

Umpires' Positions

USATF-Pacific v.13 January 2023

Hurdle Infractions:

- Foot or leg below top of hurdle (hooks hurdle) [168.3(a)] [SC 169.4(b)]
- Didn't jump each hurdle (ran around or hand pushed over) [168.3] [SC 169.4]
- Deliberately knocked down hurdle [168.3(b)]
- Didn't stay in lane (interfered {with whom?} or shortened race) [168.3]
- Stepped to one side or the other of water jump or SC hurdle [SC 169.4(a)]

Interference – who did it and who was impacted?

- Jostled, ran across, or obstructed so as to impede another competitor [163.4]

Assistance – who provided it to whom? [144.2]

- Pacing by persons not participating or lapped or about to be lapped [144.3(a)]
- Possession or use by athlete of video, audio, or communication device [144.3(b)]
- Aided by technology or appliance [144.3(c)]
- Personal assistance marker [163.2]

Lane Violations:

USATF: 1 step of either foot on or over inside line [163.5]

NCAA: 2 consecutive steps of any feet

NFHS: 3 consecutive steps of any feet

Cut in before breakline [163.5]

Did not finish in correct lane [163.5]

Didn't run in direct line on final straightaway, unless in path [163.3]

Relay Violations:

Exchanged baton before or after zone [170.17]

Accelerated before zone [170.13]

Incorrect recovery of dropped baton [170.16]

Impeded/did not maintain lane position [170.18]

Assisted outgoing runner by pushing [170.19]

Baton not carried by hand [170.16]

Failure to participate [142.3], except youth [302.2(g)]

Left track voluntarily and returned [163.6(a)]

Unsporting conduct [125.10]

BLANK]

Hurdle Placement and Height Comparison – Outdoor Meets

Organization/Age Group	Distance	Number	Height	To 1 st	Between	Last to Finish	Standard color	Order
MEN								
Junior High	110	10	33"	13.72 m	9.14 m	14.02 m	BLUE	
High School & U20	110	10	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	14.02 m	BLUE	
NCAA, USATF	110	10	42"	13.72 m	9.14 m	14.02 m	BLUE	
Junior High	200	5	30"	50 m	35 m	10 m		
High School	300	8	36"	45 m	35 m	10 m		
NCAA, USATF	400	10	36"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
NCAA, USATF	3000 SC	28 (7 water)	36"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
Boys 11-12	80	8	30"	12 m	7.5 m	15.5 m		#7
Boys 13-14	100	10	33"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m	YELLOW	#5
Boys 15-16/Men 17-18	110	10	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	14.02 m	BLUE	#1,2
Boys 13-14	200	5	30"	20 m	35 m	40 m		
Boys 15-16/Men 17-18	400	10	36"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
Boys 13-14,15-16/Men 17-18	2000 SC	18 (5 water)	36"(30" for 13-14)	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
MASTERS MEN								
25-49	110	10	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	14.02 m		
50-59	100	10	36"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m		
60-69	100	10	33"	12 m	8 m	16 m		
70-79	80	8	30"	12 m	7 m	19 m		
80+	80	8	27"	12 m	7 m	19 m		
25-49	400	10	36"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
50-59	400	10	33"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
60-79	300	7	30"	50 m	35 m	40 m (same locations as 400)		
80+	200	5	27"	20 m	35 m	40 m (same locations as 400)		
25-59	3000 SC	28 (7 water)	36"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
60+	2000 SC	18 (5 water)	30"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	

