



Ohio High School Athletic Association

Track & Field Tournament Officials Assignment & Selection Policy

Effective 2023 Track & Field Season | Updated For 2026 Season

Changes are in **red**, editorial changes are in **blue**

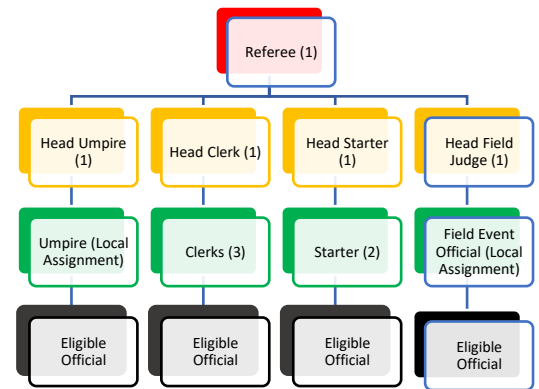
Regional Officiating Assignments & Selection

- 1) All officials assigned to the regional tournament must meet all eligibility criteria set for by the OHSAA in the Officials Handbook that be found on the OHSAA website. Waivers of eligibility can be granted by the DOD or OHSAA staff at their discretion.
- 2) The OHSAA will assign the following ten (10) positions to each regional location known as the “10 Key Positions” and appoint one (1) position:
 - Referee (1)
 - Head Umpire (1)
 - Head Field Judge (1)
 - Head Starter (1)
 - Starters (2)
 - Head Clerk (1)
 - Clerks (3)
 - **Evaluator (1)**
- 3) Local meet managers will be responsible for assignment of all additional officials at their meet per the guidelines outlined by the OHSAA in the Tournament Managers Manual and Officials Handbook as well as their own guidelines, provided they meet the requirements as stated above. See Appendix A.
- 4) Selection of officials in each of these positions will be made utilizing evaluations on file, observations, as well as the discretion of the assigner.
- 5) Officials assigned to the 10 key positions will remain in their position until one of the below:
 - a. They are elevated to the next position in the linear progression (see chart below).
 - b. They are rotated out of their position to fill an open position at the state tournament.
 - i. Officials rotated out of their position to take a state meet position will be eligible to officiate in a meet manager-assigned position immediately for the regional tournament.
 - c. Based on evaluations and observations are found not to be performing their assignments at the high level expected of this level of tournament.

Note: Please see more information on how officials will rotate from their regional 10 key positions to the state meet in the state meet section of this document.

- 6) Assignments will follow the linear progression for advancement in the regional tournaments. The chart to the right details the progression.
- Green is the first level of assignment to one of the ten key positions.
 - Yellow is the second level of assignment to one of the ten key positions.
 - Red is the highest level of assignment to one of the ten key positions.

Note: Eligible Official for the purpose of this document is defined as an official who is eligible to officiate but has not yet been assigned to one of the ten key positions.



- 7) When the position of Referee is open at a regional location, those currently serving in positions in the orange level, **at any region**, are eligible for advancement to the red level (Referee). That decision will be made using evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the Tournament Assigner and DOD. **Officials who have previously held a yellow level position or those in other leadership roles such as FAT operator or meet manager are eligible. The OHSAA also reserves the right to hire someone not outlined in this section if they are deemed the best candidate.**
- 8) When a position in the orange level is open, the official serving in the green level, **at any region**, will become eligible for advancement to that level. That decision will be made using evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the Tournament Assigner and DOD.
- 9) When a position in the green level is open, those positions will be filled by an eligible official. That decision will be made using evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the Tournament Assigner and DOD.

State Meet Assignments & Selection

- All officials assigned to the state meet must meet all eligibility criteria set forth by the OHSAA in the Officials Handbook that be found on the OHSAA website. Waivers of eligibility can be granted by the DOD or OHSAA staff at their discretion.
- Assignments to the state meet will be made based on the representation of the overall number of registered officials in each athletic district. **Representation will be temporarily suspended for 2026, and possibly 2027 due to expansion.**
- Officials will sit out four (4) years before being eligible for re-assignment to the state meet. Exception: An official receiving an assignment to a higher-level position based on a regional to state meet progression. (Ex. Umpire being moved to Clerk after 4 years as umpire based on being the next in rotation from their regional Head Clerk position). Starters may serve as a state tournament starter more than once.
- The OHSAA will assign the following positions to the state tournament and each will serve in their role for the number of years indicated. No positions will be lifetime assignments:
 - Referee (6), Assistant Referee (1) – 7 year rotation
 - Head Umpire (1), ~~Assistant Head Umpire (1)~~, Zone Chief (4) – 5 year rotation
 - Head Field Judge (2) – 6-year rotation, ~~three years in throws, three years in jumps~~

