

## GYTOA Local Rules Meeting

March 4, 2026

Seeding  
Clerks  
Starters  
Finish Line  
Scoring

## Seeding

- NFHS Rule 5-6, pages 34-35
- Prelim heats or timed finals?
- Purpose is to evenly distribute the quality of entry marks
- Preferred lanes
- S-curve (next slide) (Rule 5-6-4)
- Runners with same entry mark are seeded randomly
- Qualifiers for next round – know the rules set by the games committee – place only, time only, or combination
- In case of DQ, place is filled with next best qualified athlete unless results have been made official
- Breaking ties – when is it necessary, how is it done?
- Software usually does the work at major meets
- 0.24 seconds adjustment when not all entries are FAT

## S-curve for seeding

Lane	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4
4	Best	2 <sup>nd</sup> Best	3 <sup>rd</sup> Best	4 <sup>th</sup> Best
5	8 <sup>th</sup> Best	7 <sup>th</sup> Best	6 <sup>th</sup> Best	5 <sup>th</sup> Best
6	9 <sup>th</sup> Best	10 <sup>th</sup> Best	11 <sup>th</sup> Best	12 <sup>th</sup> Best
3	16 <sup>th</sup> Best	15 <sup>th</sup> Best	14 <sup>th</sup> Best	13 <sup>th</sup> Best
2	17 <sup>th</sup> Best	18 <sup>th</sup> Best	19 <sup>th</sup> Best	20 <sup>th</sup> Best
7	24 <sup>th</sup> Best	23 <sup>rd</sup> Best	22 <sup>nd</sup> Best	21 <sup>st</sup> Best
8	25 <sup>th</sup> Best	26 <sup>th</sup> Best	27 <sup>th</sup> Best	28 <sup>th</sup> Best
1	32 <sup>nd</sup> Best	31 <sup>st</sup> Best	30 <sup>th</sup> Best	29 <sup>th</sup> Best

**Note that for OHSAA tournament meets, lanes 1 and 8 will be reversed, and distance races will be seeded!**

## Place over Time

Heat 1	Lane	Heat 2
Best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time	4	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time	5	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 1 <sup>st</sup> place time
Best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time	6	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time	3	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 2 <sup>nd</sup> place time
Best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time	2	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time	7	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 3 <sup>rd</sup> place time
Best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time	8	2 <sup>nd</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time
4 <sup>th</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time	1	3 <sup>rd</sup> best 4 <sup>th</sup> place time

## Track Clerking Positions & Responsibilities

- **Check-In Clerk**
- The Check-In Clerk can work from a seated or standing position and will be located at a central location. They shall:
  - Check the athlete or relay team into the race.
  - Check the names and numbers of each athlete(s) participating, ensuring they match what has been provided and working with the referee or designated individual to make corrections.
  - Perform a full uniform inspection, ensuring all parts of the uniform are compliant with all regulations. No uniform rules may be ignored or set aside.
  - Check the athletes' spikes for compliance with the Games Committee specifications.
  - Provide the athlete/relay team with their heat and lane assignment.
  - Provide information on when and where to meet the Line Clerk.
  - Inform the athlete what hip number they shall request from the Hip Number Clerk
- For relays, confirm what athletes are competing in the race and indicate on the clerk sheets or relay cards as appropriate. Pass along those relay cards or clerk sheets to the Line Clerk.
- When no Line Clerk or Hip Number Clerk is available, the Check-in Clerk will perform those duties. When no Line Clerk is available, the Check-in Clerk and Starter(s) may share the Line Clerk responsibilities and shall clearly define who is responsible for each during a pre meet meeting

## Track Clerking Positions & Responsibilities

- **Line Clerk / Expediting Clerk**
- The Line Clerk shall be mobile taking athletes from the check-in clerk to the starting line. They shall
  - Gather the athletes and review all relevant information, including: Starting line colors
  - Exchange zone colors and rules
  - Starting commands, including the three-meter step back line when appropriate
  - The use of ESD and recall procedures
  - Verify all athletes remember their lane and heat assignments.
  - Dismiss relay runners to go to their exchange zone when appropriate.
  - Following the brief meeting, walk all athletes to the starting area and: Line the athletes up at the correct starting line or three-meter step-back line.
  - Inform the starters what lanes are empty.
  - Formally turn the athletes over to the starters (indicating athletes may no longer check-in and changes can no longer be made to relay teams) by saying a phrase such as "they are all yours madam starter."

