

2010 Track & Field Points of Emphasis

In an effort to ensure that all New Mexico High School Track & Field coaches are aware of important information and changes pertaining to the 2010 Track & Field season, the New Mexico Activities Association has created this document.

Within the following pages, coaches can find important deadline information, rule changes and rule clarification items for the sport of Track & Field.

If you have any questions about the quickly approaching Track & Field season, please contact:

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Calendar of Events:

Jan. 22	Track Cross Country Coaches Association Rules Clinic
Jan. 25	Qualifying Meet Application Due to NMAA
Feb. 1	First Day of Practice
	On-line Rules Clinic (Expires Feb. 28)
Feb. 6	First Competition date
April 25-May 2	Relay Declaration on Direct Athletics
April 26-May 1	District Track & Field Meets
May 2 (Noon)	Direct Athletics Entries Due On-Line
May 3 (11:00 AM)	Class A/AA Verification of Entries Deadline
(5:00 PM)	Class 3A-5A Verification of Entries Deadline
May 5-6	State Track & Field Championships- <i>University of New Mexico</i>
May 7-8	State Track & Field Championships- <i>University of New Mexico</i>

Calendar Adjustments:

On June 3, the Board of Directors approved a major calendar adjustment for the 2010 State Track & Field Championships due to the University of New Mexico hosting the 2010 Mountain West Track & Field Championships.

Track & Field practice will begin on Week 32 instead of week 33 for the 2010 season. All District Track & Field Championships will be held Week 44 (April 26-May 1). The Class A-AA State Track & Field Championships will be held Wednesday and Thursday May 5-6, with the Class 3A-5A State Track & Field Championships scheduled on Friday and Saturday May 7-8.

Qualifying Meet Application:

The qualifying meet application must be submitted no later than Monday, Jan. 25 for your meet to be considered a State Championship Qualifying Meet.

The qualifying meet application can be found on the NMAA website in the following areas:

- Monday Morning News
- Main page
- Track & Field page

Reporting Deadlines:

General: Coaches are totally responsible for ensuring that their qualifying athletes are submitted using www.directathletics.com. From qualifying meets the member schools have seven (7) calendar days to post qualifying marks established at a qualifying meet. The district meet results and the season composite results are due by entering the qualified athletes and teams at www.directathletics.com on the Sunday prior to the State Championships (12:00 noon deadline). The Direct Athletics system will no longer take entries after this time.

School representatives shall have a window of opportunity to declare participants and/or make adjustments for errors from Sunday at 5:00 p.m. through Monday at 11:00 a.m. (Class A/AA) and 5:00 p.m. (Class 3A-5A) prior to the State Championships. When a participant is declared within that window to a particular event, no further adjustments will be made or accepted, regardless of the problem or its origin once the deadline is achieved.

Qualifying Meets Results: Coaches must submit the qualifying meet results form following each meet they host. "District meet" hosts must submit the Qualifying meet results form no later than noon on Sunday, May 2. (See qualifying meet results form).

Direct Athletics & Qualifiers: Coaches only have seven days following a meet to enter qualifying marks. All district qualifiers and "last meet" qualifiers must be entered by noon on the Sunday prior to the State Championships (May 2, 2010). A \$500 fine will be imposed to each school that makes additions to their team state championship entries after the published entry deadline of May 2, 2010.

****Relay Declaration:****

Coaches must declare their "relay" athletes and alternates from Sunday, April 25 to Sunday, May 2 at noon. This is a major change from previous years.

Verification: Coaches must ensure that they log onto the NMAA website on Monday, May 3 to verify all entries. Class A/AA coaches must verify entries by 11:00 AM, whereas Class 3A-5A coaches have until 5:00 PM to verify their entries on May 3.

Direct Athletics:

The NMAA and Direct Athletics have teamed up over the course of the last four seasons to allow coaches to enter qualifying marks on-line.



Prior to this season, coaches were only provided access to enter “qualifying” marks on the Direct Athletics reporting system. Starting with the 2010 season, coaches will be able to enter all of their athletes’ performances on the Direct Athletics system. This change will allow for a “true” statewide performance listing to be created.

In the past, if athletes did not meet the qualifying standards, they never had an opportunity to see where they ranked amongst the State’s top athletes.

Another added feature to the Direct Athletics system for the upcoming season is that coaches and fans will have the ability to click on an athlete’s name and see all of their performances throughout the season; if coaches enter their marks.

Coaches are NOT required to enter “non-qualifying” marks on-line, however coaches are highly encouraged to do so. Coaches MUST continue to enter all qualifying marks within seven days following the event.

NMAA WEBSITE:

Coaches must enter their team roster on the NMAA website prior to their first meet. This roster serves as verification of the student’s eligibility.

