

# South Dakota Cross Country/Track & Field Officials Association (SDCCTFOA)

## Newsletter, Spring 2026

### Initial Induction to the SDCCTFOA Hall of Fame

The first members of the SDCCTFOA Hall of Fame will be inducted into the Hall at the South Dakota State Track & Field Championship Meet in Sioux Falls in May. The Hall of Fame Committee has developed criteria for selection, and will be making those selections soon.

### SDCCTFOA Membership Meeting, July 16, 2025

July 16, 2025, the SDCCTFOA held a membership meeting. Among the topics discussed was a Hall of Fame criteria for selection, how the Association would continue when the initial three years terms for officers expire, ideas for selecting Regional Representatives, possible ways to recognize the contribution of officials, the selection and addition of state meet officials, the official's uniform, development of a video for track & field officiating, fees for track and field/cross country meets, possible rule/policy changes (ie colored cards for start line violations; colored flags for field events and umpires), and issues with track facilities (ie. sand in pits, track markings, throwing ring improvements, etc). Minutes meeting can be found at:

[Hyperlink](#) for full minutes

### SDCCTFOA Board Meeting, July 19-20, 2025

On July 19, 2025, the SDCCTFOA Board conducted an email meeting to adopt an amendment to the Constitution to implement election of Regional Representatives when the initial terms expire in July 2026. Board members were directed to email their vote on the proposed amendment to President Casper and Secretary/Treasurer Nelson. The vote being 5-0, the motion was considered adopted. President Casper adjourned the meeting on July 20, 2025.

### SDCCTFOA Officers, Regional Representatives and duties

- President: Tim Casper, Lake Preston, 605-203-1754 tim.casper19@gmail.com
- President-Elect: J.D. Evans, Salem, 605-491-4207 jd.evans@k12.sd.us
- Sec/Treasurer: Dana Nelson, Sioux Falls. 605-280-1333 dana.nelson0007@hotmail.com

Regional Representatives

- Region 1 (Northeast) Robert Kwasniewski, Webster, 605-265-0008 rkwas1@abe.midco.net

- Region 2 (Southeast) Tony Waterman, Tea, 605-941-1106 twater.cups@hotmail.com
- Region 3 (Central) Steve Charron, Huron, 605-354-4716 scharron123@hur.midco.net
- Region 4 (West) Larry Stevens, Rapid City, 605-877-4081 ldstevens57@outlook.com

## **Regional Representatives—Election in 2026**

Beginning in July 2026, Regional Representatives will be elected by the membership of SDCCTFOA in each respective region. SDCCTFOA members desiring to serve as a Regional Representative shall notify the President or any Board Member in writing prior to the State Track Meet. The Board will prepare and distribute a ballot to members in each region with instructions to return the ballot prior to the summer meeting. Votes will be tabulated and the person receiving a plurality of the vote shall be declared the winner.

If only one person notifies the board, they shall be declared the winner. If no one expresses interest in the position, the board shall recruit and appoint a regional representative.

Regional Representatives serve three-year terms and are members of the Board of Directors for SDCCTFOA. They are responsible for the officials and the territory within the regional boundaries identified in the Constitution. They interact with and communicate with officials in the region and are responsible for inquiries or requests from officials in their region. They must host an in-person meeting in the region for the purpose of a track and field/cross country clinic.

## **Track and Field Rules Changes - 2026**

**3-2-3k (NEW):** Permits the Games Committee to determine takeoff board placement in horizontal jumps.

**Rationale:** This gives the games committee authority to determine takeoff board placement for the long jump and triple jump. Generally, this will be determined by facility, but if an alternative board is needed, the Games Committee must approve it. Athletes may still change which approved takeoff board to use during competition.

**3-8-6:** Expands the acceptable calibers and provides flexibility for starting devices.

**Rationale:** Due to increased cost and limited availability of .32 caliber blanks, expanding the acceptable calibers provides flexibility. Many starters have already started using a 9mm pistol.

