

October 29, 2014

The following is the policy on how to handle the NYSPHSAA's ban on jewelry in Track and Field and Cross-Country

- Jewelry is not to be worn by competitors in competitions sanctioned by the NYSPHSAA.
- Attempts to hide the wearing of any hard jewelry by masking it with tape **unless directed to by the meet Referee** will be considered "unacceptable conduct" and the athlete will **be subject to** disqualification.
- Athletes are to be advised to remove all jewelry at check-in when they move from being a "contestant" to the status of "competitor".
- If after that point they are discovered to have jewelry on, **they are simply directed by the official to remove it** -- whether before, during, or after finishing a competition. They then shall be issued a warning by the Referee.
- **If the athlete refuses to comply** with the directive to remove their jewelry **or is caught a second time wearing same**, they will **then be subject to** being disqualified for "unacceptable conduct" (rule 4-6-2) for "failing to follow the directions of a meet official", **if in the opinion of the referee the circumstances warrant that penalty**. (This allows for some flexibility being given to the referee as well as the athlete and demonstrates our seriousness to enforce the ban without unnecessary punitive action.)
- **Soft string "friendship" bracelets be allowed to be taped over** as have been the Hindu male initiation cords listed in previous (2003?) NYSPHSAA religious exemptions. (They are almost identical anyway)
- **Competitors with soft hair bands (aka "scrunchies:) or rubber/elastic bands found on the wrist simply will be instructed to be remove them without any formal warnings for the wearing of jewelry.**
- Medical alert medals or bracelets are not considered jewelry and the alert **should be clearly visible**.
- If the Medical alert is of pliable, soft material *other than metal*, the only concern is that it be visible.
- **If the Medical alert is made of metal** or other unyielding material, **it should be taped to the body**, be it either bracelet or necklace
- **Religious medals** of any sort are not considered jewelry and **must be worn under the uniform and taped to the body**.
- Wristwatches of any kind will be allowed for **Cross-Country competition only**. (This is the current Safety Committee guideline)
- As in the past, it is the **responsibility of the coaches** to guarantee that all of their contestants will be properly uniformed, properly equipped, and unadorned with jewelry as per the regulations of the NYSPHSAA Handbook.