

Rules Changes for 2008

High School

The Games Committee may designate specific areas where coaches may observe and confer with athletes during competition

The school name or insignia may be on garments worn under the uniform, but are restricted to 2.25 square inches

In the Pole Vault it is no longer a foul if a competitor leaves the ground without breaking the plane of the bar. In such a situation the athlete may attempt another vault if time remains.

There are editorial changes in ten rules. I don't have those at this time and won't until I see a rule book. Sometimes those are significant. Check the book.

NCAA

A diagram now shows possible ways to mark the intersection of the lane line and the finish line.

In the horizontal jumps an electronic foul line indicator with validation by an image capture may be used to determine fouls. The plasticine has been taken out of the rule book.

The hammer handle may no longer have curved sides. The dimensions have been modified so that there is no longer a width specification. The grip may be curved.

Umpires are now to report "all apparent violations of the rule and incidents of concern..."
NOTE: this infers that anything the referee should know should be reported even if there was no violation.

The undergarment rule was modified so that only garments of the "same type" have to be identical in color.

If there is a problem in a field event, a protest may be done verbally so that marks can be preserved pending a ruling by the referee.

When ruling on a protest the referee may only consider official evidence. Previously the rule stated any available evidence, which might include videos from strange angles that don't show what it needs to.

If a baton is dropped, the runner recovering it may leave the assigned lane to recover the baton provided no other runner is impeded and the distance to be covered is not shortened.

In smaller meets when coaches are allowed free access to any area, coaching during an attempt is not allowed in field events. It is permissible for competitors to cross the track to confer with coaches before the start of running events.

The length of a warm up period between flights may not exceed 15 minutes and will be determined by the Games Committee.

In D-2 and D-3 imperial measurements are no longer acceptable. Announcers should give both metric and imperial measurements when giving results.

In throws and horizontal jumps when there are nine or fewer competitors each may be allowed six trials, if one of the first three is attempted. When there are more than nine competitors each must have a valid mark in the first three to qualify for the last three.

In the Pole Vault it is a foul if the bar does not remain supported by the pegs because of any direct action of the athlete. NOTE: The first part is a slight change in wording to clarify that the bar may leave the peg, but must return to it. The last part is new wording.

Also in the Pole Vault the restriction on two layers of tape at the grip has been removed.

In the horizontal jumps no action by a competitor can be a foul AFTER the official signals a fair trial.

Also in the horizontal jumps somersaults are not allowed. NOTE: This may include the shot put in a future book. It does not do that yet, but that was changed by IAAF and USATF.

The finger wrap in the Hammer may not be elastic. NOTE: This appears to be a typo from last year when the rule said nonadhesive instead of nonelastic.

Those finger wraps in the Hammer may not cover the palm or back of the hand.

USATF

The time limit for protests in Cross Country shall be one hour after results are announced.

For Masters the Ultraweight Pentathlon was added as a championship event.

In the case of a disqualification for unsportsmanlike behavior, performances accomplished prior to the behavior will stand.

If a protest is made during the preliminary rounds in a field event and that attempt would qualify the athlete to the finals, that athlete may be advanced in addition to the regular number advanced. This way, if the ruling is in the favor of the athlete, the finals marks will count. If the protest is denied, then the marks in the finals do not count. NOTE: This would be a very rare occurrence as a protested foul would seldom be the only one sending the athlete to the finals.

If a section of curbing is removed, then flags or cones at least 20 cm high shall be placed no further apart than four meters.

Cones or other suitable markers MUST be placed for the break line for the 800 meters. NOTE: half tennis balls will fit the rule.

In the past, during a start, an athlete could let the starter know that there was a problem by raising a hand. This was never in the rules. It is now. NOTE: the rule is more complicated than that, but that is the idea.

“In order to confirm that the camera is correctly aligned and to facilitate the reading of the photo finish image, the intersection of the lane lines and the finish line shall be colored black in a suitable design. Any such design must be solely confined to the width of the intersection and not extending before the leading edge or more than 2 cm beyond the finish line.”

When advancing runners to subsequent rounds there will be three draws instead of the two we have been using. The first will be up to half of the athletes for the preferred lanes. The second will be up to half of the rest and the final draw will be for those not in the first two draws.

Any four athletes entered in a meet may be used for a relay team for any round. However once a relay team has started in a competition only two additional athletes may be used as substitutes.

In non-championship competition vertical jump competitions may be held in a different format including limiting the total number of heights or trials a competitor may attempt. NOTE: If an athlete has three consecutive misses they forfeit any further attempts.

In the vertical jumps, the time limit for first attempt by any athlete upon entering the competition shall be one minute for that trial without regard to the number of athletes left in the competition.

The length of the javelin runway is not restricted by rule, but only by the available room in the facility.

In the vertical jumps where a jump off is required the height shall be the first height listed on the progression that is above the height of the tied athletes. This will normally be the

last height attempted, but if the athletes passed as height above the tied height, then it might not be. NOTE: check the rule for details if this should occur.

In the Pole Vault, it is not a foul solely because the pole touches the landing pad after being properly planted in the box. NOTE: Some officials were evidently calling that a foul simply because the pit was too close to the box and the pole hit the pit.

For throws from a circle a competitor may place a temporary marker outside the circle. This marker will only be in position for that athlete's attempt and then removed.

For the throwing events the landing area must be soft enough to ensure a mark.

In the Shot Put cartwheel techniques are not allowed.

There were some minor adjustments to the dimensions for some implements. Anyone checking implements should check the book.

The hammer handle may be any shape and any width, but must be shorter than 110 mm. NOTE: This is in conflict with the NCAA rule and differs from the IAAF rule as well.

In the javelin, a mark should be made four meters back from the throwing arc. Once an athlete has made contact with the runway behind that line and after the implement has landed, they are considered to have left the runway.

In the case of a record, the photo finish picture and the zero control test must be submitted with the record application. The zero control test was added to that rule. NOTE: That zero control test relates to rule 165.10a

Records will now be kept in the Women's Decathlon for outdoor and junior events.

A medical certificate as to sex will no longer be needed for women's record purposes.

Also no longer required for records are newspaper clippings and videotape of the record.