



**USATF National Officials Committee**  
**Master Level Track & Field Rules Review**  
**2009-2012 Olympiad Edition**

**Instructions:** The following review is divided into three sections.

**Section I-** The True/False questions are taken from the 2008 NFSHSA, 2008 NCAA, and 2008-9 IAAF Rule Books. As a Master Level Official you should be aware of these rule differences.

**Section II-** These essay questions are derived from situations that are conducted under the *USA Track & Field 2008 Competition Rules*.

**Section III-** Note the difference in the various rule books for the situations presented.

**Section IV-** Explain your officiating philosophy, goals, and the role of a Master level official.

**Note:** This 2009-2012 Olympiad Rules Review requires the *USA Track & Field 2008 Competition Rules*, in **CONJUNCTION** with any subsequent updates, the NFSHSA, NCAA, USATF and IAAF Competition Rule Books of 2008.

Please **PRINT** your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET** provided and return to your Association Certification Chair for his/her review.

**SECTION 1 – TRUE/FALSE response.** (If the question is partially false, the entire question is to be considered false)

**A. NFHS (High School-please note that each state may have adopted their own interpretations)**

- T F 1. Shoes are not required in high school events.
- T F 2. If a competitor or relay team qualifies for an event through earlier competition in that meet and then withdraws, a substitute can replace them.
- T F 3. The standard (international) length toe board of 4 feet is legal to use in the Shot Put.
- T F 4. The baton shall not be thrown following the finishing of any relay.
- T F 5. It is an infraction if a competitor deliberately knocks down any hurdle by hand or foot.
- T F 6. In both preliminaries and finals, the head event judge may allow trials to be taken in succession to accommodate those excused to participate in other events.
- T F 7. A discus which hits the cage and/or an object outside the sector before landing within the sector is a valid throw.
- T F 8. Pole Vaulters are allowed a minute to make an attempt.
- T F 9. In discus and shot put, the thrower must enter the circle from the back half of the circle.
- T F 10. In the Vertical Jumps, a competitor shall be credited with his/her best achievement if it occurs in a jump-off for first place.

**B. NCAA**

- T F 11. Practice starts are not allowed in conjunction with the starter's commands.
- T F 12. In all races run in lanes, competitors shall start within their assigned lane but do not have to finish in that same lane.
- T F 13. Only a competitor, on a race run on a curve, steps on or over the left lane line with three consecutive steps with the left foot shall be DQ'd.
- T F 14. The Games Committee may appoint a jury of appeals to serve as the final authority on appeals of the referee's decisions if such a panel is deemed appropriate.
- T F 15. In sprint relays, outgoing runners may place two separate pieces of tape on the track to designate take-off point.
- T F 16. In High Jump, a competitor may request a warm-up after he/she has passed three consecutive heights.
- T F 17. In the horizontal jumps and throws, a competitor may be allowed to take qualifying/prelim attempts out of the official order in certain circumstances.

- T F 18. In Long and Triple Jump, a competitor may use a shoe for marking step as long as it is off the runway.
- T F 19. In Pole Vault, when only one competitor remains in the competition, he/she has a time limit of five minutes between jumps
- T F 20. During warm-up, in the throwing events, a competitor may not be allowed to retrieve their implement in the impact area.

### **C. IAAF**

- T F 21. In field events, at least two judges should keep a record of all trials, checking their recordings at the end of each round.
- T F 22. A start coordinator will be in charge of allocating the duties of the start team judges, among other listed duties.
- T F 23. In Combined Events, the first false start is charged to the field and thereafter to the individual.
- T F 24. Pacesetting is not permitted by persons not designated for that purpose in the race.
- T F 25. A Wind Sock is required in all field events to show the athlete the approximate direction/strength of the wind.
- T F 26. Ultrasonic wind gauges shall be used at all International Competitions under 1.1(a) to (h).
- T F 27. In hurdle races, an athlete is subject to disqualification if, in the in opinion of the referee, deliberately knocks down any hurdle.
- T F 28. In the 4x400 relay, the third and fourth legs, while waiting for their respective team members as they complete that leg of the relay, are allowed to exchange positions at anytime prior to receiving the hand off.
- T F 29. If the relay baton is dropped in the exchange zone, either runner is permitted to retrieve it.
- T F 30. In field events, where there are eight athletes or fewer, each athlete shall be allowed six trials.

