have been directly or unduly aided by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a non-competitor associated with the competitor's team, or a competitor who is indirectly aided from inside the competition area by a coach, a teammate not in the event, or a noncompetitor associated with the competitor's team.

a. For the purpose of this rule, the following shall be considered assistance, and therefore not allowed:

1) The visible possession or use by competitors of video, audio or communications devices in the competition area.

2) Using any device or technology that provides the user with an unfair advantage over another athlete.

3) Using any appliance that has the effect of increasing the dimension of a piece of equipment beyond the permitted maximum in these rules, or that provides the user with an advantage that would not have been obtained using the equipment specified in the rules.

4) Pacing in races by persons not participating in the same race, by lapped competitors or those about to be lapped, by competitors of the opposite gender in the same race, or pacesetting by any kind of technical device that benefits the field.

5) Individual markers in the form of tape or other material used for any track event except as specifically authorized.

Can a rabbit of the opposite gender be used in a race? NO Rule 6-3.1 (a) (4)

Is there a stipulation as to who can and cannot be a rabbit, ie. teammate, coach, GA, DI athlete, professional? YES the person/rabbit must meet entry criteria for the competition.

How long can the rabbit stay in the race? As long as the person/rabbit meets entry criteria for the competition, they are allowed to to run the entire race.

i. Every indoor season I run into a little twist with the indoor 600. In the middle of the heats somebody shows up with starting blocks. Could you review with me the proper procedure?

1. The 600 is usually a one command start (on your marks) Step up procedure.

2. Athlete tells you before the first heat. I would like to use starting blocks.

3. Request accepted if before the first heat and you use a 2 command start for all heats?

4. Request denied if in the middle of the heats and you stay with a one command start.

Please see Rule 7-1.5 on page 63 of the 2021-2022 NCAA Rules Book:

Starting Races—500 Meters and Longer ARTICLE 5.

When no competitor is using a starting block, the starter shall have the runners take a position not more than 3 meters behind the starting line.

On the command “On your marks,” runners shall, without delay, advance to the starting line and, when all competitors are steady and motionless without their hands touching the ground, the starter shall discharge the pistol/starting device.

The provisions of Rule 7-1.4 shall be followed for all 500 or 600 meter race sections if starting blocks are used in any section within the event.

Rule 7-1.4 as referenced above:

Starting Races—Shorter than 500 Meters ARTICLE 4.

The starter, after receiving a “ready” signal from the head finish judge and alerting all competitors, shall direct the runners to “On your marks.”

The runners shall take the “On your marks” position, either crouched or standing, promptly and in such a way that no part of the body, excluding hair, touches the track on or beyond the starting line, or outside their assigned lane.

Competitors in races with staggered starts may place their hands outside their lanes, but not beyond the starting line extended. The starter then shall direct them to “Set.”

At this command, all competitors shall at once and without delay assume their full and final set positions.

Then, when all are motionless, the starter shall discharge the pistol/starting device.

Hope the written rule clarifies.

j. Can you answer a few rules questions in regards to NCAA Combined Events parameters?

We are hosting an indoor track & field competition on Saturday, February 13, 2021. We are conducting a women’s pentathlon prior to the ‘regular’ track & field competition.

We are following the order of the five events in the NCAA Cross Country/ Track and Field 2021 and 2022 Rules Book (Schedule attached). There is ONLY 1 female participating in this combined event. There is no one competing in the men’s heptathlon.

Can we still conduct the women’s pentathlon and count the score with the NCAA (1 participant and only one gender for combined events offered at the meet)? Is there a rule that specifically states the time between each of the five events? Is there anything I should be aware of to conduct this pentathlon and make sure the mark for this woman is counted?

Regarding your first question: this is a Championship Committee question because it relates to advancement. I think you can find the answer to this question in the qualifying criteria. I have attached the link for convenience.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2020-21XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

If the answer is not found here then I would encourage him to reach out to either Division III NCAA Liaison, Laura Peterson-Mlynski (lpeterson@ncaa.org) or Committee Chair, Dara Ford (dford@otterbein.edu).

Regarding your second question, please see Rule 1-23 (c):

Event Intervals

ARTICLE 23. The time between the completion of one event and the start of another.

a. The interval between track events shall not exceed 10 minutes.

b. Field events shall be scheduled so that: 1) They shall be completed before the last track event finishes; and 2) They permit concurrent Combined Event participation.

c. For a Combined Event, at least 30 minutes should be allowed between the time one event ends and the next event begins.

The games committee may alter the interval should circumstances dictate.

The referee shall have the authority to designate an approximate starting time for each Combined Event element.

k. I am seeking clarification on NCAA rule 7.9.7(c). When I read the term "waterfall start, which may be staggered" does this imply the use of a 1 turn or 2 turn stagger? I have seen this interpreted as both a 1 turn stagger and 2 turn stagger (to align with rule 7.9.6(d)). What is the correct interpretation, or is this up to the referee/games committee to decide?

Rule 7-9.7(c) is specific to combined events in which the referee deems that the field size warrants a waterfall start.

If the referee deems a waterfall start for the 800 or 1000 meter race, then they is conducted in a manner that reflects the conduct of the open races.

If the track is 200 meters or less and the track is measured for a two stagger, two turn waterfall then this starting method is acceptable.

If the track is greater than 200 meters and the track is measured for a one stagger, two turn waterfall then this starting method is acceptable.

l. What is the rule for restarting a cross-country meet after lightning and thunder has been detected within the stoppage radius? The same question regarding outdoor track distances longer than 1 mile.

The following is an interpretation from October - November 2020

Your question has been asked several times in the past but I will try to simplify.

First, the referee should work closely with the meet administration and medical team prior to the race gathering weather data to determine if there is a good window of time to run and complete the race. If there is not a good chance that the race will be completed, it's best to postpone the start of the race until an opportunity comes about where the chances of completing the race are good.

Second, if it is determined that the race has a good chance of being completed, prior to the start of the race work closely with the timers and lap scorers. Ask the timers to capture the placings for each lap completed. Ask the lap scorers to record the lap completed placing of each competitor. Once the race has started and lightning does occur requiring the immediate halting of the race, the referee then has options.

Taking into account the number of completed laps and the data received, the referee may consider:

(1) Declare the race invalid and schedule a rerun at another time after a reasonable rest period.

(2) Declare the race invalid and decide no scores due to an incomplete result.

(3) Work with the games committee to determine scoring places for the completed lap data provided by the timers and lap scorers.

Option three is not the preferred scenario, but would be allowable for scoring purposes.

