POLE VAULT OFFICIALS’ DUTIES

HEAD JUDGE
1. Obtain all listed information & equipment from meet management. Learn of any Games Committee changes to normal procedures; pass these info from head officials’ meeting to crew (see Best Practices “Head Official Protocols”)
2. Assign officials to positions and establish reporting times; review their duties with them; ask for questions (see Best Practices “PV Venue & Assignments”)
3. Ensure the crew is provided with adequate fluids during the competition, and meals as appropriate.
4. Check and keep the area around the pit clear of people and obstructions which could present safety hazards
5. Supervise set-up of the pit, standards, zero settings and markings, box collar, crossbars, measuring devices, performance boards and timing device (see Best Practices “PV Event Preparations”). Be prepared to move the pit if wind conditions and the Referee so dictate.
6. Combined events – ask for additional copies of sheets – all in landscape orientation; poll athletes during 60H warm-ups for opening heights, show athletes the Best Practices “Comb. Events Height Progressions” for increments; make the 1st height on event sheet 10cm below lowest expected opening
7. Brief athletes on rules and the conduct of the event (see Best Practices “PV Instructions & Rules”)
8. Periodically check the placement of the pit relative to the back of the box; make adjustments as necessary
9. Supervise the competition and the measurement of all record heights; be prepared to deal with protests, if any
10. Confirm results, resolve ties

FLIGHT COORDINATOR (see Best Practices “Flight Coordinator Activities”)
1. Event sheet preparation: enter metric & imperial heights, start & end times
2. Check-in athletes, obtain & record opening heights & passes; do the same on the recorder’s copy of sheets; if so directed, check athlete bibs and spikes
3. Prepare a “cheat sheet/card” for the pit boss – showing height progressions and heights to be measured
4. If so assigned, manage warm-ups – advise the pit crew of desired bar heights & settings
5. End warm-ups 3-5 minutes before event start; if so directed, line up athletes for introductions
6. If so assigned, get standard settings, mark on sheet for each attempt, set standards board, display to pit; if changes from what originally shown, be certain to immediately convey to the pit crew
7. Record on event sheet: passes (-), makes (O), and misses (X)
8. Notify the recorder and or electronic recorder of any new passes
9. As a vaulter exits the pit, call out the jumping order for next three vaulters: Up; On Deck; and On Hold. Confirm standard setting for the On Deck athlete.
10. Be aware of rules for athletes who are absent & time limits (see Best Practices “Field Event Time Limits and Absences”)
11. If consecutive attempts or anything other than one minute per attempt, notify timer and athletes
12. If so directed for NCAA and NFHS competitions, use five-alive system. Notify athletes when they will be coming in (as soon as one athlete has cleared the height or failed a third time and been eliminated). Abandon as appropriate and notify the Recorder and athletes of this change
13. At end of each height, compare makes & misses with recorder, then notify pit boss of new height; allow runs-thrus as appropriate
14. After height changes, call out the names of all who are vaulting at the new height
15. Determine if a jump-off is needed to break any 1st place tie; advise event head (see Best Practices “Resolving Ties - HJ & PV”)

BAR JUDGE/FLAGGER
1. Be positioned to clearly see the pole plant in the box
2. Eyes first on pole plant in box, then to bar; if bar is bouncing, wait to raise flag until certain it stays on pegs; move toward pit to get good view, get signal from standards or pit boss
3. Use flags to indicate make or miss; always place red or white flag in same hand
4. Look for signal from pit boss/standards crew re: bar staying on pegs, hands on bar, vaulter or pole penetrating zero line
5. Aborted attempts – if zero-line penetration – raise red flag; if not, hold white flag horizontal
6. If within 15 seconds, face timer & athlete to watch for start of attempt vs. end of time/yellow flag lowered
7. Perform Pit Boss duties if so assigned

PV Officials Duties, USATF Best Practices, Feb 19 (Credit: R. Schornstein, E. Halik)
POLE VAULT OFFICIALS' DUTIES (CONT’D)

PIT BOSS
1. Have a “cheat sheet” with increments & measured heights; use to double check height changes and scale offsets if any. Measurements are made for every new height or less frequently if so directed by the Referee (but always when moving the crossbar from the extenders to the standard pegs).
2. For each attempt, check and have standard setters signal that the crossbar bar is: centered, snug, steady; standards set as displayed. Check pit and box collar alignment to ensure they are in place relative to the box. When the pit is ready, signal/remove cone/step off runway to indicate time can start.
3. Measure and set the measuring device, and measure at the designated heights, every time a new bar is put into use, every time standards are displaced; and for records – initially, and each time bar is touched or displaced.
4. Periodically check that the zero line on the standards are aligned with the zero line on the ground.
5. Assist flagger with calls re: bar staying on pegs, hands on bar, vaulter or pole penetrating zero line.

CROSSBAR LIFTERS
1. Protect yourself from crossbar & pole; quickly clear bar or pole if it will interfere with runners on the track.
2. Step up onto the pit only after a flag has been raised; pick up the bar only after the athlete has exited the pit.
3. Quickly place crossbar on pegs; lift at end pieces, raise bar together. Ensure crossbar end pieces are aligned on the bar, and that bar is: centered on pegs, steady, snug against the standards, marked side facing the vaulter. Stow bar raisers out of the way of vaulters & runners.
4. Don’t touch pole except to protect self, don’t touch the bar until the flagger raises a flag.
5. Assist flagger with calls re: bar staying on pegs, hands on bar, vaulter or pole penetrating zero line.
6. Hold bar in place when changing heights or moving to & from zero for measurement.
7. If windy, hold bar in place, release when athlete is approaching the crossbar.

STANDARDS SETTERS
1. Protect yourself from crossbar & pole; don’t touch pole except to protect self, quickly clear bar or pole if it will interfere with runners.
2. Check standards board, immediately change standards settings; move smoothly to avoid displacing bar.
3. Double check crossbar end pieces are aligned on the bar, and bar is: centered on pegs, steady, snug against the standards, marked side facing the vaulter; signal Pit Boss that all is ready.
4. Assist flagger with calls re: bar staying on pegs, hands on bar, vaulter or pole penetrating zero line.
5. Adjust standards scale as appropriate if pit has moved during competition.
6. When measuring heights, set standards at zero (when using a laser, the base pads may have to be moved). After raising to a new height, be sure that standards are fastened securely.

RECORER
1. If so assigned, manage warm-ups – advise the pit crew of desired bar heights & settings.
2. Coordinate with the Flight Coordinator as necessary to be certain of the identity of each vaulter and any passes.
3. Record passes (-), makes (O), and misses (X) on the event sheet.
4. After each attempt, verify make or miss with the electronic recorder; at the end of each height, verify with Flight Coordinator.
5. Advise event head and flight coordinator of record attempts.

TIMER
1. If so assigned, manage warm-ups – advise the pit crew of desired bar heights & settings.
2. Set the clock for time remaining for warm-ups. If a clock is not available, call out time remaining every 10 minutes.
3. NCAA competitions - note the time that the competition has begun.
4. Start the clock at the agreed upon signal; don’t stop or reset it until shown a red or white flag.
5. Set the clock for individual run-thrus after the competition has begun (NCAA 2 minutes per athlete after one hour, not combined; NFHS and Master’s 2 minutes per athlete after passing three heights; combine the time).
6. Raise a yellow flag overhead when there are 15 seconds left; lower it quickly as time expires.
7. After an aborted attempt, if no clock display, advise athlete of remaining time,

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