**SECTION II - Please select one question from each of the two categories listed below and present the steps to resolve the situation. Please apply USATF rules of competition.**

#### **Track Events**

1. At a major 3 day championship, it is determined that the markings for the 400M Hurdles are incorrect. In lanes 2, 3, & 4, on the first flight, the markings are incorrect. The Men's 400M Hurdle prelim has already been contested (Day 2) before the error had been determined. The Women are preparing to start their prelims (Day 2). The finals are scheduled for Day 3. Please resolve this situation.
2. In a championship steeplechase contest, the competitor in the lead fails to negotiate the first water jump that was located on the inside of the track. The athlete realizes the mistake after running beyond the horizontal plane extended of the water jump barrier. Realizing that, the athlete doubles back and jumps the water jump. The umpires raise a yellow flag and reports in writing to the Chief Umpire that the athlete failed to clear the hurdle. Please apply the rule that would reinforce the umpire in their decision and rule on the case as the referee.
3. In a hurdle race, competitor (A) knocks over a hurdle in his lane and causes it to land in the lane of another competitor (B) and as a result causes competitor (B) to be impeded. No violation was reported but the coach of competitor (B) protests. Please resolve this situation.

#### **Field Events**

1. In a horizontal jump, a competitor's toe is over the indicator (foul) board but does not mark the plasticine. The judge raises a red flag for foul. The athlete immediately protests before the landing area is prepared for the next competitor. Please discuss the steps to resolve this situation.
2. In a championship meet where a qualifying round in the vertical jumps is required, the number of competitors needed for the finals include 12 competitors plus all true ties. Twenty-four competitors are entered and begin competing. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> height, 10 athletes have no misses, 3 athletes have 1 miss only at the 3<sup>rd</sup> height but cleared the 3<sup>rd</sup> height on their 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. One athlete has 2 misses at that height only but clears the height on the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt. As the head official, what decision do you make at this time?

3. A male competitor in a throwing event is the last thrower in the finals. In preparing to throw he removes his uniform top, including bib number, and completes his final throw without a uniform top. The final throw appears to be a new American record. What steps would be followed and what decisions are made?

**SECTION III** - Explain the differences, if any, for the situations presented for each of the four rulebooks, i.e. high school, NCAA, USATF and IAAF.

### **Track Events**

- A. As an umpire there are at three different definitions of the violation for running on or inside the inner lane line on the curves. Which one is: a) one step with one foot; b) two steps with same foot; c) three steps with one or both feet; d) there is no limit?
- B. How many check marks and what size may competitors in relay races may place in their lanes?
- C. In the wonderful world of FAT timing, and the things which go bump in the night, may a race be recalled if the FAT timing system does not start? By whom?

### **Field Events**

- A. The Pole Vault pole may have a binding of not more than: a) 1 layer of adhesive tape; b) 2 layers of adhesive tape; c) 3 layers of adhesive tape; d) there is no limit
- B. By whom and for how long may an athlete be excused to compete in another event in high school, youth, masters, open, NCAA? Does it matter if it is in the preliminary rounds or the finals?
- C. What is the normal time limit: When initiating an attempt in a field event? When it is a consecutive throw by the same athlete in the same round or a subsequent round? When there are three or less athletes remaining in a round? When there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition? When there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition at the start of a round? When there is only one athlete remaining but the athlete has not yet won the competition? When there is only one athlete remaining and the athlete has won the competition? Place information in the table provided including rule and page number. Read each case carefully and answer each question for throws, horizontal jumps and vertical jumps. Include the appropriate rule and page.

**SECTION IV** - Explain your officiating philosophy, goals, and the role of a Master level official. **No room has been left on the Answer Sheet for this section. Please attach separate paper.**

1. Please state your officiating philosophy.
2. What are your goals as an official?
3. What do you consider to be your role as a Master official within your Association?



