

GYTOA Local Rules Meeting

February 15, 2024

What's New
Rules Changes
Points of Emphasis
Ohio Modifications
What to Bring
Games Committee
Seated Athletes

State Clinic Review

- OT&F&CCOA Web Site – presentations
 - <https://otfcoa.wixsite.com/ohiotrackofficials>
- Approx. 800 track officials in Ohio
- Approx. 200 are OTFCCOA members
- Approx. 180 attended clinic
- 2 local meeting credits
- State rules interpretation
- Awards banquet
- Dates next year are Jan 24 & 25

Other OHSAA Track & Field News

- State meet will be in Dayton – 3 days
- Due to construction/renovation at Jesse Owens
- Still at large qualifiers
- No new officials clinic
- Schedule has been published
- Other issues still TBA
- State rules meeting online – Feb 5 until Mar 22
- GYTOA.com still providing info about our meetings and other useful info – links to training videos and so on

What's New in the Rules?

- Games committee determines number of FAT officials
- Limit on number of events allowable by athlete – remains unchanged in Ohio
- Engineering details on track measurements
- What constitutes a false start
- **Displacement** of hurdle by hand is infraction
- In vertical jumps 1st attempt has 1 minute time limit regardless of how many heights passed
- Language on jump offs and ties in vertical jumps
- Taping of fingers in throws
- Indoor track exchange zones
- Various editorial changes

Points of Emphasis

- Fair Starts

It is the starter's responsibility to ensure a fair and legal start and anticipate problems. The interval between the set command and the firing of the starting device should be approximately two seconds. After a starter gives the order "set," if any competitor is in motion, the starter shall not fire the starting device. Firing the starting device too soon doesn't allow athletes to get ready, and firing the starting device too slow also creates a situation of unfairness.

Starters may for any reason cancel a start by directing all competitors to "Stand Up."

Points of Emphasis

The following are some of the reasons that a starter may cancel a start in races with legs of less than 800 meters:

- Noise at the start line
- Starting block problem
- Obstruction on the track
- Slow athlete getting set
- Misfire of starting pistol
- Hands on the line
- Extraneous movement after the set command.

Points of Emphasis

In distance races the following are some of the reasons that a starter could halt or recall the start.

- Runners not steady
- Toes on the line
- Failure to come to the line in a timely manner
- Impeding a position of another athlete
- Fall during first 100 meters due to contact.
- Starters play a huge role in fair, consistent and legal starts for student-athletes across all events.
- Sportsmanship
- Cross Country Safety – we will discuss this in August

OHSAA Modifications

- OHSAA Manual – pages 25-26.
- Rule 1-3 Javelin is not permitted in Ohio
- Rule 3-2-3a In dual, triangular, or quad meets, the referee/starter is required to be a Class 1 registered official; in meets involving 5 or more schools, the referee must be a Class 1 registered official
- Rule 3-2-6 Conferences may not adopt special rules for interrupted events
- Rule 3-2-1; 3-2-4k; 3-5 No Jury of Appeals in Ohio
- Rule 3-4-1 Referee MUST be Class 1 registered official for high school meets (recommended for middle school)
- Rule 4-1-3 Field event contestants must report before the start of their flight. For events run as "open pit" the start of their flight is the start of competition.
- Rule 4-2-2 PENALTY: When athletes exceed the participation limitation, the team is penalized as if they had used an ineligible athlete
- Rule 4-2-4 OHSAA has established limitations as described in the Track and Field Manual. Schools and Conferences may not put aside these event entry limitations.
- Rule 4-2-4-d Teams CANNOT designate in advance which team will score in relays; however, only one team from each school may score
- Rule 4-3-1a3 Spikes are limited to 3/4" unless the games committee stipulates a shorter length.