Additionally, the following is from the 2014-2015 NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook

GUIDELINE 1E LIGHTNING SAFETY July 1997 • Revised July 2013, June 2014

Lightning is the most consistent and significant weather hazard that may affect intercollegiate athletics. Within the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates that 40 fatalities and about 10 times that many injuries occur from lightning strikes every year. NOAA estimates that as many as 62 percent of lightning strike fatalities occur during outdoor organized sport activities. While the probability of being struck by lightning is low, the odds are significantly greater when a storm is in the area and proper safety precautions are not followed.

Education and prevention are the keys to lightning safety. The references associated with this guideline are an excellent educational resource. Prevention should begin long before any intercollegiate athletics event or practice occurs by being proactive and having a lightning safety plan in place. The following steps are recommended to mitigate the lightning hazard:

DANGEROUS LOCATIONS Outside locations increase the risk of being struck by lightning when thunderstorms are in the area. Typically, anything referred to as a “shelter” is not safe from lightning. Dugouts, refreshment stands, open press boxes, rain shelters, golf shelters and picnic shelters, even if they are properly grounded for structural safety, are unsafe and may actually increase the risk of lightning injury. Other dangerous locations include high ground, bodies of water (pools, ponds, lakes) and areas connected to, or near, light poles, towers and fences that can carry a nearby strike to people.

1. Develop a lightning safety plan for each outdoor venue. At a minimum, that plan should include the following:

- a. The use of lightning safety slogans to simplify and summarize essential information and knowledge. For example, the following slogan from the National Lightning Safety Institute is an effective guide: “If you see it, flee it; if you can hear it, clear it.” This slogan reflects the fact that upon the first sound of thunder, lightning is likely within eight to 10 miles and capable of striking your location. No punishment or retribution should be applied to someone who chooses to evacuate if perceiving that his or her life is in danger due to severe weather.***
- b. Designation of a person to monitor threatening weather and to notify the chain of command who can make the decision to remove a team, game personnel, television crews, and spectators from an athletics site or event. That person must have recognized and unchallengeable authority to suspect activity.***
- c. Planned instructions/announcements for participants and spectators, designation of warning and all clear signals, proper signage, and designation of safer places from the lightning hazard.***
- d. Daily monitoring of local weather reports before any practice or event, and a reliable and accurate source of information about severe weather that may form during scheduled intercollegiate athletics events or practices. Of special note should be National Weather Service-issued thunderstorm “watches” or “warnings,” and the warning signs of developing thunderstorms in the area, such as high winds or darkening skies. A “watch” means conditions are favorable for severe weather to develop in an area; a “warning” means that severe weather has been reported in an area and for everyone to take the proper precautions.***

It should be noted that neither watches nor warnings are issued for lightning. An NOAA weather radio is particularly helpful in providing this information.

e. Identification of, and a mechanism for ensuring access to, the closest safer buildings, vehicles, and locations to the field or playing area, and an estimate of how long it takes to evacuate to that location for all personnel at the event. A safer building or location is defined as:

- Any fully enclosed building normally occupied or frequently used by people, with plumbing and/or electrical wiring that acts to electrically ground the structure. Avoid using the shower, plumbing facilities, and electrical appliances, and stay away from open windows and doorways during a thunderstorm.*

- In the absence of a sturdy, frequently inhabited building, any vehicle with a hard metal roof (neither a convertible nor a golf cart) with the windows shut provides a measure of safety. The hard metal frame and roof, not the rubber tires, are what protects occupants by dissipating lightning current around the vehicle and not through the occupants. It is important not to touch the metal framework of the vehicle. Some athletics events rent school buses as safer locations to place around open courses or fields.*

2. For large-scale events, continuous monitoring of the weather should occur from the time pre-event activities begin throughout the event.

3. Venue-specific activity-suspension, venue evacuation, and activity-resumption plans:

a. Upon the first sound of thunder, lightning is likely within eight to 10 miles and capable of striking your location. Please note that thunder may be hard to hear if there is an athletics event going on, particularly in stadia with large crowds. Lightning can strike from blue sky and in the absence of rain. At least 10 percent of lightning occurs when there is no rainfall and when blue sky is often visible somewhere in the sky, especially with summer thunderstorms. Lightning can, and does, strike 10 (or more) miles away from the rain shaft. Be aware of local weather patterns and review local weather forecasts prior to an outdoor practice or event.

b. Ensure a safe and orderly evacuation from the venue with announcements, signage, safety information in programs, and entrances that can also serve as mass exits. Planning should account for the time it takes to move a team and crowd to their designated safer locations. Individuals should not be allowed to enter the outdoor venue and should be directed to the safer location.

c. Avoid using landline telephones except in emergency situations. People have been killed while using a landline telephone during a thunderstorm. Cellular or cordless phones are safe alternatives to a landline phone, particularly if the person and the antenna are located within a safer structure or location, and if all other precautions are followed.

d. To resume athletics activities, lightning safety experts recommend waiting 30 minutes after both the last sound of thunder and last flash of lightning. A useful slogan is “half an hour since thunder roars, now it’s safe to go outdoors.” At night, be aware that lightning can be visible at a much greater distance than during the day as clouds are being lit from the inside by lightning. This greater distance may mean that the lightning is no longer a significant threat. At night, use both the sound of thunder and seeing the lightning channel itself to decide on re-setting the 30-minute “return-to-play” clock before resuming outdoor athletics activities.

4. Emergency care protocols: People who have been struck by lightning do not carry an electrical charge. Therefore, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is safe for the responder. If possible, an injured person should be moved to a safer location before starting CPR. Lightning-strike victims who show signs of cardiac or respiratory arrest need prompt emergency help. If you are in a 911 community, call for help. Prompt, aggressive CPR has been highly effective for the survival of victims of lightning strike. Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are a safe and effective means of reviving persons in cardiac arrest. Planned access to early defibrillation should be part of your emergency plan. However, CPR should never be delayed while searching for an AED.

Note: Weather watchers, real-time weather forecasts and commercial weather-warning and lightning monitoring devices or services are all tools that can be used to aid in the monitoring, notification, and decision-making regarding stoppage of play, evacuation and return to play.

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3. National Lightning Safety Institute website: www.lightningsafety.com.

4. Uman MA. All About Lightning. New York: Dover Publications. 1986.

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6. Walsh KM, Hanley MJ, Graner SJ, Beam D, Bazluki J. A Survey of Lightning Safety Policy in Selected Division I Colleges. Journal of Athletic Training. 32(3);206-210. 1997.

7. Holle RL. 2005: Lightning-caused recreation deaths and injuries. Preprints, 14th Symposium on Education, January 9-13, San Diego, California, American Meteorological Society, 6 pp.

8. The Weather Channel on satellite or cable, and on the Internet at www.weather.com

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m. We have a few questions for you as we prepare for the Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Women's Mile: Can we run a 2-3 section final or should we run prelims? Or can we do either?

