



2012 NFHS TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY RULES INTERPRETATIONS

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Corrections to Rules Book: Page 8, Rule 1-1-1 should read "A track and field meet..."; Page 8, Rule 1-1-2 should read "A track and field/cross country team..."; Page 41, Rule 6-2-4, 3rd line should read "...taken in flights of no less than 5"; Page 55, Rule 7-4-10, last sentence in Example should read "...with five the minimum number to begin..."; Page 57, Rule 7-5-5, 6th line should read "...and the proper binding of adhesive tape of uniform thickness when used."; Page 64, Rule 7-6-14b, (3-2-4c) should be (3-2-4b)

Corrections to Case Book and Manual: None.

SITUATION 1: A competitor from Team A is observed wearing jewelry during a running event. This same competitor violated the jewelry rule earlier in the meet in the long jump, just prior to competing in the running event, and had received a warning by the event judge. The event judge reported the violation and warning to the referee. Upon this second violation, the competitor was disqualified from the running event by the referee and the coach was notified. The head coach protested that the competitor could not be disqualified as he/she had not been notified of the warning by the referee. **RULING:** Correct procedure and the protest is denied. **COMMENT:** The rule and resulting penalty require the competitor be warned on the first offense, and for a second offense, he/she shall be disqualified. The head coach should be informed of the violation; but if the coach is not informed prior to a second violation, this would not nullify the penalty and the disqualification. Prior to the start of the meet, the meet

referee and host management should confirm the communication process that will be followed between the referee and the officials from the various field event venues, and how the meet referee will inform the coaches and competitor(s) who are involved in a violation. (4-3-3, Penalty)

SITUATION 2: School A is hosting a large two-day invitational track meet. On the first day, Competitor A is wearing jewelry as he/she takes the runway for an attempt in the pole vault. Following completion of the attempt, the event judge warns the competitor for violation of the jewelry rule. The jewelry is removed and the competitor completes the competition. On the second day, the same competitor is observed wearing a necklace that becomes exposed during the 400-meter dash. At the completion of the race, the meet referee disqualifies Competitor A from the 400. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A warning issued to a competitor is for the entire meet. In this case, it is a two-day meet. If a competitor is observed in violation of the jewelry rule a second time in the same meet, he/she is disqualified from the event in which the second violation occurred. (4-3-3, Penalty)

SITUATION 3: Competitor A is warned for a violation of Rule 4-3-4 in the preliminaries of the discus. Later in the finals of the discus, Competitor A is observed a second time in violation of the jewelry rule and is disqualified from the event. Later in the meet, Competitor A is observed in a running event wearing jewelry. He/she receives a warning since the competitor had already been disqualified in a previous event. **RULING:** Incorrect

procedure. **COMMENT:** Competitor A is disqualified from the event under Rule 4-6-2, unacceptable conduct for willful failure to follow the directions of the meet referee, or he/she could be disqualified from the meet under Rule 4-6-1 if the competitor displays other actions of unsporting conduct. (4-3-3, Penalty, 4-6-2, 4-6-1 Penalties)

SITUATION 4: In the 4x100-meter relay, the outgoing runner has taken a position in the acceleration zone. The incoming runner enters the acceleration zone. Before the baton is inside the exchange zone, the pass commences by the outgoing runner touching the baton; however, he/she does not take sole possession until the baton is entirely within the exchange zone. The outgoing runner then takes sole possession of the baton and completes the exchange/passing of the baton. The exchange is considered legal by the observing umpire. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Although the passing of the baton began when the outgoing runner touched the baton, the pass was not completed until the outgoing runner took sole possession of the baton. As long as the baton is entirely within the exchange zone when the pass is completed, the exchange is legal in regard to the passing of the baton. To be a legal exchange, all other rule requirements must also be met. (5-10-7)

SITUATION 5: School A is hosting the conference cross country meet. School A wants to use only one transponder (chip) on one shoe. The meet referee reminds the host school's coach that when using chips on the shoes, one chip is to be attached to each shoe. The official order of finish

for the runners is that recorded by the transponder/chips. The coach agrees to provide transponders (chips) for both shoes. **RULING:** Correct procedure to have one transponder/chip on each shoe. **COMMENT:** Even when using transponders, a back-up system should be in place to deal with any place-finish or timing irregularities. (9-3-3, 9-6-2)

SITUATION 6: At a league championship, only one transponder (chip) shall be assigned to each competitor to place on one of the competitor's shoes for the race. The official finish of the race shall be based on the torso of each runner and sorted by the meet referee using this method. A video will also capture the finish. The official time will be that activated and recorded based on the transponder. **RULING:** Unless determined otherwise by state association policy, the use of only one transponder when worn on the shoes would be an incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Rule 9-3-3 requires that when using transponders on the runners' shoes, one transponder must be placed on each runner's shoe. The finish of the torso could be used in case of a finish and/or timing malfunction or irregularity. It should be noted that in the state series, each state association may establish procedures that could modify a rule specifically for the series and not for the regular season. (9-3-3, 9-6-2)