**4-6-5:** Permits an appropriate health care professional, designated by the games committee, to evaluate a downed competitor without resulting in disqualification.

**Rationale:** The change permits the Games Committee to designate a health care professional for the meet to evaluate a downed competitor on the course without resulting in

disqualification, provided no assistance is given to progress along the course. It prioritizes safety while preserving the integrity of the competition.

**4-6-6c (NEW):** Clarifies athletes are not permitted to wear any type of audio or video recording devices during a race, trial, or while in restricted areas.

**Rationale:** No athlete participating in a meet can wear any type of audio or video device to record or transmit a race, trial or in restricted areas.

**6-2-2 NOTES (3) (NEW):** Clarifies that the time limit for a consecutive attempt applies within a height and at a height change.

**Rationale:** The field event time chart does not differentiate whether consecutive trials are within a height or at a height change. Adding this clarifies the rule and establishes a standard procedure. An athlete who is the first jumper at the next height, and who was the final jumper at the previous height, is considered to be making “consecutive” heights, and is allowed the time given in the chart for consecutive jumps.

**6-3-2b4(a):** Incorporates metric measurements alongside imperial to promote clarity and consistency in meet management.

**Rationale:** This allows the use of metric measurements for NFHS meets

**6-8-6 (NEW):** Standardizes warm up times for athletes entering the high jump and pole vault after 60 minutes have elapsed.

**Rationale:** The current rule allows warm-up only after passing three consecutive heights, which can result in long periods of inactivity—sometimes over an hour—in large competitions. Changing the rule to provide a standardized 1.5 minutes for high jump or 2 minutes for pole vault warm-up for any athlete entering after 60 minutes have elapsed promotes fairness, consistency, and risk minimization.

**6-9-21:** Clarifies that padding is required for hard and unyielding surfaces that are elevated relative to the ground.

**Rationale:** The addition of "above ground level" clarifies that padding requirement applies to hard and unyielding surfaces that are elevated above the ground. It helps differentiate between surfaces that present a greater risk of danger during a fall (i.e. raised concrete, asphalt, wood, or platform extensions) versus ground-level areas that may already be padded.

**6-10-5:** Incorporates javelin construction specifications into the rules book for clarity and consistency.

**Rationale:** Moving the implement construction specifications into the rule book provides greater clarity, consistency, and accessibility for coaches, athletes, and officials. All necessary information is available, specific to the high school level. This promotes ease of understanding, consistent enforcement and fairness across all levels of high school competition.

**9-1-1:** Adds the 200 meter dash as an option for indoor meets.

**Rationale:** South Dakota does not conduct an indoor season, but most meets already run a 200.

**9-6-1:** Establishes a standardized 20-meter exchange zone for indoor relays.

**Rationale:** A uniform 20-meter exchange zone in indoor track creates a single standard to ease officiating.

## **Key South Dakota Track & Field Dates**

- Feb 2: First allowable practice for pole vault
- Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 SDHSAA/SDCCTFOA Track & Field Clinics
- Mar 1-31 Track & Field Rules Meeting
- Mar 1-31 Track & Field Rules Test Due
- Mar 2: First allowable Track & Field practice
- Mar 14: First allowable Track & Field meet
- Mar 16: Deadline to submit sanctioned meets
- Mar 31: T&F Rules Meeting & Test must be completed
- May 22: Last day for last chance meets
- May 28-29: State Track & Field Meet, Sioux Falls

## **SDCCTFOA 2026 Track & Field/Cross Country Clinics**

Registered SDHSAA track and field and cross-country officials are required to attend a clinic or jamboree periodically. A new official is required to attend a clinic in their first or second year, and current officials are required to attend a clinic every three years to maintain their registered status. To fulfill this requirement, the SDCCTFOA will present four in-person track & field clinics prior to the 2026 season.

