

You Are The Referee

2025 OTFCCOA Clinic

Presented by
John Daubenspeck, Lou Brown
and Jim Fox
Greater Youngstown
Track Officials Association

Disclaimers

- Referee's rulings, when available, are provided for context, not necessarily indicating that they are right or wrong.
- All rule book references are for the 2025 rule book and case book, OHSAA manual references are for 2024.

Situation 1

- As the shot putter follows through on her throw, her hair touches outside the ring. The event judge calls a foul, and the coach appeals to the referee.

Situation 1 Referee's Decision

- Was ruled a foul
- NFHS Rule 6-4-3c

Situation 2

- As runners are approaching the last exchange in the 4x400m relay, the runner from Team A suddenly veers to the outside to hand off to her teammate. This causes her to interfere with the incoming runner from Team B, resulting in injury to the runner from Team B, who does not complete the handoff. The coach from Team B is offered a re-run due to the interference. The coach asks if she can substitute for the injured runner. No relay cards were used, it was a dual meet and there were no online entries.

Situation 2 Referee's Decision

- Referee allowed the substitution
- NFHS Rule 3-4-1, 3-4-4

Situation 3

- Athlete leaves HJ for another event, returns and informs official he is injured and cannot continue. At the conclusion of the event, he is tied with another jumper for first place. How do you proceed?

Situation 3 Referee's Decision

- Event official should announce the tie, and explain the jump off procedure
- If one athlete informs then they cannot continue, the other athlete is declared the winner unless they also indicate they cannot continue before that occurs. Key is not to encourage athletes to withdraw from the jump off, they must initiate the idea.
- NFHS Rule 6-3-2b-4a, b
- Case book 6.3.2 Situation H, page 68

Situation 4

- After reviewing the state meet program, the coach from Team A tells you that the 4x100 m relay was seeded incorrectly. He tells you that his team has the second fastest time and should be in lane 4 of heat 3 instead of lane 6 of heat 1

Situation 4 Referee's Decision

- Referee ruled that heats were seeded correctly
- NFHS Rule 5-6-5, page 35
- OHSAA Tournament Manager Manual 8.2, page 20 (2024)

Situation 5

- At the regional cross country meet, Team A reports to check in with the clerk. The clerk reports to you that runners 1 and 3 have identical uniforms with no stripe on the shorts, but all other runners have the same tops but their shorts are the same color but have a single stripe.

Situation 5 Referee's Decision

- Referee ruled that they uniforms are not identical, and they must correct the violation or athletes with variations will not be allowed to compete.
- NFHS Rule 4-3-2

Situation 6

- During the 800 m run, runners A & B are 20 m ahead of the pack of runners in the home stretch. The pole vault is located near the top of the last turn before the finish. The pole vaulter from Team A dislodges the bar causing it to fall on the track behind the leaders but in front of the pack of runners, causing several runners to fall or stumble.

Situation 6 Referee's Decision

- Referee ruled that a re-run would occur including all runners except the first two.
- NFHS Rule 3-4-3, note

Situation 7

- In the finals of the 300 m hurdles at the state meet, the runner in lane 5 hits his final hurdle, causing it to fall into Lane 4. The hurdler in lane 4 trips over the hurdle, falling into lane 3 causing the hurdler in lane 3 to alter his steps before finishing.

Situation 7 Referee's Decision

- The runner in lane 5 was disqualified (NFHS Rule 5-14-1f)
- All other runners were permitted a re-run (NFHS Rule 3-4-3)
- Note: This decision involved all three state meet referees working together to collect information and make the decision

Situation 8

- In a dual meet, Team A enters 2 teams in the 4x100 relay, and Team B enters only 1. The order of finish is A2, A1, B1, but A2 is disqualified. How is the event scored?

Situation 8 Referee's Decision

- A1 is credited with first place – 5 points, B1 is second – 0 points.
- NFHS Rule 4-2-4
- OHSAA Manual page 14 (2024)

Situation 9

- 4x800 relay runner from Team A waiting for exchange moves toward inside lane, knocks down incoming runner from Team B.

Situation 9 Referee's Decision

- Team A was disqualified NFHS Rule 5-9-1
- Note: watch whole zone, not just exchange

Situation 10

- During the zone check for the 1st heat of the 4 X 200 M. Relay, the zone chief at Zone 1 raises a yellow flag and requests the Head Umpire. He informed the head umpire that Lane 6 was open and he made numerous calls for Team A which was assigned to Lane 6 but no one appeared. Then just as he was preparing to start without Team A, two girls appeared and said they were supposed to run the 4 x200 meter relay but did not know the heat or lane assignment. The Head Umpire then provides you with the above information. After consulting with the clerk, she tells you that Team A had not checked in and she had documented on the check-in sheets the times she had called for Team A to check-in.

Situation 10 Referee's Decision

- Referee ruled that Team A would not be allowed to participate.
- NFHS Rule 4-2, 3

This PowerPoint will be available as a pdf at:

<https://www.gytoa.com>

It will be available Saturday evening, and 2 versions will be posted – 1 with referee's decisions and one without.

If you encounter unusual situation situations that might be worth discussing at next year's clinic, please forward them to:

Jim Fox at jimfox44@gmail.com

John Daubenspeck at jdaubenspeck@gytoa.com