4x400: Currently for the women we have two sections 1-6 and 7-12, we only have 12 women's teams. Can we stay with a 2 section final or do we need to change it to 3 sections.

For the women's mile the coaches have an option. They may run a preliminary round by following Rule 7-9.6(i) located on page 70:

i. "If preliminaries are contested in the 1500 Meters or the Mile, at least nine but not more than 12 competitors, as determined by the games committee, shall qualify to the final. The top three from each heat should advance; however, at least two must advance on the basis of time. If 12 or fewer competitors report for the 1500 Meters or the Mile, the event shall be run as a final."

OR the coaches may choose to run the competition a final in timed sections. If they choose this method apply Rule 7-9.1(b) on page 68.

b. "If the limits of time or facilities require, to ensure equity of competition, races (including relays) may be contested as a final in timed sections.

When used, the structure for administering the final as timed sections, such as slow to fast, shall be determined by the games committee and must be consistent throughout the meet.

In addition, no race in an event using timed sections shall have fewer than two competitors. In a single-round timed-section final, the sections for all events except the 200 Meters and 400 Meters shall be seeded slow to fast and shall compete in that order."

Similarly in the 4 x 400 relays if you are applying Rule 7-9.1(b) to conduct these races.

The question regarding running 2 heats of 6 or 3 heats of 4 is a games committee question and either is legal. Assuming you are running on a 6 lane 200 meter track, if the 3 heats of 4 method is utilized use lanes 3-6 to start each race. If you are on an 8 lane track and choose to run 3 heats of 4 you must also only use lanes 3 -6 to start the race.

n. If a team arrives late to a meet due to weather delays (icy roads), does Rule 5.2-2 apply?

This happened at DII Conference Indoor Championship in the past. The conference decided to go with the schedule as written and let the late arriving team participate in the horizontal events if still in the prelims with no warm-ups at the venue. In the vertical events a late arrival could enter at the height of the competition with no warm-ups. This same conference has their Indoor Championships this weekend. Teams in the conference will have icy roads through Friday.

The key is to have great communication between the affected team(s) and the meet administration. Can the event be delayed due to uncontrollable circumstances?

If so, then the games committee can adjust the time schedule to provide the team and competitors a fair opportunity to join the competition. If no communication effort was made by the team(s) affected by the weather then Rule 5-2.2 would apply.

The referee and games committee combined may, under these circumstances, loosen Rule 5-2.2 Failure to Report due to the extraordinary weather circumstances. The intent of this rule is in consideration when athletes are in the building and do not follow the clerking of call times to report protocol. Your scenario is outside of the intent of the rule, therefore some flexibility may be necessary. Your resolution to the problem would be acceptable.

o. I have a question about Indoor Qualifying Article 5 d. Does that rule apply to the 800 as well? We are on an indoor track with 6 lanes. OR does the 800 fall under section c.? I would lean toward d. based on the wording but I want to be fair. The conference voted to advance the 800 only on time instead of protecting heat winners or the top 2. I just want to follow the rule of the NCAA. Any guidance is appreciated.

Rule 7-9.5 on page 69 states: " For the races run entirely in lanes (55 Meters, 60 Meters, 55 Hurdles, 60 Hurdles, 200 Meters, 300 Meters, 400 Meters, 500 Meters, 600 Meters, 4x200 Relay and 4x400 Relay):"

Therefore this rule does not apply to the 800 meters.

To avoid a violation, please apply Rule 7-6.6(h) on page 70 , "If preliminaries are contested in the 800 Meters, 1000 Meters or the 4x800 Relay, eight competitors/teams shall qualify to the final. The top two from each heat should advance; however, at least two must advance on the basis of time."

p. I wanted to reach out to confirm a rule regarding the multi events. It is my understanding that as long as an athlete attempts the first event, they do not have to attempt the subsequent events. It counts as an honest effort as long as the first event is attempted, and they will still be able to compete in other events afterwards. (i.e. a male heptathlete only has to do the 60 dash in order to keep competing throughout the rest of the meet. He could pass the other 6 events and not be punished for it). I've attached a picture of the ruling from the NCAA handbook below (the note at the top is what I'm referring to). If you could please provide any clarifications that would be wonderful.

Let's look at the entire rule. Item c. indicates that the combined event athlete starts the event and then fails to start in another event within the combined event competition at some point. At that time they are considered to have abandoned the event and will score no points. The note that follows item c. is very clear, no need for an interpretation

RULE 6 SECTION 2. Failure to Participate

a. Competitors or relay teams must participate in the trials and/or finals of all events in which they are declared, defined as a form of commitment to compete. Such participation is also required in subsequent rounds as a result of qualifying, or when participation is a criterion for entry in a subsequent meet. For the initial rounds of all competitions, a declaration/commitment procedure and a withdrawal procedure, with appropriate deadlines for individual and relay team members, excluding alternates, must be published. Actual participation is a default commitment. When an institution's relay team declares, but does not participate in the competition, individual competitors declared on the relay team shall be allowed to participate in subsequent events of the competition.

b. Participation is the expectation that a competitor start the athletic challenge requirements for a field event or any round of a track event, according to the rules of the event.

c. An athlete failing to attempt a start or make a trial in any event of a Combined Event shall be considered to have abandoned the Combined Event and shall not be allowed to participate in any following event within the combined event competition.

Note: A Combined Event, such as the Heptathlon, is one event. Failure to participate in a Combined Event, affecting other events in the meet, occurs only if the competitor fails to start the first event within a Combined Event competition.

A d. failure to participate is considered an assumption that the competitor in violation has abandoned the competition and, therefore, shall be barred from all remaining events in the current meet.

e. Time schedule changes preventing competitor(s) from fulfilling their obligation is not considered failure to participate.

f. The referee, upon proper protest, based upon all authorized evidence and considering circumstances beyond the competitor's control (including documented severe medical conditions) shall determine whether circumstances clearly demonstrate that a violation of this rule has occurred. The referee shall disqualify competitors for violating the failure to participate rule.

g. This rule shall not preclude conferences or championships games committees from creating additional restrictions published in handbooks and manuals.

q. Could you point me to the current verbiage regarding an NCAA legal Track & Field meet? With COVID and such, is this being enforced?

Your question falls under the purview of the NCAA Track & Field Championship Committee. I have attached a link to their qualifying criteria that will provide the information that you are seeking. If you have further questions there are names and contacting information on the bottom for the sheet.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2020-21XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

March 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. Someone claimed this was a rules violation and stated:

I believe the track has been repainted since 2018... no curbing was used at the Championship-cones only.

Supporting rule reference: Beginning Dec. 1, 2018, all newly constructed or resurfaced tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for Competition.

