A MESSAGE FROM JENN ROBERTS UHLIG, CHSAA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

What a relief to be able to have the opportunity to offer another season of track & field this year and to be able to host the Colorado State Track & Field Championships once again especially for the 100th Anniversary of CHSAA in 2020-2021. It was a difficult year to say the least for all of our student-athletes, coaches, officials, athletic directors, parents and support staff. On behalf of CHSAA and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your commitment in making this all come together for the student-athletes in our state. I would also like to thank those who volunteered to bring this to fruition as well as John Sears and his great staff at JEFFCO Stadium for another outstanding job well done. I can’t thank all of you enough. As we continue to move forward, the upcoming Cross-Country season is only weeks away if you can believe that. Enjoy the remainder of your summer, take care and stay healthy.

CHSAA ONLINE CERTIFIED CROSS COUNTRY OFFICIALS LIST FALL 2021

With the start of the upcoming Cross-Country Season less than a month away, we have already been receiving request for officials to work meets for the Fall 2021 season. As a reminder, the most recent “updated” Certified Officials list for Cross Country 2021 is presently on the CHSAA website. This list of officials has been re-formatted to only show the name of the official, their email, and city/town in an attempt to protect as much personal information as possible. Due to the fact that this list changes frequently, Monica and I will do our best to ensure the most up to date list is on the CHSAA website for athletic directors, meet directors, coaches, assignors, officials etc. to access and hire certified officials for their regular season cross country meets and regionals. If you would like for your name to appear on this list, please contact Gary at gharleyclassic@gmail.com. The certification process for this fall has expired for new officials.

NOTE: The dues that you have already paid for this past Spring 2021 T&F season also covers you for the upcoming Fall 2021 Cross Country Season.

WHAT IS THE “REQUIRED” NUMBER OF CERTIFIED OFFICIALS FOR THE 2021 CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON?

1-9 Teams: One official to serve as the starter and running referee and monitor the finish line.
10-19 Teams: Two officials. One to serve as starter and one to serve as start line official. Both serve as finish line officials. One will be designated as the referee prior to the meet.
20-29 Teams: Three Officials. One to serve as starter. One to serve as back-up starter 100 meters down the course. One to serve as start line official. All three to serve as finish line officials. One will be designated as the referee prior to the meet.
30 Plus Teams: Four Officials. One to serve as starter. One to serve as back-up starter 100 meters down the course. Two officials to serve as start line officials. All four officials to serve as finish line officials. One will be designated as the referee.

REGIONAL MEETS: Four officials are required! (A) Starter, (B) Assistant Starter 100 meters down the course (C) Start Line Official (D) Start Line Official. One official MUST be identified as the REFEREE prior to the start of the meet. All officials must be at or near the finish line at the end of the race. It is “recommended” that the referee and one official be stationed at the finish line, one official 50 meters from the finish line and one official 100 meters from the finish line to monitor all finishers.

NOTE: Uniform checks must be done BEFORE THE START OF THE MEET BY ALL OFFICIALS.

The Fee for working a Varsity Cross Country Meet is $45.90 per official plus round-trip mileage if required. If JV runners are also included in the varsity meets, there would be an additional fee paid to officials.

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INVITATION FOR OFFICIALS TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FROM THE 2021 T&F SEASON
It has been requested by some of our CTFOA colleagues for us to reach out to all of you to inquire as to what challenging situations/issues you may have encountered during this past T&F season regarding the possible oversight and/or non-enforcement or misapplication of the rules during the 2021 T&F season so that we may remedy them prior to the 2022 T&F season and improve the consistency of rules enforcement statewide. We do not want this to overshadow the excellent officiating that occurs all over the state but to take the necessary steps to get better every year.

**Situation #1.** Recently at the State T&F Meet after PV officials inspected over 300 poles prior to competition, two poles were found to be non-compliant with the NFHS rule. Both schools’ pole vault coaches stated that they used these poles all season. The non-compliant poles had been altered, meaning they were cut off more than six inches at the bottom of the pole. To remedy this situation the competitors subsequently borrowed poles from “Above the Bar Pole Vault Club” in order to compete. In addition to these two poles, fifteen to twenty other poles needed to be “re-taped” prior to competition because the existing tape was not “uniform” according to officials. One would hope that the pole vault coaches from these schools should have known that these poles were illegal prior to competition at the start of the season. When it was not rectified, it then became the responsibility of the individual(s) running the event to disallow the use of these poles during the regular season and far in advance of the state meet. The person(s) running the event is probably not a certified official but usually are knowledgeable individuals regarding the rules. If all else fails, the Field Referee should be advised of any possible issues so that he/she can make the ruling as to legal or illegal. As a result, it begins the question, were there athletes who possibly did not qualify for State during the regular season who used a legal pole replaced by a competitor who used an illegal pole most or all of the season?

