



2004-2005 Track and Field Notes of Clarification **POLE VAULT ACCOMMODATION**

History

In the 2002-2003 school year, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) passed a rules revision in the sport of track and field that increased the size of the landing pad in the pole vault event. Additionally, language was added to the rules book that spoke to the covering of hard and unyielding surfaces around the landing pad. Upon approval of this rules change, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) instituted an accommodation, based upon additional information presented at the national rules meeting, allowing member schools an option with regard to the pole vault. That option was such that a member school choosing not to purchase and/or upgrade their pole vault landing pad to meet the new specifications, could provide proper written notification to the visiting schools that the host did not possess a legal landing pad and the event would not be contested. In the presence of proper written notification, the pole vault was then considered a non-event.

During this time frame, the IHSAA developed the institution of the girls' pole vault event with a chronology allowing the event to become a fully contested event in the regular season and IHSAA tournament series beginning in the 2004-2005 school year. Some confusion exists among athletic administrators, coaches and athletes regarding the status of pole vaulting and how an accommodation may occur. The clarification below intends to delineate the conditions under which an accommodation may take place.

The Accommodation

As was the initial intention of the accommodation for pole vaulting, the following language shall serve as clarification:

Schools that have made the decision to not purchase and/or upgrade their pole vault landing pad and do not have equipment that meets the specifications of the NFHS track and field rule book may, with proper written notification to the visiting schools on their track and field schedule, deem the pole vault a non-event. Proper written notification shall be such that a host school must notify any and all visiting schools no later than 48 hours in advance, either by e-mail, facsimile or regular mail that their school does not possess equipment pursuant to NFHS track and field rules and their intention is the pole vault will be considered a non-event for said contest.

Comments on the Application of the Accommodation

The accommodation has never been intended nor shall ever be intended to allow schools an option to not contest the pole vault due to a lack of participants or talented participants. The pole vault is a full event within the program for girls' and boys' track and field. The accommodation simply allows schools that do not possess legal equipment, through proper protocol listed above to deem the event as a non-event at their home meet(s).

There shall never be a scenario present whereby a school possesses legal equipment and for competitive reasons, attempt to deem the event a non-event. Schools conducting the event for one gender MUST conduct the event for the opposite gender, regardless of number of participants or their ability levels.

If you have additional questions concerning the IHSAA pole vault accommodation, please contact Bobby Cox, Assistant Commissioner at 317-846-6601 or via e-mail at bcox@ihsaa.org