The rule is quite clear, however let me reiterate, restriping/painting of lane lines on a track is simply painting over the existing lane lines and marking. It does not change the measurements of the track or facility. The restriping process does not require that Rule 2-1.6 be adhered to. The rule only speaks to newly constructed or resurfaced tracks. In the resurfacing process all lines on the existing track are eliminated thus calling for a new survey. This is when Rule 2-1.6 applies.

Cones and Curbing RULE 2; SECTION 1 ARTICLE 6.on page 22 states the following.

"A track surveyed based on the existence of a curb shall, at a minimum, have the full curves bordered by a curb of suitable material approximately 5 centimeters high and at least 5 centimeters wide. The edges of the curb shall be rounded. See Figure 2. Cones may be used to replace a curb temporarily when the curb interferes with other events, but not as a substitute for a curb. If a section of the curb must be temporarily removed for any reason, its place shall be marked by a white line 5 centimeters wide and by cones at least 15 centimeters high. The cones shall be placed on the track on top of the line so that the outward face of the cone coincides with the edge of the white line closest to the track. The cones shall be placed at intervals not exceeding 4 meters. For world, American and NCAA championship records, a regulation curb must be in place. For championship qualifying on a track surveyed for a curb, a regulation curb must be in place. For records and all championship qualifying on a track surveyed for no curb, the inside white line must be marked additionally with cones. Beginning Dec. 1, 2018, all newly constructed or resurfaced tracks shall be surveyed for a curb and shall have a regulation curb in place for competition.

No violation occurred.

b. Due to COVID travel requirements and a limited number of outdoor track options in the area to compete at and obviously smaller meet sizes we're trying to get creative to get opportunities to compete. We are playing with the idea of co-hosting a meet here in Maine. They built a beautiful outdoor track, but didn't finish the facility and don't have horizontal jumping pits or mats for the vertical jumps. So we would look to host the jumping events in our indoor track. I know there is

some leeway to allow for vertical jumps to be conducted indoors for inclement weather (which we will likely have March 27th in Maine), but I didn't know about the horizontal jumps competitions. I'm assuming we can obviously run the events, the question might come in whether they would count for qualifying or not? Obviously they wouldn't have wind readings. Is there any sort of waiver to seek to make sure we have the best competitive options available for the athletes due to the current circumstances?

Regarding your question pertaining to the competition rules, outdoor competitions must be conducted outdoors.

Relative to your question regarding advancement opportunities your question can be found in the Qualifying Criteria which is governed by the Championships Committee.

The link below was attached for your convenience. If you have any further questions regarding advancement, please direct them to Laura Peterson Mlynski who is copied on this email.

https://ncaaorg.s3.amazonaws.com/championships/sports/crosstrack/common/2020-21XTF_QualifyingCriteria.pdf

c. I had a coach ask for a clarification on Rule 21-6.3.b. Is this rule in effect for meets during 20-21 (specifically regarding a D2 conference meet held this past weekend)? My background makes me believe that it is not currently in effect.

The current cross country season is the 2020 season, therefore it continues to be governed by the 2019-2020 rule book.

d. Is this a permissible tape job? Our athlete has a hand injury and this is the only way they can throw the shot.



Rule 8-1.5 (a) (2) on page 79 specifically states the following:

ARTICLE 5.a. *For the purpose of this rule, the following shall be considered assistance. As such, competitors are not allowed to:*

1) Use gloves, except in the Weight Throw. For this event, the gloves shall be smooth on the back and on the front. The tips of the glove fingers, other than the thumb, shall be open. An additional layer of leather may be affixed to the palm of the glove for additional protection.

2) Tape two or more fingers together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually.

- 3) *Spray or spread any substance onto the throwing surface of the circle or onto the bottom of their shoes, except for water as a cleaning agent.*
- 4) *Alter the surface of the circle, except as part of allowable procedure.*
- 5) *Carry or affix anything in the non-throwing hand during an attempt.*

Then Rule 8-1.5 (b) (3) goes on to state:

b. For the purpose of this rule, the following shall not be considered assistance. As such, competitors are allowed to:

- 1) *Use, in order to obtain a better grip, a suitable substance on the hands only, or in the case of the Weight Throw, on the gloves. Such substances may be used on the neck in the Shot Put.*
- 2) *Apply chalk or a similar substance directly on the implement. Any such substances shall be easily removable with a wet cloth and shall not leave any residue.*
- 3) *Use taping on the hands and fingers that is in compliance with section a.(2) of this article. Use of taping on the hands and fingers may be continuous provided that, as a result, not two or more fingers are taped together. The taping must be shown to the head event judge before the event starts.*

The picture provided shows two fingers taped together and not able to move individually, therefore this taping method would not be allowed.

e. It is opening height, in a flight with ten vaulters, and only one vaulter starts at opening height (the other nine have elected to pass the first three bars). The lone vaulter clears opening height on their first attempt. Now the bar raises to the second height (the other nine vaulters are still passing) and again only the lone vaulter is attempting that second height. What is the lone vaulter's time limit at the second height?

Rule 16.1-2 chart on page 163 states the following:

"Athletes remaining in the competition at the start of a bar height or round."

Therefore, the lone individual at the beginning of the 2nd bar would have 5 minutes between jumps.

f. We have a meet coming up this Friday where a coach cannot be at the meet due to Covid (hasn't tested positive yet, but is under quarantine). Since he won't be able to be at the meet, he was wondering if he could use live streaming to watch the athletes and then communicate by phone with the athletes while they are not throwing to coach them.

Rule 14.3.1(a) does not allow the athlete to utilize a communication device. This would be viewed as assistance and therefore is not allowed.

g. The schools in our area are all hosting meets and/or conference championships over the next few weeks. All concerned feel it is imperative to have NCAA guidance to ensure that performance marks achieved in competition will meet NCAA qualifying standards. Due to local DOH restrictions M&W 100 meter dashes, M110 Hurdle and W 100 Hurdle races, ***must*** be run in alternate lanes.

Questions have arisen relative to Rules 15.10.6 and 15.11.2, 15.11.2b:

1. We have 12 entrant maximums. Can preliminaries of 3 heats of 4 runners per heat be competed with the three heat winners and the next five fastest times advancing to a two-heat final ? If yes, how would the two-heat final be seeded/arranged?
2. Can preliminaries of 3 heats of 4 runners be competed with the 8 fastest times advancing to a two-heat final regardless of place.? This could potentially eliminate one heat winner.

These possibilities seem to fall within the scope of 15.11.2 "*unless extraordinary circumstances exist*". The chart for 15.11.2b only goes as low as 6 lanes, we only have 4 available.

