

# Track and Field

Site Inspection



Jenkins High School – Jenkins, Kentucky

Monday – April 12, 2004

## Pole Vault

Landing Pad	Jenkins High School has purchased a new pole vault pit that meets the new requirements set forth by the National Federation. With the new pit came a new location of the pole vault venue. The only problem with the new location is that with the runway being an extension of Lane 4 on the sprint straightway vault competition can not take place when any lane races are going on, however the length of the runway would be unlimited. There are no lines to actually indicate a pole vault runway the last 30 – 40 feet of the runway and this could present a problem.
Planting Box	The vaulting box has been inserted into the track and is level with the running surface. Needs to be checked yearly to make sure it is stable and secure in the surrounding black top or concrete.
Standards/Crossbar	The cross-bars were not out for view but new ones were observed in the track storage area. The Standards, like all the other pole vaulting equipment was brand new but they have yet to be put into place. In discussion with school personnel it was stated that they planned to put inserts in the blacktop surface where the standards were to be secure. It was recommended to the school personnel that a section of black top be removed where the standards were to be secured and replaced with concrete so that a more secure and longer lasting platform would be in place.
Surrounding Area	Part of the area around the pit is blacktop that would need additional padding. A major concern is a electric line coming from a utility pole to a football score board approximately 30 feet from the vault take off area and about 12 feet above the runway. It would be very much in play as the athletes approached the pit with his/her pole extended in the air. The area has some area around it that would probably need to be flagged off for crowd control.
Coaching Box	With the location of the vaulting venue a coaching box would not be necessary as the area is open for all to view with ease.
Overall view	The pole vault competition must first have the standards secured to the ground and all the padding in place around the standards and pit. Electric wire crossing runway need to be removed before any competition is held. Runway needs to be marked.

## High Jump

Landing Pit	New high jump pads have been purchased with 3 landing pads and a common cover to meet all the requirements of the National Federation. After observing the current high jump apron and the current method of placing the pads on the standard it was noted that the jumpers approaching from the left were coming down hill while the jumpers approaching from the
-------------	--

	right were coming uphill. A location was recommended that would give all the jumpers the same basic approach.
Standards/Crossbar	New cross-bars and standards were purchased.
Surrounding Area	All the surrounding area of the high jump area is hard blacktop and should have additional padding around the sides and back of the pit.
Overall view	Changing the approach to assure equal opportunity for all athletes and additional padding on the hard and unyielding surfaces will leave this a very nice venue.

Long Jump and Triple Jump	
Landing Pit 9' by 15'  Runway 130'	Two different runways one for the Triple Jump and one for the Long Jump. Triple Jump runway has plenty of length however with the massive width of the runway an actual runway needs to be marked on the pavement. The runway area where the hop lands and the step takes place is very rough and the pavement needs to be made smooth to eliminate the possibility of injury. The Long Jump runway is good for about 90' then a very large badly patched area of the pavement comes into play then at about 100' the runway inclines 2-3' and any athletes that uses the recommended length of 130' would be at a big disadvantage.
Take Off Marks	Take off marks are fine.
Sand Level	Sand in both pits has been placed in extremely large piles and is simply not safe. The sand needs to be raked level so that it is even with the runways. Recommended that actual sand pits be developed to help hold the sand in place.
Surrounding Area	There are a lot of possible liable situations in this area with discarded football equipment, discarded chain length fence and several large mounds of dirt that need to be removed to help make the area safe. Bushes and trees in area need trimmed or removed.
Overall View	Both runways and pits need a major face lift. Safety issues in the area need addressed first, general clean up of the area and constructing two safe sand pits. With clean up of area the Long Jump pit can be moved down 20-30 feet to gain the safe length the runway needs. Both runways need pavement repairs so that the running and jumping areas are safe.

