

## GYTOA Local Rules Meeting

March 5, 2025

Seeding  
Clerks  
Starters  
Finish Line  
Scoring

## Seeding

- NFHS Rule 5-6, pages 34-35
- Prelim heats or timed finals?
- Purpose is to evenly distribute the quality of entry marks
- Preferred lanes – change for tournament this year!
- S-curve (next slide) (Rule 5-6-4)
- Runners with same entry mark are seeded randomly
- Qualifiers for next round – know the rules set by the games committee – place only, time only, or combination
- In case of DQ, place is filled with next best qualified athlete unless results have been made official
- Breaking ties – when is it necessary, how is it done?
- Software usually does the work at major meets
- 0.24 seconds adjustment when not all entries are FAT

## S-curve for seeding

Lane	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4
4	Best	2 <sup>nd</sup> Best	3 <sup>rd</sup> Best	4 <sup>th</sup> Best
5	8 <sup>th</sup> Best	7 <sup>th</sup> Best	6 <sup>th</sup> Best	5 <sup>th</sup> Best
6	9 <sup>th</sup> Best	10 <sup>th</sup> Best	11 <sup>th</sup> Best	12 <sup>th</sup> Best
3	16 <sup>th</sup> Best	15 <sup>th</sup> Best	14 <sup>th</sup> Best	13 <sup>th</sup> Best
2	17 <sup>th</sup> Best	18 <sup>th</sup> Best	19 <sup>th</sup> Best	20 <sup>th</sup> Best
7	24 <sup>th</sup> Best	23 <sup>rd</sup> Best	22 <sup>nd</sup> Best	21 <sup>st</sup> Best
8	25 <sup>th</sup> Best	26 <sup>th</sup> Best	27 <sup>th</sup> Best	28 <sup>th</sup> Best
1	32 <sup>nd</sup> Best	31 <sup>st</sup> Best	30 <sup>th</sup> Best	29 <sup>th</sup> Best

**Note that for OHSAA tournament meets, lanes 1 and 8 will be reversed, and distance races will be seeded!**

## Place over Time

Heat 1	Lane	Heat 2
Best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time	4	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time
Best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time	6	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time	3	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time
Best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time	2	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time	7	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time
Best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time	8	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time

## Clerks

- NFHS Manual, pp. 12-14
- When should you be in the check-in area?
  - By first call
  - Remember you need time to check in athletes properly
- What do you need from the host school?
  - Material: heat sheets, hip (and/or bib) numbers, 2-way radio (or cell phone), table & chairs
  - Information: check in locations, scratches and substitutions, order of events, track markings – starting lines, qualifying procedures
  - Holding area near starting line?

## Clerks

- Before the athletes show up
  - Split races between clerks
  - Dual/tri – assign lanes for each event by team before meet
  - Communicate with scorer about getting qualifiers
  - Communicate with announcer about pacing of calls
  - How do you find the referee if needed?
- Assigning lanes
  - Invitational – done ahead of time (and during the meet) by games committee, scorer
    - S-curve seeding
  - Dual/Tri/Quad
    - Ask for the best 2/3/4 runners from each school in the first section
    - Fast to slow heat order
    - Should be random – the lanes a school is assigned should vary from race to race – you can set that up before the meet starts

## Clerks

- Checking in athletes
  - Give athlete heat and lane assignments, hip numbers
  - Preventive officiating!
  - Quick uniform inspection & reminder
  - Color of starting line, exchange zones - depends on the race and site
  - How late can they check in?
  - Entry = Contestant → Competitor when they check in (counts against 4 events even if they don't run)

## Clerks

- Putting them on the line
  - Is there a line clerk/expediter?
  - How late can they report after they check in?
  - When do you bring them up the track?
  - Put them in lanes, give final instructions (break line, lanes all the way, what the commands will be, etc.)
- Move out to starting line, turn them over to the starter
- Specific Rules to apply
  - Rule 4-1: when a contestant becomes a competitor (4 event limitation)
  - Rule 4-3: Uniforms (also OHSAA manual)
- NFHS.org – Clerking Essentials – useful thoughts
  - <https://nfhs.org/media/882335/clerking-essentials.pdf>

## Starters

- NFHS Manual, pp. 14-20 – diagrams for positioning
- What do you need from the host school
  - Material
    - Shells - who is supplying them?
  - Information
    - Order of events, starting lines
- When should you be at the line?
  - Being in the check in area helps clerks
- Before the athletes show up
  - Communicate with clerks, head finish judge, marshal
- When do you take over?
  - When the clerk has them in their lanes, final instructions