## Track Clerking Positions & Responsibilities

- Note: Per Rule 5-10-8 "The relieved competitor shall stand still or jog straight ahead and step off the track when clear". Officials at the finish line should NOT be yelling or instructing athletes to "get off the track", the athlete owns their position. Instructions should be given to the athletes prior to the race, by the clerks, on the proper protocol.
- **Hip Number Clerk**
- The Hip Number Clerk often will be a non-official assistant to the clerking team. They are responsible for providing the required hip number(s) and instructing athletes where to place them on the uniform.

## Clerks

- NFHS Manual, pp. 12-14
- NFHS.org – Clerking Essentials – useful thoughts
  - <https://nfhs.org/media/882335/clerking-essentials.pdf>
- When should you be in the check-in area?
  - By first call
  - Remember you need time to check in athletes properly
- What do you need from the host school?
  - Material: heat sheets, hip (and/or bib)numbers, 2-way radio (or cell phone), table & chairs
  - Information: check in locations, scratches and substitutions, order of events, track markings – starting lines, qualifying procedures
  - Holding area near starting line?

## Clerks

- Before the athletes show up
  - Split races between clerks
  - Dual/tri – assign lanes for each event by team before meet
  - Communicate with scorer about getting qualifiers
  - Communicate with announcer about pacing of calls
  - How do you find the referee if needed?
- Assigning lanes
  - Invitational – done ahead of time (and during the meet) by games committee, scorer
    - S-curve seeding
  - Dual/Tri/Quad
    - Ask for the best 2/3/4 runners from each school in the first section
    - Fast to slow heat order
    - Should be random – the lanes a school is assigned should vary from race to race – you can set that up before the meet starts

## Starters

- NFHS Manual, pp. 14-20 – diagrams for positioning – also in OHSAA Mechanics Manual
- What do you need from the host school
  - Material
    - Shells - who is supplying them?
  - Information
    - Order of events, starting lines
- When should you be at the line?
  - Being in the check in area helps clerks
- Before the athletes show up
  - Communicate with clerks, head finish judge, marshal
- When do you take over?
  - When the clerk has them in their lanes, final instructions

## Track Starter Positions

- **Starter**
- The starter shall have full responsibility for the competitors on the starting line and during the start.
- The starter and backup starter(s) shall decide, without protest, whether a start is fair and legal, or if competitor(s) shall be charged with a false start.
- The starter is responsible for avoiding unnecessary delay in the continuance of events, and shall start the track events promptly after the competitors have been assigned positions and given appropriate information by the clerk.
- The race shall be recalled by firing/sounding the recall device or air horns when ESDs are used.
- The starter or backup starter shall be responsible for counting laps and signaling final laps as outlined in the NFHS Regulations. Counting laps is a Referee responsibility that has been delegated to the starters for all meets in Ohio.

## Track Starter Positions

- **Backup Starter**
- The backup starter shall assist the starter and has the same responsibility as the starter to ensure a fair start.
- The use of a backup starter is especially recommended for sprints and staggered starts where it is difficult for one starter to observe all competitors.
- The backup starter may stop the race and recall the competitors if there is a false start or an unfair start. The race shall be recalled by firing/sounding the recall device or air horns when ESDs are used.
- The starter or backup starter shall be responsible for counting laps and signaling final laps as outlined in the NFHS Regulations. Counting laps is a Referee responsibility that has been delegated to the starters for all meets in Ohio.

## Track Starter Procedure

- The starting commands for races or opening relay legs of less than 800 meters shall be: "On your marks." At this signal, the competitors will immediately take their proper positions behind the starting lines. After all competitors have taken their positions and are steady on their marks, the starter then shall instruct the competitors, "Set." At this command, all competitors shall at once, and without delay, assume their full and final set position in such a manner that no part of their bodies touches on or over the starting line.
- When all competitors are set and motionless, the starter shall fire the starting device. The interval between the set command and the firing of the starting device is approximately two seconds. After a starter gives the order "Set," if any competitor is in motion, the starter shall not fire the starting device. The starter may, for any reason, either before or after the "Set" command, cancel a start by directing all competitors to "Stand up." After making the appropriate adjustments, a new start will be made. Please see the NFHS Rule Book for what constitutes a false or unfair start.
- The starter shall wear a brightly colored sleeve on the arm holding the starting device. A different colored sleeve may be worn on the opposite arm.

