

Virginia Track Notes #11-2009 (July 27, 2009)

1. Before I get into the meat of this Track Notes, I would like to make a request to all of the 1,500+ coaches and officials that are on my address book. Aside from my normal role as an official and working with meet management, I organize and teach 4-6 clinics each year and produce Track & Field Rules and Mechanics Manual. My attempt is to present the best clinics possible in the time allowed with subjects that are germane to our ever changing sport. With that said, I ask each of you that receive the Track Notes to give me some short answers to the three following questions. The first thing that comes to mind will probably be your best answer.

A. When you go to your next clinic, what specific item of rules application/officials mechanics would like to see taught/amplified?

B. At your next clinic, you have one question (other than "why do we have to work in three different rules books?") to ask about rules application, what would that be?

C What rule (any book) would you like to see change? Don't put this on the back burner, otherwise you will forget to submit our input. This is a country-wide question, not just for Virginia. I will share the results with all the association training directors.

2. You are assigned as the Head/Chief Field Judge for any one of the eight field events. What is expected of you? No longer are we assigned based on our good looks and charming personality. We were expected to be able to do all the required functions, -- call the fouls, read the tape, mark the spot, record the results, and to flight coordinate. Some officials took their assignment as Head/Chief Field Judge to mean that they had the backing of the Referee/Meet Management to be the only person they had confidence in. They assumed the position of "peacock in charge." You know, the bird that flairs his feathers and says "what a beautiful bird I am." Well, the rules have changed in the past two years with respect to how officials handle protest in their venue. When the IAAF/USATFNCAA and NFHS added the provision for video replay in the protest procedure it did change the mindset of the rules bodies.

We are now told that everything is susceptible to a timely protest by a coach or competitor. What are the items that can lead to these immediate protests --- the foot foul at the board/ring/arc, the marking of the spot of landing, the reading and recording of the results, and the orderly procedure for the conduct of the event (excusals, trials out of order, time factors). A few years ago, what the covering official called --- that was it and not protest able. As Bob Podkaminer, the NCCA Rules Editor has reminded me "the lack of video or the use of judgment to make a call are not determining factors as to whether something is 'eligible' for protest. Almost anything can be protested. lack of video and use of judgment are issues the referee must consider."

That has all changed, the HFJ is now fills the position as the on-the-spot non-video replay official at the field event venue. The HFJ now should position himself/herself to observe the actions at the ring, the marking procedures, the reading, announcing and recording of the results and Now we need to be in a position to hear and take action on an immediate protest by a coach or competitor. These protest need to be handled during the preliminarily round and before the finals are completed and announced. If they occur during the final, they should be resolved before the results are announced and finalized. The ruling on the protest should be done without disrupting the flow of the event for the remaining competitors as much as possible. This can only be done by not having the HFJ working one of the principal foul-calling positions. The HFJ, should he /she be pressed into service, should work as 2nd or 3rd recorder or timer. This allows the HFJ the ability to keep his/her head up and observe the procedures and results of his/her crew. Two major items occur in following these procedures --- you keep your crew involved by having a set officiating responsibility -other than doing grunt work like raking a pit, retrieving an implement or pulling the back end of a tape, and you build depth in your officials organization. We know that as a National or Master level official that you can do all the task in officiating the event, we want you as a manager, organizer, an event supervisor and the major immediate buffer between the coaches and the officials in order to have that the event is run and completed in due order.

3. As promised in the last Track Notes, I had a number of situations/problems being held captive on my computer. Let's work some of them off at this time.

4. Q1: In high school competition: question about tie breaking in vault: For 2nd place Vault 1 vaults 12' and passes to 13' 6" at this height he misses his first attempt and is struck on the bridge of the nose with the bar. He withdraws from the event. Vault 2 clears 12' and 12'6" going out at 13'. Vault 2 is scored as 2nd and vault 1 as 3rd. On page 53 of the book under NOTES # 1 says if the height last attempted is not the same, because of a passed height by one or more of the competitors... there shall be a jump off. #2 b. says a tie shall be awarded for anyplace other than 1st Were these vaulters scored correctly or should this have been a tie?

A1: We are only going into a jump-off for 1st place. In this case, vaulter #2 had cleared 12-6 and vaulter #1 best attempt was 12-0. It was scored correctly.

