

Officiating The Pole Vault

1. Pre-Competition

- *Read the rule book and case book!!!!!!!!!!!!*
- Show up at least 2 hours prior to the start of competition with the following: NFHS rulebook & casebook, 200' tape measure, 3 clipboards, pencils, Sharpie, athletic tape, at least a 20' steel tape measure, bar replacers, bar measuring device, WD-40 or some other lubricant, shims, plumb bob (to find true zero), traffic cone (preferably a tall one), pliers, small level
- Check with Meet Management about anything out of the ordinary – starting height, progressions, combining genders due to numbers, meet records, athletes competing in multiple events, backup bars?, time to open pit, get heat sheets, standard settings board?, any ties other than 1st place that need to be broken – can also check to see what equipment is already available onsite, i.e., bar replacers, bar measuring device, etc..
- Check pit area for safety – pads interlocked, standard bases padded, any concrete around pit, rebar sticking out of ground, pit close enough to box (collar?), pit of legal size?
- Check standards I – zeroed out, make sure carriers are aligned, pegs in good shape (with no tape on them), standards slide (lube if needed), markings on standard base or pad for athlete's standard setting, standards vertically level? – use shims if needed, mark zero point on ground by standards if not already present
- Check standards II – once standards are zeroed: make sure bar will fit on all pegs (not too wide or close), use tape or marker to mark standard base on at least two (preferable three) sides in case standard is displaced
- Mark all competition bars – use two people/two hurdles/two chairs to find bar sag and then adjust endpieces, put one mark on one side of the front of the bar (for bar judge/pit boss), make level marks on both sides of bar (either on top or back) for bar replacers to adjust when bar is displaced, be sure to mark all bars in case one breaks during competition (be sure to re-measure height if bar does break during competition)
- Put bungee up on pegs, raise it to height that poles can pass underneath
- Mark takeoff step distances – 6' to 12', maybe higher?
- Make assignments – these are the jobs which must be assigned in order to have a competition: Bar Judge, Flight Coordinator, Standard Board Settings, Recorder, Second Recorder, Timer, Pit Coordinator, Bar Replacer (2), Standard Setter (2)

multiple jobs can be held by one person:

#1: Flight Coordinator, Backup Recorder, Standard Board Settings

#2: Recorder

#3: Bar Judge, Timer, Pit Coordinator

#4: Bar Replacer, Standard Setter

#5: Bar Replacer, Standard Setter

2. Open The Pit

- Have someone catch takeoff step

- Flight Coordinator checks in athletes, get opening heights & standard settings (if opening height not set by Meet Management, poll the athletes to set an opening height), have coaches sign off on pole weights
- Inform athletes of time to start of competition, display on countdown clock if possible – inform athletes of time remaining every 10-15 minutes
- Lower bungee after all run-thrus are made for practice jumps
- Have Flight Coordinator, Recorder, Second Recorder, & Standard Board Setting people get their sheets in order (passes, standard settings)
- 10 minutes (maybe higher or lower, depending on # of jumpers) to start of competition, make last call for warmup jumps – have Flight Coordinator stand behind last jumper
- Once last warmup is made, place cone in runway, call all jumpers (& Flight Coordinator) together, introduce Flight Coordinator, give instructions – in the meantime, pit crew should be setting opening height

3. Competition

- Flight Coordinator:
 - main point of contact for the athletes during competition
 - be positioned where all athletes can hear
 - announce jumping order **at every height** – this will keep you from missing a jumper in case you marked their initial passes wrong: “bar is being raised to ___, we have ___ jumpers jumping in this order – ___ will be the first jumper, ___ will be the second jumper, etc...”
 - ***main responsibility is the jumper on the runway*** – if another jumper needs to talk to you, take care of the runway **first** then discuss with the other jumper
 - call who is “up”, who is “on deck”, who is “on hold” while bar is being set/replaced
 - if running 5-Alive: as a courtesy call who is the 4th & 5th jumpers, every time an athlete clears or is knocked out, call who is the 5th jumper just entering competition and who is the 6th jumper waiting to enter
 - record standard settings for each jump, it will save headaches down the road
 - be sure to inform recorders about any passes during competition
 - inform Timer when there are only 3/2/1 jumper(s) left in competition
 - confer with Recorder at every height change to verify misses/makes and what jumpers are jumping at the next height
- Timer:
 - clock starts when pit is ready (i.e., cone removed from runway- provided Flight Coordinator has called the athlete up), not when jumper is called up
 - raise yellow flag when there is 15 seconds left on clock, do not raise it while jumper is coming down the runway rather wait until they cross you so as not to distract them
 - lower flag once time limit is reached signaling a foul jump
- Standard Board Settings:
 - as soon as jumper leaves the ground, set board for next jumper, try to verify with jumper, and show to pit
- Recorder:
 - confer with Flight Coordinator at every height change to verify makes/misses & to verify the

jumping order for that height

- when down to a few jumpers, ensure there is no tie for 1st place (or any places that should not be tied, according to Meet Management)
- Bar Judge:
 - is the sole determiner on whether it is a make or miss – on windy days can confer with pit crew as to final determination
 - needs to watch Timer to judge whether jumper initiated the attempt during the allowable time
 - allow bar to settle before raising flag – i.e., don't be too quick on the draw (bar can fall before or as you are raising the white flag, remember it is your determination as to whether it is a fair jump or not)
 - pole striking standard and dislodging bar is a fair attempt
 - windy days – it is not whether the pole came back to vertical or not, it is your call as to whether “sufficient” pushback on the pole occurred (watch for “pull thrus”)
 - make sure the jumper keeps their hands off the bar (no steadying the bar)
- Pit Coordinator (aka Pit Boss):
 - will place cone on runway (or stand on runway) once Bar Judge raises a white or red flag
 - keep an eye on pit – check to make sure pit isn't moved too far back, collar is in place
 - check bar – right side up, see marking on bar, check to make sure endpieces are square and that bar is flush on carriers, have Standard Setters give a “thumbs up” from both sides when standards are set appropriately
 - make sure box is free of any foreign objects
 - when pit is set, remove cone or give a visible indicator to next jumper that time has started
- Bar Replacers/Standard Setters:
 - can make or break a competition
 - with the Flight Coordinator determines how smooth & free-flowing the event will be
 - quicker the bar is put up and standards set, smoother the competition will be
 - helps the Pit Boss to make sure pit is safe

4. **Post Competition**

- Head Event Official should verify places according to the Recorder's heat sheets (which will be turned in to Meet Management), and make sure Backup Recorder's sheets reflect the same places (keep for yourself, in case Recorder's sheets are lost by Meet Management)
- Cover pit, drop standards all the way down, place plug in box, remove all tape or other markings, wind up tape measure, stack chairs, place equipment in neat pile on runway, i.e., make sure area is neat & tidy when you leave