



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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TO ALL IT MAY CONCERN:

Altius poles do comply with the NFHS rules:

Prior to 2006 all Altius Poles had the size engraved $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall in a contrasting color.

The Engraved portion of the weight indicator was $\frac{3}{4}$ " tall engraved and inked in to provide a contrasting image to view! This indicator was located near the top of every pole 4-5 inches down in the non-hand grip area of the pole. Most all pole hand grip area's are defined in the industry as a 12" area that starts 3-6" down on a pole, positioned and placed by the manufacturer.

After 2006 all poles have a weight label in addition to the above engraved etchings to fully comply with any NFHS interpretations.

Owner

Jeff Erickson



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TO ALL IT MAY CONCERN:

ESSX poles do comply with the NFHS rules:

Since the year 2000 all poles have a weight label in addition to a permanent engraved area located at the butt of the pole near the pole tip. Prior to the year 2000 ESSX poles did not exist.

All ESSX vaulting poles will comply with the contrasting ring and viewable weight label NFHS rule. The ring with the $\frac{3}{4}$ " bold type will be located 3-4" down from the top of the pole as an indicator of the start of the grip area. Grip area known throughout the industry as an area of 12" located below the top handhold ring and weight label. Our weight label will have the serial number of the pole within its info to support that the pole matches the permanent engraved portion of the pole.

Any labels that will be replaced by ESSX will indicate the serial number of the pole. If the serial number located in the label does not match the permanent serial number of the pole the pole has been tampered with and should not be allowed to be used. The coach is responsible for maintaining the labels and during replacement is totally responsible for applying the label to the correct serial number pole. A fee of \$10.00 per label for replacement of the label may be imposed.

All ESSX Poles are tested before shipping to their customers. The coach and the athlete are responsible for the care of the fiberglass pole, no company provides a warranty replacement for broken poles.

Essx poles do fully meet and comply with any NFHS rules or interpretations.

Owner

Bruce Caldwell