5. Q2: A question from Michigan. In an indoor high school meet at XXXXX State University in March, team A was running the 3200 relay (4 X 800). During the second leg, A2 was finishing his third lap of four (200 meter track) and for some reason sought out A3 standing in the exchange zone and handed him the baton. A3 took a legal handoff in the zone, ran about twenty meters beyond the zone and then returned to the exchange zone, handed the baton to A2, and told him to finish his 800 meters. A2 completed his 800 meters, as did A3 and A4 without any other irregularities. All of team A's baton passes were made within the exchange zone. There was no interference by team A. Eight place were given and team A finished sixth. There was no advantage gained by team A. How would you rule? We disqualified team A, saying it was not within the spirit of the rule to handoff early. Since that meet we have had mixed views on our decision.

A2: What foul do we have here? I don't see one listed in the rules book. Before, I go to the Referee's escape rule (NFHS 3-4-6, NCAA 3-4-2c or USATF 125.2, and invent a new rule: the circumstances are the hand-off's were made within the zone, no interference, no advantage gained ---- no other fouls observed or reported, then I am hard pressed to allow a DQ that was recommended or reported. How should this be handled by the officials? The covering Umpire(s) at the exchange zone should raise their yellow flag to signify an "item of interest." On the violation report form, state exactly what was observed by the Umpire(s). The Chief Umpire should review the list of fouls on the back of the form and/or the rules book and should have determined that no violation occurred and "pocketed it" for use if a protest(s) should later occur. Good operating procedures should have the Chief Umpire inform the appropriate Referee of the "no-call." If any one of the coaches files a protest, as Referee, I will hand him the clipboard with the protest forms and the copy of the rules book and ask him to write out his protest, complete with the rule# and page# on the protest form. It is better to have the coach discover the absence of the violation than attempting to defend something that is not in writing.

6. Q#3: This from a Virginia Official.

1. Triple Jump-In the triple jump, a maximum of two boards per gender may be used. Before the start of NCAA AND HS competition in the event, the competitor must declare the board they will use throughout the competition..

2. Please clarify the rules on checking out in the rulebook. I have experienced several officials (some of which at the Master level) who are confused about the exact rules and a special section should be included in the main Rules book for faster reference. I have noticed that several officials only carry the rules book and not the case book, or other book at all and this may help for that.

A#3: Don't feel like the Lone Ranger here. This is always a meet-to-meet problem here in Virginia. We have a number of factors that come into consideration, --- the facility construction, the different recommended specifications for the placement of the takeoff board in the three rules books, the level of competition, and a wet runway. The first thing a field referee and the event HFJ should do is to stretch the tape and measure where the official triple jump takeoff boards are cut into the runway. The major problem here is to determine the short board for the girl's/women's competition. Now, we don't really want to put a temporary board of

duct/athletic tape down on the runway. If the surface is wet and you can not tape a temporary down, you have to declare the use of the standard boards only for safety purposes. The recommended boards for women are USATF=32'-9" (10 m), NCAA=27'10" (8.5 m) and for high school-24'0" (7.31 m). In the men's competition we have the USATF=42'8" (13 m), the NCAA=36'1" (11 m) and the boys HS is 32'0" (9.75 m). I know from experience, that in the early season NCAA women's competition, who have to place a temporary board at the HS distance. Now, for the 2nd part of this for the competition phase. We do have a difference in the rules. For HS and USATF competition, the competitor has the flexibility to change his/her selection of the takeoff board during the competition by notifying the officials prior to his/her attempt. Not so with the NCAA competitors. Once they declare what board they will use, they have to jump on that board for all competition during that day. If the wind changes, a weather delay, they are stuck with that board for the competition for that day. If any delay would take the competition to a 2nd day, then the competitor can change his/her take of board once for that day only.

7. This from out of State:

Q#4: What is the rule on stomach ring that become visible while the high school athlete is competing. We have been told by our state organization to just tell the athlete to cover it up. I have always believed that if it becomes visible the athlete is DQ. We do not go out of our way to look for items under the uniform.

A#4: As most of you know, I am not a fan of the non-performance type fouls. However..... This has been in the NFHS rules and case book for a number of years now. There is no excuse, the compliance of the jewelry and uniform rules rest solely on the shoulders of the competitor and the competitor's coaching staff. I ask my officials to do as much preventative officiating and make the uniform and jewelry corrections prior to the competition starting. If after all that, don't blame the official's for being chicken-(bleep) if they have to DQ the competitor from the event during the competition.