**Situation #2.** Another situation that occurred more than once during the season involved the “running referee” being removed from his/her position and assigned to serve as the clerk of the course by the meet director leaving the running referee position vacant with the responsibilities/duties of this position then being placed with the two starters or to someone who is not a certified official. This should not happen under any circumstances. Even though it is important to have a knowledgeable clerk, meet management should have hired a certified official to serve as the clerk or for the meet director to hire or fill that position with a knowledgeable individual or to serve as the clerk him/herself. The running referee is responsible for the entire meet and has multiple duties/responsibilities associated before, during and after the meet. Once the running referee was removed from their position, they were unable to properly carry out their required duties/responsibilities. Therefore, as a result of this reassignment, one of the issues that occurred was that the referee was not used as a backup starter when needed to assist the two starters on the track which is usually standard procedure especially with relays. In the absence of the running referee to assist, a non-certified individual was appointed by one of the starters to serve as the back-up starter with a starter pistol for multiple races even though there was a second starter on the track. Where there are races requiring an assistant (3rd starter) at a meet, the running referee almost always serves in that back-up position along with the two starters. Using a non-certified back-up starter is never an option in a CHSAA sponsored event. Simply imagine a non-certified official being asked to step on the field to assist the crew in a football game or onto the court in a basketball game or poolside for a swim meet? If this happens to you, report it to Gary Strubel as soon as possible.

**Situation #3.** A question was posed by the parent of a competitor to an official who then brought it to the attention of other officials at an end of season meeting that was held by officials. "An incoming runner on a 4x800 relay handed off the baton in the middle of the track and then stopped in place in the lane until all other teams completed the exchange. A team farther back in the race had to dodge around said runner and as a result, the team of the first runner was disqualified. No appeal was filed since the disqualified team finished out of the scoring places.” The official who brought this to our attention went on to say, "the disqualification is in direct contradiction with what we have been telling kids. Veering in and out after handing off is never recommended as it becomes interference. We have been saying that if you hand off in the middle of the track, stay in place until they can safely exit the track. If the description of events is accurate, then we think the official call was in error.” As a result, I was asked what my opinion was? After speaking with K.C. Logan to appraise him of the situation, our response was as follows. "The incoming runner did exactly what he was supposed to do after handing the baton off to his teammate. We always ask the runner who hands off the baton to either stop and stay in the lane in which he/she handed off or jog forward in that lane if they wish but DO NOT attempt to run across multiple lanes immediately after handing off just to get off of the track and out of the way. It is the responsibility of the outgoing runner to avoid all runners who have just completed their handoff. This runner (team) who remained in his lane should not have been disqualified. The official call was in error.”

If you experienced similar situations this year or in the past where the rules may not have been properly enforced or have questions surrounding the duties, responsibilities, mechanics of an official or using a non-certified official in a certified position during the season, we are asking you to submit them via email to me (Gary Strubel) at your
convenience so that they may be recorded and used for educational purposes. Your name, the officials name, the school’s name, the name of the meet or the name of the athlete/coach WILL NOT be used. Our only goal by getting this information out is to identify these situations, bring them to the forefront and further increase the consistency of officiating and enforcement of the rules across the state. For those of you who officiate other sports, you know that a fair amount of time is spent working on “officiating mechanics.” Our main goal is for the rules to be enforced consistently and properly along with the mechanics of officiating as we prepare for upcoming Rules Clinics. For all of the new officials that have and will come on board and for those of us who have been on board for a while, this information will benefit all of us as we move forward. Our goal is to be as good as we can be as officials at each and every meet.

2021 OFFICIALS HANDBOOK
The 2021 handbook may be found on CHSAANOW.com then to CHSAA.org click on officials from drop down menu.

TRACK & FIELD AND CROSS-COUNTRY RULES CHANGES – 2022
The rule changes for 2022 are now on the NFHS website as of July 13, 2021.
Rule 4-3-1b5: Clarifies that garment with logos completely around the waistband on uniform bottoms are LEGAL.
Rule 4-3-1b8(NEW): Clarifies that religious headwear is NOT considered a hair device.
Rule 5-3-3: Clarifies when each exchange zone is to be used.
Rule 6-2-7 (NEW): Clarifies that running in a direction other than how the event is conducted if prohibited in warm-ups with the exception of the high jump.
Rule 6-9-9: Clarifies that an athlete is NOT penalized for a hat or sunglasses falling in the pit after they have made their mark.
8-1-1a (NEW NOTE): Clarifies cross country course markings.
9-3-2b, c (NEW); Clarifies when measurements for record attempts for vertical jumps needs to be taken.
2022 Editorial Changes: 2-2-4, 3-2-3h, Rule 6, 6-5-1 Note, 6-9-1 Note (NEW) 2022.
Points of Emphasis for 2022: (1) Exchange Zones, (2) Use of Electronic Devices, (3) Adapted Athletes.