Organization/Age Group	Distance	Number	Height	To 1 st	Between	Last to Finish	Standard Color	Order
WOMEN								
Junior High	100	10	30"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m		
High School	100	10	33"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m		
NCAA, USATF	100	10	33"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m		
Junior High	200	5	30"	50 m	35 m	10 m		
High School	300	8	30"	45 m	35 m	10 m		
NCAA, USATF	400	10	30"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
NCAA, USATF	3000 SC	28 (7 water)	30"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
Girls 11-12	80	8	30"	12 m	7.5 m	15.5 m		#8
Girls 13-14	100	10	30"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m	YELLOW	#6
Girls 15-16/Women 17-18	100	10	33"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m	YELLOW	#3,4
Girls 13-14	200	5	30"	20 m	35 m	40 m		
Girls 15-16/Women 17-18	400	10	30"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
Girls 13-16/Women 17-18	2000 SC	18 (5 water)	30"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
MASTERS WOMEN								
25-39	100	10	33"	13 m	8.5 m	10.5 m		
40-49	80	8	30"	12 m	8 m	12 m		
50-59	80	8	30"	12 m	7 m	19 m		
60+	80	8	27"	12 m	7 m	19 m		
25-49	400	10	30"	45 m	35 m	40 m		
50-59	300	7	30"	50 m	35 m	40 m (same locations as 400)		
60-69	300	7	27"	50 m	35 m	40 m (same locations as 400)		
70+	200	5	27"	20 m	35 m	40 m (same locations as 400)		
All ages	2000 SC	18 (5 water)	30"	5 jumps/lap after fin. line passed 1 st time; water jump 4 th			BLACK	
[from USATF Best Practices]								

[from USATF Best Practices]

Hurdle Placement and Height Comparison – Indoor Meets

Organization/Age Group	Distance	Number	Height	To 1 st	Between	Last to Finish
MEN						
USATF	50	4	42"	13.72 m	9.14 m	8.86 m
High School	55	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	4.72 m
High School	60	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	9.72 m
NCAA, USATF	55	5	42"	13.72 m	9.14 m	4.72 m
NCAA, USATF	60	5	42"	13.72 m	9.14 m	9.72 m
BOYS YOUTH USATF						
Boys 11-12	50	4	30"	12 m	7.5 m	15.5 m
Boys 11-12	55	5	30"	12 m	7.5 m	13 m
Boys 11-12	60	5	30"	12 m	7.5 m	18 m
Boys 13-14	55	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	8 m
Boys 13-14	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
Boys 15-16/Men 17-18	55	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	4.72 m
Boys 15-16/Men 17-18	60	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	9.72 m
MASTERS MEN						
25-49	60	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	9.72 m
50-59	60	5	36"	13.00 m	8.50 m	13.00 m
60-69	60	5	33"	12.00 m	8.00 m	16.00 m
70-79	60	5	30"	12.00 m	7.00 m	20.00 m
80+	60	5	27"	12.00 m	7.00 m	20.00 m

Hurdle Placement and Height Comparison – Indoor Meets

Organization/Age Group	Distance	Number	Height	To 1 st	Between	Last to Finish
WOMEN						
USATF	50	4	33"	13 m	8.5 m	11.5 m
High School	55	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	8 m
High School	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
NCAA, USATF	55	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	8 m
NCAA, USATF	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
GIRLS YOUTH USATF						
Girls 11-12	50	4	30"	12 m	7.5 m	15.5 m
Girls 11-12	55	5	30"	12 m	7.5 m	13 m
Girls 11-12	60	5	30"	12 m	7.5 m	18 m
Girls 13-14	55	5	30"	13 m	8.5 m	8 m
Girls 13-14	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
Girls 15-16/Women 17-18	55	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	8 m
Girls 15-16/Women 17-18	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
MASTERS WOMEN						
25-39	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
40-49	60	5	30"	12 m	8 m	16 m
50-59	60	5	30"	12 m	7 m	20 m
60+	60	5	27"	12 m	7 m	20 m

Hurdle Placement and Height Comparison – Indoor Meets

Organization/Age Group	Distance	Number	Height	To 1 st	Between	Last to Finish
------------------------	----------	--------	--------	--------------------	---------	----------------

