Clinic Outline
Pole Vault Officials / Head Officials

Welcome, introductions
Review purpose, agenda
Review materials brought by attendees – who does not have Best Practices pages for PV? Who has other/new & useful items?
Note: referenced Best Practices materials are handouts for review & discussion

Pre-meet actions (see Best Practices “Head Official Protocols” and “PV Venue & Assignments”)
- Accomplish items from “Protocols” list weeks in advance of the competition
- Obtain listed information items from meet management
- Attend head officials’ meeting; learn of any Games Committee changes to standard procedures; get answers to listed questions
- Conduct a pre-event crew meeting; provide info from officials’ meeting; provide assignments, reporting times, meals, etc.

Medical care
- Where is it located; how to make contact; concussion protocols

Equipment from meet management (see Best Practices “Event Preparations”)
- Obtained listed items
- Check condition of standards, extenders, measuring device, performance boards, lifters, etc.
- Check box collar; pit dimensions; travel of standards – 0 to 80; check pegs – length, tightness, level

Venue set-up (see Best Practices “Event Preparations”)
- Safety considerations – move/remove items near pit which could endanger athletes; control access/incursions to runway/pit
- Placement of items – athlete benches, chalk dish, performance boards, clock, pole tree, pole bags, wind indicator, fluids, etc.; also placement of officials
- Visualize the flow of competition; place people & items to not interfere with athletes, or with sight lines for coaches/fans/TV

Crossbar preparation (see Best Practices “Crossbar Preparation” video)
- Prepare 3-4 bars; check length; mark center point; secure loose end pieces w/tape under end piece; find natural bias/sag, align & mark end pieces; mark left & right ends, number bars

Zeroing standards (see Best Practices “Zeroing Standards & Pit Setup” and “Pit Boss Reference Card”)
- Follow listed steps regarding: placement of pit; establishing a zero line; distance between pegs; alignment of standards bases to the runway and each other; verifying standards are vertical in both axes (shim as needed); plumbing the bar to verify zero – at low and high heights; checking height scales & adjusting to get accurate height or determine offset; use of Pit Boss reference card
- Conduct an actual demonstration of these procedures

Runway markers
- 2 only (no coaches’ marks), max. size; no chalk, shoes, cans, etc.

Performance board
- Display imperial heights

Athlete’s briefing (see Best Practices “Instructions & Rules”)
- Address frequently encountered issues/problems (proactive officiating)
Warm-Ups
- Bungee out of the way (high) to begin with, set at various heights as requested; advise athletes of remaining warm-up time; confirm entry heights & standards; finalize sheets; cut off warmups

Standard Settings Board
- Key to efficient event flow; decide & brief if athlete or official sets board; record setting for every jump
- Ideally: find “On Deck” & “On Hold” athletes to confirm next setting; when pit is ready for “Up” athlete turn board away from pit & reset for next athlete, then turn toward pit when “Up” athlete is exiting pit

Flight Coordinator Activities (see Best Practices “Flight Coordinator Activities”)

Combined Events
- Opening height & progressions; extenders; time limits

Wind considerations
- Lifters hold bar in place until athlete is in the air
- Make a subjective call – did wind blow pole into bar & displace it; benefit of doubt goes to athlete
- Make the call quickly; standards officials assist with calls

Rain considerations
- Provide rain cover for grip end of poles; dry runway take-off area with towels, leaf-blowers
- Watch for slipping upon take-off, and slipping of hands on pole
- Event head may stop competition; Referee decides to continue or to suspend competition
- When competition resumes, allow adequate time for warm-ups
- Move indoors – consequences: placings, qualifications, records

Starter’s gun
- Delay an attempt if starter is near venue – hold so as to not impact race start

Post-meet actions (see Best Practices “Head Official Protocols”)
- Results; athletes to awards/Mix Zone; cleanup; crew meeting, crew evaluations

Issues/Discussion (See Best Practices “What Can Go Wrong in Field Events”)
- Absence from competition; protests; breaking ties; records; ...

Wrap-up, questions

Critique/recommendations for clinic improvement