OHSAA Modifications

- Rule 4-3 Head gear may be worn, including but not limited to headbands (with or without sequins) and/or ear covers and navy watch style caps.
- Rule 5-2-4 In TOURNAMENT competition, the 4x400 meter relay shall start using a 3-turn stagger, the 4x800 relay and the 800 meter run shall use a 2-turn stagger, and the 1600 and 3200 meter run shall use a 1-turn stagger
- Rule 5-8-2 Finish line aids are NOT permitted
- Rule 6-2-10 In "team field events," each athlete participating in horizontal events shall get 4 attempts with no finals
- Rule 6-3-2b Jump offs for qualifying places in tournaments are NOT tie breakers, and those involved in the jump off shall be allowed a reasonable warm-up after the competition is completed and before the jump off begins. If the tie for the qualifying position(s) is KNOWN to exist before the bar is raised to compete for higher places, those tied for the qualifying place(s) shall be allowed to make their fourth attempt before the bar is raised.
- Rules 6-8-23 & 6-2-13 In the event of a broken pole, competitors are allowed one run through without a bar with a replacement pole
- Rule 6-8-17 The head pole vault judge who holds a valid OHSAA T&F officiating permit may be designated to certify the legality of poles
- Rule 7-2-1 The 5,000M is an allowable special event per the regulations listed in this document.
- Rule -8-2-3 The OHSAA has accepted modified scoring.

What Should You Have at a Track Meet?

- What should you bring?
 - Rule book, case book, OHSAA Manual
 - Officials' Manual – good to review various roles
 - Pen/pencil, notepad, clipboard – write down important info – who, what, where, when
 - Weather protection for writing equipment
 - Appropriate attire: uniform, weather gear
 - Stopwatch, gun & sleeve(s), whistle, shells, flags, tape measure
- What do you need from the host school?
 - Material – yellow (red)/white flags, clipboards, pencils
 - Information – order of events, track markings, heat and lane assignments (espec. relays)

Games Committee

- Rule 3-2; pages 12-14
- Rule 3-2-3
 - Order of events (1-2-1)
 - Assign meet officials (a)
 - Designate restricted areas (b)
 - Time schedule (or rolling schedule) (c)
 - Number of heats/rounds (d)
 - Assign lanes and heats (seeding) (e)
 - Qualifying procedures (f)
 - Reduce or eliminate use of timers if FAT is used (g)
 - Approve track markings at exchange zones (h)
 - Method of baton exchange for non lane relays (i)
 - Determine starting heights, progression (j)
 - Order of competition in jumps and throws (l, m)
 - Place time limits on warm ups and time excused from events (n)
 - Designate location of throwing areas (k)

Games Committee

Rule 3-2-4

- Spike length (a)
- Approve jumping surface markings (b)
- Mark records or scratch lines at side of field events (c)
- Time for field events to end (open pit) (d)
- Number of throws or jumps (3/3 or 4) (e, f)
- Designate and mark coaching boxes, restricted areas (g, i)
- May provide batons, throwing implements (h)
- Declare requirement to tuck in jersey (j)
- Change order of events and qualifying procedures if necessary (m)
- Provide liquids during competition (n)
- Designate procedure in event of FAT malfunction (r)
- Restrict use of electronic devices (Rule 2-8)

Other Games Committee

- Assign assistant or other referees (l)
- Authorize use of photo finish (o)
- Determine procedure for handling lapped runner (p)
- Approve use of voice amplification for starter (q)
- Specify time limit other than 48 hours for correction of errors (s)
- Determine method for impounding and releasing illegal implements (t)

Seated Events

- While seated events have their own competition rules, it is important to keep in mind that many of the rules outlined in the NFHS Rule Book and OHSAA Track & Field Coaches/Officials Manual apply to competition by seated athletes.
- Per NFHS Rule 4-4, waivers can be requested related to uniform modifications that are necessary due to medical reasons. These waivers can be requested by contacting the OHSAA sport administrator. A copy of the waiver authorization letter must be given to the meet referee prior to the beginning of the competition. Coaches should take special care to review the rules below and request applicable accommodations/waivers.
- In the Wheelchair Division, the chair is considered an extension of the athlete's body, therefore:
 - A. No part of the chair may be wider than the lane width of the track
 - B. Seated Division races shall be raced the same as in able-bodied events in regards to racing in lanes or not. Touching or crossing over lane lines for more than 10 consecutive feet is a disqualification. Crossing a lane line for any distance and impeding another competitor is a disqualification.

