

Rules Changes for 2015

High School

1. The jewelry rule has been taken out of the book
2. For field events, the time limit rule has been clarified to coincide with USATF and NCAA rules so that the trial only has to be initiated within the time limit.
3. If an implement breaks during a trial a replacement trial will be allowed.
4. An athlete does not need to be under control when exiting the throwing area.
5. The throws official no longer needs to say, "Mark" before the athlete can leave the circle.
6. The word "impedes" is no longer in the rule as interference covers that.
7. The competitor with the best mark in the preliminaries has the right to go last in the finals and so may choose to wait should other competitors be excused for other events.

NCAA

1. At least two cameras are suggested and they should be on both sides of the track. They should use at least two independent power circuits.
2. The honest effort rule is back.
3. Hip numbers shall be on the hip or outer upper leg. Institution and sponsor logos shall not be obscured and uniform requirements shall be observed.
4. For electronic starting devices the tone shall be at least 90 dB.
5. For races shorter than 500 meters, the competitor shall not touch the track outside of the assigned lane at the start.
6. For running infractions the word "flagrantly" has been added prior to impedes.
7. Lane violations are now two steps with either or both feet. It used to be two left feet.
8. Hurdling violations have been modified. The competitors must hurdle each hurdle within their lane and may not deliberately knock down a hurdle.
9. In long relays the line-up position is determined at the beginning of the straight before the pass.
10. Throwing event aids have been clarified. All throws officials should review Rule 6.1.8 on page 69 of the new book. Taping is now identical to USATF rules.
11. Marks should be "o" for a successful trial and "x" for any type of foul and a dash "-" for passes. For horizontal jumps and throws, the "o" will be replaced by the distance.
12. Five Alive should be stopped when there are nine or fewer competitors left at a bar height.
13. The length of the hammer handle has been removed.

14. In cross country an assistant starter should be placed behind the starting line near the middle of the field.
15. For indoor meets, running event procedures have been rewritten. Rule 10.4 starting on page 99 details the new procedures.
16. For indoor meets where a two-section final is used, the assignment to the final has been changed in Rule 10.5.4 on page 102.
17. The time limit for protests has been reduced to 15 minutes from the time the results are posted (anyplace including online) or announced.
18. A referee may not initiate enforcement on a rules violation that he/she observes. That referee may, however, ask officials who may have observed the same violation.
19. Where two pits are used in the vertical jumps, the progression must be the same in both pits. In other words, the low pit must hit the same heights that the high pit does, when it gets that high.
20. In the vertical jumps, with two pits being used, a tie for first place will only be broken if the two jumpers are using the same pit.

USATF

1. Viewing by athletes competing in field events of video and other images recorded for them by others not in the competition area will not be considered assistance, but the videos and images may not be brought into the competition area.
2. Coaches, parents or others are not allowed to assist athletes in setting starting blocks. The starter may designate someone to assist those athletes.
3. Competitors may be required to wear start list identifying numbers visibly on the hips and in other locations determined by the Games Committee. The underlined word was added.
4. For the purposes of the start rule, hair is not considered a part of the body. (Evidently some starters were calling a false start when long hair touched the track ahead of the starting line.)
5. An electronic gun must make a sound of at least 90 db.
6. As a result of the problems in Albuquerque last year, a referee may consider factors including safety, equitable competition, severity of the infraction and the resulting consequence when making a ruling.
7. Youth Athletics will require the new box collar for the vault.
8. In the vault the bar must rest on the original pins. Evidently that was not the case before. Who knew?
9. In what may be a major change for the javelin, the measurement shall be to the closest point of the head, not the tip. This should not be a change for a javelin that sticks, but will be a change for one that hits almost level. The head extends back onto the shaft of the javelin some distance.
10. There were several changes to road racing timing rules that now allow what has been a common practice of using net times instead of gun times.
11. Trail racing has been defined.

12. A change submitted by Ed Viering to split one paragraph into two was passed. This was a very confusing rule and hid a change inside the wording. It is now much more readable.
13. Youth cross-country has combined the older two age groups into one.
14. The handle for the outdoor weight has been changed. The intent of the change was to make sure that sides that should be equal in length may not be exactly the same and should not be disqualified. The change corrects that situation.