



USATF National Officials Committee
Master Level Track & Field Rules Review
2009-2012 Olympiad Edition
Reviews for 2011 and 2012

Instructions: The following review is divided into three sections.

Section I- The True/False questions are taken from the *2009-2010 NCAA Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Rules* and the *2010 USA Track and Field Competition Rules*. As a Master Level Official and most likely officiating under both rule books, you should be aware of these rule differences.

Section II- These essay questions are derived from situations that are conducted under the *USA Track & Field 2010 Competition Rules*.

Section III- Note the difference in the NCAA and USATF rule books for the situations presented.

Section IV- Explain your officiating philosophy, goals, and the role of a Master level official.

Note: This 2009-2012 Olympiad Rules Review is based on the NCAA 2009-2010 and USATF 2010 Rules,, in **CONJUNCTION** with any subsequent updates.

Please **PRINT** your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET** provided and return to your Association Certification Chair for his/her review.

SECTION 1 – TRUE/FALSE (If the question is partially false, the entire question is to be considered false)

A. USA 2010 Track & Field Competition Rules

- T F 1. Shoes are required to be worn for all track and field events run under USATF rules.
- T F 2. When an individual or relay team, having qualified for a subsequent round, withdraws from competition, a substitute can replace them.
- T F 3. Measurements for records in field events shall be made by the Chief Judge of that event.
- T F 4. Pacesetting is permitted under certain conditions.
- T F 5. A competitor shall be disqualified if he or she deliberately knocks down any hurdle by hand or foot.
- T F 6. In outdoor races, lap scorers are required to keep a record of the number of laps and times of each lap covered by each competitor for all races that are longer than 1 mile.
- T F 7. Distances in field events shall be measured in meters and always recorded to the nearest 0.01m below the distance measured if the distance measured is not a whole centimeter (i.e., fractions less than 0.01m must be ignored).
- T F 8. For the High Jump and Pole Vault, the first attempt of any competitor upon entering the competition, the time allowed for such attempt shall be one minute.
- T F 9. The "honest participation" rule provided in Rule 142.3 & .4 shall not be applicable to Youth Athletics. T F 10. For all hand-timed races on the track, the times shall be recorded to 1/10 second.
- T F 11. Each competitor is responsible for knowing the starting time of each competition in which he or she is entered and for reporting to the Clerk of Course no later than the check in time that has been established by the Games Committee.
- T F 12. When an athlete, running on a turn, enters the lane immediately to his or her right; an umpire should signal a disqualification by raising a red flag and then immediately report the disqualification to the Chief Umpire.
- T F 13. The runners in the third and fourth legs of the 4x400 Meters Relay shall place themselves in their waiting position in the same order (inside to out) as the order of their respective team members as they complete first 200m of their legs.
- T F 14. Whenever the number of competitors reporting for an event makes heats unnecessary, the normal situation is that the heats shall be combined and the event then run as a final at the time in the program so scheduled for the final.

T F 15 When all or the first portion of a relay race is being run in lanes, a runner may place one check mark on the track within his/her own lane, by using self-adhesive tape, maximum 5cm x 40cm, of a distinctive color which cannot be confused with other permanent markings.

B. NCAA 2009-2010 Rule Book (As may have been updated)

- T F 16. Practice starts in the immediate area of the starting line are not allowed in conjunction with the starter's commands.
- T F 17. In all races run in lanes, competitors shall start within their assigned lane but do not have to finish in that same lane.
- T F 18. When a competitor, running around a curve, steps on or over the left lane line with three consecutive steps with the left foot shall be disqualified.
- T F 19. The Games Committee may appoint a jury of appeals to serve as the final authority on appeals of the referee's decisions if such a panel is deemed appropriate.
- T F 20. In sprint relays, outgoing runners may place two separate pieces of tape on the track to designate take-off point.
- T F 21. In High Jump, a competitor may request a warm-up after he/she has passed three consecutive heights.
- T F 22. In the horizontal jumps and throws, a competitor may be allowed to take qualifying or preliminary attempts out of the official order in certain circumstances.
- T F 23. In Long and Triple Jumps, a competitor may use a shoe for marking steps as long as it is off the runway.
- T F 24. In Pole Vault, when only one competitor remains in the competition, he/she has a time limit of five minutes between jumps
- T F 25. During warm-up, in the throwing events, a competitor may not be allowed to retrieve their implement from the impact area.
- T F 26. As under USATF rules, starting blocks shall be used for all races up to and including 400 meters and the lead-off leg of relays where that leg does not exceed 400 meters.
- T F 27. If an athlete, when engaged in competition, wears a uniform that does not comply with NCAA rules may be subject to disqualification.
- T F 28. A failure to participate in an event in which an athlete has been declared is considered an assumption that the competitor has abandoned the competition and, therefore, shall be barred from all remaining events in the current meet.
- T F 29. All relay team members must wear identical school issues uniforms, and if all are wearing undergarments, one may be different.
- T F 30. If in a group of races, the number of competitors in one of the heats or sections exceeds the number of lanes on the track, that race may be started by either doubling up competitors in lanes, using a single waterfall start, or a staggered alley start.

