

Why Would Anyone

In Their Right Mind



©fficiate The Pole Vault?



Pre-Competition

- Know which rules you are using (NFHS, NCAA, USATF, IAAF)
- Know the facility you will be officiating at – bar replacers, standard boards, box pump, clipboards, etc....
- Check with Meet Management – records, where to pickup/take heat sheets, any ties that need to be broken?
- Check pit safety & prep for competition

Prep Pit For Competition

- Check landing area & surrounding area for safety – no exposed concrete, rebar, etc...
- Make sure pit is close enough to box – box collar????
- Check standards – zero standards, standards level, make sure bar will fit on pegs, make sure standards slide, make sure carriers are aligned & square, standard base pads?
- Use tape or similar to mark standard bases on 3 sides
- Prep competition bars
- Raise bungee (provided standards are anchored)
- Mark takeoff steps

Job Assignments For Your Crew

- ◉ Flight Coordinator
- ◉ Recorder
- ◉ Backup Recorder
- ◉ Standard Board Setting
- ◉ Bar Judge
- ◉ Pit Coordinator (aka Pit Boss)
- ◉ Timer
- ◉ Bar Replacer (2)
- ◉ Standard Setter (2)

Flight Coordinator

- ◉ With the Bar Replacers can make or break a competition
- ◉ Check in athletes, get starting heights & standard settings – coordinate with Recorder to get heat sheets prepared before competition starts
- ◉ Be positioned where athletes can hear
- ◉ Announce jumping order at every height
- ◉ Inform Recorder of any passes during competition
- ◉ **Main responsibility is the jumper on the runway**

Timer

- Clock starts when pit is ready – as long as FC has called athlete up
- Raise yellow flag when 15 seconds is left on clock – do not raise as athlete starts approach, rather wait until they cross your line of sight then raise (not required by NFHS)
- Drop yellow flag when time runs out provided athlete has not “started” approach (not required by NFHS)

Standard Board Settings

- ◉ As soon jumper leaves ground, get board set for next jumper
- ◉ Try & verify setting with next jumper
- ◉ Show to pit ASAP so pit can be set for next jumper

Recorder

- Confer with FC at every height change
- When down to a few jumpers – be sure there is no tie for 1st place (or other places, if needed), otherwise the jumpers may leave competition area
- Keep sheets as neat as possible, these will be turned in to Meet Management

Bar Judge

- Sole determiner as to whether it is a make or miss – do not put yourself in a position for a protest
- Needs to watch Timer to determine if Jumper “initiates” approach before time expires
- If bar is brushed by athlete, let bar settle before raising flag – don’t be too quick on the flag
- Pole striking standard & dislodging bar is a fair attempt (athlete – depending on rulebook followed)
- Standard slipping?
- Windy days – windage
- Jumper must keep hands off bar

Pit Coordinator

- Sole determiner if pit is ready for next athlete
- Place cone on runway (or self) when flag is raised by BJ
- Keep eye on pit
- Check bar after it is replaced, correct standard settings for next jumper
- Plant box free of foreign objects
- Visual indicator when pit is ready (remove cone, point to next vaulter, etc...)

Bar Replacers/Standard Setters

- ◉ With FC, can make or break a competition
- ◉ Quicker the bar is replaced & standards set, better the competition will be
- ◉ Helps PC to make sure pit is safe

4 Officials/Helpers

- ◉ Flight Coordinator/Standard Board/Recorder
- ◉ Bar Judge/Pit Boss/Timer
- ◉ 2 Bar Replacers/Standard Setters
- ◉ **no Backup recorder unless BJ/PB/Timer can do it**

5 Officials/Helpers

- ◉ Flight Coordinator/Standard Board/Backup Recorder
- ◉ Recorder
- ◉ Bar Judge/Pit Boss/Timer
- ◉ 2 Bar Replacers/Standard Setters

6 Officials/Helpers

- ◉ Flight Coordinator/Standard Board/Backup Recorder
- ◉ Recorder
- ◉ Bar Judge/Timer
- ◉ Pit Boss
- ◉ 2 Bar Replacers/Standard Setters

7 Officials/Helpers

- ◉ Flight Coordinator/Backup Recorder
- ◉ Standard Board/Backup Recorder
- ◉ Recorder
- ◉ Timer
- ◉ Bar Judge
- ◉ Pit Boss
- ◉ 2 Bar Replacers/Standard Setters

Competition

- “Quiet Pit”
- No coaches in competition area
- Make sure no officials are blocking coaches’ view – would you rather have them right next to you while the competition is going on?
- No electronic devices – safety issue
- Correct uniforms? Jewelry (NFHS)?
- Using correct poles (NFHS)?
- Give instructions to athletes right before competition (CYA)
- If possible, Head PV Official keep themselves free in case of controversy

Post-Competition

- ◉ Head PV Official needs to verify sheets – correct places, heights
- ◉ Cover pit, drop standards, plug in box, remove tape & other markings, wind up tape measure, stack chairs, stack facility equipment neatly
- ◉ Make sure area is neat & tidy when leaving
- ◉ Turn in verified official heat sheets to Meet Management ASAP

Finale

- ◉ Chris Marcellus – cmarcellus@swtfoa.com
- ◉ www.usatf.org – click on “Resources For”-”Officials”-”Best Practices” to find valuable officiating info for every event