



USATF 2021-2024 Advanced Situational Questions Available For National and Master Level Certification Track and Field, Long Distance Running and Combined Events (V1.0)

Overview

Master and National level officials are expected to have a good fundamental knowledge of USATF rules. Many will serve as event head officials and will be working major championship meets where situations will arise which are not clear-cut and will require logic and common sense in dealing with unique circumstances.

This list of situational questions is being provided to Association Certification Chairs for use in the evaluation and education of officials who wish to maintain National or Master certification, upgrade to National or Master level or wish to add a new area of expertise at the National or Master Level. From this list, National level officials should answer three questions and Master level officials should answer five. There will be some flexibility in how Association Certification Chairs administer this task. They may select specific questions for a particular official or allow the official to choose the questions he or she wishes to answer. The answers could be written or oral. The questions might also be done in a group setting or at a clinic. The Certification Chair will evaluate the answers, with no score to be determined, and should share his or her comments with the applicant.

Instructions

As many situations have more than one possible remedy, there may not be one “correct” answer. In your answer, describe what you would do. For some of the questions, you might want to mention rule(s) that might apply, any additional information you might want to know, certain circumstances that would affect your answer, or the steps you would take to arrive at your decision. If you believe there is more than one reasonable way to answer the question, you should mention all of them and identify the one you would select and the reasons you made that choice. If you take the online version, the link is:

<https://www.flexiquiz.com/SC/N/NMSituations>

Situational Questions

- 1. (Umpire)** You are the Head Umpire at a meet and have six Umpires and yourself.
 - A.** *What general instructions would you give to those umpires?*
 - B.** *Where would you place them for a 4 x 100 Relay, the 400 Hurdles, and a 1500 and would you give them any additional instructions based on the particular event?*

2. (Throws) You are the Head Official for one of the Throwing Events and need to set up the area/venue or, if already set up, check that it is ready for competition.

A. *Pick any of the four throwing events and describe the steps you would take.*

3. (Lap Scorer) You are the only Lap Scorer for a Master's 3,000 involving 18 athletes (men and women in multiple age groups).

A. *What steps would you take to get ready and how would you attempt to keep an accurate account of what was going on during the race? What info would you communicate to the athletes, particularly the leaders in each group and ones that are more than a lap behind? How would you handle ringing the bell indicating one lap to go?*

4. (Umpire) You are the Head Umpire responsible for putting the hurdles on the track or checking that the hurdles are correctly placed and set up properly. You are also responsible for the steeplechase hurdle jumps and the water jump.

A. *What instructions would you give to the umpires and anyone else assisting you?*

5. (Vertical Jumps – Pick PV or HJ.) You are the Head Official in a vertical jump and there is no referee assigned to the vertical events. Suddenly, in the middle of the event, lightning occurs and the track must be cleared immediately. The weather delay is 3 hours, 10 minutes. (The event started at 10AM.) Of the 15 athletes: five had three consecutive misses. Four had cleared the bar on their first or second attempt. Four had two misses. Two had one miss.

A. *How would you restart the event in this situation?*

B. *Would you handle the situation differently if this had happened during the first height (progression) and there were also five athletes who had not yet entered the competition?*

6. (Clerk/Call Room) You are the Chief Clerk of Course or Call Room Official, how would you handle the following ...

A. *The 200m is reseeded due to many scratches.*

B. *An athlete shows up without his or her bib number.*

C. *An athlete shows up to compete in a running event and his or her shoe has 11 spikes.*

D. *An athlete in Youth shows up for the javelin with a shoe that has more than 11 spikes.*

7. (Field Event) You are the Head Official in an Open field event. An athlete is not present when his/her attempt would normally occur.

A. *How would you handle that?*

B. *Would you handle it differently if it were a Master's or Youth event?*

8. (Starter) You are the Head Starter, how would you handle the following situations?

A. *In the 1,500 meter run, 35 meters after the start, an official inadvertently steps into lane 1 and it is not clear whether or not this action caused half the field to be seriously impacted with several athletes falling on the track. If there had been no outside involvement and it appears one or more athletes in the race caused a large number of competitors to be impacted or fall, would you have handled it differently?*

B. *There are four starters including you as the Head Starter. One of the other starters, after the start of the race, fires the gun for a false start. You and the other starters did not see a false start. There is no electronic equipment or the equipment failed.*

C. *In an 800 being run in alleys, a runner in the outside alley immediately breaks for lane one after the gun is fired.*

D. *In a 10,000 run in alleys, 4 runners out of 6 runners in the outside alley immediately break for lane one after the gun is fired.*

9. (Field Event) How would you rule on the following?