SECTION II Please select one question from each of the two categories listed below and describe the steps you would use to resolve the situation. Please apply 2010 USATF rules of competition.

Category #1 – Track Events

1. At a major 3 day championship, it is determined that the markings for the 400M Hurdles are incorrect. In lanes 2, 3, & 4, on the first flight, the markings are incorrect. The Men's 400M Hurdle prelim has already been contested (Day 2) before the error had been determined. The Women are preparing to start their prelims (Day 2). The finals are scheduled for Day 3. Please resolve this situation.
2. In a championship steeplechase contest, the competitor in the lead fails to negotiate the first water jump that was located on the inside of the track. The athlete realizes the mistake after running beyond the horizontal plane extended of the water jump barrier. Realizing that, the athlete doubles back and jumps the water jump. The umpires raise a yellow flag and reports in writing to the Chief Umpire that the athlete failed to clear the hurdle. Please apply the rule that would reinforce the umpire in their decision and rule on the case as the referee.

3. In a hurdle race, competitor (A) knocks over a hurdle in his lane and causes it to land in the lane of another competitor (B) and as a result causes competitor (B) to be impeded. No violation was reported but the coach of competitor (B) protests. Please resolve this situation.

Category #2 – Field Events

1. In a horizontal jump, a competitor's toe is over the indicator (foul) board but does not mark the plasticine. The judge raises a red flag for foul. The athlete immediately protests before the landing area is prepared for the next competitor. Please discuss the steps to resolve this situation.
2. In a championship meet where a qualifying round in the vertical jumps is required, the number of competitors needed for the finals include 12 competitors plus all true ties. Twenty-four competitors are entered and begin competing. At the end of the 3rd height, 10 athletes have no misses, 3 athletes have 1 miss only at the 3rd height but cleared the 3rd height on their 2nd attempt. One athlete has 2 misses at that height only but clears the height on the 3rd attempt. As the head official, what decision do you make at this time?
3. A male competitor in a throwing event is the last thrower in the finals. In preparing to throw he removes his uniform top, including bib number, and completes his final throw without a uniform top. The final throw appears to be a new American record. What steps would be followed and what decisions are made?

SECTION III - Explain the differences, if any, for the situations presented under NCAA and USATF rules (open competition) and quote the appropriate rule or rules that apply.

Track Events

- A. What are the differences in the rules for the violation for running on or inside the inner lane line on a curve?
- B. How many check marks and what size may competitors in relay races may place in their lanes?
- C. May a race be recalled if the FAT timing system does not start? By whom?

Field Events

- A. What aids may a competitor in the Pole Vault use to obtain a better grip or to use for safety purposes?.
- B. By whom and for how long may an athlete be excused to compete in another event in NCAA and USATF open competition? Does it matter if it is in the preliminary rounds or the finals?
- C. Listed below are several situations relating to the normal time limits for initiating field events. Please fill out the table provided. Read each situation carefully, and answer each question for throws, horizontal jumps and vertical jumps, and include the appropriate NCAA or USATF (Open Competition) rule and page.
 1. What is the normal time limit for initiating an attempt in a field event?
 2. What is the normal time limit when an athlete has two or more consecutive trials?
 3. What is the normal time limit when there are three or less athletes remaining in a round?
 4. What is the normal time limit when there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition at the start of a round?
 5. What is the normal time limit when there is only one athlete remaining but the athlete has not yet won the competition?
 6. What is the normal time limit when there is only one athlete remaining and the athlete has won the competition?

SECTION IV - Explain your officiating philosophy, goals, and the role of a Master level official. **No room has been left on the Answer Sheet for this section. Please attach separate paper.**

1. Please state your officiating philosophy.
2. What are your goals as an official?
3. What do you consider to be your role as a Master official within your Association?



Answer Sheet
USATF National Officials Committee
Master Level Track & Field Answer Sheet
2009-2012 Olympiad Edition
Reviews for 2011 and 2012

_____ # Correct
 _____ # Incorrect
 _____ % Correct
 Passing is 90%

Name _____

Home Phone _____

Please Print

Please be neat!