"REQUIRED "OFFICIAL" CTFOA UNIFORM FOR ALL CROSS-COUNTRY MEETS 2021
While working as a CTFOA Official at all CHSAA sanctioned Cross Country regular season meets including Regionals as well as ALL STATE QUALIFYING MEETS during the T&F Season including the STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, the required fluorescent orange and/or the optic yellow CTFOA officials’ shirts are to be worn along with black, khaki, tan, stone-colored shorts and/or long pants “ONLY”. All other colors are not part of the official uniform. T&F & XC officials represent the Colorado High School Activities Association and the CTFOA. Appropriate style hats and sunglasses are allowed in cross country, track and field which vary in style from baseball style hats to wider brimmed hats that offer protection from the sun.

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE MY 2021 XC "OFFICIALS UNIFORM"
If you are in need of an optic yellow or fluorescent orange CTFOA shirt and/or jacket, please contact Christine at Rock Soft Chenille as soon as possible and she will assist you. Christine now offers a new brand of shirt that is less likely to snag (with a pocket). These shirts are slightly more expensive and they only come in optic yellow and in men's sizes only! The shirts we have had in the past are still available for purchase. COVID is still having an impact on inventory/shipping. Some shirts are available for immediate shipping. Christine accepts checks, credit/debit cards and she will mail your shirts/jackets to your home or business. Embroidery and shipping costs are included in the price of all shirts/jackets. The original polo shirts come in women's and men's sizes S, M, L, XL for $25.00 and 2XL for $27.00 and 3XL, 4XL are $29.00. CTFOA jackets including embroidery are available in Optic Yellow and/or Fluorescent Orange for $50. The new brand of shirt (in Optic Yellow (safety yellow) is $35.00 up to XL, $37.00 for XXL and $39.00 for XXXL, XXXXL. Availability is subject to change on some items! Christine DeRock, Rock Soft Chenille / rocksoftchenille@gmail.com / 970-412-0994 / 117 Birdie Dr. Milliken, Co. 80543.

IN-PERSON RULES CLINICS FOR 2022
Presently we are not certain if we will be hosting our two In-Person T&F Rules Clinics in January 2022 as we have done in the past at the CHSCA Clinic in Aurora. If in-person presentations are not a possibility in Aurora and/or via in-person Satellite Rules Clinics in 2022 across the state, we will provide other options for officials/coaches to participate in an annual "mandatory" rule's clinic. We realize the convenience in offering Zoom meetings or Online rules clinics based on what happened this past year, but we also realize the value in offering in-person clinics. In the past we have found in-person presentations accompanied by question & answer session(s) to be very valuable. We will provide more information as it becomes available in future newsletters.

(Continued on next page)
**IMPORTANT DATES**

(Information and/or Dates are Subject to Change)

**AUGUST 9, 2021**
First practice may be held for cross-country.

**AUGUST 14, 2021**
First scrimmage may be held for cross country.

**AUGUST 19, 2021**
First cross-country meet may be held.

**OCTOBER 23, 2021**
Regional cross-country meets must be "completed" by this date.

**OCTOBER 30, 2021**
STATE CROSS COUNTRY MEET AT NORRIS PENROSE EVENT CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS.

**NOVEMBER 1, 2021**
First day to pay CTFOA dues for Spring 2022 T&F & Fall 2022 Cross Country seasons.

**DECEMBER 1, 2021**
NFHS On-line test opens at 5:00 p.m.

**JANUARY, 2022**
Rules Clinics Format **TBA** for Spring T&F.
Satellite Rules Clinics Format **TBA** for Spring T&F.
It is too early to tell if in-person Rules/Satellite Clinics will be held. More information to follow.

**FEBRUARY 28, 2022**
First day of T&F practice.

**MARCH 1, 2022**
NFHS On-line test **closes** at 12:01 a.m.

**MARCH 5, 2022**
First day T&F Scrimmages may be held.

**MARCH 10, 2022**
First day Track & Field Meetings may be held (12 individual meets plus league)

**MAY 19, 20, 21, 2022**
COLORADO T&F STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT JEFFCO STADIUM.

**If you Have Questions, Comments, Suggestions, or Concerns, Please Contact Us.**

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July 20, 2021

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