MASTERS MEN

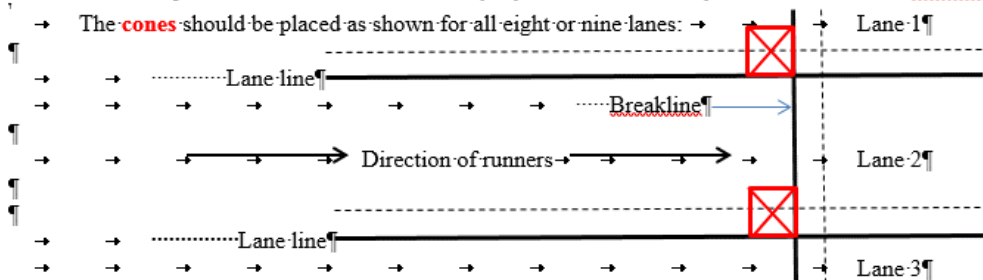
25-49	60	5	39"	13.72 m	9.14 m	9.72 m
50-59	60	5	36"	13.00 m	8.50 m	13.00 m
60-69	60	5	33"	12.00 m	8.00 m	16.00 m
70-79	60	5	30"	12.00 m	7.00 m	20.00 m
80+	60	5	27"	12.00 m	7.00 m	20.00 m

MASTERS WOMEN

25-39	60	5	33"	13 m	8.5 m	13 m
40-49	60	5	30"	12 m	8 m	16 m
50-59	60	5	30"	12 m	7 m	20 m
60+	60	5	27"	12 m	7 m	20 m

Placements of Cones at the Breakline and for Alley Starts

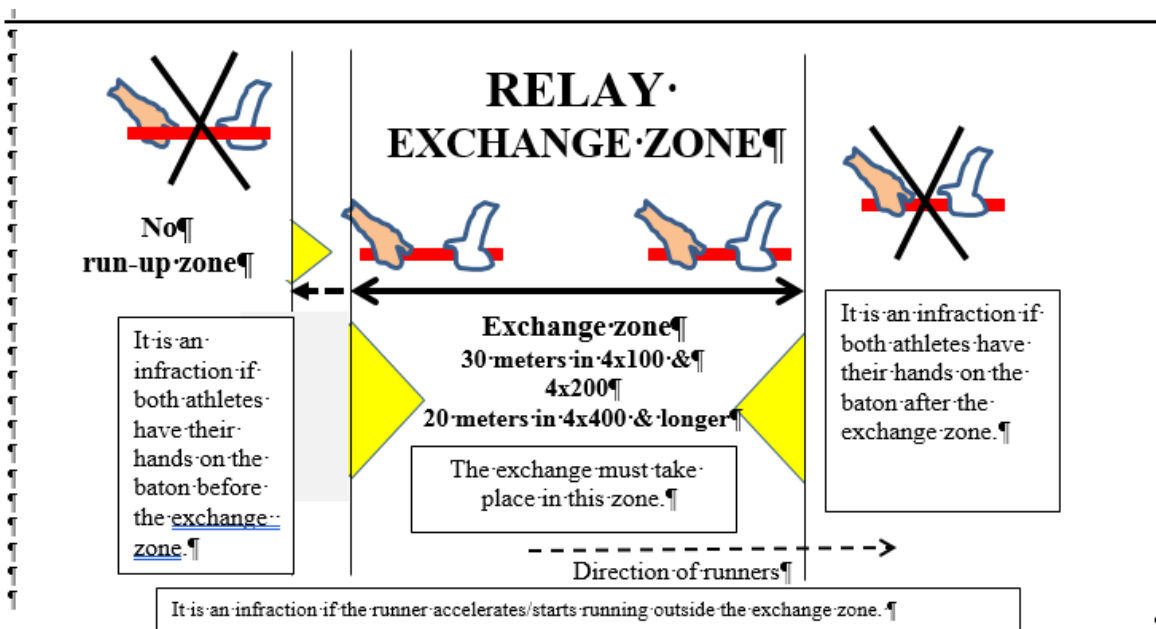
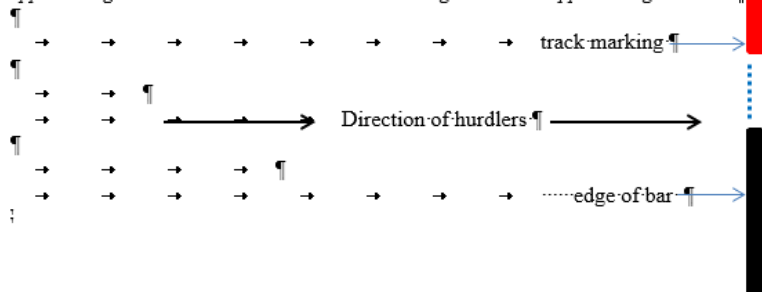
Breakline or cut-in points (used at end of the first turn in the 800-m run; and only the second runner in the 4x400-m relay). Small orange or red cones are placed such that if the athlete hits the cone, he/she has crossed the line before the breakline or into the lane to the left and violated the rules. — Rule 160.8(c): “... Small markers, such as cones or prisms 5 cm x 5 cm and no more than 15 cm high, preferably of a different color from the breakline and lane lines, shall be placed on the lane lines immediately before the intersection of the lane lines and the breakline.”



