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TO: Athletic Director/Track and Field Coach
FROM: NSAA/Nate Neuhaus, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: 2017 NSAA Pole Vault Procedures
DATE: February 2017

The following information and material is being made available to all schools that may have students competing in the pole vault event during the 2017 Track and Field season.

The 2017 NFHS Track & Field Rules Book, Rule 6.5 details the procedures for conducting the Pole Vault event. Also, NFHS Rule 6.2 – General Rules for Jumping Events will apply.

Rule 6.5.3

The competitor's 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 with the position being determined by the manufacturer. Prior to competition, the coach must verify that all of the school's pole vaulters and poles meet these requirements.

Notes:

1. Etchings, serial numbers, etc, that may appear on poles shall not replace the requirement of the manufacturer's pole rating of the minimum $\frac{3}{4}$ inch marking in contrasting color on each pole.
2. Each State Association shall determine its own procedure regarding coaches' verification.

The following procedure shall be continued for all meets held during the 2017 season and will be used for the NSAA district and state meets.

1. When the vaulter checks in at the pole vault event he/she will present the event judge with a filled-out Event Entry Card with his/her coach's signature and the pole(s) he/she will use in the competition. The event judge shall enter the competitor's exact weight from the Event Card onto the field event competition card. Pole Vault Event Entry Cards are posted on the Track and Field Home page on the NSAA Website. Please print the cards and make copies as needed. The event judge will then inspect the poles of each vaulter to verify the poles are legal equipment as per Rule 6.5.5. This includes checking:
 - a) The placement of a top hand hold band.
 - b) Numerical pole ratings a minimum of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in a contrasting color located within or above the top hand hold band.
 - c) The proper binding of adhesive tape of uniform thickness when used. The binding shall not be on or above the top hand hold band.
2. **It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that the vaulter uses the properly rated pole. The coach shall verify that each vaulter will use the properly rated pole throughout the competition by signing the Event Entry Card.**

The NFHS rules disqualify a competitor if it is discovered he/she has used a pole rated below his/her actual weight or an improperly marked pole in warm-ups or competition.

The NFHS rules prohibit the use of training poles for warm-ups or competition.