Under the State of New York mandated requirements, an extraordinary circumstance does exist. Therefore, it will be acceptable to contest the 100 meters and both sprint hurdle races (100H & 110M) in the following manner. Understanding there is a maximum of 12 athletes per field. Run 3 heats of 4 individuals with a vacant lane between each contestant. Advance the heat winner and the next 5 fastest times. Final heat 1 will be the time qualifiers (2-5). Final heat 2 will be the heat winners and the fastest time qualifier.

h. Question on advancement in running events and the interpretations. What is the minimum number of heats required to be able to advance by time only (and not advance heat winners). Putting together start lists soon and want to make sure we match (i.e., we have (7) heats of the 400 rounds right now).

There is not a provision for advancement by time only for outdoor events. Here are your options:

1. Run timed section finals

2.

2. Establish a qualifying round

3. Run the 7 heats and qualify the winner of each heat + the next fastest time.

i. Is there a rule that a thrower can't wear a ring on the throwing hand?

There is nothing in the rule book that prevents an individual from wearing rings on their throwing hand.

j. I was hoping that the NCAA could make a Covid exemption and allow NCAA qualifiers to come from mixed races (5000 and 10,000 meters at the same time) or even mixed genders (10,000 meters). This would benefit the athletes who are not allowed to travel. Would this be something I could bring up at the executive meeting for Division I Track and Field for this year only or is there another group? Is there anything in the rule book about running a 5k and 10k at the same time?

This is my interpretation regarding the question of running 2 different races of the same gender at one time. All events are singular and shall be contested individually.

In the qualifying criteria, it speaks specifically about not allowing split times. In my opinion, in a race like the one suggested, the 5000 meter times would have to be considered split times within the 10,000 meter race, therefore not allowed for advancement.

k. Rule 14.1 states - "... A competitor shall report to the clerk of the course, or the head judge for a field event if so instructed, not later than the check-in time designated by the games committee, and shall promptly be at the starting point of each competition in which entered." (p. 142)

This indicated that it now applies to any field event.

Can you please answer this question about what the current rule says about people entering a competition after it has arrived? The question we have does not consider and should not consider whether or not the athlete was delayed by something beyond his/her control.

Rule 14-2 (f) on page 143 Failure to Participate - Note how this rule is written giving the referee the ability to determine that circumstances that were out of the athletes control may be considered:

f. "The referee, upon proper protest, based upon all authorized evidence and considering circumstances beyond the competitor's control (including documented severe medical conditions) shall determine whether circumstances clearly demonstrate that a violation of this rule has occurred. The referee shall disqualify competitors for violating the failure to participate rule."

l. My reason for reaching out to you is for a rules clarification since you are on the NCAA indoor Track and Field rules committee. I have a question which I cannot find or confirm. A sales person claimed to one of my current clients that all flat 200M indoor tracks can no longer be used for competitions? Only banked tracks now are sectioned by the NCAA and FIFA. The actual quote from his email was "There are currently no flat 200m tracks that are approved for competition". I find this hard to believe since there are some 600+ indoor competition tracks on college and university campuses but I thought it was worth asking you for your opinion. I understand there has been a trend to have indoor nationals (DI) at banked facilities but is it an official rule requirement or just a preference?

There is nothing in the rule book that states anything of the sorts. Not certain where this individual got their information, but they are wrong. 200 meter flat tracks are certainly allowed for competitions and advancement to all national championship events.

Division 1 has run their national championships on banked facilities for many years but there is not a rule stating as such, it is a preference established by the championships committee.

m. Thanks so much for your presentation in today's zoom meeting, which was very helpful for all of us as we get back to officiating. I do have a follow-up on my question regarding whether touching the inside edge of the stopboard is a foul. I think you said that, under the NCAA rule, touching the inside edge was ok as long as the shoe didn't also touch the top of the stopboard. This seems to differ from USATF Rule 187, which also covers stopboard fouls and states: "The

top inside edge is considered to be part of the top.” This apparent difference between the NCAA rules and the USATF rules is not new and has been the subject of some confusion over the years.

This is what I was trying to explain during my presentation. The touching of the top edge of the toeboard is considered part of the top. The point I was trying to make was that an observed deflection of the sole of the shoe would be the indicator that the top edge was touched.

n. Schools in the Midwest are begging us to host a multi the weekend of April 16-17 as there aren't any other options anywhere close. The problem is our normal stadium is being used by all other teams due to fall sports now in season (Covid) and it's just overbooked. In order to host a multi we would have to use a different track on day one vs the stadium on day two. It's not that big of a deal for us as that's where we will throw the hammer/disc anyways.

I just didn't know if that met rules using two different facilities for the multis. I'm fairly certain you can during a track meet with various events.

There is nothing that prohibits day one of a combined event to be contested in one facility and the second day in another facility. There is no competitive advantage gained as all contestants have the same facility and weather conditions.

o. Our conference is considering adjusting our entry policies this year due to COVID allowing for more than the normal number of entries per event. Obviously this has the potential for impacting scoring for teams with deeper rosters and have had the opportunity to compete more.

I wanted to make sure there is no NCAA rule that would prohibit our conference from scoring a maximum of 4 individuals per event in our conference championship.

There is nothing in the rule book that prohibits the maximum number of scorers in a singular event from an individual team. If you are scoring 8 places per event, all 8 places are eligible to be scored by one team.

p. Following up on the PV time question. We can agree that the "normal" allowance is 1 minute.

With 2 or 3 three remaining the rule states: ...when there are two or three competitors

remaining in the competition at the start of a bar height (or when a competitor is taking consecutive attempts at the same bar height while other competitors remain in the competition), high jumpers shall have two minutes and pole vaulters shall have three minutes to initiate a trial.

I have always interpreted "competition" to mean still in the competition, even if they have passed at that height. This is how I have always seen it administered. This is consistent with the single remaining competitor time: *...after all other competitors have failed, a competitor who has won the event shall be allowed three minutes for the High Jump and five minutes for the Pole Vault to initiate a trial.*

The time allotment for the competitors is determined by the number of competitors remaining in the competition at each bar height. In the scenario that was brought up, at the second bar there was only one person jumping but there were a total of 10 jumpers in the competition.

The individual that was jumping at that height would be granted consecutive jump timing after their first jump at the new bar height.

q. As an official I have a question concerning Rule 16, Section 4, Article 3, page 169-the triple jump and multiple takeoff boards. The rule states: "In the triple jump, a maximum of two boards per gender may be used. Before the start of the event each competitor must declare the board he or she will use THROUGHOUT the competition. An official must place an identifying mark next to the board being used."

My question is the above statement, "Before the start of the event, each competitor must declare the board he or she will use THROUGHOUT the competition." Does this statement mean that the athlete does not have the opportunity to change boards once the competition has started?

Once an athlete declares the board they are to take off from, that board shall be used by that athlete throughout the entire competition. The athlete does not have the ability to switch back and forth within the competition.