## **Locations, Dates & Times for 2026 Track & Field/XC Clinics**

### **Pierre**

- When: Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Where: SDHSAA Building
- Time: 7:00 pm Central
- POC: Steve Charron, 605-354-4716 scharron123@hur.midco.net

### **Watertown**

- When: Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Where: Watertown High School
- Time: 7:00 pm Central
- POC: Robert Kwasniewski, 605-265-0008 rkwas1@abe.midco.net

#### **Rapid City**

- When: Wednesday, February 18th, 2026
- Where: Rapid City Central FACS Room-follow signs
- Time: 6:00 pm Mountain
- POC: Larry Stevens, 605-877-4081 ldstevens57@outlook.com

#### **Mitchell**

- When: Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- Where: Dakota Wesleyan Avera Sports & Wellness Complex
- Time: 7:00 pm Central
- POC: Tony Waterman, 605-941-1106 twater.cups@hotmail.com
- This clinic will provide live hands-on actual starts/recalls/procedures

### **Clinic Topics:**

New NFHS rules/interpretations - best practices - starting procedure - placement of starters - referee/head field event judge duties - emphasis on PV/HJ officiating - time trials for entering HJ/PV - continued emphasis on javelin officiating - all T/F safety - questions/comments

**NOTE:** The Mitchell Clinic will include live starting opportunities, with athletes from DWU, Mitchell and Mitchell Christian.

All South Dakota high school Athletic Directors and track & field/cross country coaches are invited and encouraged to attend any of the clinics.

## **Inspecting poles and certifying weights for the pole vault**

Prior to the pole vault competition, coaches must provide the Meet Referee written verification of vaulter's weight on a form or card provided by SDHSAA that also includes a school administrator's signature to ensure the vaulters use poles that are at or below their current weight. In lieu of a school administrator, a Meet Manager or designee may sign off as a witness to having recorded the weights. The athletes weight must be measured on the day of the competition, either at home or onsite.

If the coach does not provide written verification, their athletes may not compete in the pole vault at that meet.

The Meet Referee, or designee, shall inspect all of the poles to be used at the event, prior to warm-ups. It is imperative schools arrive early enough, with all of their poles for both boys and girls, so this can be completed before the event. Some meets may require this inspection at the same time other implements are weighed (Shot, Discus, Javelin).

Each pole is first inspected for the rating label which is placed by the manufacturer. If it is covered by tape, ask the athlete to remove the tape.

The label is a 1" circular band indicating the maximum top handhold position as determined by the manufacturer. The weight rating is a minimum of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch marking, in contrasting color, located within or above the top handhold position. The length of the pole is also indicated in the band, and the pole should be measured to assure the pole has not been altered.

If the label is missing, faded, or damaged to the extent we cannot easily determine the weight rating, the pole is impounded. If the label is missing, worn or unreadable, coaches should contact the manufacturer to get a replacement.

Etchings, serial numbers, ratings written with a sharpie, etc., do not replace the requirement of the markings. Only Altius Poles manufactured prior to 2006 are the exception, if the etching is visible and above the top handhold band position, per the NFHS.

The Referee should check for damage or modification to the pole. Measuring the length of the pole versus the length rating should reveal any potential problem. Check to see that the pole has not been modified by cutting off the bottom which may have splintered or broke. Damaged or modified poles should be impounded.

Check for a plug. The pole must have a plug, and if there is not one available, the pole is impounded for safety purposes.

Check the taping. Taping should be smooth and free from grooves creating potential hand holds. Poles with taped knobs and ridges which may improve handholds are not allowed. Ask the athlete to remove the tape and retape the poles.

Mark the pole as approved. Poles should be marked with a distinctive mark or label by the Meet Referee or designee. These marks should be placed in the middle of the pole, approximately at eye level.

Each competitor's weight shall be at or below the manufacturer's rating for a given pole during the Pole Vault event.

Check the weight form for the athlete's weight against his pole to assure his weight is not in excess of his pole's rating. If poles are used by multiple athletes, those poles should be marked accordingly. The poles must be inspected for each individual athlete that may use them. If the athlete's weight exceeds the weight rating for the pole, that athlete may not use that pole.

