

Rulings from Tom McTaggart, NYS HS Track Rules Interpreter

From: coachh101@aol.com

Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 2:16 PM

To: Tom McTaggart

Subject: long and triple jump question

My question is I was told of the rule change this year that an official was allowed to change the jumping order of a championship meet to allow an athlete to go and compete in another event. If that is true then my question is: Is an athlete allowed to take 3 consecutive jumps at the beginning of the event or take 3 consecutive jumps at the end of the event ?

The scenario goes a girl gets to take 3 triple jumps in a row at the beginning of the event so she can get to the racewalk which is the first event on the track. Since the racewalk is about 10 minutes long, the official lets her take 3 jumps in a row. She doesn't get times out between her jumps. The official then begins the rest of the triple jump. Problem that this creates is that other kids in the triple jump who are doing the relays right after the walk now get jammed up a little.

Is a jumper allowed to take 3 jumps in a row in a championship meet?

Is that jumper allowed to take 3 jumps in a row at the end of the event?

If a jumper is not back within the 10 min time span are they scratched for that jump or the event?

Thank you for clarifying this rule for me

Stephen Honerkamp - Hewlett-HS

Bob,

I will answer these three questions in succession. The rule reference for all of these is Rule 7-2-6, applying to jumping events. It is found on page 50 of the NFHS rulebook.

Re. Question 1 - The rule clearly states that competitors may take more than one trial in succession unless weather or other conditions might result in unfairness to any competitor and then the referee would step in to alter the situation.

The intent of the rule is to allow the field event judge flexibility to assist the athlete requesting being excused the opportunity to get all their jumps and still be able to compete in their other simultaneous event. If the best way is to take three jumps in succession, then that is clearly permissible. Most event judges try to have someone else "sandwiched" into the rotation, but if time restraints appear to require three consecutive jumps, then it may be done. ***This may be done in the preliminary round or the final.***

Note that a preliminary round jump **MUST** be made to qualify for the final round! Once an athlete has one fair jump recorded, they could either pass their remaining attempts in the preliminary or take jumps in succession if need be. Another thing to consider is that Rule 7-2-2 states, "The time at which the preliminaries in each horizontal jumping event

shall terminate should be set by the games committee. Any competitor who does not complete all preliminary attempts within the time specified shall forfeit any remaining preliminary trials." ***So, if the athlete is being excused during the preliminary rounds, it is most important to find out if there is a prescribed termination time for the preliminaries.***

Re. Question 2 - Yes, it would be permissible (but only if absolutely necessary) for the competitor to take three jumps in succession at the end of the competition as well (finals). ***However, the athlete with the best performance going into the last jump must be advised that this athlete is going to take successive jumps after they return from being excused. The athlete with the best performance is always entitled to jump last in the competition, so they must be advised.*** The athlete in the lead can waive the right to jump last if they choose, take their last jump and allow the excused athlete to take their three jumps in succession. ***If the athlete in the lead elects to maintain the right to jump last, then the excused athlete would take their three successive jumps, and then the leading athlete would take the last jump.***

Re. Question 3 - Remember that the games committee determines the time limits for competitors excused to compete in another event. It sounds to me in this circumstance that that time limit is 10 minutes.

If the athlete has not returned within that 10 min. requirement, and it is their turn to jump at that point, they will be called "up" by the event judge, and they will have 1 min. to begin to attempt their jump. If they do not do so, that attempt will be marked as a foul. The event judge will then continue calling the remaining rotation as listed. Whenever the excused athlete's name is called in the rotation, they must begin to make an attempt within 1 min. time of being called "up" by the event judge. If they do not, it is a "Time Foul". Once the athlete has been excused they have the obligation to return within that 10 min. time frame to make an attempt. It is their responsibility. If they do not meet that responsibility, they are liable to time fouls in the rounds where their names are called. They are NOT to be considered as "scratching" from the event. They should have fouls recorded only.

If for some unforeseen reason the athlete is being restricted from returning due to circumstances in the competition, that fact could be reported to the referee for a resolution of the conflict. That requires both the coach and the athlete to be on their toes when that is going to happen. Also be aware that you may not always get the solution you want from the Referee!

Event judges have been given this flexibility in the rule change to allow the athletes their best opportunity to compete in multiple events that are simultaneous on the schedule. The athlete still has their obligation to compete in their events according to the rules and the prescriptions of the games committee. Frankly, that can be a difficult task at times and that should be a big consideration when entering events.

I hope this helps,
Tom McTaggart
NYS T&F Rules Interpreter