

DATE: April 18, 2023

TO: All Track & Field / Cross Country Officials

FROM: BJ (William) Duckworth
Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter
Track & Field and Cross Country



RE: Mid-April Update / In-Season Bulletin #1

Video Notes

Please click [HERE](#) to view a brief video update.

New Cross Country Meet Manager

As you may be aware, Terry Oehrtman retired from the position of Meet Manager for The OHSAA Cross Country meets following last season. Dustin and I are incredibly grateful for his many years of service not only in this position but also to the sports as a whole. I am personally so appreciative and privileged to call him a mentor.

Dustin and I are excited to announce that we have selected **Dugan Hill** to fill this role; Dugan will serve as Meet Manager for the Cross Country Early Season Invitational, 7th & 8th Grade Invitational and OHSAA State Championship. His resume of awards and accolades is so long that it takes up two pages; I will share the highlights.

Dugan, who is the father of Brian and Ashley, has been married to Sharon for 42 years. An OAT&CCC Hall of Famer, he also received the Ed Barker Award from them in 2006. A coach for 42 years, he has been the president of the OAT&CCC twice and currently serves as an OAT&CCC representative on the Track & Field Advisory Committee and the Officials Recruitment, Retention, & Mentoring Committee. He received the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity Award in 2016 and has won numerous other coaching-related awards. Currently a licensed OHSAA Track & Field Official, he was the team manager for the Mid-East Meet and the meet manager for the Mid-West Meet of Championships.

Dugan's experience makes him a great selection to carry on the traditions of excellence of those who held these roles before him. Rick Campbell will serve as assigner for these meets, Dustin and I will continue in our responsibilities, and Steve Adams will continue as site manager at Fortress Obetz.

Safety At Meets

Last week, we learned of a preventable injury when a student-athlete who was also working the throwing events at a meet was struck in the neck/shoulder by a shot-put. We also learned of near misses when the people working the Discus remained in the cage during throws and several additional ones when those in the sector were not paying attention and using cell phones. I cannot stress enough the importance of the role we all play in safety. If we see something that is unsafe, we need to pause the event until it can be corrected. This can be challenging, especially when only one official is at a meet. But I implore everyone to ensure we are arriving early enough to work with the field event workers and make sure they not only understand the rules but the safety aspects included. The worst part of this position is learning about injuries to officials or athletes, especially when they could have been avoided.

NFHS Rules Committee/Rule Change Survey

You have been invited to take part in the NFHS rules-writing process by taking the annual Track and Field and Cross Country rules questionnaire. This questionnaire is provided so the opinions of a national sampling of coaches and registered officials will be considered by the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee. Any feedback, even if limited, will be invaluable to the rules committee as they conduct their 2023 rules meeting. THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL CLOSE ON MAY 8, 2023.

To participate in the questionnaire process, please follow the link below to the Questionnaire menu and select your appropriate sport link to complete the rules questionnaire. You are NOT required to log in to take this questionnaire. We thank you in advance for your participation.

<http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/nfhs-sport-questionnaires/>

Contact nfhswebmaster@nfhs.org if you have any questions.

Advice to Referees on DQs/Use of Correct Rules

There have been several instances reported so far this season of DQs issued based on rules that are no longer in the NFHS Rule Book or OHSAA Officials Manual. Additionally, in a few of the instances, the rules being enforced were taken from NCAA and/or USATF rules rather than the OHSAA Officials Manual or NFHS Rule books. Anytime a DQ is being considered, it is **essential** that the referee be able to identify the rule in the NFHS Rule Book or OHSAA Officials Manual. It is our job as officials to stay up-to-date on the current rules and interpretations and ensure we are applying the correct rules. Rules from other governing bodies must play no part in our competition decisions.

Headgear, Hair Control Devices & Headbands

The OHSAA Modification on Headgear, Hair Control Devices & Headbands was changed prior to this season. The new rule focuses on safety vs. fashion. Under the new modification, the majority of Headgear, Hair Control Devices & Headbands are LEGAL unless they are deemed to be unsafe. Hats with bills (baseball hats, visors, cowboy hats, etc.) remain illegal. These rules, including the prohibition of hats with bills, apply to both running and field events.

From Page 17 of OHSAA Officials Manual

“Hats, caps and headbands that are; not offensive or unsporting, not abrasive or hard, properly secured, and do not pose a danger to themselves or other competitors **are allowed**. The referee may ask a competitor to remove a hat, cap or headband if it is not properly secured, if it poses a danger to the competitor/other competitors, or if it could damage equipment. The referee has the authority to decide what **is safe**.

Section 1. Competitors may wear a Navy Watch-Style knit cap.

Section 2. Competitors may not wear a hat with a bill.

Section 3. Competitors may wear a headband with or without ear protectors, provided the headband is properly secured to the head and does not interfere with another. The headband does not need to be worn as the manufacturer intended and may include decoration.

Section 4. Pole vaulters are permitted to wear helmets safety headgear).

Hair control devices and/or hair accessories are permitted. Bandanas, pre-wrap, or other items not intended to be used as headbands or hair control devices **are legal** as long as they are not offensive or unsporting, not abrasive or hard, properly secured, and do not pose a danger to themselves or another competitor.”

