

DATE: March 3, 2026

TO: All Track & Field and Cross Country Officials

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

RE: March Officials' Memo



State Rules Meeting for Track & Field

The mandatory state rules meeting is live in DragonFly per the chart below. **This meeting is mandatory to renew your license and to officiate Track & Field.**

Meeting Begins	Late Fee (\$50) Begins	Meeting Closes
January 28, 2026	March 25, 2026	April 15, 2026

If you are a coach AND an official, you must complete both State Rules Meetings.

Virtual Local Meeting #1

The first virtual local meeting went live on March 2 in DragonFly and will be available through March 12. Emails were sent directly to officials when the meeting went live, please see that email for more details. The meeting will include messages from the OTFCCOA & OATCCC presidents, a review of field event set up courtesy of the NFHS, and a brief introduction to the Mechanics Guide.

Is It OK to Only Allow Three Attempts in Horizontal Field Events?

Allowing three attempts without finals is **NEVER** acceptable at any meet (high school or middle school) and is **prohibited** under NFHS rules. NFHS Rules 6-2-10 and 6-3-17 state that the only allowable options are three attempts with three additional attempts in the finals, or everyone gets four attempts. The choice between the two options is a games committee decision per NFHS Rule 3-2. An official or meet only allowing three attempts with no finals would be like a baseball umpire only allowing two strikes or a football referee only allowing three downs; **it simply is not acceptable.**

The above does not change the referee's/games committee's ability to suspend or cancel an event due to weather or darkness.

Clarification on Ejections

I have had several questions come in related to the penalty when an athlete is disqualified from the meet AKA ejected. When an athlete is ejected, they are ineligible from all FURTHER competition in the meet; however, any performances/points previously earned stand. As the District, Regional & State Tournaments are all multi-day meets, an ejection on the first day of the tournament would apply to the entire round.

Please see the [2026 OHSAA Track & Field Officials Manual](#) for more information.

2026 Track & Field State Championship Clinic – Only 3 Spots Left

The expanded OHSAA Jesse Owens Track & Field State Championships will serve as the backdrop for this opportunity, where veteran mentors instruct clinic participants on rules, mechanics, and best practices as they happen in real-time. **The clinic is open to ALL officials who have not officiated the Track State Championships**, regardless of years of service. Participants and their mentors will follow a set schedule that covers every field event and officiating position. Participants will experience everything from the press box to the referee, and there will be set times to ask questions and hear from the Meet Manager, Sport Administrator, and Tournament Assignor. There will also be time built in to enjoy the meet with your all-access pass. **It's an educational experience like no other.**

When: June 5 & 6, 2026

Where: The Ohio State University, Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium

Cost: \$25 non-refundable deposit.

What You Receive:

- OHSAA hat
- Lunch both days
- Parking
- All access credential & lanyard
- Officiating Guide & Souvenir Program
- Discount rates at the officials' hotel (limited rooms available)
- Two local meeting credits for the 2027 track season (one for each day). *You MUST stay with your mentor and group to receive credit.*

Registration: [CLICK HERE](#)

Due to venue & operational space limitations, registration is limited to the first 30 people to pay the non-refundable deposit. Please do not register if you are not 100% committed to attending; the deposit is not refundable. Registration will close on April 18, 2026, or when full.

Waiting List: We will keep a waiting list of interested officials. The waiting list can be accessed through the registration link above.

Hotel: Participants are responsible for their own housing. Information will be sent out to those registered related to a limited number of discounted rooms at the officials' hotel.

**If you sign up for the clinic and are then assigned to officiate the meet, your deposit will be refunded, and we will use the waiting list to fill your spot.*

Situations

Situation #1: Athlete A enters the high jump competition after passing several heights, when there are only 3 jumpers remaining. She asks the event judge how much time she will have to begin her first attempt.

Answer #1: The jumper is allowed one minute since it is her first attempt in the competition, and then would be given 3 minutes if a second attempt is needed.

Note #1: Per NFHS Rule 6-2-2 (chart and note 2) one minute is given for the first attempt if the athlete has not yet entered competition. All attempts after that will be based on the information in the chart.

Situation #2: Athlete A has cleared 6 feet 2 inches on his second attempt, and missed three times at 6 feet 3 inches. Athlete B has also cleared 6 feet 2 inches on his second attempt, but passed to 6 feet 4 inches, where he misses all three attempts.

Answer #2: If the number of total misses is the same for both athletes, a jump-off will begin with a fourth attempt for each athlete at 6 feet 3 inches since that was next height in the regular progression.

Note #2: NFHS Rule 6-3-2 (Note) was added in 2025 to handle this unique situation.

Situation #3: In a regular season invitational, the 800 meters is run with 3 runners assigned in each lane. The starter signals the start, and the backup starter (BS) falls in behind them and as the runners in lane 1 reach 60 m from their start line, one of the runners stumbles, falls and does not complete the race. No recall is signaled.

You are the referee and the coach of the athlete who fell comes to you insisting his athlete was tripped. The BS reported that the athlete who fell may have been bumped by the runner in a red uniform, also running in lane 1. No other official saw what happened.

Answer # 3: Thank the BS for the report then rule no interference occurred as the BS was unsure that a tripping had occurred.

Note #3: As an umpire, you should always report what you see or "think" you saw, the referee will then need to make a decision based on your report and the report of other officials.

When it comes to disqualifying an athlete, the referee should always err on the side of the athlete when the official "thinks" or is "unsure" of what happened, especially when no other reports have been made by officials.

BJ Duckworth

Sport Administrator & Director of Officiating Development

Track & Field and Cross Country

Ohio High School Athletic Association

Office: 614-859-0747 | bjduckworth@ohsaa.org