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The Equipment and Facilities Specifications Newsletter

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WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS

This Newsletter starts its sixteenth year as a semi annually educational tool for Weights and Measures, Technical Managers, interested Throws Officials, and certification chairs, Input and suggests are always welcome. Welcome to our new subscribers since the fall newsletter.

Last Name	First Name	Association
Addington	Bobby	North Carolina
Baldwin	Darrell	West Texas
Baptista	Christopher	Oklahoma
Blackburn	Susan	Southwestern
Borquaye	Samuel	Oklahoma
Carroll	Sandra	Adirondack
Carter	Lindon	Georgia
Clinkerbeard	Michael	Pacific
Colbert	Christopher	Potomac Valley
Couch	Jeff	Oklahoma
Erickson	Michael	Snake River
Fortson	Detra	Southwestern
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Juola.	Robert	Snake River
Jupiter	Alex	Potomac Valley
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Long	Bruce	Three Rivers
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Ott	William	Long Island

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Last Name	First Name	Association
Overling	Brian	Oklahoma
Payne	Phillip	Oklahoma
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Serota	Richard	Florida
Spatz	John	Snake River
Swanson	Adrian	Indiana
Tarkowski	Robert	Gulf
Temple	Ellis	Missouri Valley
Valentas	Chris	Oklahoma
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Wedel	John	Border
Young	Lynn	Southwestern

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD BENEFIT BY GETTING THIS INFORMATION, PLEASE SEND HIS OR HER ADDRESS or E-MAIL ADDRESS TO THE EDITOR. LIKEWISE, IF YOU ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN BEING ON OUR MAILING LIST, ALSO LET ME KNOW. FOR FASTER DELIVERY AND FOR UPDATES IN BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS SEND ME YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU'RE GETTING THIS BY MAIL, I DON'T HAVE YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS.

E&FS's ANNUAL CONVENTION MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair George Kleeman at 2:00 PM. Everybody introduced themselves and stated their interest in the National Officials subcommittee of Equipment and Facilities Specifications. The minutes of the 2004 meeting were approved. The agenda was reviewed and George added, under new business, weights and measures officials for national meets.

OLD BUSINESS

The status of wind gauge stability is still being looked into, nobody can find a left and right handed tape measure, and the data base for failed implements is not being used because not too many have been found recently.

Shirley Crowe discussed the need for certified, surveyed tracks. The Youth Committee could use these. If a track is being built, resurfaced, or painted make sure it is surveyed by a qualified inspector.

Tony Wayne reported that he has found fewer failures for weights and measures this year. One problem he did find was with a bright orange, rubberized shot that does not keep its' shape. If dropped it flattens out.

There was a discussion about a shot that is stamped too deep with it's' weight. If it is too deep so it truly gives a hand hold, then impound it, otherwise it is OK.

Jim Skelly reported that at the Outdoor Championship there were few failures.

Hammer handles for 2006---the definition has gone back to the 2001 dimensions. Check the handle carefully for safety. Note the NCAA has not included the 800 kgf spec in their definition but if handles are badly damaged you can disallow them based on safety, i.e. there is a good chance they might break. Note there are two handle dimensions which should be checked for USATF and IAAF. There are no dimensions specified by NCAA since they removed the drawing.

Two newsletters were sent out to all officials that certified for weights and measures and/or requested them. About 750 were sent in January and about 550 in September.

NEW BUSINESS

Rules: George reviewed all the rules that affect this subcommittee. The rules discussed were the weight made with tungsten, the width of the lanes, hurdle heights, plasticine, horizontal jump pit depth, distance lines in pole vault from the stop line in NCAA, the hammer touching the ground when initiating the throw, and a rubber discus can not be used except in high school meets. It doesn't pass specifications consistently.

Denise Hutchins of the Disabled Athletes Committee reported that they are no longer going to use [double bend](#) tracks for wheelchair competition because of problems with chair guidance around the double bend. Officials are needed for disabled competitions.

Please apply to become a weights and measures official for National meets. There is a need for officials in this area.

Officials can learn by doing with an official that has had years of experience.

GOALS FOR 2006

There is a need to have tracks surveyed. Send the specifications to Shirley or George. George needs more ideas to send out two new newsletters. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Submitted by Win Eggers, Secretary

THE TRAINING CENTER

This is a regular feature of this newsletter, where we discuss the method of measuring an implement, venue or a track facility. Your comments or areas of interest are welcome. It is through this kind of dialogue that we learn from each other and improve our skills. Send the editor your stories and questions.

