

3.2 High Jump Specific Rules

These rules are to be read in conjunction with Section "A" Competition General Rules and Section "C" – Field Events 1. General Rules.

3.2.1 Judge

- i. The Chief Judge should first make sure that the landing area is satisfactory, and that the uprights and cross-bar (including a spare) are in good condition.
- ii. Restraining straps **must** be used for all competition. The use of restraining straps on High Jump equipment avoids the problem of having the bar fall onto the landing bags under the falling body.

(Refer photograph 'High Jump - Restraining Straps')

3.2.2 Validity of Jumps

- i. A competitor may commence jumping at any height above the minimum height and may jump at their own discretion at any subsequent height. **3 successive failures, not necessarily at the same height**, disqualifies the athlete from competing further.

Note

The effect of this rule is that a competitor may forego their second or third jumps at a particular height (after failing first or second time) and still jump at a subsequent height (IAAF 181.2).

- ii. A competitor must take off from one foot (IAAF 182.1).
- iii. Knocking the bar off the supports, or touching the ground or landing area beyond the plane of the uprights with any part of the body without clearing the bar shall count as a failure.
- iv. However, if when jumping, a competitor touches the landing area with a foot and in the opinion of the judge, no advantage is gained, the jump for that reason should not be considered as a failure (IAAF 182.2b).
- v. If the bar falls off without having been knocked by the competitor (eg. due to strong wind) the competitor is not penalised.
- vi. The uprights or posts shall not be moved during competition unless the Referee considers the run up or take-off area has become unsafe. In such a case the change shall be made only after a round has been completed (IAAF 182.7).

3.2.3 Safety

- i. Athletes are to be advised to jump so that they land in the centre of the bags (landing area). If officials are concerned with the manner in which an athlete is jumping (ie. in an unsafe manner), they should ask the athlete to cease jumping and seek coaching in the event. Officials are to warn athletes of the dangers of high jump, if it is not done correctly.
- ii. The minimum area for the landing area is 2.4m by 4.0m. An additional moveable bag is also recommended.

3.2.4 Measuring

- i. Before the commencement of the competition the Judge shall announce to the competitors the starting height and the subsequent heights to which the bar has been raised at the commencement of each round (IAAF 181.1).
- ii. The height of the cross-bar should be checked at both ends to confirm it is horizontal and in the centre to confirm the correct height.
- iii. In the case of a sagging cross-bar measurement is made from the ground perpendicular to the upper edge of the cross-bar at the point where it is lowest (IAAF 181.5).
- iv. In the case of records, the Judges must check the measurement when the cross-bar is placed at the record height and they must re-check the measurement before each subsequent record attempt if the cross-bar has been disturbed since last measured. After a successful clearance, the Chief Judge shall call the Referee to verify the measurement.
- v. Even after all other competitors have failed a competitor is entitled to continue until they forfeit their right to compete further.
- vi. The heights to which the cross-bar is raised shall be decided after consulting with the competitor (IAAF 181.3).
- vii. Each competitor shall be credited with the best of all their jumps, subject to the conditions relating to ties (IAAF 181.21).

Note

Judges should ensure, before starting the competition, that the underside and front of the cross-bar are distinguishable and that the cross-bar is always replaced with the same surface uppermost and the same surface to the front (IAAF 181.6).

Note

At all events from club to State Championships high jump bags/landing area must be bound together by a one-piece fabric fitted cover that binds the mats together into a single unified landing surface.

3.2.5 Countbacks

The following example illustrates the rule on countbacks.

| | 1.78m | 1.82m | 1.85m | 1.88m | 1.90m | 1.92m | 1.94m | Total Failures | Position |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|----------|
| A | - | x0 | 0 | x0 | - | xx0 | xxx | 4 | 2= |
| B | 0 | 0 | 0 | x- | x0 | xx0 | xxx | 4 | 2= |
| C | 0 | 0 | x- | 0 | xx0 | xx0 | xxx | 5 | 4 |
| D | 0 | - | - | xx0 | xx0 | x0 | xxx | 5 | 1 |

0 = Cleared

X = Failed

- = Did not jump.

- i. A, B, C and D all cleared 1.92m and failed at 1.94m.
- ii. The rule regarding ties comes into operation, as "D" cleared 1.92m on the second attempt, the others taking three, "D" is declared the winner.
- iii. The other three will tie and the Judges add up the total number of failures, up to and including the height last cleared, ie. 1.92m.
- iv. "C" has more failures than "A" or "B", and is therefore awarded fourth place. "A" and "B" share second place, as there is no jump-off for placings in Little Athletics.

3.2.6 Officials

- i. A minimum of 4 officials is required.
- ii. Official A (normally the Chief Judge) will:
 - a. Rule on the validity of the trial and indicate a fair jump with a white flag and a foul jump with a red flag.
 - b. Measure the bar as it is raised and announce the new height to the competitors.
- iii. Officials B and C will:
 - a. Stand well away from the uprights when during trials to avoid distracting the competitors, but in line with the plane of the uprights.
 - b. Replace the bar as required.
- iv. Official D will:
 - a. Call up the competitors and record the results. In marking the sheet a jump is recorded thus:
 - A clear jump is an 'O'.
 - A failure is an 'X'.
 - A jump not taken is a 'P'.
 - All attempts must be recorded.
 - b. Time the trial and indicate with a yellow flag when the last 15 seconds remains for that trial.
- v. There is a mistaken belief that provided the jumper scrambles off the landing area before the bar falls, it does not count as a failure. **This is quite wrong, and there is no rule to this effect.**
- vi. Officials must watch very carefully, particularly when there is a wind blowing, and must make up their mind whether the cross-bar fell as a result of the jumper knocking it, or whether the wind was the true cause of it falling. Prior to a athlete making an attempt, the cross-bar may be steadied by an official up to the last possible moment.