

DATE: September 5, 2025

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ Duckworth | Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development



RE: September Officials' Memo

2026 Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association Clinic and Awards.

The 41st edition of the OTFCCOA Clinic will be held on **January 23-24, 2026** at Nationwide Hotel & Conference Center (now The Ohioan) in Lewis Center. Registrants will receive one local meeting credit for each day they attend and will be able to participate in and receive credit for the only in person state rules meeting that will be offered.

This year's clinic will feature an online registration option, and for those who register by the deadline, their rule books will be provided at the clinic.

For more information, contact Dennis Sabo, densabo@gmail.com.

Chicken Leg Brand Shorts

I have been made aware of a newer brand of shorts available called "Chicken Legs". When reviewing this item, I found that their shorts have three logos, one on the waistband, that is legal per NFHS regulations. However, it also has a logo on the front of the leg and a second one on the back. As the shorts have more than one logo (in addition to the logo on the waistband) they have been determined to be **illegal** in line with NFHS Rule 4-3-1b5.



OHSAA Medical Device Policy

The OHSAA Medical Device Policy as outlined in General Sports Regulation 20.3 is listed in full below. In summary a doctor's notes **must** be provided to the meet referee prior to each contest anytime an athlete is utilizing a medical device such as an epi pen, inhaler, glucose monitor, etc. The use of these medical devices does not require a waiver from the OHSAA as they are allowed by rule with a physician's note.

However, if there is a need to utilize a prohibited item for medical purposes such as a cell phone, hat with a bill, etc. a waiver would be needed from our office. If you are ever unsure if the item needs a waiver or physician's note, please reach out to me via email.

General Sports Regulation 20.3 Uniforms/Medical Devices

Unless the specific rules code stipulates otherwise, athletes in sports of a collision/contact nature should not be permitted to wear devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitoring equipment and/or other diagnostic or therapeutic appliances while participating in interscholastic contests. In the event that a physician requires a student-athlete to wear or carry a medical device during competition in a non-contact sport, such medical necessity shall be specified in writing and signed by the prescribing physician. The device shall be attached to the body in a manner fitting with the device that is safe for the athlete and does not cause danger to other athletes. Items may be carried by hand or in a pouch/fanny pack if they cannot be safely attached to the body in another manner. The medical statement shall be shown to the head contest official prior to the athlete's being permitted to participate; this statement can be shown on paper or electronically. Examples of approved medical devices include but are not limited to EpiPens, inhalers, insulin pumps, glucose monitors and heart monitors. Athletes participating with these devices are still subject to NFHS Rules if their medical device is dropped or becomes dislodged from the body and interferes with other athletes.

State Rules Meeting for Cross Country

If you have not done so already, completion of the State Rules Meeting, including payment of the \$50 late fee, must be done by September 10. **This meeting is mandatory to renew your license, to officiate Cross Country during the regular season and to officiate the postseason.**

Meeting Begins	Late Fee (\$50) Begins	Meeting Closes
July 17, 2025	August 19, 2025	September 10, 2025

If you are a coach AND an official, you must complete both State Rules Meetings. While the content in both is similar, each is customized to its specific audience.

Officials' Manual

The 2025 OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Manual is available by clicking [HERE](#). It is 99% the same as during track season with just a few small edits.

Permit Renewal

If you are officiating cross country, you need to have renewed your permit before you can work a cross country event. If you are not working cross country, you have until December 31 to renew your permit for track.

Situations

Below are four situations reviewed in the first Virtual Local Track & Field Meeting from the spring.

Situation #1 In section 1 of the 100 m Dash, Athlete A is first with a time of 11.1, Athlete B is second with a time of 11.3. In section 2, Athlete C is first with a time of 11.3 and Athlete D is 2nd also with a time of 11.3. What is the correct order of finish?

Answer #1 A is first, B and C are tied for second, D is fourth.

Reason #1 Runner C was determined to be ahead of Runner D by the finish judges, B and C were in different sections with the same time. Rule 5-8-3, 5-8-4.

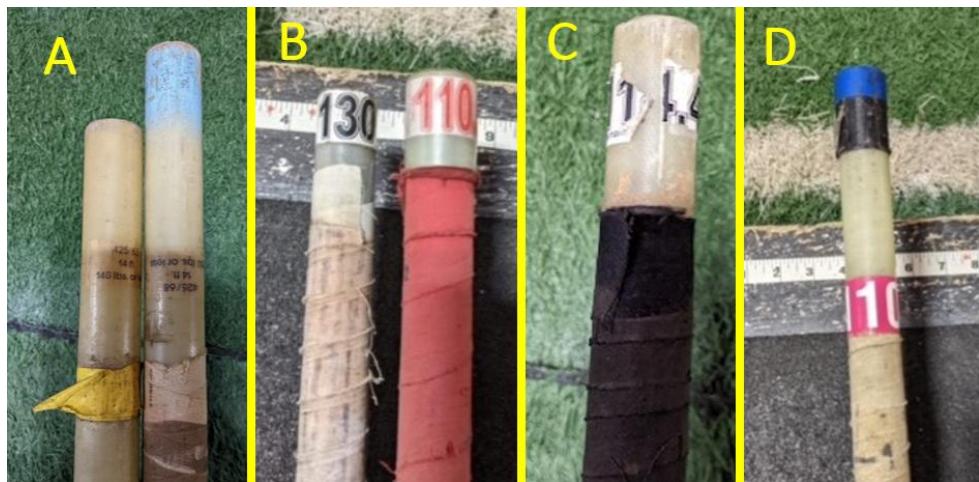
Situation #2 The following is the scoresheet in the high jump at the end of competition. What would the correct placing would be?

	4-10			5-0			5-2			5-4			5-5			5-6			5-7		
Athlete	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	o	-	o	-	x	o	-	x	x	X	
Athlete A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	o	-	o	-	x	o	-	x	x	X	
Athlete B	x	o		x	o		x	x	X												
Athlete C	-	-	-	o			o			o			x	o		x	x	X			
Athlete D	x	o		x	x	X															
Athlete E	-	-	-	x	o		o			x	x	x									
Athlete F	x	o		o			x	x	X												
Athlete G	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x	o		x	o		x	x	x			

Answer #2 1st – A; 2nd – C; 3rd – G; 4th E – 5th – F; 6th – B; 7th – D

Reason #2 Tie for 2nd is broken by total misses. Tie for 5th is broken by misses at tied height. Rule 6-3-2-b.

Situation #3 You are the head pole vault judge at a large invitational and have been delegated the responsibility of checking in pole vault poles prior to warm ups. The pictured poles are brought to you during the check in process. What is your call on each?



For the sake of this situation, we will assume the athlete's weight is at or below the weight limit of each pole and all taping is legal.

Answer #3 B & D are legal

Reason #3

- A is not legal as the weight markings on the pole do not comply with NFHS Rule 6-8-15. Even though you can see what weight the pole was made for, the rule specifically prohibits the use of these in warm ups or competition.
- B is legal
- C is not legal as you cannot read the weight rating on the pole. The coach may contact the manufacturer and be sent a new weight band by providing them the serial number for the pole.
- D is legal, it does have tape above the hand hold band that is being used for marking and identification purposes; that type of marking is legal.

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