Alley Start (generally for 1,500-m and longer runs with a large number of competitors). Cones are placed on the Lane 4/5 line (so that the runners starting in the outside lanes don't hit the cone) from the start to the breakline at the end of the first turn. — Rule 162.18: “In races that do not start in lanes, competitors may be divided into two groups with one group of approximately 65 percent of the competitors on the regular arced starting line and the other group on a separate arced starting line marked across the outer half of the track. The outer group shall run as far as the end of the first turn on the outer half of the track.” — Rule 160.9: “The separate arced starting line referred to in Rule 162.18 shall be marked in such a way that all of the competitors shall run the same distance. Also, an arced breakline shall be marked at the beginning of the following straight to indicate to the athletes of the outer group where they are permitted to join the competitors using the regular starting line. Small markers, as in Rule 160.8(c), shall be placed at intervals not exceeding 4 m along the inside lane boundary of the outer group from their start to the break line.”

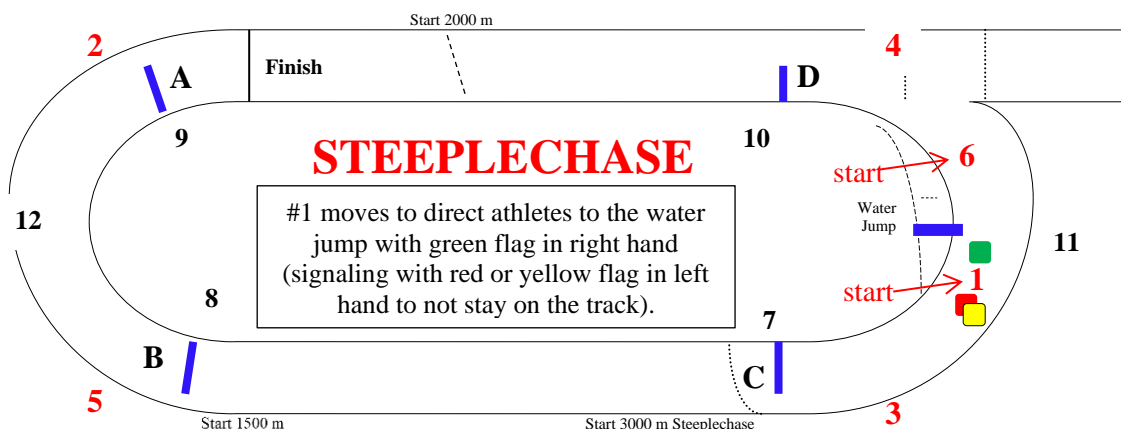
Placements of Hurdles Relative to Track Markings

Hurdle Placement — Rule 168.9: “The hurdles shall be so placed on the track that the feet of the hurdles shall be on the side of the approach by the competitor. The hurdle shall be so placed that the edge of the bar nearest the approaching hurdler coincides with the track marking nearest the approaching hurdler.”



With water jump opposite the finish line, the 3000-meter has hurdles C & D removed at the start then put in place after the athletes pass; A = first (longest) hurdle; no water jump on the first pass.

The 2000-meter has A & B removed at start; C = first (longest) hurdle; water jump every lap.