E-mail address _____

<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>
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USATF Current Certification Level: _____

USATF Membership #: _____ USATF Officials Certification Number: _____

Instructions: Fill out complete form. From the attached Rules Review, indicate the appropriate answer.
 Year of Rulebook Used: USATF _____ and NCAA _____

Section I: USATF and NCAA Competition Rules

USATF Rules

True and False Answers

#	Answer	Page	Rule #
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

NCAA Rules

True and False Answers

#	Answer	Page	Rule #
16			
17			
18			
19			
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21			
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23			
24			
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27			
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30			

Correct answers for FALSE questions

No.	Answer	No.	Answer	No.	Answer

Section II: Situational Short Essay Answers

Please select one question from each of the two categories listed below and describe the steps you would use to resolve the situation. Please apply 2010 USATF rules of competition. List the basic steps that you would take to resolve the situations selected. It is important that you provide the necessary steps to resolve the problem, the rules you used and your decision. Use the back of this page if additional space needed.

Track Event Situation # 1:

At a major 3 day championship, it is determined that the markings for the 400M Hurdles are incorrect. In lanes 2, 3, & 4, on the first flight, the markings are incorrect. The Men's 400M Hurdle prelim has already been contested (Day 2) before the error had been determined. The Women are preparing to start their prelims (Day 2). The finals are scheduled for Day 3. Please resolve this situation.

Track Event Situation # 2:

In a championship steeplechase contest, the competitor in the lead fails to negotiate the first water jump that was located on the inside of the track. The athlete realizes the mistake after running beyond the horizontal plane extended of the water jump barrier. Realizing that, the athlete doubles back and jumps the water jump. The umpires raise a yellow flag and reports in writing to the Chief Umpire that the athlete failed to clear the hurdle. Please apply the rule that would reinforce the umpire in their decision and rule on the case as the referee.

Track Event Situation # #:In a hurdle race, competitor (A) knocks over a hurdle in his lane and causes it to land in the lane of another competitor (B) and as a result causes competitor (B) to be impeded. No violation was reported but the coach of competitor (B) protests. Please resolve this situation.

Field Event Situation # 1:

In a horizontal jump, a competitor's toe is over the indicator (foul) board but does not mark the plasticine. The judge raises a red flag for foul. The athlete immediately protests before the landing area is prepared for the next competitor. Please discuss the steps to resolve this situation.

Field Event Situation # 2:

In a championship meet where a qualifying round in the vertical jumps is required, the number of competitors needed for the finals include 12 competitors plus all true ties. Twenty-four competitors are entered and begin competing. At the end of the 3rd height, 10 athletes have no misses, 3 athletes have 1 miss only at the 3rd height but cleared the 3rd height on their 2nd attempt. One athlete has 2 misses at that height only but clears the height on the 3rd attempt. As the head official, what decision do you make at this time?

Field Event Situation # 3:

A male competitor in a throwing event is the last thrower in the finals. In preparing to throw he removes his uniform top which includes his bib number, and completes his final throw without a uniform top. The final throw appears to be a new American record. What steps would be followed and what decisions should be made?

Difference Situations

III. Track Difference Situation #A:

What are the similarities and differences in the NCAA and USATF rules for running on or inside the inner lane line on the curves?

III. Track Difference Situation #B:

How many check marks and what size may competitors in relay races may place in their lanes?

III. Track Difference Situation #C:

May a race be recalled if the Fully Automatic Timing (FAT) system does not start? By whom?

III. Field Event Difference Situation #A:

What aids may a competitor in the Pole Vault use to obtain a better grip or to use for safety purposes?

III. Field Event Difference Situation #B:

By whom and for how long may an athlete be excused to compete in another event in NCAA and USATF open competition? Does it matter if it is in the preliminary rounds or the finals?

Type	Preliminary Round			Finals		
	Answer	Rule	Pg.	Answer	Rule	Pg.
Open-USATF						
NCAA						

III. Field Event Difference Situation #C: Note answer each question for all field events

For each answer, give Rule #, page # and time. Explain any exceptions.

Question	NCAA	USATF Open
<p>What is the normal time limit for initiating an attempt in a field event?</p>		
<p>What is the normal time limit when an athlete has two or more consecutive trials?</p>		
<p>What is the normal time limit when there are three or less athletes <u>remaining in a round</u>?</p>		
<p>What is the normal time limit when there are three or less athletes remaining in the competition <u>at the start of a round</u>?</p>		
<p>What is the normal time limit when there is only one athlete remaining but the athlete has <u>not yet won</u> the competition?</p>		
<p>What is the normal time limit when there is only one athlete remaining and the athlete has <u>won the competition</u>?</p>		