With the accidents that have occurred last summer and already this fall, it is clear that there needs to be more emphasis on safety. Obviously as we get older, or are distracted we are more liable to get injured. Safety is a personal commitment and requires each of us to look at our own activities and remember to be attentive and aware of our surroundings when we are officiating. Be safe in 2006.

The WMA Stadia committee is working on specifications for the indoor weight implement which should be approved this spring. They will be similar to those we use in the US. Likewise they approved the use of the 0.75kg discus for the older women's age groups. Current manufacturing specifications are being collected before they set their specifications.

The NCAA has made two clarifications of their hammer rules: The first is a change in the set up of the hammer cage for NCAA events. Note the closed door should be closed only so it touches the line rather than moved into the sector as with USATF or IAAF settings. The open door remains parallel to the sector line and/or 2.85 m off the line. (Rule 1-10-1 Note 1.)

Bob Podkaminer, as secretary for the NCAA Rules Committee, passed along the following comments from the committee on the change. "Regarding the diagram and Note 1 in Rule 1-10-1 and the Note in Rule 10-8-1 about the

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positioning of the gates on the cage for the Hammer and/or Weight, is it required that the gate on the closed side not encroach into the sector? The committee recognizes that no two cages are exactly the same in design, and that the primary purpose of any cage is the overall safety of the competitors, officials and spectators. The change from the Note in 2005 was prompted by gates that were encroaching too far into the sector, due to cage design, and thereby hindering the throw. Furthermore, a Note is not a Rule, but a strong guideline regarding the desires of the Committee which is to be followed wherever possible. A cage design which had a slight encroachment of the gate into the sector would be permitted since it does not violate the intent nor compromise the throwing situation for the competitor."

The second had to do with the requirements of a legal hammer throw.

6-11.1 LEGAL HAMMER THROW (2006): Must a competitor start from a stationary position in the hammer?
RESPONSE: Yes. The provisions of 2005 Rule 6-1-14 were distributed to each of the rules for events contested from a circle. Since the hammer rule already contained statements regarding the start from a stationary position, an additional sentence was not added. The Committee interprets 'start again from a stationary position', in Rule 6-11.1, and 'return to a stationary position', in Rule 6-11.3, to mean that starting from a stationary position was used at the prior time. There was no rule change concerning the method of throwing implements from a circle. (18Jan06)

Note the NCAA, IAAF and USATF rulebooks all have modified their hammer handle rules from last year. Hammer handles in USATF and IAAF have an inside width specification of 130mm and a height from the bottom of the handle to the bottom inside of the loop of 110 mm. The configuration of the handle has not changed and now conforms to the same rule as existed in 2001 before the changes were introduced. The main difference is that there is a breaking strength specification now for USATF and IAAF handles while there is no such spec for NCAA. You can't measure it and I still don't know the plan for indicating that new handles conform to the new IAAF specs. I will spread the word as soon as I have anything definitive.

Other recent NCAA Interpretations: Note for the coming season if a 20 lb weight or 35 lb weight meets those weight requirements, which are slight under the current metric rulebooks specs, please pass the implement if there are no other specification problems. Note: 20 lbs is actually 9.071 kg and 35 lbs is 15.876 kg. Some manufactures are using the lb rather than the metric equivalent.

10-9.4 Indoor Weight (2006): Is an implement for the Women's Weight which weighs 20 pounds legal?
RESPONSE: Yes. Rule Books prior to 2006 listed 9.080kg and 20 pounds as equivalent measures. There was no intent to change this with the 2006 Rules Book, but to promote the use of metric as a primary standard of

measure. It was assumed that the conversion was correct and that the 20 pound implement would be legal when weighed metrically. The following is now posted on the NCAA casebook site.

Unlike the shot, the weight is not an IAAF event, therefore a migration to full metric specifications has been slower. The 16 pound shot is 7.2574784kg but there is not a single rule book that lists the specification other than 7.260kg even though this is not a highly accurate conversion. Manufacturers have accepted and produce implements which meet the 7.260kg specification.

The conversion for 20 pounds is 9.071848kg. The conversion for 35 pounds is 15.875734kg. Since only the most expensive scales have a tolerance that allows accurate measurement to the .001kg, (1 gm) it is unlikely that a true measurement can be obtained with instruments at track meets. It seems only reasonable that the tolerance of the measuring equipment be factored into the decisions made by officials in determining the legality of implements. The intent of each written rule has been to ensure that the minimum weights were attained, therefore 7.260kg for the 16-pound shot, 15.880kg for the 35-pound weight, and 9.080 for the 20-pound weight did achieve the minimum, but did not reflect the true minimum.

