

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
TRACK & FIELD HANDBOOK ITEMS AND PROCEDURES  
To be considered at the January Board Meeting**

**Interested persons are encouraged to read and provide feedback to the AAA office on any of the recommended items. Feedback can be directed to [kathy@ahsaa.k12.ar.us](mailto:kathy@ahsaa.k12.ar.us).**

1. **Increment Height Adjustment** - Adjust the increments for increasing the height of the bar in the vertical jumps as follows:  
Pole Vault – The bar shall be raised 6” at a time until four competitors remain, then 4” at a time until completion.  
High Jump – The bar shall be raised 2” at a time until four competitors remain, then 1” at a time until completion.  
**Rationale:** The best jumpers are tiring more quickly by having to take so many extra jumps by going to 1” increments too early. The change benefits the jumpers by reducing the number of jumps performed and may shorten the competition time for the event. Although jumpers have the option to pass a height, they often go ahead and jump for fear of missing out on placement.
2. **Triple Jump Takeoff Marks** – Define the marking for triple jump takeoffs as 24’, 28’, 32’ 36’ and 40’. **Rationale:** Adds a mark at 28’ to make all increments 4’ apart. Better accommodates needs of a variety of jumpers. It is important that jumpers land in the pit. An actual board is not required but a line could be use for the additional marks. The rules book provides for additional distances to be used but does not specify. This would guide meet administrators in preferred distances.
3. **Add Triple Jump Qualifying Standards** – Add the triple jump to the table of qualifying standards by computing the second place finishers’ performances for the three years the event has been in the state meet. **Rationale:** As a startup event the 2<sup>nd</sup> place performances would be more realistic to begin with. Three years should be sufficient to start as all three years have been good weather years.
4. **Tie-Breakers for Meet of Champs Qualifying and List of Alternates** – Qualifying for Meet of Champs in each event shall be the winner of each state meet and the best second place performance (now that there are seven classes). Alternates shall be listed according to next best performances with ties being broken by (1) placement; (2) classification; and (3) coin toss, in this order.
5. **Sequence of Field Events in the Meet of Champs** – Revise the sequence of field events in the Meet of Champs to be the same as in a regular track meet. **Rationale:** To use the order that the athletes are accustomed to in competition throughout the season and the state meet.
6. **Requirement for Use of Hy-Tek Computer Scoring Program to Produce Results for Certified Meets as well as Conference/District Meets** – We already require FAT for all certified meets and we require FAT and Hy-Tek results for all conference/district meets. Requiring that Hy-Tek results be submitted from certified meets will further encourage the use of this valuable program. If the program cannot be used to score the meet in progress, results could be entered after the meet to submit to the AAA; however the meet participants would lose the advantage of knowing the team score upon the completion of scoring each event. Conferences are still being urged to take advantage of the discount for purchasing the program due to its adoption as the official scoring program, with the cost being shared by conference members as well as other schools who use the track.
7. **Starting Protocol for Meet of Champs** – Amend the starting protocol for the Meet of Champs - ONLY - to allow one false start that is charged to the field with no runner being disqualified. Any subsequent false start will result in the athlete(s) being disqualified. **Rationale:** This favors the athletes without encouraging a false start and attempts to keep the athletes in the race with the

hope of awarding all eight place medals. (MOC would be treated comparably to our All-Star games in this slight modification. Example: Playing three periods in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the All-Star basketball game.)

8. **3200 m Relay Started in Alleys** – Add the 3200 m Relay to the races that start in alleys (currently 800 m, 1600 m and 3200 m runs). **Rationale:** Puts every lead-off runner on the starting line instead of having to stack runners in lanes.
  
9. **Computing Qualifying Standards for New Classifications-** Data to be used to compute the new qualifying standards will be taken from previous results as follows:
  - 7A and 6A - based on previous AAAAA results
  - 5A – based on previous AAAA results
  - 4A – based on previous AAA results
  - 3A – average of new 2A and 4A performances
  - 2A – based on previous AA results
  - 1A – based on previous A results**Rationale:** This most closely approximates the previous classes of the schools.
  
10. **Establishing State Records for New Classes** – To best post state records appropriate to the schools:
  - 7A and 6A –Use old AAAAA records; both the same until broken in the new class
  - 5A – Use old AAAA records
  - 4A – Use old AAA records
  - 3A – Establish all new state records
  - 2A – Use old AA records
  - 1A – Use old A state records**Rationale:** This most closely approximates the previous records for the schools, except that Class 3A is a completely new class and should have the opportunity to establish their own state records.
  
11. **Submitting Conference Results and Qualifiers to the State Meet Site** – Mandate (we already *require*) electronic submission of advancers and results from conference/district to state.  
**Rationale:** The Track and Field handbook already requires that all conference/district meets shall use FAT and Hy-Tek computer scoring and that the results and qualifiers be submitted electronically to the state meet computer scorer. Quite a few did not do so last spring, causing a problem with setting up the state meets being delayed significantly and placing a hardship on meet directors and scorers. It was sometime difficult to tell whether times had been converted and often difficult to read hand-written, faxed results.

By not waiting until the last minute to make plans, conferences or sites that host track meets would be able to incorporate the Hy-Tek scoring by purchasing the software and identifying an interested person with some computer skills to operate it, or hiring a person who operates the program for their own school. With conference members and/or schools who use the track and scoring service sharing the cost, the cost can be kept affordably low. This is very do-able, as workshops are available to teach the use of the scoring program.

**Establish Acceptable Alternatives for Failure to Meet Above Requirement** – It is recommended that a \$100 fee be set for conferences/districts still not sending advancers and results electronically be paid to the state meet computer scoring operator. This would approximate in about two years the amount for a conference to purchase its own program. This fee would compensate the additional work and time involved in entering all the data to incorporate the athletes into the state meet database prior to seeding the events and, it is hoped, would encourage conferences to use computer scoring as their primary system.

A conference/district that did not score electronically and did not wish to pay this fee would be encouraged to obtain its own data entry person to enter the meet in the Hy-Tek program after the

fact and submit electronically to the state site. However, the requirement to submit at least 48 hours prior to 8:00 a.m. of state meet day must still be met.

For questions or further explanation, contact Kathy Tadlock at 501-955-2500, or [kathy@ahsaa.k12.ar.us](mailto:kathy@ahsaa.k12.ar.us).