

Track and Field Rules Changes - 2023

By NFHS on July 15, 2022

track & field/cross country

3-4-3: Offers guidelines for meet referees when determining a rerun.

Rationale: Defined specific guidelines from the case book to offer consistency and guidance to a meet referee when ruling on reruns.

4-2-2: Clarifies that an athlete is disqualified after participating in more than four events.

Rationale: The athlete is not disqualified from an event until the individual participates in more than four events. The table was revised and moved to clarify the number of events in which an athlete may participate during a meet.

5-7-2: Adjusts language to offer a standard for starter hold times.

Rationale: Standardize starter hold times for fair and consistent starts.

5-10-2: Increases the number of individuals who may be listed on the relay entry.

Rationale: Providing two additional names gives opportunity for more athletes to be involved in regular and postseason track meets.

6-6-4: Clarifies when the javelin measurement should be taken.

Rationale: The measurement is made to the first point of contact under Rule 6-6-7 so that should be within the sector. If the rest of the javelin should fall outside the sector, that should not be a foul.

7-2-2g (NEW): Adds mixed relay to the special events list.

Rationale: Mixed relays are becoming more popular at high school meets adding them to special events offers guidance to the states on how to conduct these events.

9-3-2b: Any displaced or jostled crossbar should be placed on standards in exact same position before next attempt.

Rationale: Adding the words 'or jostled' clarifies the intent of the 2022 rules change.

Rule 9 (NEW): Creates new indoor track and field rules section.

Rationale: There are 17 states that conduct state championships in indoor track and field, over 150,000 participants, and 21 states that sanction the activity. With recent changes to the outdoor rules, it became clearer that it was necessary to create a section specifically for indoor track and field rules. Move Records Section to New Rule 10.

2023 Editorial Changes

5-1-1

2023 Points of Emphasis

1. Sportsmanship
2. Protest/Appeals Process
3. Cross Country Safety
4. Enforcing Prompt Re-start of Play