District Track & Field Meets:

District meets may start prior to 3:00 PM and can be held Monday-Saturday (April 26-May 1).

Because of the schedule revision this season, Class A/AA Districts are highly encouraged to host their district meets prior to Saturday, May 1. This will provide additional rest time for athletes prior to the State Championships and afford additional time for results to be collected and organized.

Pole Vault Certification:

The NMAA Board of Directors recently passed a rule which will allow pole vault certification to last four years instead of two years. Up-to-date certifications are good for two additional years. *Example: Coach has a pole vault certification scheduled to expire April 20, 2010. Certification is now good until April 20, 2012.*

Officials:

Individuals interested in becoming track and field officials must register with the NMAA office using the registration form included with this packet or available on the NMAA web site at www.nmact.org under the “For Officials” section. The cost to register is \$20 and that fee pays for the official’s rulebook and casebook, testing materials as well as insurance through the National Federation. Once an official has registered with our office, he/she must complete an online rules examination and attend the track and field rules clinic (available at the NMTCCCA clinic in January or the NMOA State Clinic in July) or take an online rules clinic.

The NMAA Board of Directors recently passed a rule which would allow coaches to serve as meet referees. Any coach wishing to serve in this capacity would complete the steps above in order to become certified with the state. If a qualifying meet wishes to use a coach as the meet referee, at least THREE coaches from three different schools at the meet must be certified track and field officials and all three must sign off on the results of the meet.

Preventative Officiating:

Officials are encouraged to work diligently to do as much preventative officiating as possible to keep athletes from being disqualified. This includes such things as uniforms, entry limitations, sportsmanship, etc.

Experiment On False Start Rule:

The NMAA Track & Field Sports Specific Committee is conducting research on the number of false starts that take place throughout the 2010 season. The purpose of this research is to determine whether the “false start” rule should be changed; allowing the first false start to be charged to the field rather than the individual athlete.

Please help to provide accurate data by completing the information on the “Qualifying Results Form.”

	<p>New Mexico Activities Association 2010 NMAA State Track and Field Championships University of New Mexico Track & Field Complex</p>			
<u>Qualifying Results Form</u>				
Date of Meet: _____	Name of Meet _____			
Gender (circle one): _____	Boys or Girls _____	Host School: (School Name) _____		
Host Coach Name: _____	Host Coach Phone Number: _____			
Certified Officials Name: _____	Certified Officials Signature: _____			
		Total # of False Starts: _____		
INDIVIDUAL RUNNING EVENTS				
EVENT	ATHLETE NAME	SCHOOL	CLASSIFICATION	TIME
1				
2				
3				

Meet Limitation Clarification:

This is a clarification of NMAA Bylaw 7.21.C for the benefit of students in New Mexico and New Mexico High School Track & Field

NMAA Bylaw 7.21.C reads:

C. Meet Limitation - Each varsity team/individual is limited to ten (10) meets prior to the district event. Each sub-varsity team/individual is limited to seven (7) meets.

It has been agreed upon that this bylaw will be interpreted as follows:

- Teams may only “schedule” 10 meets prior to the district event
- Individuals can only “participate” in a total of 10 meets prior to the district event
- If an athlete participates in a meet or meets, that are not one of the “team’s” scheduled meets, he/she may not represent their school or be coached by their “high school’s” coaching staff.

The following “*question/answer*” has been added to the NMAA Bylaws to assist coaches in interpreting this important rule:

- **Question:** Can an athlete compete in 2 indoor meets that the “team” does not have as part of their 10 meet schedule?
Answer: Yes, as long as he/she does not represent their school or is coached by the “high school’s” coaching staff.
- **Question:** Can a team schedule 12 varsity track & field meets, as long as each athlete only participates in 10 meets?
Answer: No, a team can only schedule 10 varsity meets per season prior to the district event.
- **Question:** Is a team’s overall meet total affected if an athlete competes in a national outdoor track & field meet that is not part of the team’s 10 meet schedule?
Answer: No, as long as the individual athlete does not exceed their 10 meet competitions prior to the district event and the individual athlete does not represent their school at this meet.

OUT OF SEASON COACHING:

During the school year, but outside the sport season (out-of-season), a member school may allow participation in that particular sport during an athletic period. The participation may not last longer than the allotted class time. For schools not having an athletic period/class, a block of one (1) hour time may be used each school day for sports participation. A team can not use the one hour block of time in different increments to total 5 hours during the school week; it can only be “one-hour” per day prior to the beginning of the season (Feb. 1, 2010).

If a student-athlete is not currently participating in a sport, but is involved in an athletic class whose sport is not in season, the student-athlete may then participate for one hour a day on school days in his/her second sport.

For more information pertaining to this rule, please see NMAA by 7.4.3.