Relay Advancement Due to DQ in a Dual Meet

Situation: In a dual meet, School A has two relay teams, A1 and A2, and School B has only one team, B1. The apparent order of finish is A2, A1, B1. Following the conclusion of the race, it is announced that team A 2 is DQed for an exchange zone violation. The Referee determines that B1 is the winner as team A2 was the school's scoring team, and while you can't select what team will score, only one team per school can score

Ruling: Incorrect ruling Per NFHS 2-1-3 "When any apparent place winner is disqualified in an event, lower place winners in that event shall be advanced to fill vacant places, unless the disqualification occurs after the event results have become official." The OHSAA rules on exhibition competition don't change how NFHS Rule 2-1-3 is applied.

Ties For 1st Place in Field Events That Can't Be Broken

Please see below several situations and the correct way to handle the situation when an athlete withdraws or refuses to jump off for first place.

Situation 1: Vaulters A and B both make 13'6" with no misses at any height during the competition. They both have 3 misses at 14'. The pole vault judge (after conferring with the head field judge or referee) announces that there will be a jump-off to determine first place.

Situation 1A: Vaulter A (after conferring with his/her coach) informs the judge that he/she will be withdrawing from the competition because of concerns about safety because the vaulter is exhausted or injured

Ruling 1A: Vaulter A is withdrawing from the competition by not competing in the jump-off. Due to this, vaulter B will be awarded first place, and vaulter A will be awarded second. As only one competitor remains in the jump-off, no attempts need to be taken by vaulter B.

Note: If this situation involved three tied vaulters and vaulter A withdrew, a jump-off would be between B & C to determine first and second place. Third place would be awarded to vaulter A.

Situation 1B: Vaulter B (after conferring with his/her coach) informs the judge that he/she will be withdrawing from the competition in order to save energy for other events to be contested.

Ruling 1B: Same as above, if a vaulter makes the decision (for any reason) not to compete in the jump-off, they are withdrawing from the competition and giving up the first-place position.

Situation 1C: Both vaulters inform the judge that they wish to withdraw.

Ruling C: The points for the first and second places should be added together and split equally between the two vaulters; they will share first place.

Note A: If three vaulters are all tied for first, and two wish to withdraw, the vaulter who does not withdraw will receive first place. The points from second and third would be added together and split equally between the two athletes; they would share second place.

Note B: If three vaulters are all tied for first place and all wish to withdraw, the points for first, second, and third will be added together and split equally between the three vaulters; they would all share first place.

Note C: If the tie is for fourth at a district or regional tournament, the tie **MUST** be broken so an advancer can be selected; we will not advance five athletes. If one athlete withdraws, the other will advance. If both withdraw due to exhaustion, a rest period should be given and the jump-off will start at an agreed-upon time.

Ability To Set Aside or Change Rules

We have had several instances this spring where meet officials, managers/games committees or conferences have made the decision to set aside or change rules. While the games committee does have the authority to make decisions about meet administration, that ability is limited to the items outlines in NFHS Rule 3-2. Officials, managers/games committees, and conferences do not have the authority to set aside or change rules.

Other Reminders

Note On Assignments

All assignments for the HS State Meet, MS State Meet and OHSAA positions for Regional Tournaments have been made. They will be announced via email, Facebook and Twitter in May.

Virtual Local Meeting Provided by the OHSAA

The first of two local virtual meetings has been posted by the OHSAA; all officials have been sent an email notifying them of the process to view and receive credit. The second virtual meeting will be made available later this month.

State Rules Meeting

The date to complete the meeting without a late fee has passed. Anyone completing it April 7 - 24 will be subject to a late fee of \$50. If you attended the in-person rules meeting at the officials' clinic, you **do not** need to view the online meeting. If you are a coach and an official, you **MUST** complete **BOTH** the coach's rules meeting and the officials' rules meeting.

Officials vs Cancer

The National Federation of State High School Associations calls on all sports officials to join us in our partnership with the American Cancer Society in the vision of ending cancer as we know it, for everyone. Through the Officials vs Cancer program, sports officials can participate in the Whistle Campaign. Getting involved is simple. Make a \$25 donation (or more) and receive a Fox 40 whistle to use while you are officiating.

1. Visit <https://officials.cancer.org>
2. Choose your favorite Fox 40 whistle color:
 - Go Blue in March to show your support for colorectal cancer!
 - Go Purple in April to show your support for testicular cancer!
 - Go Pink in May to honor all the moms battling breast cancer!
 - Go Gold in September to show your support for childhood cancer!
3. Select the sport that you officiate.
4. Add an additional donation to the American Cancer Society if you'd like.
5. Provide contact and payment information.

You will receive your whistle in the mail two to three weeks after purchase. If you have any additional questions, please email officialsvscancer@cancer.org

2023 OHSAA Documents & Websites

Click the item below to be taken to the page/document

- [2023 Track & Field Page](#)
- [2023 Track & Field Officials Manual](#)
- [2023 Track & Field Coaches Manual](#)
- [2023 Track & Field Mixed Gender Relay Waiver](#)

Completed by meet management for all meets that will include mixed-gender relays.

- [2023 Seated Athlete Competition Guide](#)
- [2023 HS Seated Athlete Qualification Form](#)

Completed by meet management for all meets hosting seated athletes that want those performances to count for the HS State Meet.

- [2023 Middle School State Meet Page & Qualification Instructions](#)
- [2023 Middle School Meet Qualification Form](#)

Completed by meet management for all meets wishing to count as a qualifier for the MS State Meet.

- [2023 Tournament Regulations](#)
- [2023 Regional Tournament Sites & Meet Manager Information](#)
- [2023 Tournament Meet Managers Manual](#)

Sincerely,

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Director of Officiating Development

OHSAA Track & Field and Cross Country