2018 TRACK AND FIELD RULES INTERPRETATIONS

**Situations for rulings**

**Situation:** A coach inquires about the manufacturer’s logo and a club logo in addition to the manufacturer’s label, he wants to know the ruling on advertisements. Example: USC spirit pole or a Pacer pole with a Vertical Assault label on the length of the pole.

**Ruling:** Having multiple logos on a pole vaulting pole is NOT a violation of any current rules since the multiple logo rule is for the uniform and undergarments of the athletes, NOT for equipment. NOTE: If the additional logos are not placed on the pole by the manufacturer, the school, group, or individual adding the additional logos bears the full risk and liability against the warranty in case of injury or if the pole does not flex or perform as described by the manufacturer. The PIAA official has no standing as to the number of logos on the pole.

**Situation:** An athlete has a head band (jewelry) that is tied in the back of the head creating a large knot with two large ends dangling from the knot. Since a uniform cannot be tied with a knot, does the headband violate this rule?

**Ruling:** The headband can be tied with a small knot or a bow. The key word here is small knot. If in the opinion of the official is the knot is too large, they can request the athlete retie or remove the headband. The dangling ends or tails of the headband should NOT extend below the base of the competitor’s neck or beyond the top of the shoulder. Same recommendation as above, retie or remove.

**Situation:** Multiple logos on a headband.

**Ruling:** The headband must be logo compliant, one manufactures logo no larger than 2 1/4” X 2 1/4” inches.

**Situation:** An athlete is wearing jewelry that may be a safety problem, does the official ask them to remove it?

**Ruling:** Officials should always be looking out for the safety of the athletes, but NFHS and PIAA are permitting jewelry to be worn and have not made any restrictions as to the size or length, of the jewelry. An official is strongly encouraged to be 100% certain that the jewelry is posing a safety concern. It is the responsibility of the coaches to make sure their athletes are properly equipped and in proper uniform and verify this during a pre-meet meeting.
Situation: An athlete is wearing a watch that beeps (not a GPS watch). Can they be asked to remove it?

Ruling: Track and Field athletes are allowed to wear a watch but cannot use the GPS function during a race. On page 29 under rule 4-6-5, NOTES: #2- “The use of a watch worn around the wrist is not considered an aid to racing.” The only way an official would know if a watch can function as a GPS would be to observe the athlete using the GPS while running a race (most likely to be during a CC event). If proven, the athlete would be disqualified. For the ruling on the beeping of a watch, go to page 38 and 39 in your NFHS Casebook and read 4.6.5 Situation C, which addresses this concern.

Situation: A coach submits an athlete’s name in three individual events AND lists the same athlete as a potential relay runner.

Ruling: A coach may submit the athlete’s name for three events and as a potential relay runner. Please refer to the following Situation in the Casebook on pages 24 and 25, 4.2.2 Situation B and 4.2.2 Situation E. NOTE: an athlete entered in four individual events may not be permitted to enter into any relays.

Situation: An athlete is entered into the district meet using a time or distance achieved during the indoor season.

Ruling: The PIAA considers Indoor Track and Field (Winter) and Outdoor Track and Field (Spring) as two separate sports, run under different conditions and environmental factors. The PIAA District Track and Field Championships are an extension of the PIAA State Championships, all the Districts Meets are expected to be conducted under the same rules and regulations. Indoor performances CANNOT be used as qualifying times or distance to advance to the Spring PIAA District or State Championships. The two seasons have their own defined seasons and Championships. PIAA does not sponsor an Indoor Championship, however, the Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association does hold an event. Note: There are some early season Invitational Meets that do permit the use of and indoor performance or the performance from the past season, similar to the Penn Relays. That decision is being made by that individual Games Committee not PIAA, which is within their responsibilities of those individual Games Committee.

Team Uniform Reminder

Relay team member uniforms MUST be the SAME color and the colors MUST form the same design on the uniform. Relay team member uniforms DO NOT need to be the same STYLE!

The uniform top can have different length sleeves, different cut around the neck and the lettering can be a different font or size. Uniform shorts can be Boxer, French cut running short for girls, compression and long or short inseam.

Example: If the colors of the uniform (top or bottom) are red, white, and blue then all four runners on the relay team must be dressed in a uniform (top or bottom) that are red, white, and blue in color. Any design, the colors red, white, and blue form on the uniform (top or bottom) must be the same on all four uniforms being worn by the relay team members.