April 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations

This clarification was released in December of 2020 and is still in effect:

The NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field Rules Committee met and discussed the question regarding the use of particular shoes once again. The NCAA as an organization does not certify equipment. World Athletics has a very extensive policy for different disciplines and an officiating protocol in place which includes declaration of what shoes the athlete will wear in competition. The committee also considered the three divisions and the disparity in the level of officiating at competitions throughout the nation and could not find a reasonable way to monitor and adjudicate the use of these shoes in question. At this time, the NCAA rules committee's position is to allow the use of the shoes in question and to wait for a ruling to be rendered by World Athletics on their legality for competition.

Interpretations

a. I want to get your guidance on handling of meets that insist on using minimum to speed up the event. In the Rule book for 19-20, this was addressed under 6.3.3 (Guaranteed Measurement). For 21-22, this has been removed and no guidance other than measure everything can be found. Was this the decision the committee wanted to occur rather than not measuring marks below a minimum?

The decision of the committee was to eliminate minimum marks. It was decided that all legal efforts in the field events shall be marked and recorded.

b. At our 5/1 meet -- we are offering a 100/110 hurdle, 400 hurdle, 800, 1500, 5K and steeplechase (+ masters/high school mile). We've received multiple requests to set up the 100/110 hurdles as a prelim, semi and final but essentially allowing all athletes to automatically qualify for the semi-final, and then having 2 finals with an A and B section. This is to cater to the pro athletes who will be traveling from across the country so they have a minimum of 2 races. The last thing I want is for an NCAA athlete to come and run a great time and it doesn't count. If in fact NCAA rules prohibit an athlete from running in this format (or at least it counting for NCAA purposes), would this preclude this event from our 5 event minimum? Also, if for example the 400 hurdles only has 3-4 athletes and none are from the NCAA, would this also preclude the event from 5 event minimum?

The number of entries in each event determines the number of rounds that are allowed to be run. For the 100H and 110H the minimum number of athletes per event to qualify to run a

Preliminaries, Semifinals and Finals is 25. You must have enough competitors to run 4 heats, qualifying the top 2 or 3 from each heat plus the next 8 or 4 fastest times to the semifinal. The semifinal shall be run 2 heats advancing at least the winner plus the 6 next fastest times. The final shall be one race of the 8 qualifiers. An A and B final is not allowed. An Invitational section is allowed, however it is run as a final only.

Regarding the question about the 5 event minimum the following is the response from the NCAA Championships Committee:

The key is that at least 5 events must be open to NCAA athletes and that at least 2 institutions must be represented and compete in a non-scored meet. If you have an event open to NCAA athletes and an athlete does not compete that event can still count. I will say it is our absolute desire that NCAA athletes compete and be represented in at least 5 events however the committee has also recognized in the past issues that have come up that don't allow for this (injury, illness, etc.).

I will also say if you do not follow the proper protocols and NCAA athletes get more opportunities to compete than is allowed per NCAA advancement rules/policies those events are going to be disallowed for NCAA qualifying and it will be important that you make that known to any institution competing at the event ahead of time.

c. Would like an interp on the process of getting into the starting blocks promptly after being called to your marks. Specifically, ruling on all the jazz that sprinters go through before they crawl into their blocks. I'm a collegiate starter. (I tell the sprinters to do their plyo jumps while they stand behind their blocks). Ruling, please.

As the starter you have sole control of the area. Athletes have routines that they like to go through in the event, getting into the block is no exception. In your instructions be clear and concise as to what is expected of them once they are released for the competition.

If you feel their preparation routine to get into the blocks is excessive you can call the group up, then talk to the group giving a verbal warning and display a green card to the field. If you have one or more individuals not complying with your directions after the verbal warning, a yellow card to the individual(s) is warranted. Only as a last resort, if you still have problems with compliance to your instructions then a red card is warranted.

Remember as an official our responsibility is to keep the playing field level for all athletes within the context of the written rules. If the rules of play have been violated and as a last resort our duties as a starter or referee mandates the disqualification of an athlete.

Below are Rules 15-1.1 and 15-1.4

Control of Start

ARTICLE 1. *The starter has sole control over all aspects of the start. The starter's decisions shall be final. A starting-area marshal shall be assigned to help keep the starting area clear and quiet.*

The starter shall confer only with the officials assigned to the starting line (assistants to the starter and starting-area marshal) in cases in which there are questions concerning the start. Practice starts in the immediate area of the starting line are not allowed in conjunction with the starter's commands.

Starting Races—Shorter than 500 Meters

ARTICLE 4. *The starter, after receiving a "ready" signal from the head finish judge and alerting all competitors, shall direct the runners to "On your marks."*

The runners shall take the "On your marks" position, either crouched or standing, promptly and in such a way that no part of the body, excluding hair, touches the track on or beyond the starting line, or outside their assigned lane. Competitors in races with staggered starts may place their hands outside their lanes, but not beyond the starting line extended.

The starter then shall direct them to "Set." At this command, all competitors shall at once and without delay assume their full and final set positions. Then, when all are motionless, the starter shall discharge the pistol/starting device.

d. Can you please tell me where I can get a copy of the Combined Event Scoring Tables? I'm not seeing them on the NCAA website.

The "Big Gold Book" is a very good reference for you. The link is attached below.

<https://edu.glogster.com/glog/pdf-track-field-news-big-gold-book-metric-conversion-tables-for/3uf6t2cmkwwg>

e. The rules book does not mention needing an indicator line for HJ. Does this keep officials from laying down one or do officials have the liberty to do this? Is this strictly a matter for the referee to decide?

The laying down of an indicator line is a current USATF and WA rule. It is not a rule within the NCAA therefore it is not required. If an official is inclined to go the extra step during set up of the competition site to ensure that the standard and pit are square there is nothing that prevents this from happening. However, I reiterate, it is not required for NCAA competition.

f. I am addressing the issue of using CCI-4C22 rounds for the Outdoor meets. For your reference; the (4)C22 refers to the power level of the cartridge. Thus the (3)C22 is green and has a softer report, as is (5)C22 being hotter with a louder report.

As I had mentioned in an earlier note to you. 20+ years ago the smoke from the .32 caliber weapon was for hand timers at the start/finish line, and the sound was for the athletes. Today the 4C22 rounds exceed the 90dB requirements of the NCAA rule designation. I fully understand the rules when it says "...Tone that is clear, crisp, distinct, and at least 90dB at 15 feet. The pistol shall not be less than .32 caliber." However, (the use of a .32) was primarily for the smoke portion at outdoor meets. Today, sensor activation and ample sound for all athletes (4X400-down) is without exception; mandatory from the weapon's report. All of which is answered because the dB level is far greater than 90dB at fifteen feet; (135dB using yellow 22-4C22 rounds and 115dB using green 22-3C22 rounds).