- Clerks (6) - 6 years, the final year as Head Clerk*
- Starter (4) – 4 years, the first year as start announcer, the final year as head
- Umpires (17) - 4 years
 - One umpire at the finish line will also serve as Finish Marshall.
- Discus (5) – 5 years with the final year as head@
- Shot Put (4) – 4 years with final year as head@
- Girls Pole Vault (3) – 3 years, final year as head@**
- Boys Pole Vault (3) – 3 years, final year as head@**
- High Jump (3) – 3 years, final year as head@
- Long Jump (4) – 4 years, final as head@

@ The OHSAA reserves the right for an official to NOT serve as head their final year or serve as head more than one time based on needs of the event.

**Each crew's head will be required to run the event identically as the other based on the direction of the Head Field Judge for Jumps. The crews will also rotate event gender every other year.

5) The OHSAA will appoint the following to non-officiating positions. The DOD will choose these positions in conjunction with meet management & the [Tournament Assignor](#). These positions will not be listed in the tournament questionnaire, do not wear an officiating uniform and are not subject to rotation:

- Announcers (2)
- Evaluators (2)
- Pole Vault Coordinator (2)
- Data & Technology Referee (1)
- Officials Host (1)
- Officials Coordinator (1)

6) Officials assigned to the positions of Referee and Assistant Referee will serve for **seven (7) years**, following the linear progression to the right.

- Officials assigned to the position of Assistant Referee will come from those who have been assigned as Referee at the regional tournament level.

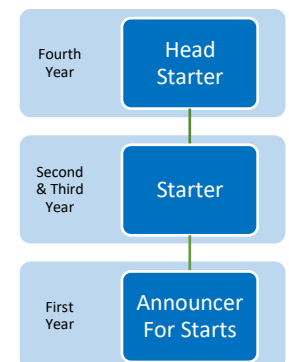
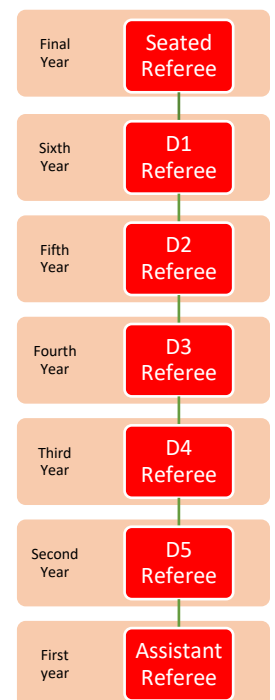
7) The Data & Technology is an appointed official who oversees the use FAT, EDM and OHSAA Data Teams. They also have final say over all finish evaluation. The individual serving in this appointed role will be the person who serves as the Data & Technology manager for the OHSAA They do not wear an officials uniform.

8) Officials assigned to the positions of Head Starter and Starter will serve for four (4) years per the linear progression to the right.

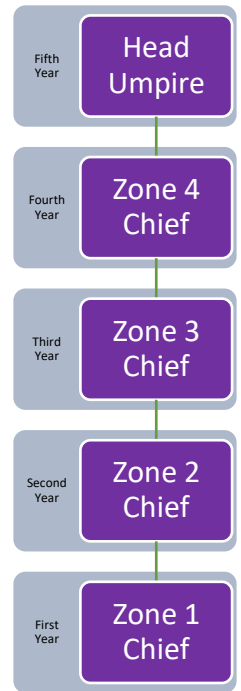
- Officials assigned to the position of Starter will come from those who have been assigned as Head Starter at regional tournament level.
- Officials will be chosen for elevation from the regional level based on evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the DOD or assigner.
- Every effort for equitable rotation between the twelve regions will be made; however, the best eligible official will be selected.

9) Officials assigned to the position of Clerk will serve in this role for six (6) years.

- Officials assigned to the position of Clerk will come from those who have been assigned as Head Clerk at the regional tournament level.



- b. Officials will be chosen for elevation from the regional level based on evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the DOD or assigner.
- c. Every effort for equitable rotation between the 12 regions will be made; however, the best eligible official will be selected.