USATF Rule 161.2. The 3000 Meter Steeplechase shall have 28 hurdle jumps and 7 water jumps. The 2000 Meter Steeplechase shall have 18 hurdle jumps and 5 water jumps. The 1500 Meter Steeplechase shall have 13 hurdles and 3 water jumps. There shall be five jumps per lap after the finish line has been passed for the first time. The water jump shall be the fourth if that is feasible. The jumps should be evenly distributed, i.e., the distance between the jumps shall be approximately one-fifth of the nominal length of the lap. Because of differences in track design and water jump placement, all steeplechase courses must be individually measured. Generally, only the start line will need to be adjusted. A diagram showing a typical configuration of the barriers on a 400m track with an interior water jump is shown in the figure above.

The first two hurdles are removed at the start. In the 2000-meter steeplechase, the water jump is made on each of the five laps. In the 3000-meter steeplechase, the first 200+/- meters (>200m when the water jump is on the inside of the track; <200m when the water jump is on the outside of the track) of the race has no hurdles and no water jump; the other seven full laps each have all four hurdles and the water.

In the 2000-meter, the water jump is the second obstacle. In the 3000-meter, the water jump is the fourth obstacle.

If the water jump is near the regular finish line (near Umpire 12 on the diagram above), establish a new finish line at or near the start line for the 200-meter race in Lane 1, and establish the start lines for the 2000-meter and 3000-meter steeplechase races accordingly.



Rule of the Month

By Dick Boyd,
NOC Committee Chair for Rules

Lane Infringement Changes

It is interesting to note in the latest European Athletics Officials Newsletter that 34 years ago a proposal was made to IAAF concerning touching the lane line on the curve. It has taken until 2021 to agree upon wording and a rule change for World Athletics (WA).

The decision was made by the USATF Rules Committee to follow the new WA rule. In adopting the amendments to USATF Rule 163.5, the committee felt it was serving the interests of the athletes, coaches, and fans. Some editorial changes and an exception for youth were written into the rule. The rule is as follows:

World Athletics (WA) Compliance (July21TR17.2). Amend Rule 163.5

Each competitor must keep in the lanes outside the line or curb marking the inside of the track, including the curved part of the diversion from the track for the steeplechase water jump. In races run entirely in lanes, each competitor must keep in the allotted lane from start to finish. In races run partially in lanes, each competitor must keep in the allotted lane from the start to the marked cut-in points. Unless a material advantage has been gained or the athlete is in violation of Rule 163.4, a competitor shall not be disqualified if he or she:

- (a) Is pushed or forced by another competitor or object to step out of the lane, or
- (b) Steps or runs out of the lane on the straightaway, or
- (c) Steps or runs outside of the outer lane line on the curve, or on any straight part of the diversion from the track for the steeplechase water jump, or
- (d) In all races run in lanes, touches once the line on their left, or the curb or line marking the applicable inside border on a bend, or
- (e) In all races (or any part of races) not run in lanes, steps once on or completely over the curb or line marking the applicable inside border on a bend.
- (f) In races with multiple rounds, the infringement defined in Rule 163.5(d) or Rule 163.5(e) may be made only once during all rounds of an event by a particular competitor without disqualification of the competitor. A second infringement shall result in the disqualification of that competitor whether it was made in the same round or in another round of the same event.

NOTE 1: For Youth Athletics, violations are only determined within each round of an event.

- (g) In the case of Relay Races, any second step by a competitor who is a member of a team, regardless of whether committed by the same or different competitor, shall result