If there is any question, ask the question of the athlete, not the coach. How much do you weigh? Which poles are yours? And what is your lightest rated pole? This should tell us if we have any issues with the athletes' poles.

Impounded poles should receive a wrap of athletic tape marked “impounded” along with the athlete’s name and school, and may be picked up upon completion of the event.

After concluding the inspection, give the weight form to the official running the event. These forms are attached to the score sheet and become part of the meet record. Officials running the event should record the vaulter’s weight on the score sheet and ensure each attempt is taken using a pole that displays certification for a weight at or below that of the competitor.

If problems are likely to exist, the event official may require each athlete, when they step on the runway, to show the official the mark on the pole. This ensures only inspected poles are used.

Creating a certified standard for pole inspection and ensuring those who do the inspection are held to a standard promotes safety and fairness.

## **Throws Safety – Shot Put, Discus and Javelin**

Safety in throwing events is a top priority during both practices and competition. Coaches, meet officials, event managers, competitors and volunteers should review proper safety protocols during the preseason and before each meet to reduce the risk of dangerous situations. This applies during practices, warm-ups and competition periods.

Each throwing venue should be regulated and set up with safety for athletes, officials, and spectators in mind. A clearly marked safety zone must be established for each event, using flagging or rope placed outside the sector lines and the farthest potential landing area of the implement. It’s important to recognize that the flagged safety sector indicates the primary danger zone, but not the only one. Implements such as the discus and javelin can deviate significantly from their expected flight, and even well-marked venues require constant vigilance.

Officials must inspect venues for hazards, including checking cages for holes, loose netting or other deficiencies. Any damage must be repaired prior to the event. Event personnel and athletes must be reminded to never turn their back to the throwing area during warm-ups or competition and to always wait for an official’s signal before retrieving implements or leaving the designated area. These precautions are essential to prevent accident.

**Restricted Areas** – An often underestimated responsibility of the games committee is the designation of restricted and unrestricted areas. This is key for all meets. Clearly defining these areas supports risk minimization, maintains the integrity of competition and ensures efficient meet operations.

Restricted areas are those where only competitors currently involved in an event, meet officials, and designated personnel are permitted. Others, including non-competing athletes and coaches, must remain in unrestricted areas.

According to the rules, **electronic devices** can only be used in **unrestricted** areas. This rule applies to athletes, coaches and managers recording performances for review and instruction. **Use of headphones, cell phones and other devices are prohibited by competitors in restricted areas.** Athletes using an electronic device while crossing the track or approaching a field event venue may be distracted and unaware of their surroundings which increases the risk not only to themselves but to others as well.

Coaching from a restricted area is considered assistance under the rules, and results in the coach's athlete being disqualified. Coaches leaving a designated coaching box into a restricted area can interfere with the competition and expose themselves to risk.

The games committee must make clear designations of restricted and unrestricted areas, and communicate them effectively to all, enforcing them throughout the meet.

## **SD Track & Field/Cross Country Fee Recommendations**

SDCCTFOA working with SDHSAA developed recommended fees for track & field and cross country. Last year, SDHSAA included these fee recommendations with preseason information sent to ADs for the track & field season.

Neither schools nor officials are bound by this recommendation, but officials should strive to attain these fees for consistency across the state.

### **Meet Referee, Starter & Assistant Starter**

	Recommended
Dual, triangular, quad, up to 8 schools (approx. 4 to 6 hours)	\$250/Day
9 to 16 schools or more (approx. 7 or 8 hours)	\$300/Day
Large Relay/Conference/Last Chance Meets, more than 16 schools <small>(day long meets, ie Howard Wood, ESD, Metro, DAC, BH Conference, etc)</small>	\$350/Day
If middle school races are included in above meets (extra fee)	\$100
Middle School Meet only (4 to 12 schools)	\$250
Cross Country Meet (up to six races)	\$150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional races</li> </ul>	\$25 each