So, the reason for this note is because I had a local person, who is a referee on occasion, tell me it would be illegal for me to use a .22 caliber weapon for the two conference championships. (even though he will only be a referee at one of the championship meets). The .22 caliber weapon exceeds all standards required by the rules except it doesn't produce smoke for the hand-timers of 20 years ago. I believe in providing the highest level of professionalism at all meets I officiate. I also expect the same quality level of professionalism of all those who work with me and whom I have trained. I fully recognize the written rule states what I have quoted above, however, I also understand the intention of the rule as it was designed to ensure all starts are fairly executed, providing a fair and equitable start for all contesting athletes.

The current rule 15-1.2 on page 148 clearly states that the caliber of the pistol shall not be less than .32-caliber. Please use the proper caliber pistol for outdoor competitions.

g. Event 1: Discus Foul (Measurement under protest)

Background:

Athlete had a fouled throw (16-6.2.C Back half) in the discus and protested. The officials measured the foul (16-1.10) and the head called for the field referee. The referee denied the protest and upheld the call as there was no evidence the over turn the ring judges (Both sides of the ring, and timer behind supported the call). After the event, the athlete asked the measurement judge with the protested mark sheet ("dark marks") if they could have the measurement. I informed the judge that they shall not release the mark as technically the mark does not exist as it was foul and protest was denied. They insisted that they do this all time and it's not expressly prohibited in the rules.

Question and Rationale: Is it legal to release the protested mark? After being denied? At the end of a round? At the end of an event? At the end of the meet?

Section 16-1.10 "When measuring the throwing events or horizontal jumps, the measurement shall be immediate after each valid trial or immediate oral protest. In the case of an oral protest, the mark shall be recorded on a separate sheet until the protest is resolved"

"Efforts judged to be foul shall not be measured, except as otherwise provided within these rules"

With that being the only rule that covers recording a protested mark, after the referee or other adjudication systems have reviewed and ruled on the protest: if the protest is denied, the mark is not valid and therefore "does not exist" and cannot be reported. For training purposes the coach and athlete could have seen the implement land in the sector, just as you'd have for a horizontal jump. But it's not fair or within the spirit of the playing rules to treat a foul as pseudo legal and reward with a measurement.

I will say that it's a murky area. This gets into the areas where you can protest but can't see the evidence used to support or deny the ruling. Most of the technical manuals I've read for conference championships deny the coach the ability to see the official video, but some don't prohibit the athlete from seeing it as they walk past which seems fair. Running events are also interesting if they get DQ'd after the race or event and had a recorded time but no longer do, is that a similar situation? I'd argue no, the times aren't official until they're posted and out of the protest range. What might have been seen on a clock or on preliminary results is just the same as a mark in the sector or the pit. Until the event is concluded and made official, it's just a pending performance.

Honestly I'm surprised I have to ask this, I have never had this happen or come up before. I informed the referee and asked a USATF NTO and they both agreed with the reasoning. But suggested I contact you and perhaps USATF for a rule note or revision. Perhaps it's just been a best practice that needs to be clarified and codified.

Event 2: Hammer protest (Late protest on a technicality)

Rule 16:

"When measuring the throwing events or horizontal jumps, that part of the tape that records distance shall be **read and announced by the official at the circle**, foul line or takeoff board. The tape should be pulled through the center of the throwing circle, the radius of the throwing arc, or from a position one meter behind the takeoff board"

16.11 c: "Performances shall be **announced** in imperial and metric measure..."

Background:

A situation occurred where a coach protested a mark 5 throws back saying that the mark was wrong. They argued that because the results weren't announced, they should be able to still protest. But without any evidence the head nor the referee could do anything. Their athlete was on edge of qualifying for finals and were looking for an advancement to finals by referee. The event was measured by EDM and had a large display board facing the athletes and coaches with both metric and imperial marks.

Questions:

With more events using lasers and having display boards like the NCAA championships, should the wording be updated to prevent odd rule loopholes like this?

Should the rule be adapted to also include "or a proper scientific measurement device setup per operating instructions for the event?"

If no tape is used and is measured fully digitally, is it still to be announced? Does announced mean verbally or does a display qualify?

Does 16.11 C mean by the officials or by the meet announcer? (I've never had an official measuring call out the measured metric and then do a gold book look up for the imperial)

Regarding scenario #1

A "dark mark" is utilized to preserve performance evidence when a valid immediate protest is made by an athlete or coach. The only circumstance when a "dark mark" is revealed is when the protest is upheld by the field referee. Otherwise, the mark is expunged.

Regarding scenario #2

An attempt that is being protested 5 throws prior is not an immediate protest, therefore the protest should not be allowed. The digital display qualifies as being announced as the performance is made public. The whole imperial and metric announcement is for spectator interest. We are only really concerned with metric measures.

h. Competitor A is entered in the PV and Javelin Throw which have the same starting time. He clerks in at both events and receives permission from the JT official to take all throws in round three. Competitor A enters the PV competition and successfully clears opening height and successive heights. By the time he returns to the JT the competition has been completed and, the official informs Competitor A that the JT preliminaries are closed. Is Competitor A in violation

of the "failure to participate " (14.2) section of the NCAA rules, and therefore ineligible to engage in ensuing events?

The athlete did not fulfill their declaration to compete. Therefore, the athlete may finish the Pole Vault competition which they started but is barred from further competition, Checking in does not fulfill the requirement to start the athletic challenge.

Rule 14-2 failure to Participate

a. Competitors or relay teams must participate in the trials and/or finals of all events in which they are declared, defined as a form of commitment to compete. Such participation is also required in subsequent rounds as a result of qualifying, or when participation is a criterion for entry in a subsequent meet. For the initial rounds of all competitions, a declaration/commitment procedure and a withdrawal procedure, with appropriate deadlines for individual and relay team members, excluding alternates, must be published. Actual participation is a default commitment. When an institution's relay team declares, but does not participate in the competition, individual competitors declared on the relay team shall be allowed to participate in subsequent events of the competition.

b. Participation is the expectation that a competitor start the athletic challenge requirements for a field event or any round of a running event, according to the rules of the event.

c. An athlete failing to attempt a start or make a trial in any event of a Combined Event shall be considered to have abandoned the Combined Event and shall not be allowed to participate in any following event within the combined event competition.