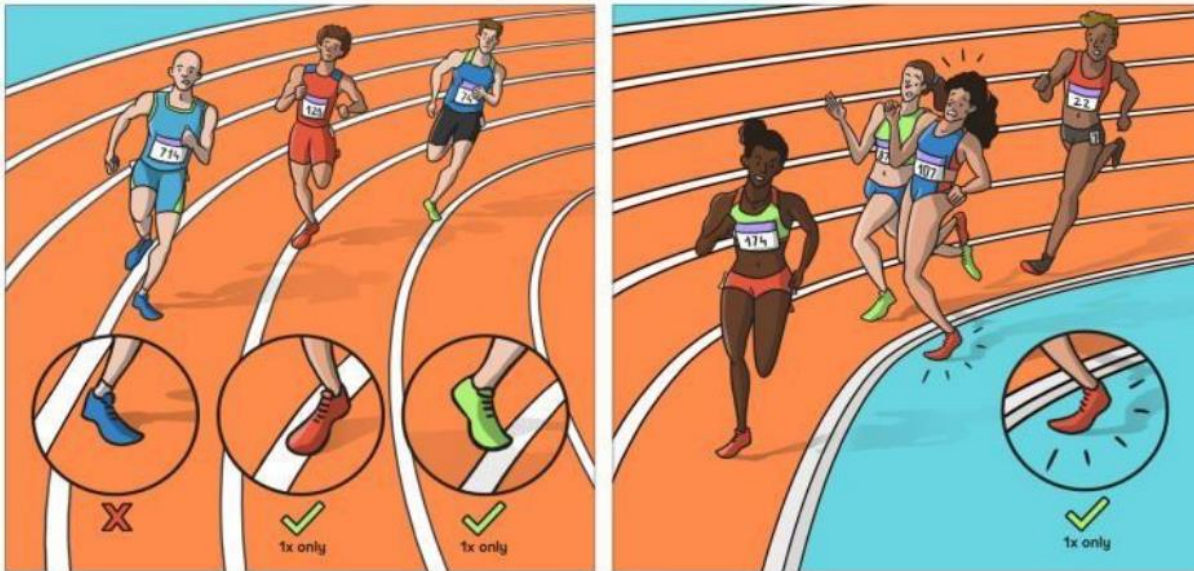
in the disqualification of the team whether it happened in the same round or in different rounds of the same event.

NOTE 2: For Youth Athletics, violations are only determined within each round of an event.

Excluding the above exceptions, the Referee shall disqualify a competitor if material advantage is gained.

NOTE 3: Material advantage includes improving position by any means, including exiting from a 'boxed' position in the race by having stepped or run inside the inside edge of the track.

NOTE 4: Where a race is started in lanes and then continues not using separate lanes, this Rule applies accordingly to each such part of the race.



*This illustration shows a few of the allowed one-time lane infringements (check marks).
Courtesy European Athletics Officials Newsletter and World Athletics*

So, what is this amended rule saying?

If an athlete touches the inside line with any part of their foot or shoe, they are not immediately disqualified in events where the curves are run in lanes. Even if 97% of the foot is over the line, yet still touches the line, it would not result in a disqualification. The athlete would be disqualified if the shoe is completely over the line.

An athlete is not allowed to touch the line more than one time through all rounds of an event. If they do so, this may result in a disqualification. If a line is touched by the athlete a second time, whether in the same race or in a subsequent round of that event, a disqualification may result. An example would be in the preliminary round in the 400 where an athlete touches the line on the curve. If the same athlete touches the line on the curve in the final, this could result in a disqualification. In a relay, the team is one entity. If the lead leg of the 4 x 100 touches the line on the curve and then the anchor touches a line on the curve, this could result in a team disqualification. If the second leg

runner touches the line in the semi-final and the anchor leg runner (a different athlete) touches the line in the final, this could result in a team disqualification.

So how does this rule affect races run in lanes on the straightaways?

An athlete will not be disqualified if they would step outside of their lane (either inside or out) as long as they do not interfere with another runner or gain an advantage.

What about races not run in lanes?

If an athlete is jostled or forced outside of their lane, that athlete will not be disqualified. However, remember, that the athlete that caused this could be disqualified by Rule 163.4.

An athlete that steps on or over the curb or curb line one time without being forced would not be disqualified. However, another infraction, whether in that race or a subsequent round, could result in a disqualification.

The youth exception is the touching of the line does not carry over to a subsequent round.

Tracking these lane touches has not yet been worked out. However, we understand that athletes would need to be notified when they have a mark against them. The letter "L" will be used for a Lane Infringement in WA events. The affected documents would be the results of the rounds, summaries, and start-lists.

In the case of a record being set during a round, if an athlete, or relay team, touches a line one time, the record would be upheld. If the record happens in a round in which a second touching occurs, the record would not be ratified.

If you have questions about this rule change, contact me at:

usatfindianaboyd@gmail.com

January 2022