

DATE: April 11, 2022

TO: All Track & Field Officials

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



RE: 2022 Mid-Season Bulletin #1

Please take some time to review the below information; much of this information has been put together based on your questions. Additionally, there are a few notes from the OT&F&CCOA.

A Video Message from BJ Duckworth

To view a brief video message, click [HERE](#).

OT&F&CCOA Summer Rookie Clinic

I have been asked to pass along that three positions are remaining for the summer clinic due to cancellations. If you have ten years or less of experience and want to attend the clinic, please click [HERE](#) or reach out to Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com.

Officials Needed! Ohio Special Olympics

The OT&F&CCOA and GYTOA have teamed up to help assist the Special Olympics of Ohio in finding officials for this summer's games. The games will take place Friday, June 24 – Sunday, June 26, at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University. Anyone who volunteers as an official will receive free lodging and meals during the meet. If you are interested, please contact Dennis Sabo at densabo@gmail.com.

Days & Times:

Friday(24) 2pm - 10pm (this includes opening ceremonies)

Saturday(25) 7am – 5pm

Sunday(26) 8am – 1pm

Positions:

2 Starters

2 Clerks

4 Field Event Officials

NFHS Clarification on Rule 6-2-7

There have been many questions related to this rule. After consulting with the NFHS, I can confirm that while the rules language says “run,” the intent is to make sure there is no substantial movement in the opposite direction (on the runway) the event is conducted. It is a safety risk when someone moves in the opposite direction on the runway in their warmup. The athlete walking rather than running does not remove the safety risk. Please make sure we are practicing preventative officiating and discussing this with coaches and athletes during the warmup period to avoid having to issue warnings. Walking back their steps on the runway during the warmup is prohibited.

Athletes Not Wanting to Jump Off for First Place

Below please find three situations on how officials should handle jump-offs when one competitor decides not to participate. These situations can also be found in the FAQ document. Click [HERE](#) to view the FAQ document.

Vaulters A and B both make 13'6" with no misses at any height during the competition. They both have three 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 1 - Vaulter A (after conferring with their coach) informs the judge that they will be withdrawing from the competition because of concerns about safety because the vaulter is exhausted or injured

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 2 - Vaulter B (after conferring with their coach) informs the judge that they will be withdrawing from the competition to save energy for other events to be contested.

Same as above, if a vaulter decides (for any reason) not to compete in the jump-off, they are withdrawing from the competition and give up the first place position.

Situation 3 - Both vaulters inform the judge that they wish to withdraw.

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 I: If three vaulters are all tied for first and two wish to withdraw, the vaulter who does not withdraw would 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 II: 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.

Instructions To Officials: When a jump-off is to occur, the official (after confirming with the referee or head field judge) shall inform the athletes and coaches that a jump-off will occur. With the athletes and coaches together, the official should review the rules and the process that will be followed. The official SHOULD NOT ask the athletes or coaches if they want to participate. If, during or after explaining the jump-off process, one of the athletes or coaches announces they wish not to participate, the official would then apply the above rulings as appropriate.

Note Relating to Tournament Competition: If the above takes place at a district or regional tournament competition related to a tie for fourth place, the same process will be followed. However, as the jump-off is to determine qualification only, there would be no change in place or point distribution.

How Your Dues Work for You

To learn more about how your officiating dues work for you, click [HERE](#). To learn about the insurance provided to you as an official, click [HERE](#).

What To Do When Events Are Canceled/Suspended After They Have Started

It is not uncommon for weather to move in during a meet and force the postponement or cancellation of a field event.

If an event has started and is suspended due to weather or another issue out of the control of meet management, then in conjunction with the games committee, the referee will determine when and if the meet/event is safe to resume. Additionally, the referee and the games committee will decide on the amount of warmup time that shall be given before the competition resumes. Competition should resume at the point of interruption, and all performance up until that point of interruption will stand. The referee and games committee must follow the rules set forth by the NFHS and OHSAA related to weather safety. (NFHS Rule 3-2-5&6, 3-4, Appendix G & OHSAA Track Officials Manual)

If a field event has started and cannot be completed due to weather, damage to the venue, or another issue that is out of the control of the officials and/or meet management, the event should be treated as a non-contest; the event shall not be scored.

If the event has begun (the first trial of the first athlete has been taken), the event shall count as one of the four allowed (or three in middle school) for all athletes who checked into the event.

If the field event has not begun (warmups may have taken place, but no attempts have been made), the event shall not count as one of the four allowed (or three for middle school).

NFHS Pre-Season Editorial Changes

On Friday, March 11, 2022, the NFHS announced several editorial changes to the 2022 NFHS Rule & Case Book. None of these changes modify anything about the rules; they are simply editorial changes due to confusion in their original wording.

To view a web version of these editorial changes, click [HERE](#).

To view a PDF version of these editorial changes, click [HERE](#).

Heat Safety

The second half of the season can heat up fast, and I don't just mean the competition on the track. Please make sure you plan in advance for the weather, not just rain and lightning but also the heat. Make sure you take care of yourself by wearing sunscreen, drinking plenty of fluids before and during the meet, and wearing a head covering if needed. Keep an eye on your fellow officials; if you see someone in need of a break, more water, or exhibiting the signs of heat illness, please take action to get them what they need. Please click [HERE](#) for more information on heat illness.

Note About Game Reports

I have been made aware that Microsoft Edge is the best internet application to be used when filing a game report. You may experience issues when using Safari, Google Chrome or other applications.

Officials Survey

Many people have reached out with ideas related to how to make our sport better. To help me prioritize some of these ideas, please take five minutes to complete a quick survey. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey.

Virtual Local Meetings

Thank you to the 250 officials who viewed the first virtual local meeting, attendance credit has been issued. The second virtual local meeting will be posted soon, once it is everyone will be notified via email. This meeting will cover seated athletes, weather safety and include a message from the coaches association.

Correction On Starting Commands for Seated Events

It has been brought to our attention that there is an error in the starting commands for seated events listed in the Seated Athlete Competition Guide. For seated events, the starting correct commands shall be:

100M & 400M – “On Your Marks,” “Set,” firing of starting device.

800M - “On Your Marks,” firing of the starting device. **No mention of being “wheelers” is appropriate.**

OT&F&CCOA Scholarship Applications

Each year, the Ohio Track & Field and Cross Country Officials Association awards the Fred Dafler Scholarship to a family member of one of its members. Starting this year, the OT&F&CCOA will award the Fred Dafler Scholarship and begin awarding the Rick Haddix Scholarship.

The Haddix & Dafler Scholarships will be awarded yearly to family members of OT&F&CCOA members. If you are not a member, you can contact Dennis Sabo (densabo@gmail.com) to join. Selection criteria for the scholarships include leadership qualities, athletic participation, reliability, sportsmanship, academic achievement and extracurricular activities. For complete requirements and to download the applications, please click [HERE](#) and then click on the photo next to the scholarship description. All applications must be submitted by **May 1, 2022**.

OT&F&CCOA 2023 Award Nominations

Each year the Ohio Track & Field and Cross County Officials Association awards the Joe Lenge Service Award, the Fredrick Cope Award and several Contributor Awards. For more information on who qualifies for each award or to nominate someone, please click [HERE](#) and then click on the picture next to the award description.

While it is common for secretaries to send nominations in on behalf of their association; **anyone** may nominate someone who qualifies for the awards. Nominations for these awards are due by **August 1, 2022**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for all you do for our sport and best of luck for the rest of the season!

Sincerely,

BJ (William) Duckworth

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Director of Officiating Development & State Rules Interpreter
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