

## Visually Impaired Field Event - Guidelines

### Purpose

To allow an athlete with a visual impairment to safely and fairly compete in throwing events under **SDHSAA and NFHS rules**.

### Role of the Throwing Guide

The Guide's role is limited to orientation and safety.

*The Guide may:*

- Escort the athlete to and from the ring or runway
- Assist with locating boundaries (ring edge, toe board, runway lines)
- Provide brief verbal cues to align the athlete toward the legal throwing sector
- Help make sure the area is clear before and after each attempt

*The Guide may not:*

- Provide physical assistance once the throwing motion begins
- Offer balance support, force, or mechanical advantage
- Interfere with officials or delay competition

### Positioning and Communication

*Before the Attempt*

- The athlete may physically feel ring/runway boundaries for orientation.
- The Guide may use short, clear verbal cues for positioning (for example: "centered," "step left," "sector straight ahead").

*During Alignment*

- The Guide must stand outside the ring/cage/runway and outside the throwing sector outside the safety flags/ropes.
- Once the athlete begins the throwing motion, the Guide must be silent and stationary.

*During the Throw*

- No physical contact is permitted once the motion begins.
- All NFHS rules and foul standards apply.

*After the Throw*

- The Guide may provide brief verbal reminders for safety (for example: "remain in the ring").
- The athlete exits only after the implement lands and as directed by officials.
- The Guide may assist with safe exit after the attempt is complete.