



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union

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Iowa High School Athletic Association

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April 25, 2012

Dear Track and Field Coaches and Officials,

This will probably be our last correspondence before the state qualifying meets on Thursday, May 10. Here are a few items that need some reminders.

State Qualifying Meet Entries - We will be mailing the entry information to our schools on Friday, April 27. The links to the entries will be active and available on Monday at 8:00 am. A copy of the letter will be posted online, but the letter received in the mail will have the boys' and girls' username and password. Entries will close on Tuesday, May 8 at 10:00 am. Make sure you meet the entry deadline.

Iowa QuikStats - We had a check date for Iowa QuikStats entries on Monday, April 23 and will have the final check date on Monday, May 7. Coaches, it is very important that you have all of your performances entered by the Monday, May 7 date. We and our state qualifying meet managers will be using the performances posted to verify your state qualifying meet entries. Failure to have a performance posted will not eliminate the contestant but it will cause them to get the poorest seed regardless of the quality of the performance.

High Jump - There seems to be some difficulty in the breaking of ties for the high jump. This is well explained in Rule 7-17. The first tie breaking criteria is the fewest number of trials at the height where the tie occurs, i.e. the last height successfully cleared. If the tie still exists, the second criteria is the fewest total number of unsuccessful trials throughout the competition, up to and including the height last cleared. If the winner has not been determined there is a jump off only if the tie is for first place. Each competitor is given one additional attempt at the lowest height last cleared by anyone in the jump off. After that, the bar goes up and down one inch, with each competitor getting one attempt until the winner is determined. Two officials should review the event sheet to make the decision on places and a possible jump off. It is very easy to misread an event sheet and a second look will eliminate most errors.

Electronic Devices - A local television station in Des Moines ran a very interesting and informative story about the use of electronic devices, particularly the iPad, in training for track and field. The story also pointed out the use of such devices during competition is illegal. Make sure you as coaches and officials are familiar with Rule 4-7-g. As coaches, you also need to make certain that your students know and understand the rule as parents may attempt to share information with students during competition. The 4-7-g states: **“It is an unfair act when a competitor receives any assistance from any other person. Assistance includes: g. A competitor views a videotape or any other visual reproduction of the competitor’s performance prior to the completion of the competition.”** The penalty for violating this rule is disqualification. Coaches and officials make certain that competing athletes do not view still pictures or video of their performance until the competition ends. Officials, if you observe a competitor going to the stands to look at cell phone pictures, tablet pictures or videos or video recorder you can do some preventative officiating but the competitor needs to understand that disqualification is a possibility. The rules will probably evolve to catch up with the constantly changing electronic environment, but we need to understand and enforce the rule that is in place.

Shuttle Hurdle Relays - There seems to be some misunderstanding by both coaches and officials regarding the break line in the shuttle hurdle relay. Let's just review the entire shuttle scenario. First of all, the outgoing run must be motionless at the time the incoming running breaks the plane of the break line. They don't have to come to a set position, but whether they do or not, they must be motionless for a period of time. The break line is a plane. Not that any of us have the perceptual ability to differentiate a two inch difference, however, the plane is the edge of the line closest to the approaching runner. The outgoing competitor may leave as soon as the incoming runner's torso breaks the plane of the break line. This is not an easy call to make since the outgoing runner is one meter, two inches behind the plane of the break line. You use common sense and visual perception to coordinate the breaking of the plane with the first movement observed.

Wheelchair Events – We have four wheelchair events, the 100, 200 and 400 meter dashes and the shot put. To the best of our knowledge, there are five male competitors and two female competitors. Please remember that wheelchair athletes are to compete in their own sections in running events. We understand the concern about students competing by themselves, however, there has to be consideration for the safety of all competitors involved in the race. The wheelchair events are just that, separate events and they should be conducted accordingly.

Junior High - We still have some confusion about the junior high shuttle hurdle relay. There is only one shuttle hurdle race at the junior high level. Both junior high boys and junior high girls have the same event. Both the shuttle relay races, boys and girls, run the same shuttle hurdle race run by the high school girls.

State Meet Officials – We mentioned this in our last letter, but wanted to mention it again. The state meet will be May 17-19 and will be held at Drake Stadium in Des Moines. Being a state meet official does not require a registration with either the IHSAA or IGHS AU. If you know of qualified people who work your regular season meets, and may be interested in helping at the state meet, have them contact David Anderson (danderson@iahsaa.org) at the IHSAA. We will finalize our state meet assignments and mail information to our officials following the Drake Relays.

An important time of the season is just ahead of us. This is a time when coaches and officials need make certain we are making the best decisions possible for our students.

Sincerely,



John Overton
Assistant Director



David Anderson
Assistant Executive Director