



Memorandum

To: State Association Executive Officers and Track & Field Administrators

From: Becky Oakes

Subject: NFHS Track & Field Rule 7-5-3, NOTE 1 – Pole Weight Rating

Date: April 17, 2009

The NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee included a new Note 1, in the 2009 Rules Book, which emphasizes the required manufacturer's marking of the weight rating for an individual pole cannot be replaced by "etchings, serial numbers, etc." Rule 7-5-3 states, "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."

The language of the Note addresses various methods by which manufacturers may identify the characteristics of an individual pole. Traditionally, the characteristics of a pole were etched on the pole. These etchings were generally not $\frac{3}{4}$ in size and may or may not have been in a contrasting color to the pole or placed in a position on the pole in or above the manufacturer's legal handhold 1-inch circular band. The Note emphasizes the importance of the weight rating appearing on the pole as required in Rule 7-5-3.

The NFHS has been contacted by the manufacturer of Altius Poles, bringing to our attention that prior to 2006, the official manufacturer's placement of the pole weight rating for Altius poles was to engrave the pole rating $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in height and of a contrasting color. A label or other similar process was not used by the manufacturer in addition to the engraved pole characteristics and weight rating. Altius poles manufactured from 2006 to the present now use a labeling system, in addition to etchings.

With the inclusion of Note 1, the earlier models of the Altius poles have come into question of legality due to the manufacturer's method of engraving the weight rating in $\frac{3}{4}$ inch contrasting color.

Attached for your files is correspondence from Mr. Jeff Erickson, primary owner of Altius Poles, confirming the manufacturer's process for placing the official pole weight rating on poles manufactured prior to 2006. Although this has not been as common of a process, Altius was placing, using this method, a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch contrasting color weight rating on the individual pole.

Based on this information from the official representative of Altius Poles, it is the position of the NFHS that your state may accept these earlier model poles as legal using the engraving, providing the manufacturer's marking meets the requirements of Rule 7-5-3 and all other requirements for a legal pole are met.

Representatives of Altius Poles and the NFHS will continue to work together on this matter, should further attention be necessary for future seasons.

BO/af

Attachment

Cc: Robert Kanaby, NFHS
Bob Gardner, NFHS
Jeff Erickson, Altius Poles
NFHS Track & Field Rules Committee

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