Note: A Combined Event, such as the Decathlon, is one event. Failure to participate in a Combined Event, affecting other events in the meet, occurs only if the competitor fails to start the first event within a Combined Event competition.

d. A failure to participate is considered an assumption that the competitor in violation has abandoned the competition and, therefore, shall be barred from all remaining events in the current meet.

e. Time schedule changes preventing competitor(s) from fulfilling their obligation is not considered failure to participate.

f. The referee, upon proper protest, based upon all authorized evidence and considering circumstances beyond the competitor's control (including documented severe medical conditions) shall determine whether circumstances clearly demonstrate that a violation of this rule has occurred. The referee shall disqualify competitors for violating the failure to participate rule.

g. This rule shall not preclude conferences or championships games committees from creating additional restrictions published in handbooks and manuals

Rule 13-2.8

Completion of Preliminaries

Each flight in the preliminaries is completed when the last competitor to be called in the flight has either taken the final trial or the time limit for the trial has expired. This includes competitors who have been excused to compete in other events.

All performances made in field event preliminary rounds shall be counted with performances in the final rounds to determine final place winners. Competitors shall be credited with the best of all their efforts.

i. In regards to advancement to a final in a championship meet, our conference is being hosted on a 10 lane track. Our games committee has elected to advance 9 to the final in the 800m down...I have no issue with it, but curious...in instances of 8 and 9 lane tracks, the rule advances the number of lanes available to the final. Would the same rule not apply on a 10 lane track?

Pages 155 & 156 Rule 15-10.6 (a) (b) Requirements for Heats/Final

a. The number of runners or teams shall not exceed the number of lanes available for the race in any heat or final of the 100 Meters, 200 Meters, 400 Meters, 100/110 Hurdles, 400 Hurdles, 4x100 Relay and 4x400 Relay, and the final of the 800 Meters.

b. The games committee may authorize, with consistency, an alley or waterfall start with a greater number of runners in timed final sections of the 800 Meters and authorize a maximum of 12 competitors in a non-final round of the 800 Meters. The 800 Meters shall be run with one person per lane or within lane alleys, each using a one-turn stagger, or with a waterfall.

j. I draw your attention to page 134 of the current rule book: Rule 13, Section 2, Article 5. The way I interpret this rule is as follows: if the games committee is silent on tie breaking and the competitors in 9th place have the same mark, regardless of their next best throw, both go through to the finals. Now, there is a possible caveat in the second sentence of Article 5. It reads "In scored competitions with five or fewer teams, not more"

Prior to the competition, if the games committee does not specify that a tie breaking procedure for the last qualifying position for a finals is in place, then all ties advance to the final round.

I am assuming the following based on Rule 13, Section 2, Article 5:

IF it is a scored competition with five or fewer teams, those tied for 9th place go through if the games committee was silent on the issue.

Correct if they are scoring 8 places. If the competition is scoring 6 places as per Rule 13-5.2 only 7 advance to the final round, this is where I think your confusion lies.

If it is a scored competition with six or more teams this rule does not apply.

Incorrect, the rule continues to be applied.

If it is not a scored competition this rule does not apply.

Incorrect, the rule continues to be applied.

The title of Article 5 of Section 2 is "Preliminary Competition and Advancement". I take this to mean that Article 5 of Section 2 applies to the actual competition and not qualifying rounds that might be held the day before. These days when there are only two flights of 12 in the Championship meet this would not happen, but I just want to rule out that scenario.

The rule continues to be applied , if prior to the competition, the games committee does not specify that a tie breaking procedure for the last qualifying position for a finals is in place, then all ties advance to the final round.

Now I draw your attention to page 138 and Rule 13, Section 5, Article 6. It very clearly states that ties are broken by the second best performances of the tying competitors, etc. The title of Section 5 is "Scoring". Am I correct that this applies ONLY to meets that are scored?

This rule speaks specifically to the method of breaking ties. For scoring purposes and if the games committee deems that this procedure will be applied to determine last final qualifying positions.

So if we are officiating an open meet that is not being scored, where the head coach told me verbally "9 to finals" but nothing was written about the issue in the "meet

The coach spoke nothing of the tie breaking rule, only advancement, which was in line with the rule. Rule 13-2.5" ..."The number of advancers shall never exceed nine, except that competitors tying for the last advancement position, by mark, shall advance to the final rounds, unless tie breaking is designated by the games committee before the competition."

If that is the case, and if the Games Committee is silent on the issue, we do what favors the athletes and send all that tie for 9th place to finals so they can break the tie in rounds 4, 5, and 6? And if neither bests their preliminary rounds best, it remains a tie because it is not a scored meet.

You are correct, you will advance all ties to the final round. If the tie for best mark still remains after the conclusion of the competition then the tie is broken applying Rule 13-5.6.

May 2021 Clarifications and Interpretations

a. We recently held a meet with very limited field sizes in the field events (3 per gender) and there was a great deal of discussion on if we could or could not run the throwing events as mixed gender. I looked up the rule which says it can be done for “horizontal field events” which I interpreted to be all field events that are contested in the horizontal direction, excluding the pole vault and high jump which are contested in the vertical direction. I spoke with an official about this and he told me I was in great error with that assumption. Horizontal field events is only to mean horizontal jumping events. I argued it doesn’t say that though and he suggested I reach out to you for further clarification.

Rule 9, Article 45 Mixed Gender does state the following, "Mixed gender competition is permitted in any horizontal field event with fewer than five competitors per gender. Mixed gender competition is not permitted in any event within a Combined Event or in any track event except the 10,000 Meters. A separate event result shall be maintained for each gender."

The term, "horizontal field event", in this context, includes all events contested on a horizontal plane, ex. long jump, triple jump shot put, discus, hammer and javelin.

b. In the javelin throw, if a flat is called, should it be marked, in the event there is an appeal? Is a judgment call protestable? I have been unable to locate it in the rule book. In my view if a flat is called there is no place to accurately mark the attempt.

Rule 16-7.1 Defines a legal javelin throw. If the throw is deemed to not have met the specifications of a legal throw the supposed mark shall not be measured. In the case of an immediate protest the mark is speculative therefore if the protest is upheld another throw should be awarded by the referee.

c. In our conference championship we are running each track event as a timed final. My question is within each heat should lanes be seeded by lot (random) since it is the first round? Or should each heat be seeded by entry performance into preferred lanes because there are no preliminary rounds and this will be a final?

Rule 15-11.3(a): Regulations for Assigning Lanes. The following procedures shall be used in drawing/assigning lanes:

a. In the first of multiple rounds of competition, lanes, alleys or starting positions shall be drawn by lot in all races. For an event in which no preliminary round is contested, or when the preliminary round consists of a single race, the games committee may assign preferred

lanes, starting positions or alleys by entry performance. For an in-lane Combined Event race, lanes shall be drawn by lot

d. A couple meets have been run with bricks lining the track as a solid rail in lieu of a rail being able to be laid down (no holes in the track to receive the rail). Would this be acceptable?

Please read Rule 10-1 Articles 3, 5 and 6 on pages 97-99. Bricks are not mentioned nor do they meet specifications.