Shot Wrist Wrap: My question is about a Velcro device that attached to the wrist, which the palm side ends at the wrist, while the back of the hand side extends past the hand wrist line an inch to an inch and a half. When the shot is placed in the hand and the hand is bent back this device gives aid in not letting the hand bend too far back. My question is "Is this device legal." -----

The wrist wrap can be viewed at <http://www.dickssportinggoods.com/sm-tandem-skids-volleyball-wrist-wrap-support--pi-1893895.html>

The NCAA Rules Subcommittee has reviewed the wrist support wrap known as the Tandem SKIDS Wrist Wrap and determined that the device does more than replace tape, which would be allowed for support on the wrist. It actually provides aid to the competitor in achieving the proper form of throwing the shot. The device may be useful as a training device, but is deemed an illegal device under Rule 6-8.3e since it goes beyond the effect of just using tape on the wrist.

APPROVED RULE CHANGES



This was not a Rules Change year for USATF but there were a number of items passed based on IAAF rule changes in Helsinki. These were discussed last newsletter so I won't repeat all of them again. I will however, highlight the most significant ones and those changed or rejected at the convention. All of the rule changes for all of the rulebooks are available

either on their web sites or on <http://www.usatfofficials.com/rules.html>.

NCAA Rule 1-1-2 for outside track curbing: If a section of the curb must be temporarily removed for any reason, its place shall be marked by a white line 5 centimeters in width and cones at least 15 centimeters in height. The cones shall be placed on the track so that the outward face of the cone coincides with the edge of the white line closest to the track. The cones shall be placed at distances not exceeding 4 meters. This is consistent with USATF and IAAF rules although the height of the cone is different.

NCAA Rule 10-2-3 for indoors track curbing: Where the inside edge of the track is bordered by a white line, it shall be marked additionally with cones. The cones shall be at least 15 centimeters high. Cones shall be placed on the track so that the outward face of the cone coincides with the edge of the white line closest to the track when the track is surveyed based on the existence of a curb. This is again consistent with the IAAF and USATF rule other than the cone height. In the case that there is no curb and the track has thus been measured that way, cones shall be placed on the infield adjacent to the line. The cones shall be placed at distances not exceeding 2 meters on the curves and 10 meters on the straightaway. This is in contrast to USATF and IAAF as to location. Note cones should not extend into the first lane in any case.

EQUIPMENT CORNER

If you have any information on equipment that you have purchased or built to help with your weight and measure activities, please pass along the information. One of our goals is to disseminate that kind of information.

I would be interested in knowing what equipment you use at your various schools. Last time I requested this information I got very little response. Send me a note so I can publish it next time. How many have their devices that they use? How many use Gill, Trackmaster™ (Original Red Meade, Balko or Daktronics) or some other equipment? Email me at georgeklee@aol.com. I periodically get request for purchasing part or a used Trackmaster so let me know if you are aware of any.

There are several hand held Laser out there that can now be used to measure and or verify record throws. If you are using one make sure to verify its reading by checking it versus a known certified distance such as the 100m on the track. They are particularly good for the vertical jumps and slightly more difficult to use for the throws. They are quite accurate if used correctly.

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CERTIFICATION

How do I become certified Weights and Measures Official, a Technical Manager or become recertified if I have let my membership lapse? Currently USATF is the only organization having a national training and certification program for Track and Field officials (particularly in the area of Weights and Measures Officials or Technical Managers). You can become an USA Track & Field official by contacting your local association. To find out whom to contact, send the editor a note and he will send you the appropriate address. If you have Internet access, you can look at the Association's Web page, which is part of the USATF Website. It can be found at <http://www.usatf.org/about/associations.htm>. The Certification Chairs are also listed in the Officials' section of the web site. They are also on the officials' web page at www.usatfofficials.com under the Certification Chair, Jim Flanik. In addition to the paper work that your local association requires to become a certified official, your local Officials Chair can send you the Weights and Measures open book exam. This exam is intended to test you on your knowledge of W&M techniques and specifications so that you can be certified in this specialty. It covers all of the rulebooks. See the next article on the handbook. If you would like to have a clinic let the editor know. He can try to get some nearby clinicians to help out. You are required to be recertified for this Olympiad which began after the Athens Games in October 2004. There is currently no test for becoming a Technical Manager. However, both specialties do have monographs which explain their duties. If you're interested in the Technical Manager's specialty contact George Kleeman for more details.

UPDATED W&M HANDBOOK FOR 2006

An updated version of W&M Handbook (29 pg.) with all the changes for 2006 is now available and can be downloaded at no cost from the USATF Officials website at <http://www.usatfofficials.com/training/Monograph->

[WeightsandMeasures\(2006\).pdf](#). For you throwing officials the Throwing Manual has also been updated and can be found at the same location.