



2014 NFHS TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

Robert B. Gardner, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2014

Corrections to Rules Book:

Corrections to Rules Book: Page 19, Rule 3-10-1, The field referee or head field judge...weighing and measuring of the implements, including vault poles...; Page 71, 9-6-1 NOTE 2, If more than one visible garment, ~~which extends below the knees~~, is worn under the uniform top...

SITUATION 1: An athlete preparing to run the 400 reports to the clerk of the course, who observes the runner wearing two visible layers of compression-style garments, which end above the knees, underneath the official school-issued track shorts. Each of the garments is of a different color. The clerk considers both as foundation garments and takes no further action. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Any visible undergarment(s) worn underneath the official school uniform bottom that does not extend below the knees, as manufactured, is considered a foundation garment and not subject to single, solid color or multiple garments being the same color when worn under the uniform bottom. (4-3-1c (7) NOTE 1, 9-6-1c (7) NOTE 2)

SITUATION 2: One member of Team A's cross country team is wearing a visible, solid green, ankle-length running tight and a second, solid gold, visible garment that terminates above the knees under his/her official uniform bottom. Using preventative officiating, before the runners are called to the start, the referee informs the competitor that he/she must have both garments of the same single, solid color in order to compete. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** When the competitor wore a visible garment that extended below

the knees underneath the official uniform bottom, it became a visible undergarment and NOT a foundation garment. Any other layer(s) of visible garments worn over the visible undergarment, regardless of their length, are now considered an undergarment and subject to meeting the requirements as listed in the rules regarding visible undergarments being worn under the uniform bottom; if more than one is worn, all must be the same color. (9-6-1c (7) NOTE 2, 4-3-1c (7) NOTE 1)

SITUATION 3: A competitor is observed by the clerk of the course wearing an illegal uniform. The clerk advises the competitor of the problem and the athlete cannot correct the uniform. The athlete is not permitted to compete in an illegal uniform. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Officials are encouraged to use preventive officiating. However, had the athlete started the race and been observed, he/she would receive a warning and not be eligible for further competition until he/she is in a legal uniform. A subsequent violation results in the athlete being disqualified from the event. (4-6-4, PENALTY and 4-3-1 and 2, PENALTY)

SITUATION 4: Host management has instructed all participating schools that only certain length spikes are permitted on the track running surface. At the completion of the first heat of the 100-meter dash, Competitor A is observed by the meet referee wearing longer spikes than permitted. The meet referee disqualifies Competitor A. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Even though the shoe is considered uniform, the spikes are a part of equipment and the

penalty of disqualification for use of illegal equipment applies without warning. (4-3-1a, 4-6-4 PENALTY)