A. *When a long jumper's feet make contact with the sand, the hat he or she was wearing falls off?*

B. *A hammer thrower's implement hits the ground on the first rotation but the athlete continues and releases the implement.*

C. *The high jump is in the area of the 400 start. Right when the athlete leaves the ground the race is started and the athlete clearly shows a reaction to the sound of the gun and knocks off the bar.*

D. *A youth athlete throwing the 12 pound hammer at a college facility with a 220' fence throws over the fence and hits a tree about 5 feet above the ground.*

10. (Combined Events) You are the Combined Events Coordinator for a Men's Decathlon.

The men's pole vault has been underway for nearly 2 hours before an athlete decides to enter competition. The athlete requests a warm-up jump without the crossbar.

A. *How would handle this?*

B. *If this was the Youth Decathlon, would you handle it differently?*

11. (Combined Events) You are the Combined Events Coordinator for the Heptathlon. The height for High Jump is set at 1.45m. Only one athlete clears the height. That athlete (only one remaining) requests that the bar be raised to 1.50m.

A. *What would you do at an Open Competition?*

B. *What would you do at a Youth Competition?*

12. (Verticals) An athlete's hands gripping the pole slipped during his attempt. It had been raining and athletes were doing their best to keep the hand hold area dry. The athlete asks for another jump.

How would you handle the situation?

13. (LDR) You are in charge of the Finish Line at a road race whose runners were assigned bibs with chips. The finish area was set up as a corral. After the start and before any athletes have finished, there is an equipment failure.

A. *What steps would you take to get proper times and results?*

14. (LDR) You are in charge of the Finish Line for an 11-12 youth 3k cross country race with 225 athletes. The meet is not going to have FAT or Chip Timing.

A. *How would you set up the finish? What personnel would you want? What jobs would each one do?*

B. *What changes might you make if rain or snow is expected?*

15. (Starter) You are the Starter for a race scheduled for 1:00 PM at a Nationally televised live meet. How would you handle the following situations?

A. *All athletes had checked in but one of the favorite athletes to win the event who was supposed to be in the race was not in the group the clerk or call room official brought to the track and no one knows the reason the athlete is missing.*

B. *During the moments before the race, one of the athletes favored to win the event has muscle cramps and will not be able to make the 1:00 PM start.*

16. (Verticals) You are the Head High Jump Official at a Masters' meet. Because of the number of total entries, the High Jump will combine different age groups and include both men and women. Each different group is considered a separate competition being conducted within one overall competition.

A. *How would you conduct the competition?*

17. (Horizontal) You are the Head Long Jump Official... How would you handle the following situations?

A. *The competitor runs outside the white lines marking the runway at any point before reaching the take-off board.*

B. *The runway is not long enough for an Indoor Meet and the competitor needs to use the part of the track.*

C. *The competitor walks back through the landing area after having legally exited the landing area.*

18. (Verticals) You are the Head Pole Vault Official. How would you deal with the following situations? In your answer say what you would do if you learned of the situation before the event started or only discovered it during the event.

A. *The standards being used were high school standards and cannot go any higher even though there are still athletes in the competition. This includes Combined Event as well.*

B. *In an Open competition, you realize that the pegs that supports the cross bar are 55mm in length, which is used in high school, and not the 35mm length used in Open competition.*

19. (Throws) You are the Head Throws Official at a circle that is recessed. No provision had been made for drainage during construction. The circle is full of water.

A. *How would you handle this situation?*

20. (Horizontal) You are the Head Official for the Long Jump and Triple Jump.

A. *How would you handle the take-off board for Open Athletes?*

B. *How would you handle the take-off board for Youth Athletes?*

C. *How would you handle the take-off board for Masters Athletes?*

21. (EDM) How would you handle the following situations?

A. *EDM stops working during the second of three rounds of a field event.*

B. *A coach goes to the head official of an event and questions an EDM measurement of the mark their athlete made. Recalibration shows a different result than what was announced.*

22. (Clerk of Course or Call Room) You are the Head Clerk of Course or Call Room Official. What are the uniform requirements for a relay on the track?

A. *Open Relays*

B. *Masters Relays*

C. *Youth Relays*

23. (Umpire) You are at a meet where cones are being used. Describe how you would use them in the following situations.

A. *When there is a break line*

B. *When alleys are used*

C. *When curbing needs to be replaced in either Indoor or Outdoor Track*

D. *For the Steeplechase water jump*

24. (Verticals) What are the rules regarding the use of Check Marks for Outdoor Track.

A. *What are the requirements for using check marks for the Open High Jump and Pole Vault?*

B. *How is the Youth Rule different?*

25. (Throws) You are the Head Official for Hammer or the Weight Throw. An athlete shows up with a pair of work gloves with full fingers, wearing a weight belt and his or her wrist is taped.

A. *How would you handle this situation?*

B. *Would you handle this differently during warm ups?*