## Track Starter Procedure

- While not all-inclusive, the following are some examples of when an Starter should halt the starting process.
- Distractions in the starting area.
- A sound which might simulate a start such as a clicking camera, exploding paper cup, loud banging noise, etc.
- Incorrect starting line.
- Starting block problems.
- Person(s) or an object coming onto the track.
- The starter moving ahead in the starting sequence when all competitors are not ready.
- Runner(s) having difficulty holding the set position because of balance or strength, but not because of rolling through the set position.
- Late technical problems: incorrect lane position, timing or meet official difficulties, or announcer interference.
- Red flag from the finish line or FAT operator.
- One or more competitors false starting before the starting device has been fired. When this occurs, the competitors should immediately be called up in a relaxed manner rather than firing the starting device and then firing the starting device a second time to indicate a false start. This procedure must never be used to "save" a competitor using a rolling technique from committing a false start

## Track Starter Procedure

- **In individual races or relays with legs 400M and shorter / Starting from a crouched position:**
- After signaling the head finish judge and the head timer that the race is about to begin, and upon receiving the "Ready" signal, the starter shall
- Start from a standing position with arms at their sides. The command "stand in your lanes" shall be given.
- Raise the starting device to the proper over-the-head position and give the command, "On your marks." At the same time, swing the other arm, starting with the elbow straight and hand at side, backward and upward over the head, and then down in front, ending with the hand in a fist in front of them.
- After a reasonable length of time sufficient to allow all competitors to become comfortable and motionless and after getting the ready signal from Backup Starters: Give the command, "Set," and at the same time quickly raise the free hand above the head with the hand still fisted.
- The starter shall fire the starting device only after the starter is certain all competitors are set and motionless, approximately 2 seconds. At the same time open their fist. If this interval is too long the competitors should be called up and the race restarted.

## Track Starter Procedure

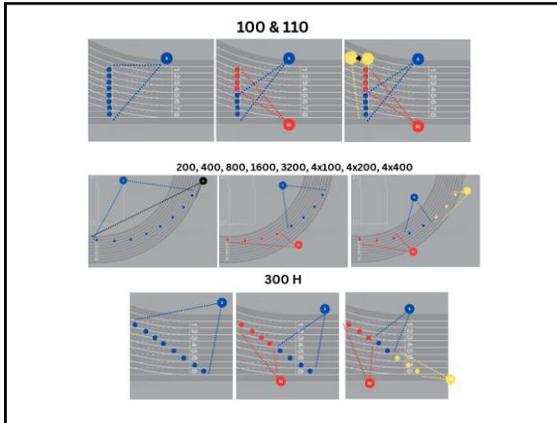
- **In individual races or relay legs of 800M and longer / Starting from a standing position:**
- After signaling the head finish judge and the head timer that the race is about to begin, and upon receiving the "Ready" signal, the starter shall:
- Start from a standing position with arms at their sides the command of "stand in your lanes" shall be given.
- Raise the starting device to the proper over-the-head position and give the command, "On your marks." At the same time, swing the other arm, starting with the elbow straight and hand at side, backward and upward over the head, and then down in front, ending with the hand in a fist in front of them.
- Pause for half a second and as the athletes are moving to the line raise your fisted hand over head.
- The starter shall fire the starting device only after the starter is certain all competitors are set and motionless and after getting the ready signal from Backup Starters. At the same time open their fist. If this interval is too long, the competitors should be called up and the race restarted.

## Track Starter Procedure

- **Backup starter mechanics for all races:**
- After taking the proper position for the race...
- Start from a standing position with arms at their sides.
- As the Head Starter gives the "On Your Mark" command, raise the free arm to be horizontal to the ground.
- When all athletes have achieved their mark, drop the free arm to the original position next to their leg.
- When multiple Backup Starters are used and the Starter cannot clearly see both, the Backup Starters will report in series. The Backup in view of the starter shall not signal as ready until the Backup out of view of the Starter signals they are ready.

