

**2008 ATOM Clinic Notes  
Doherty Hotel, Clare  
Saturday, February 2, 2008**

**MHSAA Rules Meeting (presented by Nate Hampton)**

MHSAA is going to online rules meeting for officials and coaches. There will only be four “in person” meetings for track and field this year. It is unknown how many there will be in future years.

**Points of Emphasis for Michigan**

-Sixth graders may not compete with or against 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but may compete in separate races.

-Shot put and discuss: each attempt shall be measured before the next attempt is made.

-NEW – Field Event *Recommendations* – Time Limit of Athletes’ Absence From

Competition: The “excused” length of time for competitors leaving a field event to a running event will be

divided into three categories:

Going to races of 400m or less .....10 minutes

Going to races of 800m or 1600m .....15 minutes

Going to races of 3200 m .....20 minutes

In all cases, the times begin when the athlete asks to be dismissed until his/her return.

Times will be recorded by the field event judge.

When it becomes evident to a competitor that he/she will not be able to comply with the time limitation during staging, a substitute from the team can sit and provide information necessary to the actual competition.

-Athletes excused in the field events to participate in another event may take one or more attempts before leaving or upon return.

**ATOM Recommendations to MHSAA Staff:**

Continue to emphasize to host Track and Field managers in the shot put and discuss that it is required that each trial is measured upon completion and not waiting until the flight has finished.

**MITCA Recommendations to the Representative Council**

Cross Country:

Increase the number of individuals who qualify from a Regional to the Final meet to include those who finish in the top 20 (currently top 15) and only for regions with a minimum of 80 finishes.

In regions with eight or more complete teams (a complete team finishes at least five runners), a school finishing in fourth place at the MHSAA Region Meet with four or more runners in the top twenty, will advance to the MHSAA Final Meet.

### **The New Official – A session for beginners (presented by Kathy Hutfilz and Jill Sandro)**

Kathy and Jill reviewed a variety of key items that are important to be familiar with as an official.

Tab, highlight, cross reference and place in ziplock bag your rule and case book.

Arrive early to walk the track, check each field event, and introduce yourself to finish line personnel.

Meet with team captains for coin toss and review sportsmanship statement.

Meet with announcer and discuss what you need their assistance with.

Be sure vault sheets are signed by each coach.

Review entry sheets and make note of the number of athletes in each event.

What to do “At the Line” (a handout is included in the clinic notebook).

Verbal dialog was listed for each event.

Suggested place to stand for each event.

What to do for relay events.

How to adjust tasks at larger meets when you have an assistant starter.

Starting mechanics.

Stay 30 minutes upon completion of the meet (sign score sheet and list MHSAA number).

What to do after the meet (clean gun, take care of clothing and footwear, take care of equipment).

A sample letter for coaches to sign and return is included in the notebook, which outlines key points regarding uniforms, jewelry, sportsmanship, pole vault poles, legal implements, and warm-ups.

### **Large Meet Management (presented by Lew Clingman)**

Lew highlighted a variety of items needed to make a large meet happen.

A list of what to do prior to a large meet (included in the clinic notebook).

A sample schedule of meets held at Houseman Field in one season (approx. 70 workers are used for each meet, many being students). There are many large meets held at Houseman Field each year!

A sample letter of interest sent to area schools in October is included in the notebook.

### **New Interpretations in Field Events (presented by Dale Kutchev and Jan Burch)**

Dale reviewed officiating/safety concerns for high jump, long jump, and pole vault (bulleted lists are included in the clinic notebook). Key ideas for all the jumps were as follows: 1) Use a megaphone. 2) Be pro-active in supervising. 3) Preventative officiating

is the only safe officiating!

Jan reviewed updates for the throws. Key ideas were as follows: 1) The throwing sector for shot put and discus is now 34.92 degrees both inside and outside of the track (which is a 10 to 6 ratio). 2) There are new “recommended” dimensions for the discus cage. 3) Officials are to say “Mark” after the implement has landed and the athlete is under control. 4) It is permissible to enter the ring from any direction. 5) Practice/warm-up is not to begin until an official or the athlete’s coach is present.

Jan also included new safety information from the National Throws Coaches Association, including a color-coded diagram of the four throwing area zones. A full version of the power point presentation can be found at [www.mach2k.net/utca/safety](http://www.mach2k.net/utca/safety).

### **Working with your Officiating Team (Presented by Wayne McDonald)**

Wayne reviewed important tasks to be completed months, weeks, and days prior to a meet. A bulleted list was included in the clinic notebook. He also reviewed the role/responsibilities of each official in large meets and how they work together. The **meet manager** is responsible for the general coordination of the meet. The **head clerk** assigns runners to heats, as well as lanes/alleys/boxes, and is one of the most important players in a meet. The **head referee** meets with the meet manager, umpires and inspectors. He/she also distributes radios and addresses hurdle infractions. The **meet monitor** is the liaison between the coach and referee and must know the sport! The **head finish judge** communicates between timers/judges and starters. The **head field judge** talks with each field judge and makes sure the “Event Closed” signs are in place. The **starter(s)** are responsible for knowing their location and rotation for each event and communicating with the finish line before each race. General observations discussed included the need for officials to be in uniform, rely on meet management, communicate with radios, don’t “shoot from the hip”, and thank the host and meet manager. Matching officials to their areas of expertise, whenever possible, helps a meet run smoother.

### **You Make the Call (presented by Bernie Abrams)**

Bernie led clinic attendees through a variety of “what if” situations.

### **Awards Presented**

Special Recognition: MC Sporting Goods

President’s Leadership Award: John Meyer

Judy Hagman Award: Jan Burch

Bob Bloomer Award: Lew Clingman

Past President’s Award: Jan Burch

Jevert/Jacobs Distinguished Service Award: Harvey Weaver, Gus Hughes, Tom Eschmann

Many five, ten, fifteen, and twenty year awards were given.

Many door prizes were awarded, including a couple of starting pistols and many pieces of clothing apparel.