**USATF National Officials Committee**  
**Master Level Track & Field Answer Sheet**  
**2009-2012 Olympiad Edition**

\_\_\_\_\_ # Correct  
 % Correct \_\_\_\_\_  
 Passing is 90%

Name

Home Phone ☎

*Please Print*

*Please be neat!*

E-mail address

*Street*

*City*

*State*

*Zip*

**Instructions:** Fill out complete form. From the attached Rules Review, indicate the appropriate answer.  
 Year of Rulebook Used: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section I: NFHS/NCAA/IAAF Competition Rules (95% on Section 1)**

**NFHS Rules**

**True and False Answers**

#	Answer	Page	Rule #
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

**NCAA Rules**

**True and False Answers**

#	Answer	Page	Rule #
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

**IAAF Rules**

**True and False Answers**

#	Answer	Page	Rule #
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
276			
28			
29			
30			

**Correct answers for FALSE questions**

No.	Answer	No.	Answer	No.	Answer

## **Section II: Situational Short Essay Answers**

*List the basic steps that you would take to resolve the situations selected. It is important that you provide the necessary steps to resolve the problem, the rules you used and your decision. Use the back if needed.*

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### **II. Track Event Situation #\_1\_:**

At a major 3 day championship, it is determined that the markings for the 400M Hurdles are incorrect. In lanes 2, 3, & 4, on the first flight, the markings are incorrect. The Men's 400M Hurdle prelim has already been contested (Day 2) before the error had been determined. The Women are preparing to start their prelims (Day 2). The finals are scheduled for Day 3. Please resolve this situation.

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### **II. Track Event Situation #\_2\_:**

In a championship steeplechase contest, the competitor in the lead fails to negotiate the first water jump that was located on the inside of the track. The athlete realizes the mistake after running beyond the horizontal plane extended of the water jump barrier. Realizing that, the athlete doubles back and jumps the water jump. The umpires raise a yellow flag and reports in writing to the Chief Umpire that the athlete failed to clear the hurdle. Please apply the rule that would reinforce the umpire in their decision and rule on the case as the referee.

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### **II. Track Event Situation #\_3\_:**

In a hurdle race, competitor (A) knocks over a hurdle in his lane and causes it to land in the lane of another competitor (B) and as a result causes competitor (B) to be impeded. No violation was reported but the coach of competitor (B) protests. Please resolve this situation.

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**II. Field Event Situation # 1 :**

In a horizontal jump, a competitor's toe is over the indicator (foul) board but does not mark the plasticine. The judge raises a red flag for foul. The athlete immediately protests before the landing area is prepared for the next competitor. Please discuss the steps to resolve this situation.

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**Field Event Situation # 2 :**

In a championship meet where a qualifying round in the vertical jumps is required, the number of competitors needed for the finals include 12 competitors plus all true ties. Twenty-four competitors are entered and begin competing. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> height, 10 athletes have no misses, 3 athletes have 1 miss only at the 3<sup>rd</sup> height but cleared the 3<sup>rd</sup> height on their 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. One athlete has 2 misses at that height only but clears the height on the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt. As the head official, what decision do you make at this time?

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**II. Field Event Situation # 3 :**

A male competitor in a throwing event is the last thrower in the finals. In preparing to throw he removes his uniform top which includes his bib number, and completes his final throw without a uniform top. The final throw appears to be a new American record. What steps would be followed and what decisions should be made?

## Difference Situations

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### III. Track Difference Situation #A:

As an umpire there are at three different definitions of the violation for running on or inside the inner lane line on the curves. Which one is: a) one step with one foot; b) two steps with same foot; c) three steps with one or both feet; d) there is no limit?

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### III. Track Difference Situation #B:

How many check marks and what size may competitors in relay races may place in their lanes?

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**III. Track Difference Situation #C:**

In the wonderful world of FAT timing, and the things which go bump in the night, may a race be recalled if the FAT timing system does not start? By whom?

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**III. Field Event Difference Situation #A:**

The Pole Vault pole may have a binding of not more than: a) 1 layer of adhesive tape; b) 2 layers of adhesive tape; c) 3 layers of adhesive tape; d) there is no limit

**III. Field Event Difference Situation #B:**

Type	Preliminary Round			Finals		
	Answer	Rule	Pg.	Answer	Rule	Pg.
High School						
Youth-USATF						
Masters-USATF						
Open-USATF						
NCAA						

**III. Field Event Difference Situation #C: Note answer each question for all field events**

**For each answer, give Rule #, page # and time. Explain any exceptions.**

Question	NFHS	NCAA	USATF Open	USATF Youth	USATF Masters	IAAF
What is the normal time limit for initiating an attempt in a field event?						
What is the time when it is a consecutive throw by the same athlete in the same round or a subsequent round?						
What is the time when there are three or less athletes remaining in a round?						
What is the time when there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition?						
What is the time when there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition at the start of a round?						
What is the time when there is only one athlete remaining but the athlete has not yet won the competition?						
What is the time when there is only one athlete remaining and the athlete has won the competition?						