

Track and Field

Site Inspection



Newport High School – Newport, Kentucky

Site Inspection by Oliver E. Dittus – KHSAA Track & Field Official #6598

Reviewed by Gordon D. Bocoek – KHSAA Track & Field Consultant

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Pole Vault

Landing Pad 19' 8" wide 20' 2 deep 16'5 back of box Runway 130'	Newport has no Pole Vault pits that meet the minimum requirements. At this meet and other Newport meets the event is held at other locations, (Lloyd High School in this case) or not contested.
Planting Box	This is a solid installation meeting the prescribed requirements. It could use some paint. It has a drain in the bottom that allows the rain water to exit, making it an excellent installation
Standards/Crossbar 13'8 – 14'8" Bar 14'10"	The standards base was solidly anchored to the ground on concrete pads. They were too narrow due to the size of the previous pit. There is plenty of room to expand the area for use with a proper pit. I did not see the standards themselves as the event was not held.
Surrounding Area	The Area around the pole vault is excellent, with the exception that it may be close to the track with expansion. It does not, nor will it need to, contact the track with expansion it will be with in 6-8 feet if expanded and an errant jump may approach the track.
Weigh In of Athletes	It is <u>highly</u> recommended that the Pole Vault Official have scales provided by the host school to weigh the Vaulters to assure that their weight is in compliance with what is listed on the vaulting pole.
Coaching Box	An area just outside the track, or an area in the football field could provide an excellent coaches box. None was designated at this time because of failure to contest the event.
Pole Vault Venue	No Pole Vault venue because of lack of legal landing pad.

High Jump

Landing Pit 16' by 8'	Excellent pit. 16x8x2 the pit appeared to be new. There was a common cover for the three sections of the pit.
Standards/Crossbar 12' apart Bar – 12'	The cross bar being used may have been an old Pole Vault bar as it was 15' in length. This widened the jump area some and might have allowed for a jumper to land at the edge of the pit. <u>It would be good and safer to get a smaller cross bar for the event.</u> The standards were in good condition and solid.
Surrounding Area	The jumping area was in good condition, far enough from the track to allow competition without interference. The approach had a high angle of slope to it causing most runners to run up hill

	slightly. I believe it may have been by design to make it drain.
High Jump Venue	All in all this was an excellent area to compete in.

Long Jump and Triple Jump	
Landing Pit 9' by 15'	7'x18' The pit in this case was a double pit side by side for Triple Jump and Long Jump. Each pit was about 7 feet in width and 18 feet long. There was no separation of the pits and it was possible for jumpers to collide in extreme instances. <u>I recommend</u> giving a serious look at some safety concerns with this double pit.
Take Off Marks 12' or 8' 32' or 28'	The long jump had take-off mark at 7'-3" and 28' while the triple jump had marks at 19'-5" and 29'-8". For the girls a third mark was laid down with tape to allow for proper jumping area.
Rakes/Shovel Brooms	Rakes were used but were in need of an upgrade. They were functional but could have been better. They were very narrow in width slowing down the procedure.
Sand Level	The sand was an average of 4" below the level of the runway. Mike Hunter said they had added a large amount of sand this year but it was still insufficient. I did overhear a competitor comment it was very soft to land in. National Federation rules state the sand is to be level with the sides and the level of the runway. <u>Sands not properly filled have the school is a liable situation.</u>
Surrounding Area	This is a good area in which to compete. The pits are close enough to the spectators to allow a fairly good view.
Long Jump/ Triple Jump Venue	The pits are to close to one another. Construction of a landing area at the other end of the runway would make a better area for competition allowing the athletes a safe venue. <u>The safety concerns of the pits being low on sand need to be addressed.</u>

Shot Put	
Circle	The circle is well marked, but will need a fresh coat of paint soon. Marks need to be placed for the back half of the ring and in the center point. The toe board was firmly anchored to the ground and was of a solid metal construction. The pad is about 2" below the landing area. <u>The landing area is in good condition.</u>
Sector and Markings 40* or 60 *	Sector was set at 40 ^o and the sector marks were made of tape solidly secured to the ground.
Surrounding Area	The shot put was close to the jumping areas and did create some congestion. Simply keeping the throwers on the other side of the ring will reduce this impact. <u>Indicates a need for safety flagging between the event venues.</u>
Weight Implements	It is <u>highly</u> recommended that the Shot Put Officials be provided with the necessary equipment, provided by the host school, to properly weight the throwing implements and the a marking material to indicate proper weight. We did weigh in the implements. He scale was <u>provided by Dayton and was not from the host school.</u> The scale was excellent as it weighed both metric and English
Shot Put Venue	Over all this is a good area for competition.