### **Shells**

Shells (32 caliber or 9 mm caliber outdoors/22 caliber indoors) must be provided by the school or purchased from the starter. Shells at retail cost:

32 caliber box (50 shells) Winchester blanks:	\$60.00 to \$80.00/box
32 caliber box (50 shells) Boland blanks:	\$50.00 to \$60.00/box
22 caliber box (50 shells) Winchester blanks:	\$25.00 to \$40.00/box

9 mm caliber box (50 shells) blanks:

\$25.00 to \$35.00/box

**NO GATOR SHELLS—They are dangerous, with possibility of multiple shells going off at once**

### **Mileage**

State rate to driver (67 cents/mile). Each official should receive mileage, unless they agree to travel together, then rider mileage to second & third official (18 cents/mile).

### **Contract contents**

Contracts must contain the following information:

- Date and location of meet & start time
- Number of schools anticipated/invited
- Whether the meet includes middle school events and how many
- Mileage details
- Who is providing shells

### **Contingencies**

If additional schools are added to contracted meets, for whatever reason, ADs need to adjustment the fee consistent with the above. Officials anticipating a 6 hour or less meet, now working a 6 to 10 hour meet must be compensated accordingly.

### **Additional Officials**

Additional officials should be recruited to serve as, clerk of the course, and to run field events (high jump; long & triple jump; pole vault; shot put; discus and javelin). Fees should be considered for those positions, and SDHSAA officials should be hired when practical.

## **Officials Recognized for Track & Field Achievements**

**Jim Aberle was recognized as the 2025 Track & Field National Federation Officials Association Active Official of the Year for South Dakota.** Individuals receiving this award have exemplified the highest standards of ethical conduct and moral character and have been given the endorsement of the SDHSAA.

Jim, a graduate of Lead High School, participated as a multiple sport athlete in football, basketball, track and baseball. He began his officiating career in 1966, refereeing junior high and high school intramural basketball games while he was a member of the varsity basketball team.

He attended the University of Notre Dame, earning a degree in accounting in 1972. In college, he participated in baseball and continued to officiate intramural basketball games. Jim served in the US Army for four years and upon discharge as a Captain in 1976, he and his wife, Cathie, returned to Lead where he began his accounting career with Homestake Mining Company.

Jim was the Controller and Chief Financial Officer for the Lead operation leaving the company when the mine closing was imminent. He has worked in various capacities since that time as a

consultant, Real Estate Developer and as the Executive Director of Black Hills Vision, regional economic development group,. Jim and Cathie raised four daughters, and have fourteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Jim officiated football and basketball for forty years from 1976 until 2015 and then served as an assigner and observer for high school officials from 2015 until 2023. Jim began his track officiating career in the early 2000's and has worked several State Track Meets.

In addition to officiating, Jim served as a basketball coach at Lead High School from 1978 to 1985 and from 1997 to 2003. He was the head girls coach from 1999 to 2003 and participated in two state tournaments

During forty-nine years he worked at many levels in both football and basketball including high school, NCAA and NAIA. He worked several State Championship games and State Tournament basketball tournaments. In 2017 he was inducted into the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Shrine, and has also received the SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award.

Jim remained involved with SDHSAA events over the last ten years. Working as a track official has been a very special time for him. He is appreciative of the time he has been able to spend working with high school athletes and continues to enjoy the relationships with student athletes, coaches and fellow officials.

**Richard "Rock" Rockafellow was recognized for 50 years of high school officiating in South Dakota.** Rock first became a registered official in South Dakota in 1956 and officiated ever since. There was a period of eight years when he lived in Iowa, but he continued to officiate in that state. When he returned to South Dakota, he registered again.

He started his first track meet in 1976, and worked 28 state track meets and numerous regions and conference meets, as well as many cross country meets. He was a member of SDHSAA Sports Council and was on the track officials advisory committee. For several years he conducted yearly track rules meetings throughout the state.

He received the SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1999, the NFOA Track Official Award in 1996, and the South Dakota Coaches High School Coaches Award for officials in 1995-96. He is a member of the South Dakota Baseball Players Hall of Fame as both a player and umpire.

