

You Are The Referee

2026 OTFCCOA Clinic

Presented by
John Daubenspeck
and Jim Fox

Greater Youngstown
Track Officials Association

Disclaimers

- Referee's rulings, when available, are provided for context, not necessarily indicating that they are right or wrong.
- All rule book references are for the 2026 rule book and case book, as well as the OHSAA manual.

Situation 1

- The shot put official is instructed by meet management to have the throwers throw 2+2, and only measure the better of each set of 2 throws to save time.

Situation 1

Referee's Decision

- Decision: Inappropriate procedure
- Rule reference: Rule 6-2, 6-4; 3-2-4e, 3-10-6.
- 3-10-6: "...responsible for the judging and measuring of each legal trial of a competitor in all field events."

Situation 2

- A long jumper takes his first attempt wearing GoPro type camera during the attempt.

Situation 2

Referee's Decision

- Ruling: illegal, athlete is disqualified from event
- Rule Reference: Rule 4-6-6-c, OHSAA manual page 26

Situation 3a

- An athlete in the shot put takes a warm up throw overhead, facing backwards with her toes on the toe board.

Situation 3b

- An athlete in the shot put takes a warm up throw overhead, facing backwards, from within the ring.

Situation 3 and b

Referee's Decision

- Ruling: illegal in situation A, athlete to be issued a warning. Referee rules illegal in B.
- Rule reference: Rule 6-4; Case book situation 6.9.2 (Situation A)
- Situation B: Rule 3-4-4, referee has discretion to rule on issues of safety, as well as other irregularities not covered in the rules.

Situation 4

- You receive a phone call from the district meet manager 1 week before the district meet, telling you that a visiting coach has told him that the 110 m hurdle marks on the track are incorrect.
- After measuring the track markings, the meet manager informs you that they are in fact incorrect

Situation 4

Referee's Decision

- Decision: Markings were re-measured in the presence of the referee and corrected several days before the meet began
- Rule reference: Rule 5-5

Situation 5

- In the district track meet discuss competition, the fifth place athlete does not report for the finals. After the ninth place athlete takes her first attempt in the finals, the meet is delayed due to a storm with the competition set to resume on day 2. When competition resumes, the fifth place athlete asks to be allowed to compete.

Situation 5

Referee's Decision

- Decision: The athlete was not allowed to compete
- Rule reference: 4-1-3, 6-2-1

Situation 6

- At the district track meet, in the 100 meter dash, after an apparent false start the false start device fails to sound and all athletes complete the race. The starter reports this situation to the referee.

Situation 6

Referee's Decision

- Decision: Athlete is disqualified.
- Rule reference: 5-7-4: “Penalty: A competitor who commits a false start shall be disqualified.”

Situation 7

- At the regional track meet, Team A is disqualified for a false start. The coach appeals to referee claiming to have a video showing his 4x100 team's blocks slipped, and no recall gun was fired. The coach files a written appeal citing the appropriate rule for unfair starts.

Situation 7

Referee's Decision

- Decision: Appeal is denied.
- Rule reference: 3-2-7 (use of video), 3-6-1 (authority of the starter)

Situation 8

- Coach of Team A appeals an interference call, claims other girl “had time to go around” the athlete from Team A.

Situation 8

Referee's Decision

- Decision: appeal denied
- Rule reference: 4-6-5a (Interference)

Situation 9

- Team A shows up at the starting line of a cross country meet to check in wearing cutoff overalls as their team uniform. Some athletes have T-shirts underneath and some do not.



Situation 9

Referee's Decision

- Decision: School approved uniform, so legal
- Rule reference: Rule 4-3, OHSAA Manual pp. 22-24
- Case book: 3.2.4 Situation D (page 11) – refers to headgear, comment indicates that "...the wearing of apparel that is demeaning to the sport should not be approved." "This would apply to any item worn in excess of the school issued uniform."

This PowerPoint will be available as a pdf at:

<https://www.gytoa.com>

It will be available Saturday evening, and 2 versions will be posted – 1 with referee's decisions and one without.

If you encounter unusual situation situations that might be worth discussing at next year's clinic, please forward them to:

Jim Fox at jimfox44@gmail.com

John Daubenspeck at jdaubenspeck@gytoa.com