## Starters

- Where do you stand?
  - See all athletes
  - Be aware of other athletes, spectators
  - Do you have an assistant starter?
    - Inside lanes/outside lanes
- What are the commands?
  - Block start vs. standing start (5-7)
  - Each heat/section started the same way
  - 800 m and up – step back 3 meters, no hand on track (5-7-3)
  - If the 3 meter line is not marked you can use chalk, etc.
- Assistant starter
  - Positions
  - Hand signals

## Starters

- Electronic start devices
- False starts and other recalls
- Specific rules to apply:
  - Rule 5-7
  - Bell/gun lap for 800 up
  - Especially 5-7-2, 5-7-3: commands, and 5-7-4: false starts
  - Unfair start not the same as a false start (5-7-5, 5-7-6, 5-7-7)

- **NFHS Manual, page 17**
- **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." 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.

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 50 meters due to contact.
- Starters play a huge role in fair, consistent and legal starts for student-athletes across all events.

## Finish Line

- NFHS Manual, pp. 21-25
- When should you get there?
- Know how your watch works!
- Have extra batteries!
- What do you need from the host school?
  - Order of events
  - Material – heat sheets if used
  - Information – qualifying procedures, scoring places
- Before the athletes show up
  - Who is head timer?
  - Who is timing what place?
  - Where will the recorder be?

## Finish Line

- Where do you stand?
  - Don't need to be right next to track
  - Watch out for FAT camera
  - Wait until last runner finishes!
- Start on smoke, stop on torso
- What info do you need?
  - Line up on finish line as runners are being lined up farther up the track
  - Name, school, number, lane
  - Place and time – time always rounds UP to the next tenth (0.1)
- What if there is a disagreement?
  - Timer on higher place takes precedence
  - Be aware of order of other runners in case you get bumped

## Finish Line

- More important: time or place?
  - How are qualifiers determined?
- Remember you're timing the torso, not the head, hand, arm, foot, etc.!
- Use of FAT – rule 3-8 – timing to 0.001 seconds to break ties
- FAT malfunction – games committee determines the procedure
- Ties – when can you have them?
- Specific rules to apply:
  - Rules 5-8
- Umpiring the exchange zones

## Other Key Personnel

- Lap Counter
- Recorder
- FAT Operator

## Scoring

- How many teams? Rule 2-1-2, page 10

Teams	Indiv. Events	Relays
2	5-3-1	5-0
3	5-3-2-1	5-3
4	6-4-3-2-1	6-4-2
5	8-6-4-2-1	8-6-4-2
6	10-8-6-4-2-1	10-8-6-4-2
7 or more	10-8-6-4-2-1	10-8-6-4-2-1
7 or more	10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1	10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1

## Scoring

- Breaking ties – Rule 2-2, plus rules for each field event
- In running event, athletes from different sections with same time are tied!
- Unbreakable ties – Rule 2-2-4 plus Note
- Example

Heat 1	Heat 2
1 <sup>st</sup> - Bob (A) – 11.2	1 <sup>st</sup> - Mike (C) – 11.3
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Sam(B) – 11.3	2 <sup>nd</sup> - Pete (A) – 11.3
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Al (A) – 11.4	3 <sup>rd</sup> - Dave (B) – 11.5
4 <sup>th</sup> - Ed (C) – 11.6	4 <sup>th</sup> - Frank (C) – 11.7

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bob
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mike, Sam (tie)
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Pete

## Scoring

- Yes, you can have fractions (for example, tie for last scoring place)
- Example – tri meet, scoring 5-3-2-1

Team A – 6  
 Team B – 2 ½  
 Team C – 2 ½

- Clerical errors – 48 hours to appeal – Rule 2-3-1 (games committee can set a different deadline – 3-2-4-s)
- Misapplication of rules – 30 minutes after announcing or posting results – Rule 2-3-3
- Scoring of mixed relays – events must be scored, and points split between boys and girls team scores

## Some reminders

- Next meeting will be Monday, March 10 at MCCTC
- Topics will be field events
- Remember to complete your online state rules meeting
- Outdoor meeting at 2 pm on Sunday March 23, on the track at Fitch – no business meeting
- Also meeting at 2 pm on Sunday April 13 at \_\_\_\_\_ - situations