Rock would like to thank his family; wife Echo, children Rhonda, Judy, and Mark for putting up with all the times he was away from home. He would also like to thank all the officials he worked with over the years. His greatest memories are working with all the young athletes he was fortunate to work with.

**Bernie Schuurmans was recognized for 25 years of high school officiating in South Dakota.** Bernie attended Tyndall High School, graduating in 1968. He participated in football, basketball,

and track and field. Tyndall won the Class B Track and Field team title in 1966 & 67, and was runner up in 1968. Bernie earned 6 state meet medals, and in 1968 was the individual champion in the 180-yard low hurdles. He attended the University of South Dakota and went on to attend Dental College at the University of Nebraska.

Bernie volunteered for over 20 years at track meets in the Madison area. He decided to become a licensed official in 2000, and for the last 25 years has enjoyed being a Track and Field Official. He has worked as a starter for high school and middle school meets in the Madison area, and served as the referee for a number of Regional Track and Field meets. Bernie also volunteers for the South Dakota Senior Games Association and for youth track & field meets.

**Harry Weller was recognized for 25 years of high school officiating in South Dakota.** Harry began his career in Track and Field and Cross Country in 2000, and has officiated many track and field and cross country meets over the years. His highlights include being selected as a Field Judge in 2015 and 2018 for Pole Vault and Long Jump for the State Track Meet in Rapid City.

He wishes to thank Richard Rockafellow, Gale Patterson, Larry Stevens, Bob Lowery, Jerry Rhodes, Steve Charron and Tim Casper for their support.

**Brad Wilkins is retiring from officiating after 31 years.** Brad started officiating track and field in 1994 as a meet referee, while he was an assistant boys track coach in Salem. Head coach, Gene Danielson asked him to get registered to serve as meet referee for meets in Salem, which hosted three or four meets a year. Brad continued coaching while serving as meet referee for those meets.

When he resigned from coaching, he began starting meets in Salem, and slowly began doing meets in the area, when he could get away from his job as the Network Administrator for the Salem/McCook Central schools.

As a starter, he didn't want to be the official who would start a race and then stand by the fence talking to spectators. He found himself helping with exchange zones, moving hurdles and blocks, and helping the meet referee with rules.

After 41 years in education, all in Salem, Brad retired from officiating after the 2024 season. The following year, Brad maintained his registration to help a new official start a cross country meet and the first track meet in Salem.

Brad has many fond memories throughout the years. His biggest highlight was serving as a starter for 2022 State Track Meet in Sioux Falls, filling in for a starter who was injured the morning of the first day. Brad said he had the opportunity to work with a lot of great officials and student athletes throughout the years and that will always be cherished!

**Cal Corey is retiring from officiating after 20 years.** After 64 years of being an athlete, coaching (34 years), and officiating (20 yrs), Cal felt it was time to retire. He had a great career, and has been honored by five Hall of Fames: SDHS Coaches Association, SD Track and Cross Country Association, Sturgis High School, Black Hills State and the National HS Coaches Association. One of his granddaughters once asked him if he was a legend? He told her NO, but he was coached by, coached against, and worked with MANY.

As a coach and official, Cal said he had the privilege to see and coach the greatest athletes that South Dakota produced over that 64 year span. It was a great and rewarding career that he shared with his wife of 56 years, Linda.

## **Cross Country/Track & Field Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committee met on October 1, 2025. Some of the highlights included:

The possibility of eliminating the deviation from the NFHS rule book for the spacing of hurdles for the 100 meter hurdles. South Dakota currently deviates, and the current distance for the 100m Girls' Hurdles is 13 meters from the start line to the first hurdle, 8 meters between hurdles, and 15 meters from the final hurdle to the finish line.