Discus Throw	
Cage	Very marginal, this area is the area of least compliance. The cage is less than 8' in height and allows errant throws to exit easily. There are no wings on the front of the cage and the cage ends

	about 18” behind the front of the ring. The ends of the cage are about 7’6” from the sector marks. From the figures listed above it is fair to say that the Discus Cage does not meet National Federation requirements. <u>I highly recommend</u> that no practice or competition be held at this venue until safety concerns have been addressed. <u>Newport is in a very liable situation with this improper cage.</u>
Circle	This is a painted circle and is in need of a recoating. The concrete pad is in good condition and level with the ground
Sector and Markings 40 * 2’9.75”	??? There was some discussion about this with the coaches we measured it and adjusted it but Mr. Binkley was sure it was still to wide. Mr. Kaelin , Mr. Johnson, Mr. Keller and Mr. Knapp all assisted in the adjustment process and we felt it was correct. If it was wrong it was fair to all. Sector was set at 40 ⁰ and the sector marks were made of tape solidly secured to the ground.
Surrounding Area	Located just outside the left hand sector is a flag pole which can and has been struck sending the discus back at the on deck competitors. The area is close to the track and constant attention is needed for the competitors so they do not interfere with the races. We did separate the flights on either side of the cage to reduce the impact.
Weigh Implements	It is highly recommended that the Discus Officials be provided with the necessary equipment, provided by the host school to properly weigh the throwing implements and the marking material to indicate proper weight. We did weigh in the implements. The scale was <u>provided by Dayton and was not from the host school.</u> The scale was excellent as it weighed both metric and English
Discus Venue	This area is the weakest area on the track. The cage and holding area of the venue is in need of some attention. Flags need to be used to designate the restricted areas and to keep competitors away from the track. <u>I recommend</u> that this venue be closed down and not used until all safety concerns have been addressed.

Running Track	
Lanes Number & Size General overall Conditions and concerns	The track had various numbers of lanes depending on your location on the track. About ½ of the track was 7 lanes measuring 36” in width. The back straight was 7 lanes as well as the front straight. There was a small section of the curves that was 6 lanes and the greatest part of turn one was 5 lanes all 36” in width. It may be better to make it 6 42” lanes in the majority of the track and 5 42” lanes in the first curve. The track was well marked but it was hard. Spikes were of little use due to the hardness of the surface.
Stagger Colors:	1 Turn - yellow 3 Turn - white 2 Turn - blue 4 Turn - red There was a sign placed by the stripping company, on the fence at the start displaying this information. This was very helpful.
Relay Colors:	4 X 100 – yellow 4 X 200 – red 4 X 400 – blue Flag were present at all proper locations. The host school is to provide the necessary flags for the officials to

	properly officiate the exchange zones.
Break Lines	<p>These were blue and clearly marked on the track. As this was a yard track there were several waterfall marks at various locations.</p> <p>It is recommended in the Regional Meet to use the same break line for the 800 Meters as they do in the state meet, with a line a the head of the front stretch. On the Pulaski track it would be the 100 Meter Starting Line.</p>
Hurdle Colors Overall condition of the hurdles	<p>100 Girls – yellow 110 Boys – Blue 300 Hurdles – Red</p> <p>The hurdles were in good condition and primarily all AAE. There were some less expensive hurdles inter mixed, but were of good quality. Hurdles were in good shape and all materials were in good condition. There was a cart to move the hurdles.</p>
Starting Blocks Number and condition Block Cart	<p>There were 6 starting blocks of various condition and style. They were in good working order and readily available for this meet. The cart was an old grocery cart converted for this use.</p>
Starting Line Safety	<p>There is a large end run at this facility which allows for a good bull pen and safe area at the start.</p>
Finish Line Safety	<p>The same area is used for starts and finish for the most part and is a good area. The elevated old water line is a hazard to runners exiting the track to the inside. It is close to the track in lane one. As this track was a WPA project originally, I am certain this is a hold over from the 30's.</p>
Surrounding Areas (This could include bleachers, fencing, tree limbs, etc.)	<p>This is an excellent facility for the most part. The grounds are well kept and there seems to be a genuine interest in the program. There were grounds people at the site ready to assist. There was a trainer on staff and at the meet.</p>
PA / Press Box	<p>Excellent area.</p>

Officials Overall view of this Track and Field Complex	<p>This is a good location for smaller meets up to 8-10 teams. The lack of 6 lanes does hamper the facility of the meet. This is a difficult problem to fix, as there is a large retaining wall on the outside of lane 5-6 in curve 1. The stands make excellent viewing and the field events are there for all to view. The track is well separated by a fence and security for the event is easily maintained.</p>
Regional Meet Site (In your opinion would you recommend this facility be considered as a Regional Meet Site? If No what would they need to do to bring this facility into compliance.	<p>Due to the restrictions of 5 lanes this would not make a good regional site. The discus shortcomings could be easily fixed but the track would not be easily fixed as stated earlier. The staff and administration seem to be in harmony and would do their best if the site were pressed into a regional situation. Being there are several adequate tracks in the region I doubt the needed changes would be made to accommodate a region. The facilities are for the most part adequate for the needs of the school program. I feel certain the discus area can and will be upgraded as soon as it comes to the attention of the administration. It would be good to relocate the landing area of the long or triple jump as well. The track does need a softer surface to protect the runners from the</p>

injuries occurred from repeated pounding on a hard surface.

Respectively submitted,

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**Buddy Dittus,
KHSAA Track & Field Official**

**Gordon D. Bocoek
KHSAA Track & field consultant**



