

2026 POLE VAULT RULES COMPARISON

GOVERNING BODY	WA	USATF	NCAA	NFHS
LANDING AREA In Back of Box LxWxH	6 m x 6 m x 0.8 m	5 m x 6 m x 0.813 m	5 m x 6 m x 0.813 m	5 m x 6 m (16'5" x 19'8")
LANDING AREA incl Front Pads LxWxH	8 m x 6 m x 0.8 m	6.15 m x 6 m x 0.813 m	6.5 m x 6 m x 0.813 m	6.15 m x 6 m (20'2" x 19'8")
BOX COLLAR	Optional on own time	ASTM Std. Required Youth	ASTM Std. Required	ASTM Std. Required
CROSSBAR LENGTH	4.48-4.52 m	4.48-4.52 m	4.48-4.52 m	4.47-4.52 m (14'8" x 14'10")
DISTANCE BETWEEN PEGS	4.28-4.37 m	4.28-4.37 m	4.28-4.37 m	4.16-4.48 m (13'8"-14'8")
BAR SUPPORT PEGS LENGTH	55 mm	55 mm	55 mm	76 mm (3")
MARKS ALONGSIDE RUNWAY	2 Markers max. No Indelible Marks, Chalk	2 Markers max. (3-Youth) No Indelible Marks, Chalk	2 Markers 7x15 cm max. No shoes, chalk	ALLOWED
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN COMPETITION AREA	NOT ALLOWED (may view outside comp. area)	NOT ALLOWED (may view outside comp. area)	NOT ALLOWED (may view outside comp. area)	NOT ALLOWED except in coaches boxes
POSITION OF STANDARDS TOWARD LANDING AREA	0-80 cm	0-80 cm 45-80 cm Youth	45-80 cm	45.7-80 cm 18-31.5 inches
PASSES	PASS HEIGHT	PASS HEIGHT	PASS ATTEMPT	PASS ATTEMPT
TAPE ON HANDS/FINGERS	ALLOWED	ALLOWED Not Allowed-Youth	NOT ADDRESSED; ok to cover wound	NOT ALLOWED except to cover wound
GLOVES/SUBSTANCE ON HANDS	ALLOWED	ALLOWED	ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED/Substance ok
VAULTER STEADIES BAR	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED
VAULTER LEAVES GROUND BUT DOES NOT COMPLETE VAULT	ALLOWED	ALLOWED	ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED; OK IF ABORTED RUN-UP
5 ALIVE SYSTEM ABANDONED	NOT USED	NOT USED	NOT USED	Fewer than 9 within height
PRACTICE TRIALS ON RUNWAY AFTER COMPETITION STARTS	NOT ALLOWED	NOT ALLOWED Exceptions for Masters/Youth	2 MINUTES /JUMPER ALLOWED AFTER ONE HOUR at ENTRY Height w/o crossbar	2 MINUTES/JUMPER ALLOWED AFTER 60 Minutes at ENTRY Height w/o crossbar or bungee
LATE ARRIVAL AFTER THE COMPETITION STARTS	START AT CURRENT HEIGHT IF ENTERED	START AT CURRENT HEIGHT IF ENTERED	CAN'T JUMP	CAN'T JUMP
TAPE ON POLE	WA, USATF, NCAA & NFHS: TAPE AT GRIP MUST BE UNIFORM with no "rings" or "loops"			
TIME RULES				
4 OR MORE VAULTERS	1 Minute*	1 Minute*	1 Minute*	1 Minute*
2-3 VAULTERS	2 Minutes	2 Minutes	2 Minutes	3 Minutes
1 VAULTER	5 Minutes	5 Minutes	5 Minutes if winner	5 Minutes if winner
CONSECUTIVE JUMPS	3 Minutes	3 Minutes	3 Minutes within height	3 Minutes
COMBINED EVENTS - 4 OR MORE	1 Minute*	1 Minute*	1 Minute*	1 Minute*
COMBINED EVENTS--2 or 3	2 Minutes	2 Minutes	2 Minutes	3 Minutes
COMBINED EVENTS--1 VAULTER	3 Minutes	3 Minutes	3 Minutes	5 Minutes
COMBINED EVTS--CONSECUTIVE	3 Minutes	3 Minutes	3 Minutes	3 Minutes
* or if 1st attempt in competition				
BAR RAISE INCREMENTS	Minimum 5 cm	Minimum 5 cm	5-15 cm	Not Addressed
FIRST INCREMENT	Not Addressed	Not Addressed	15 cm	Not Addressed
COMBINED EVENT INCREMENT	10 cm	10 cm (15 cm-Youth)	10 cm	Not Addressed
TIE BREAKER INCREMENTS	5 cm	5 cm	5 cm	3 inches/5 cm
TIME EXPIRATION WARNING METHOD	At 15 seconds left Raise Yellow Flag	At 15 seconds left Raise Yellow Flag At end, lower flag	At 15 seconds left Raise Yellow Flag At end, lower flag	At 15 seconds left Give verbal warning or signal
SCORING SYMBOLS				
CLEARED / FAILED / PASSED	O / X / — (dash)	O / X / — (dash)	O / X / — (dash)	O / X / — (dash)