8. This in from a small college meet championship:

Q#5: Meet plan is to take 7 people to the finals of Field events(6 places plus 1). Women's Competition - only 7 women in competition. Two fail to get a mark in their first three throws. Games Committee(Coaches from participating schools) did not agree ahead of time to take all competitors to finals(per Rule 6.2.4.) Event Official ruled that these two women would not be allowed to throw in the finals(Rule 6.2.3). Call was protested by the Coach. Referee upheld Event Judge.

A#5: This was one of the 2009-2010 NCAA rules changes. The event official was correct as the rule now states "before the competition begins, the game committee may allow automatic advancement ..." The basic problem here is that many of the small college conferences do nothing each year to review their procedures but change the date on the "conference championship handbooks." The intern responsible does not review the current rules changes and their effect on the meet operations'.

9. From another small college meet:

Q#6: Men's competition - Javelin Preliminary rounds - 2 Athletes reported to venue and was excused to go to the Triple Jump. Delays at the triple jump prevented athletes from returning by end of preliminaries(Athletes in second flight). Since rules allow athletes to throw out of order in the preliminaries, do the preliminaries end with the final thrower, or must you call up the thrower who has been excused and allow the one-minute time limit to expire(three times).

I have noted somewhere in the rules but was unable to find it as I sit here that there is a line that states that at no time shall the start of the finals be delayed by an athlete not being present. What is the call? I called up each of the athletes 1 time, allowed the time to expire and went on with the finals? (Note: the coach of the two athletes-same school- accepted this decision)

A#6: It appears the meet schedule had the javelin and the triple-jump starting at about the same time. This problem here rest on the shoulders of the coach who entered the two athletes in events that start at the same time. The coach should have briefed his own athletes as to the "absence from competition procedures" for the two events. If this had been done, the event HFJ's at both events could have worked out the problem. This does not change the requirement that allows taking a turn out of order within the designated flight during

the preliminaries. The excused competitors still must not delay the start of the finals and will compete in the official order during the finals as called. Once the second round started, the competitors should not take the attempt that they missed. Once everyone else has made their 3rd attempt, they should have been called up one time and let the one-minute limit time expire.

10. When ordering your new rules books--- with credit card in hand, call-

- a. 2010 NFHS Rules, Case and Manual- (will be published in September)800/776-3462
- b. 2009- 2010 NCAA Rules Book -- (the current book you purchased this year is now good for two years) 888/388-9748
- c. 2010 USATF Competition Rules (the new book will be out in March 2010 - the 2009 is good for your test) - 317/261-0500 x680
- d. 2010 IAAF Competition Rules (The new book will be out in February 2010) - same as USATF above

11. Uniforms items:. Note: All the Virginia based certified officials should be wearing the current red/blue USATF shirts for all meets in Virginia.

A. If you need to order a NEW USATF shirt, call Billy Walters, The Porch Collection at 214/783-8654 with your credit card in hand. (Note: you will need your new Officials Certification number in order for the order to be process.

B. Boathouse Sports (800-875-1883 x122 - Kahiem Arenra) has three cool/cold weather items with the USATF Logo and colors.

--- The National Jacket - supplex nylon precision jacket \$ 62.00

--- The National Gore-Tex Field Parka -- \$ 176.00

--- The Gore-Tex rain pants - \$ 99.00

12. Coaches and Meet Directors are alert to the need for qualified officials for their next indoor and out door season. I am already working on the list the known/confirmed meets for the 2009-2010 T&F seasons. Each of these meets need 45-55 officials in order to conduct a meet properly. We need you to help, wear your shirt and badge proudly and recruit for the Association.

3/20 Roanoke College Invite Roanoke, VA pincus@roanoke.edu

3/26&27 Military Team c'ships VMI-Lexington. VA spanglerpc@vmi.edu

3/26&27 Washington & Lee Invite Lexington, VA Coach Hoey-540-458-8965

4/2-3 NC A&T aggie Relays Greensboro, NC

4/17 JMU Invite Harrisonburg, VA waltonwd@jmu.edu

Note: I do expect changes to this schedule as I am detecting some meet conflicts.

I still have a number of your pending questions and will include them in the next track notes. Always interested in your questions or situations.

Please answer the 3 questions in para #1. Above.

Bill Boyd

USATF-Virginia Training Coordinator

Virginia HS Rules Interpreter