Paul Hendry moved, and Stephanie McCord seconded a proposal to eliminate the girls' 100-meter hurdles deviation starting in the 2029 track season

This would put South Dakota in line with the NFHS rule book, and be consistent with other states. The reason to delay the change until 2029 allows time for schools to make changes to their track markings. This motion passed 6-0, and goes to the AD's Advisory Committee and then the SDHSAA Board of Directors before it is final.

The Committee discussed the prospect of having two pole vault pits in the infield for the State Track Meet. Provided funding and logistics can be worked out, the committee adopted this recommendation 6-0. This would allow greater flexibility for scheduling and provide a seamless transition between classes, rather than having a long warm-up period between events.

The Committee also agreed to maintain the current starting heights for the high jump and pole vault for the state meet, with the Games Committee retaining the ability to adjust heights due to unforeseen circumstances. Last year the current starting heights worked well, but with unforeseen circumstances, the games committee can adjust the heights.

The Committee advanced a proposal to add a unified 4x100 relay as a non-scored event for the 2028 season. This would allow athletes to participate in the state track meet. Details and schedule to be worked out if the proposal is ultimately approved.

The Committee also discussed changing the direction of the 200 meter dash, but took no action.

There was also a short discussion of the possibility of having Indoor Track as a separate season. Dan Swartos referred the committee to the proper procedure for implementing a new sport or activity. With more facilities becoming available during the indoor season, this discussion is likely to renewed annually.

Tim Casper, the official representative on the Committee, asked SDHSAA to support having schools follow these procedures in track meets, requiring all venues to have flags/paddles for all track & field events (Red and White – field events, Yellow and White – track events)

He also stressed the importance for officials to verify poles and athletes weights before the event starts. And, he brought up the use of red, yellow and green cards by starters. SDHSAA checked with NFHS whether that represented a deviation from the rules, and learned that it did not. It is merely a best practice. Accordingly, starters may start using cards this spring.

You can find the full text of the minutes at: [Link minutes HERE](#)

## **Protest/Appeal Process**

During a track and field meet there may be disagreements with an official's call. In these cases, a protest may be made to the Meet Referee.

A protest must be submitted in writing. The referee shall review the protest, and all allowable evidence, such as an umpire's written report and circumstances regarding the protest.

Video replay or television monitoring equipment, other than the official finish line equipment approved by the games committee prior to the start of competition, may not be used to make decisions related to the meet. **Video or photos from the bleachers, streaming footage or any electronic means cannot be used as part of the appeal process.**

After the referee renders a decision, they shall notify the coach of the competitors affected and if necessary, results revised, posted and announced.

If there is a Jury of Appeals a coach may protest, in writing, if they believe the stated terms and conditions of competition or the application of the rule(s) have been misapplied or misinterpreted by the Referee.

The following situations are subject to protest and appeal:

- Misapplication of rules: must be filed within 30 minutes after the announcement of event results.
- Correction of clerical or team scoring errors - corrected up to 48 hours after the end of the meet.
- A different time period may be specified in advance by the games committee/meet director.
- Correction of meet results involving an ineligible participant may be made at any time when discovered.

- Failure to follow a procedure contained in the terms and conditions of competition such as the time schedule, the number of qualifiers to advance, number of trials, etc.

Coaches may **NOT** protest

1. Any judgment decision pertaining to violations or alleged violations of the rules.
2. A decision by finish judges/timers not involving misapplication of a rule or the terms and conditions of competition.
3. Whether a start is fair and legal.

## **New Officials**

Do you know someone who may be interested in becoming a track & field/cross country official? We need new officials. Be responsible to recruit someone to succeed you when you retire. Have them contact the SDHSAA and register.

## **Want to be More Involved in the Association**

Let a board member know if you are interested in being more involved. The only way this organization can grow is to include more officials. No contribution is too little, so if you have an idea, concern or objection, please reach out.

## **Next Newsletter & Contributions**

The SDCCTFOA produces newsletters for cross country and track and field. If you have topics or ideas, you are encouraged to reach out to J.D. Evans, Dana Nelson or Tim Casper. We need more input and ideas, and many of you have things you may like to share.