## Track Starter Positioning

- The positions outlined in this section are based on having sightlines as indicated by the dashed lines; starters may need to shift slightly to see their area of responsibility/sightline and the use of ladder may also cause slight modifications. Outside of a slight adjustment, these positions shall be followed. Physical barriers such as band shells may affect starter placement; this scenario is not covered in this manual.
- When three starters are available, **B2 (orange)** shall ensure that all runners' hands/fingers are behind the line and then move to view the start from behind to check for slipping blocks; they shall watch all lanes.
- When only one starter is available, they should use **the blue position** when no sound amplification is available; this ensures everyone can hear the commands at the same time. If sound amplification is available or hearing is not an issue **the black alternative location** shall be used as it has the best line of sight.
- Note: Positions in red indicate diagrams in the OHSAA Mechanics Manual. See next slide.



## Starters

- Electronic start devices
- False starts and other recalls
- Specific rules to apply:
  - Rule 5-7
  - Bell/gun lap for 800 up
  - Especially 5-7-2, 5-7-3: commands, and 5-7-4: false starts
  - Unfair start not the same as a false start (5-7-5, 5-7-6, 5-7-7)

## Finish Line

- NFHS Manual, pp. 21-25
- When should you get there?
- Know how your watch works!
- Have extra batteries!
- What do you need from the host school?
  - Order of events
  - Material – heat sheets if used
  - Information – qualifying procedures, scoring places
- Before the athletes show up
  - Who is head timer?
  - Who is timing what place?
  - Where will the recorder be?

## Finish Line

- Where do you stand?
  - Don't need to be right next to track
  - Watch out for FAT camera(s)
  - Wait until last runner finishes!
- Start on smoke, stop on torso
- What info do you need?
  - Line up on finish line as runners are being lined up farther up the track
  - Name, school, number, lane
  - Place and time – time always rounds UP to the next tenth (0.1)
- What if there is a disagreement?
  - Timer on higher place takes precedence
  - Be aware of order of other runners in case you get bumped

## Finish Line

- More important: time or place?
  - How are qualifiers determined?
- Remember you're timing the torso, not the head, hand, arm, foot, etc.!
- Use of FAT – rule 3-8 – timing to 0.001 seconds to break ties
- FAT malfunction – games committee determines the procedure
- Ties – when can you have them?
- Specific rules to apply:
  - Rules 5-8
- Umpiring the exchange zones

## Other Key Personnel

- Lap Counter
- Recorder
- FAT Operator

## Scoring

- How many teams? Rule 2-1-2, page 10

Teams	Indiv. Events	Relays
2	5-3-1	5-0
3	5-3-2-1	5-3
4	6-4-3-2-1	6-4-2
5	8-6-4-2-1	8-6-4-2
6	10-8-6-4-2-1	10-8-6-4-2
7 or more	10-8-6-4-2-1	10-8-6-4-2-1
7 or more	10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1	10-8-6-5-4-3-2-1

## Scoring

- Breaking ties – Rule 2-2, plus rules for each field event
- In running event, athletes from different sections with same time are tied!
- Unbreakable ties – Rule 2-2-4 plus Note
- Example

Heat 1	Heat 2
1 <sup>st</sup> - Bob (A) – 11.2	1 <sup>st</sup> - Mike (C) – 11.3
2 <sup>nd</sup> - Sam(B) – 11.3	2 <sup>nd</sup> - Pete (A) – 11.3
3 <sup>rd</sup> - Al (A) – 11.4	3 <sup>rd</sup> - Dave (B) – 11.5
4 <sup>th</sup> - Ed (C) – 11.6	4 <sup>th</sup> - Frank (C) – 11.7

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Bob
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mike, Sam (tie)
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Pete

## Scoring

- Yes, you can have fractions (for example, tie for last scoring place)
- Example – tri meet, scoring 5-3-2-1
  - Team A – 6
  - Team B – 2 ½
  - Team C – 2 ½
- Clerical errors – 48 hours to appeal – Rule 2-3-1 (games committee can set a different deadline – 3-2-4-s)
- Misapplication of rules – 30 minutes after announcing or posting results – Rule 2-3-3
- Scoring of mixed relays – events must be scored, and points split between boys and girls team scores

## Some reminders

- March update from BJ Duckworth – emailed yesterday
  - Watch for OHSAA “Local” Meeting email next week, as well as for an announcement regarding the State Meet Clinic
  - Some other details – see the update!
- Next meeting will be Monday, March 9 at Fitch
- Topics will be field events
- Remember to complete your online state rules meeting
- Outdoor meeting at 2 pm on Sunday March 22, on the track at Fitch – no business meeting
- Also meeting at 2 pm on Sunday April 12 at Crestview - situations