

POLE VAULT

Designated Coaches Area

The Games Committee may designate an area from the crowd and outside the competition area for pole vaulters and their coaches to confer with each other.

Starting Height

The starting height of the bar and each successive height shall be determined by the Games Committee. When only one competitor remains in the competition, that competitor may determine the next height.

Failed Attempt

It is a foul if the competitor:

1. Displaces the crossbar from the pins on which it originally rested with the body or the pole. If the crossbar and/or uprights are placed incorrectly by the official, the trial is not recorded as foul and an additional trial is awarded.
2. Leaves the ground in an attempt and fails to clear the crossbar. EXCEPTION: The competitor aborts the approach and in stopping, plants the pole and momentum causes his/her feet to leave the ground.
3. During the vault, raises the hand which is uppermost when he/she leaves the ground to a higher point on the pole, or if the hand which was underneath is raised to any point on the pole above the other hand.
4. Allows any part of his/her body or the pole to touch the ground or the landing pad beyond the vertical plane of the top of the stop board, without clearing the bar.
5. Fails to initiate a trial that is carried to completion within the 1 minute time period after being called and after the crossbar and standards have been set.
6. Steadies the crossbar with a hand(s) or arm(s).
7. Grips the pole above the top hand-hold band.
8. **PENALTY: An unsuccessful trial is charged.**

It shall not be counted as a trial or failure if a competitor's pole breaks during an attempt to clear the bar. No person shall be allowed to touch the vaulting pole unless it is falling back and away from the crossbar. However, if there is a tailwind which might cause a properly released pole to fall forward, the referee should authorize an official to catch the pole after it has been properly released.

Improperly Fastened Supports

If improperly fastened supports slip downward when a vaulter hits the crossbar, the head judge of the event shall rule no vault, and allow the vaulter another trial.

Measurement

1. Measurement shall be to the nearest lesser ¼ inch or centimeter. Measurements may be made with non-stretchable tape (fiberglass, nylon, or steel), a measuring bar, or a certified scientific measuring device.
2. Measurement of the official height shall be from a point on the same level as the takeoff to the lowest point on the upper side of the crossbar.
3. For record purposes, a measuring tape, a calibrated measuring device (such as a bar), or a certified scientific measuring device shall be used. Accurate measurement shall be made before each record attempt.

Warm-Up

1. A competitor who uses a pole during warm-up or competition that is either improperly marked or rated below the competitor's weight shall be disqualified from the event.
2. A competitor who has passed three (3) consecutive heights and has not entered the competition should be permitted two (2) minutes of warm-up jumps per the number of competitors entering at that height without the crossbar in place. The competitor(s) shall enter the competition at that height. Such warm-up must be taken at a height change.
3. It is illegal to run backwards or in the opposite direction (non-legal direction) on a horizontal jump, pole vault or javelin runway. **PENALTY: First offense shall result in a warning and, if repeated, disqualification from that event. If the incident recurs, the athlete will be disqualified from further competition in the meet.**

Jumping Aids

1. Marks or markers shall not be placed on the runway by the competitor, but markers may be placed adjacent to the runway.
2. No gloves may be worn.
3. No taping of the hands or fingers shall be permitted unless there is an open wound which must be protected.
4. Competitors may use chalk or an adhesive (or similar substance such as rosin) on their hands during competition.
5. Use of a bungee cord for warm-ups is permitted.

Time Limits

When the following situations occur, the one-minute time limit is extended:

1. More than three (3) competitors remaining: One (1) minute per trial
2. Two (2) to three (3) competitors remaining : Three (3) minutes per trial
3. One (1) competitor remaining : Five (5) minutes per trial

Breaking Ties

When there is a tie at any height in the finals of a field event, places and points scored shall be awarded as follows:

1. The competitor with the fewest number of trials for the height at which the tie occurs (i.e., the last height successfully cleared) shall be awarded the higher place.
2. If the tie still remains, the competitor with the fewest total number of unsuccessful trials throughout the competition, up to and including the height last cleared, shall be awarded the high place.
3. Passed trials shall not count as misses.
4. If the tie remains after applying (1) and (2) and:
 - a. If it concerns first place, the competitors trying shall make one more attempt at the height at which they failed. If no decision is reached, the bar shall be lowered in increments of 3 inches. If two or more of the tying contestants cleared the height, the bar shall be raised by intervals of 3 inches. Each competitor shall attempt one trial at each height until a winner is determined.
 - b. If the tie concerns any place other than first, the competitors shall be awarded the same place.
 - c. A competitor shall be credited with his/her best achievement if it occurs in a jump-off for first place.
 - d. If the height which the tied competitors last attempted is not the same (because of a passed height by one or more of the remaining competitors), the bar shall be lowered to the lowest height last attempted by any of the remaining competitors to begin the jump-off.
 - e. No passed heights shall be permitted in the jump-offs.
 - f. If there is a tie by any number of competitors for any scoring places, the points for tied places shall be added together and divided by the number of competitors who are involved in the tie.

Risk Minimization

1. An assistant judge will check each vaulter's pole to verify its rating. If he/she is using the properly rated pole, they may take a trial.
2. To minimize the risk of injury in pole vaulting, the rules require the vaulter to use a pole rated at or above the vaulter's body weight. Manufacturers have indicated that vaulters should not use poles rated below their body weight.
3. Every pole has a safe hand-holding zone indicated by the manufacturer. It is required that the top of the safe hand-hold zone be clearly marked with a 1-inch circular band around the pole in a contrasting color. New poles will be accepted as marked by the manufacturer. It shall count as an unsuccessful trial when the vaulter grips the pole above the top hand-hold band.
4. It is the responsibility of the coach to verify the vaulter's weight. The coach also must verify that each vaulter will use the properly rated pole throughout the competition.
5. Any pole not properly marked will be considered illegal equipment. If a vaulter reports to the event with an illegal pole, the individual will not be allowed to warm up or compete until the legal pole is secured. Competitors who use a pole during warm-up or competition, either improperly marked or rated below the vaulter's weight, shall be disqualified from the event.