10) Officials assigned to the positions of Head Umpire & Zone chief will serve for five (5) years per the linear progression to the right

- a. Officials assigned to the position of Zone Chief will come from those who have been assigned as Head Umpire at regional tournament level.
- b. Officials will be chosen for elevation from the regional level based on evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the DOD or assigner.
- c. Every effort for equitable rotation between the twelve regions will be made; however, the best eligible official will be selected.

11) Officials assigned to the position of Head Field Judge will serve in this role for six (6) years.

- a. Officials assigned to the position of Head Field Judge will come from those who have been assigned as Head Field Judge at the regional tournament level.
- b. Officials will be chosen for elevation from the regional level based on evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the DOD or assigner.
- c. Every effort for equitable rotation between the 12 regions will be made; however, the best eligible official will be selected.

12) One official will be appointed as the Pole Vault Coordinator who will serve as a bridge to the Head Field Judges and will ensure both genders are conducted the same and assist crews as needed. This position has general supervision over the event.

13) Three Announcers will be appointed and will serve as meet management employees not in uniform.

14) Two Observers will be appointed and will serve as meet management employees not in uniform.

15) One Official Host will be appointed and will serve as a meet management employee not in uniform

16) One Officials Coordinator will be appointed and will have general supervision over all officials who have been assigned or appointed. The person serving in this role will be the Tournament Assignor and will serve as a meet management employee.

17) Officials assigned for all remaining positions will be assigned based on evaluations and observations and will be at the discretion of the DOD or assigner. These officials will come from the list of officials who have selected the appropriate position in the tournament questionnaire and have the appropriate experience.

Note: This policy does not include every possible situation that may arise during the assigning process. The OHSAA, DOD and Tournament Assignor reserve the right to make a decision/assignment outside of this policy as the needs arise. Needs could include (but are not limited to) substitutions due to illness, work conflicts or modifications to years in rotations.

Appendix A: Regional Information From The OHSAA Tournament Regulations

- The minimum officials' number must be followed by all regional sites unless approved by the OHSAA office.
- This minimum number of officials will provide coverage of each area but leaves a higher opportunity for error than the preferred numbers. Tournament Managers must hire at least the minimum number of officials required but are encouraged to use the preferred staffing levels.
- If additional officials are available, but you cannot reach the preferred staffing numbers, it is recommended they be contracted and assigned in order of importance (1 umpires, 2 discus, 3 shot put, 4 long jump).
- The preferred/maximum number of officials is an adequate number of officials to provide a fair and safe competition. Sites cannot hire more than the preferred/maximum numbers

Position	Min #	Per/Max #	Who Assigns	Notes
Referee	1	1	OHSAA	
Head Starter	1	1	OHSAA	
Starter	2	2	OHSAA	
*Head Field Judge	1	1	OHSAA	Does not have the authority to disqualify
Head Clerk	1	1	OHSAA	
Clerk	3	3	OHSAA	
Head Umpire	1	1	OHSAA	
Observer	1	1	OHSAA	Will not be in an uniform but has all access of an official
Announcer	1	1	Meet Mgr.	It is preferred that the announcer is an official; if one is not available, it can be a non-official. If a non-official is hired, they must be paid directly by the host site not as an official.
Head Long Jump	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Head High Jump	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Head Pole Vault	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Head Shot Put	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Head Discus	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Long Jump	1	2	Meet Mgr.	Officials assigned to this event cannot work the wing gauge.
High Jump	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Pole Vault	1	1	Meet Mgr.	
Shot Put	1	2	Meet Mgr.	
Discus	2	3	Meet Mgr.	
Zone Chief	4	4	Meet Mgr.	Consultation with the referee & head umpire is recommended before selection.
Umpire/Finish Marshall	1	1	Meet Mgr.	Is responsible for: 1) umpiring races as part of the zone, 2) for signaling when FAT is ready, 3) ensuring the time schedule is followed, 4) responsible for keeping the finish area clear.
Umpire	5	9	Meet Mgr.	
Total	33	40		Maximum and recommended numbers have been reduced.

* While many invitations use two referees (field and running), only one referee is allowed for OHSAA tournaments. A head field judge does not have the same authority as a meet referee. For more details on officials, see the Tournament Managers Manual.

Note: While the suggested numbers offer an adequate number of officials, there is always a margin of error, and mistakes/missed calls are always possible regardless of the number of officials assigned.