Shot Put	
Circle	This particular concrete circle needs totally replaced. It is unsafe for the athletes to use the glide or the rotation technique, a painted circle is not present and the toe board is in need of repair. With the current location the throwing direction is not safe when running races are being conducted, especially if the rotation technique is being used. An area outside of the oval was recommended and pointed out that with a little clean up activity a very nice safe shot put circle and sector could be put in place.
Surrounding Area	The current location has the sector pointing in the direction of the runners coming around the first curve, any throw outside the sector to the left is going to either hit on the track or roll on the track.
Overall View	The shot put circle needs totally replaced as the concrete in its various stages of decay is totally unsafe. The concrete must have the circle markings and the toe board either replaced or painted. If the current location is kept the direction of throw must be altered to avoid the present problem of shots being able to land on or roll across the track. Need to give serious consideration to moving the shot put to the area outside of the oval. Absolutely no shot put competitions should be held on the current circle.

Discus Throw	
Cage	Completely illegal and unsafe. It is not recommended to use for practice by the home team.
Circle	Concrete circle is quite old and needs replaced. The circle marking are only visible is spots.
Surrounding Area	Current location is in the curve nearest the finish line and finish line officials could be in the line of fire. The school personnel mentioned his desire to move the discus venue to the area nearest the 200 Meter Start. This suggestion is highly recommended. The new discus cage meet the requirements of the National Federation and a new concrete pad and circle put in.
Overall View	Current discus cage is totally illegal and even presents liable situations if used in practice. Absolutely no discus competitions should be held on at the present venue.

Running Track	
Lanes	Six 42" lanes of blacktop. Old 440 Yard track that has 3 waterfall starts to indicate that the current track markings have been converted to metrics.
Stagger	Staggers are properly marked.
Relay	Relays are proper marked.
Break Lines	Marked correctly.
Hurdle	Hurdle markings are in place and correct. The general condition of the hurdles are fair but they are very old. School personnel stated that they were the next item to be purchased now that the high jump and pole vault equipment had been updated. A number of hurdles were setting around but do not know overall number of hurdles.
Starting Blocks	Did not observe any starting blocks.
Starting Line Safety	Straightaway and 200 starting area are fine but with the current location of the shot and discus there is the potential for liability issues.
Finish Line Safety	The current location of the discus and the illegal cage has the finish line area safety in question.
Surrounding Areas	There is a fence and wall between the finish and the bleachers and walkway that has the crowd under control.
Press box	Located on a hill behind the bleachers, is open to weather. Recommend checking for repairs that may be needed do to open exposures. Especially if this area is used for scoring, public address announcements or other activities at a track meet. If not used for track meets recommend that it is secured to keep young people away from the area to avoid liable situations.
Overall View	The biggest problem with the running track is a very bad job by the company that last put a sealer on the track. The job was so inferior that as the first curve becomes the back stretch the seal is totally gone and reveal the old lane lines as well as the new lane lines. It is an area that can be very confusing. It is recommended that maintenance/shop classes/art classes etc. take black paint and rollers and cover the old lines that are not supposed to be there.

Total Picture: The Track and Football Complex at Jenkins High School is in a setting that it could well be one of the most beautiful facilities in Kentucky. Nowhere can they match the natural beauty in this mountain setting. What nature has done, man has not .... The area need cleaned up to have several liable situations removed. With a little work and thought this could be a facility that the students, teachers, school and community would be extremely proud of.

I am sure the coaches and athletes would love to have a rubber surface placed over the current track but overall the running events are in pretty good shape. The biggest problems with the running events is the

safety issues that a couple of field events offer to the runners and the confusion with the paint on the back stretch. The biggest problem with the Jenkins Track and Field Complex is that the field events areas are basically unsafe.

The school has faced the biggest obstacles with the purchase of new pole vault and high jump equipment. They have moved the pole vault venue to another area and with a little more effort it will be a very good venue. Now the other field event areas need a serious face lift.

After looking at all the field events areas I have no choice but to recommend to the KHSAA that the 2004 Regional Track and Field Meet be moved from Jenkins High School and that they be considered again when the field event and safety issues are indeed addressed and another site inspection has been completed.

Respectively submitted,

Gordon D. Bocock  
KHSAA Track & Field Rules Consultant