Seated Events

- **Note:**
- A seated athlete cannot participate in a relay as rule 5-10-6 stipulates the baton must be carried by hand and due to the inherently increased risk of injury to the competitors.
- A seated athlete may participate in a team field event with footed athletes at a relay-style meet.
- **Wheelchair Heats/Competing Alone**
- If two or more seated athletes have entered the competition in the same distance (regardless of gender), the seated athletes shall race in a separate heat from the footed athletes. Otherwise, if only one seated athlete is competing in the distance, the seated athlete shall be permitted to race in the same heat as footed athletes; however, they will be scored separately.
- **Scoring for Wheelchair Competitors**
- Prior to each meet, the games committee shall confer and decide if and how they wish to score the seated athletes in each of the individual events. **Every reasonable effort** should be made to allow seated athletes to earn points for his/her team (excluding state tournament competition), meaning that, if a seated athlete representing each of the competing schools in a meet enter an event, the results of that event should be scored in the team scoring.

Seated Events

- If 1-9 competitors qualify based on time, they will compete in one section at the state tournament.
- If 9-18 competitors qualify based on time, they will compete in two seeded heats on Friday to determine the 9 qualifiers.
- Suppose 19 or more competitors meet qualifying standards. In that case, regional competition will be held the week before the state tournament in the events with 19 or more qualifiers, with the top 18 advancing to the state semi-finals.
- **These regional competitions will take place at the 12 regional sites, with athletes being assigned to venues by the OHSAA office. Athletes will advance based on times at all venues.**

Seated Events

- **The start**
- The center of the front axle (axle plane) may not extend over the starting line. The starting commands shall be as follows: 100M & 400M – "On Your Marks", "Set", firing of starting device. 800M - "On Your Marks", firing of the starting device. No mention of being "wheelers" is appropriate.
- **The finish**
- The finish of the race occurs when the center of the front axle (axle plane) crosses the finish line.
- **Wheeling in lanes**
- The 100M, 400M, and 800M shall be raced the same as in able-bodied events in regards to "lanes all the way" and/or break lines. Touching or crossing over lane lines for more than 10 consecutive feet is a disqualification. Crossing a lane line for any distance and impeding another competitor is a disqualification.
- **Passing or changing lanes**
- Competitors must have full clearance or another athlete's front wheel in order to pass or move into another lane. Failure to pass or change lanes correctly will result in disqualification.
- **Obstruction**
- Athletes may not touch or obstruct another competitor during an event. Obstruction of an athlete will result in disqualification.

Seated Events

- **Shot Put Regulations**
- These events shall follow all NFHS and OHSAA rules with the following Modifications.
- All competitors must put the shot from a "chair" (manual wheelchair, throwing chair, power wheelchair). Scooters and "standing chairs" will not be allowed.
- **The upper most part of the cushion/seat on any chair may not exceed 75cm (29.5 inches).**
- **If the frame has a holding bar, it must be fixed (no articulating joints).**
- **No part of the throwing frame or wheelchair may be outside the circumference of the circle**
- The chair will be considered an extension of the athlete's body. For example: Any part of the chair touching the top of the stop board is a foul.

Seated Events

- **A coach (only) may assist the athlete in getting to the competition area.**
- **A coach (only) may assist the athlete in entering and exiting the circle.**
- The school does not have to provide tie-down straps for throwing athletes. A coach (only) may hold the chair during the throwing attempt to prevent excessive movement.
- **One buttock cheek must remain in contact with the seat during the throw.**
- The size of the shot for wheelchair participants shall be the same as for all other male and female participants.
- Athletes who are in a wheelchair may compete in the same flight as able-bodied athletes but will be placed separately
- Specific disability criteria are on pages 9-12 of Seated manual

In conclusion...

- Next meeting is Feb 20 at MCCTC – Infractions and uniforms
- Refer to ohsaa.org and gytoa.com for useful info
- Sign up sheets for meets needing officials
- Also on gytoa.com