



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union
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Iowa High School Athletic Association
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April 27, 2017

It's hard to believe that it's already the last week of April and the Drake Relays are upon us. As we turn our attention to May and conference, state qualifying and state meets, we want to share some of the issues we have learned about through conversations with coaches, officials and administrators.

High Jump – We have received multiple questions about the high jump from both veteran and new coaches. If the crossbar is displaced by the competitor during an attempt, it is a foul regardless if the competitor rolls out of the pit prior to the bar falling off the standards. The event judge needs to use his/her discretion when evaluating a crossbar that may be wobbling on the standards as to whether the crossbar is going to remain on the standards and be considered a successful attempt. Again, the focus is on the crossbar and not whether or not the competitor has scurried out of the pit. We are also hearing of high jump judges lowering the crossbar for various reasons. Rule 6-4-11 specifically states, “After competition has started, the bar shall not be lowered, except to determine a first-place winner when a tie for that place is involved.” Starters/referees and meet managers, please review key points just not in the high jump but in the other field events prior to the meet starting. The IATO has created rule sheets for each of the field events for event judges and are great resources for your volunteers to use.

Being Excused to Compete in Another Event – We understand with the new event schedule that there would be a number of athletes that would compete in the sprint medley and field events, particularly the jumps. As we've progressed throughout the season, we've had an increase in the calls asking about the rules of a competitor being excused from a field event to compete in a running event. First off, the rule book does allow an athlete to be excused to compete in another event; that does not mean warm-up or cool-down from the running event. Time limits for competitors excused to compete in another event shall be determined by the games committee. Due to the various locations of field event venues across the state, those time limits will vary from site to site. In regards to the state qualifying meet, the meet manager will determine a reasonable time limit. In our opinion, 10 minutes is reasonable time limit for many meets to consider. Why is setting the time limit important? A competitor will not be called for a trial during that time, and in the high jump, the event judge will not pass a competitor or raise the crossbar to the succeeding height until the time limit expires. Just a reminder, that in the throws and long jump, the head event judge may change the order of competition in the preliminary or final rounds to accommodate an athlete competing in another event. Successive trials are also an option to consider for those athletes. If a competitor has to be excused during the final round of competition, the competitor with the best mark in the preliminaries has earned the right to make the last attempt of the competition and may choose to wait until after any excused competitors have taken all their trials.

NFHS Guidelines for Competitors Being Excused to Compete in Another Event

- 1) The competitor must receive permission from the head event judge
- 2) The head event judge must record the time excused
- 3) The head event judge may allow the competitor to take a trial/attempt out of turn before being excused
- 4) The head event judge may use some judgement in extending the time excused under special circumstances, i.e. competing in 3200 meter run
- 5) In the high jump, if the competitor has failed to return in the allotted time and all other remaining competitors have passed, failed or cleared the existing height, the crossbar will be raised to the next height and the judge will automatically pass the excused competitor to the new height

- 6) Coaches must take into account the limited time allowed to compete in another event when determining the events any individual competitor enters
- 7) When an unusual circumstance, injury, reruns, etc., occurs that will prolong the absence of the excused participant, it shall be the competitor's responsibility to communicate this to the head event judge

Field Size in Distance Races – A few schools have contacted our offices looking for advice regarding field size in the 1500/1600 and 3000/3200 meter runs. We know many meet managers and officials would prefer to only run one section of these events, but we do need to be cognizant of athlete safety and competitive equity concerns for all participants in the event. We would strongly encourage the double waterfall start in these races to alleviate some of the congestion at the start of the race.

Tape on Throwing Hand – As stated in the rule book, taping of any part of the throwing hand or fingers shall not be permitted in the shot put and discus unless there is an open wound that must be protected by tape. A competitor may tape his/her wrist in these events. We are hearing of athletes wrapping their entire hand with tape for their trials and being allowed to do so. As we head toward these bigger meets, we hope coaches take a few minutes with their athletes to review specific rules, so we don't get to the qualifying meet and someone is disqualified for something that is clearly stated in the rule book.

Junior High Order of Events – We continue to get calls and emails about the junior high order of events. The junior high order of events did not change for the 2017 season. Please share this information with your junior high coaches and athletic directors.

State Qualifying Meet Entry Deadline – All coaches and athletic directors should have mailed a letter from the IHSAA office yesterday which included the usernames and passwords for both your boys and girls teams. Entries for the meet close at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 10. Coaches should have their entries finalized no later than 9:00 AM. On average, the staffs of both the IHSAA and IGHSAA make over 50 phone calls on the day the entries close to member schools as their coaches have not declared their entries in a timely manner. Do not jeopardize the participation of your students by not meeting this deadline.

State Qualifying Meet Manual – The State Qualifying Meet Manual will be posted on both web sites later this week. This manual provides information you will need to know about the State Qualifying Meet. Please note that field events begin at 4:00 with Boys Long Jump and Discus and Girls High Jump and Shot Put.

State Meet Qualifiers – After we received the scored HyTek files from each of our sites, we will begin the process of determining state meet qualifiers. As soon as we have a qualifying list, we will post a list of qualifiers on the appropriate web site. Do not expect to see a final list of qualifiers until early Friday afternoon. As stated in the State Qualifying Meet Manual, please review your qualifying meet results Thursday before leaving your meet site. If a performance was entered incorrectly into the HyTek software, it is easier to fix it Thursday night before qualifiers are posted Friday. From our standpoint, it is not a lot of fun notifying a school that a particular event has not qualified after a list of qualifiers has been posted as a result of our organizations receiving incorrect results from the night before. There will be no more than 24 qualifiers in any event. If the tie still remains, the school name, as printed in the IHSAA Directory, will be used as the tie breaker. The first school name alphabetically will become the qualifier. Heat and lane assignments will be posted as soon as they are available. Schools with state meet qualifiers will be sent state meet information by UPS on Monday, May 15. They will include printed state meet information and your wrist bands for entry into Drake Stadium. Please read the information and follow any instructions you receive. All of the printed materials in those packets will also appear on the web

sites. We have had this question asked in the past, so we will share this again with all of you. Drake Stadium is closed on Wednesday, May 17. No team or individual students should come to the stadium expecting to practice or just to walk around and view the stadium.

Have a great end to your regular season. Don't hesitate to give either office a call if you have a question over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,



John Overton
Assistant Director



Jared Chizek
Assistant Director