

## Pole Vault

### Role

The event judge shall oversee the measuring, weighing and inspection of the implements and apparatus; checks records; and see that the field events start on time and continue without delay. The event judge may change the order of competition in the preliminaries to accommodate those who may be excused to participate in other events. The event judge may choose to permit a competitor to take preliminary and final trials in succession. The event judge also shall check and enforce uniform, visible apparel and shoe regulations. The event judge shall be responsible for the judging and measuring of each legal trial of a competitor.

### Considerations, Tips and Techniques

1. **Safety!** To ensure the safety of all in the area, supervise every practice attempt.
2. **Check-in.** As athletes are checked in, the following steps are to be taken:
  - The competitors weight shall be at or below the manufacturer's pole rating.
  - The manufacturers must include on each pole: the pole rating that shall be a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in a contrasting color located within or above the top handhold position.
  - A 1 inch circular band indicating the maximum top handhold position being determined by the manufacturer.
3. **Placement of Standards.** A competitor shall have the standards or uprights set to position the crossbar from a point 15.5 inch (40 cm) measured beyond the vertical plane of the top of the stop board, zero (0) point, up to a maximum distance of 31.5 (80 cm) inch in the direction of the landing surface.
4. **Replacing the Crossbar.** Any displaced crossbar should be placed on the standards in exactly the same position as before its displacement. To ensure this, one face should be marked for identification.
5. **Measurement.** Measurements shall be recorded to the nearest lesser  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch or centimeter. Measurements shall be made with nonstretchable tape such as fiberglass, nylon, steel or certified scientific measurement device (laser). 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.
6. **Bar Not to Lowered.** After competition has started, the bar shall not be lowered, except to determine a first place winner when a tie for that place is involved.
7. **Warm-up.** A 15-minute period prior to the start time should be allocated for warm-up. A competitor who has passed three consecutive heights after competition has begun may be permitted one warm-up jump without the crossbar in place, but shall enter the competition at that height. Such warm-up must be taken at a height change.
8. **Vaulting Order.** Each competitor is allowed a trial in the order in which names are drawn or assigned by the games committee and is granted a maximum of three trials at any one height.
9. **Passing a Height.** A competitor may pass either a trial or a height. A pass must be indicated before the start of the clock.
10. **Calls.** The calls for next 3 competitors are: A "UP", B "ON DECK" and C "ON HOLD".
11. **Time Limit.** A trial must be *initiated* within 1 1/2 minute (90 seconds) after being called. When three or fewer competitors remain, vaulters are allowed 4 minutes. When one competitor remains in the pole vault, the Vaulter will be allowed 6 minutes.
12. **Markers.** A mark or marker shall not be placed on the runway, but it is permissible to place markers at the side of the runway. Meet management may provide check marks, not more than 3 inch long, on the runway. Starting at the back of the planning box, mark intervals in the following manner 6', 7', 8', 9', 10', 11', 12', 13' 20', 30', 40', 50', 60', 70' 80', 90', 100', 110' 120'.
13. **Taping.** Taping of any part of the hands or fingers shall not be permitted unless there is an open wound that must be protected by tape. Taping of the wrist is permissible. Gloves are not permitted. However, a support belt may be worn.
14. **Maximum Attempts Per Height.** Each competitor is allowed a maximum of three (3) trials at any one height.
15. **Unsuccessful Trials (Fouls).** It is a foul if the competitor.
  - Displaces the crossbar from the pins on which it originally rested, with the body or pole.

- Leaves the ground in an attempt and fails to clear the cross bar.
  - 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.
  - Allows any part of his/her body or the pole to touch the ground or the landing system beyond the vertical plane of the top of the stop board, without clearing the bar.
  - Fails to initial a trial that is carried to completion within the defined time period (1 ½ minutes) after being called and after the crossbar and standards have been set.
  - After clearing the crossbar, contacts an upright and displaces the crossbar.
  - Clears the crossbar with the uprights positioned incorrectly.
  - Steadies the crossbar with a hand(s) or arm(s).
  - Grips the pole above the top hand-hold band.
16. **Pole Breaks.** It does not count as a trial if the pole breaks.
17. **Elimination.** A competitor is eliminated once they have had three consecutive unsuccessful trials regardless of a height or heights at which the attempts were made.
18. **Recording Marks.** Heights are recorded to nearest lesser ¼ inch or centimeter.
19. **Ties.** Ties for places shall be settled using the following tie-breaking steps:
- 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.
  - If the tie still remains, the competitor with the fewest total number of unsuccessful trials throughout the competition, up to and include the height last cleared, shall be awarded the height place.
  - Passed trials shall not count as misses.
  - If the tie remains :
    1. It concerns first place, the competitors tying shall make one more attempt for the height at which they failed, If no decision is reached, the bar shall be lowered by three inches. If two or more of the tying competitors clear 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.
    2. the tie concerns any place other than first place, the competitors shall be awarded the same place in the competition.

**7-5-7** The overall size of the pole vault landing pad shall be a minimum of 19'8" wide by 20'2" deep. The landing surface measured beyond the back of the standard bases, shall be a minimum of 19'8" wide. The dimension of the landing surface in back of the vaulting box to the back of the landing pad shall 16'5" deep. The material in the pad shall be high enough and of a composition that will decelerate the landing. When the landing pad is made up of two or more sections, the landing surface shall include a common cover or pad extending over all sections.

The front sections of the landing pad, known as the front buns, shall be a minimum of 16'5" wide so as to cover the entire area around the landing box to the inside edges of the standard bases up to the front edge of the plant box. The maximum cutout for the planting box shall be 36 inches in width measured across the bottom of the cutout. The edges of the front of the landing pad immediately behind the planting box shall not be placed more than three inches from the top of the back of the planting box. The front pad shall be attached to the main landing pad, or encased in a common cover.

**7-5-8**

**7-5-10** The width between the pins that support the cross bar shall be not less than 13'8" (4.16m) or more than 14'8"(4.48m) apart.

**7-5-11** The non-metal crossbar shall be 14'10" (4.52m) in length, of uniform thickness, and shall have a weight of not more than 5 pounds.

**7-5-12** A planting box shall be located midway between the standards. This box shall be constructed of concrete, fiberglass, metal, or other hard surface material into which the vaulting pole is placed so the top edges are at or below ground level. The front edge of the box shall not extend above the grade of the runway surface.

