

Track and Field

Site Inspection



Berea College – Berea, Kentucky

Site Inspection by Gordon Bocock – KHSAA Track and Field Consultant

Wednesday, April 20, 2004

Pole Vault

Landing Pad 19' 8" wide 20' 2" deep 16'5" back of box Runway 130'	No landing pad was visible and all indications of the surrounding area show no signs that one has been in place for some time. Runway shows signs that it has not been used for some time and it was mostly covered with grass clippings from several past mowings. Runway does have plenty of length.
Planting Box	A vaulting box was in the ground and at one time it had been installed properly. When the old runway was replaced with a new runway no consideration was given to the vaulting box and it is now below the runway instead of level as National Federation rules require. Vaulting box has not been painted for some time.
Standards/Crossbar 13'8" – 14'8" Bar 14'10"	Standards were located on a concrete slab and they were secured to the slab. It was evident that they had been out for some time and showed no evidence of being in use lately. No cross bars were visible.
Surrounding Area	The entire pole vault area was secured with a chain length cage on wheels where all the vaulting equipment could be locked up to secure the equipment from foul play. Very good idea, just does not appear to be much equipment to protect.
Weigh In of Athletes	It is highly 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	The vault venue is located on the inside edge of the back stretch. Coaches could go to the outside edge of the backstretch and easily view all angles of the vaulters.
Pole Vault Venue	Looking at the venue and the information placed on the Regional Track Meet Forms this facility would not be used for the Regional Meet. This particular venue would need to be rechecked to inspect the remainder of the equipment and to make sure the area with the runway and the vaulting box were corrected. Do not recommend this vaulting area be used for practice or competition.

High Jump

Landing Pit 16' by 8'	The High Jump venue was the best field event venue on campus. A very nice landing pad, with common cover and weather cover that was properly put together. The High Jump apron was very large and a smooth flat surface, an excellent approach area.
Standards/Crossbar 12' apart Bar – 12'	Standards were in good working condition however the cross bars were not in view.
Surrounding Area	This venue is located inside the oval on the first curve but far enough from the oval running surface to assure safety and very easy for all to see. The High Jump pad and equipment was enclosed by a large chain length cage on wheels like the pole vault. Very sharp idea that some high schools might have to look into. Have some serious concerns about the wooden pallets that are under the high jump pads.

	Several of these pallets are sticking out from under the pads therefore putting a excellent venue in a liable situation. Several broken pallets were laying around the apron that need to be removed for safety concerns in practice and competitions.
High Jump Venue	Would be a Grade A facility if the pallet situation is corrected, therefore removing a safety concern.

Long Jump and Triple Jump	
Landing Pit 9' by 15'	The Long Jump and Triple Jump venue has one sand pit located on the finish straightway with the landing pit located near the 100 starting line. The pit has concrete edges and appears to have good drainage. The pit has the length and width to assure that the concrete edges would not be a factor if the pit had enough sand. Grass around the pit has been neglected for some time, it needs trimmed.
Take Off Marks 12' or 8' 32' or 28'	Take off marks are fine but could use a fresh coat of paint. Runway has plenty of length.
Rakes/Shovel Brooms	Not present and evidence indicates they are not used often.
Sand Level	The sand is getting very low in spots. Grass growing in the sand indicates that the pit has not been worked up lately. The sand needs loosened for the safety of the athletes landing in the pit. More sand will be needed in the pit especially near the end of the runway where it is very low that could cause a very liable situation if an athlete were to fall backwards and land on the edges of the runway. National Federation requires that the sand level be level with the runway.
Surrounding Area	The runway is in fair shape with the exception of the dried grass that is all over the runway and could cause problems, especially for those athletes that do not have spikes to compete in.
Long Jump/ Triple Jump Venue	If the sand level were to be level with the runway, the total pit manicured and the runway cleaned up it would be a safe venue. In the present condition I can not recommend it a safe venue for practice or competition.

Shot Put	
Circle	The Shot Put and Discus venues are located outside the oval in the middle of the back stretch. The area is 10 to 12 feet below the level of the running track. In general the area was very well planned away from the others venues that would normally make it a safe throwing area. The circle is rather old concrete that is starting to show some signs of wear. Circle is visible on the concrete. The Toe Board is in place and secure however it is secure slightly inside the inner ban of the metal circle. It is boarder line as to weather it would be legal.
Sector and Markings 40* or 60 *	The shot put venue has been a decent venue but it has been neglected. The wooden rails that line the outside borders have been in place for some time and they are coming loose and sometimes do not stay in place. They need to be checked and secured to the ground. Painting them would probably help protect them from the weather. Sector area is a dense grade of gravel that is probably a little to large. When the implements land it causes the gravel to separate from the area and making accurate measurements a guess at best. The 40 degree sector was in place and marked properly.
Surrounding Area	The area has several large trees that drop limbs and leaves and the presence of such limbs and leaves all over the immediate area indicate the neglect this venue has received. Area needs flagged so that the Discus throwers coming out the back of the discus fence do not wander into the shot area.
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.
Shot Put Venue	Although the surface of the throwing sector is not best for accurate measurements it is the same for all. The area would be sufficient if all the area were to be cleaned up and limbs and last years leaves removed. Would not recommend for competition

in present condition.

Discus Throw	
Cage	Can not really say I have seen anything like the chain length fencing that has been put in place. The chain length goes 15 feet across the back with a staggered opening for the athletes to enter the venue. Down each side of the venue is chain length that goes roughly 65' on both sides and is approximately 20' feet in heights. Although the area may be deemed safe it meets none of the National Federation requirements for a discus cage.
Circle	<p>The Discus venue is located 20 – 30 feet from the shot put circle. They are separated by this monster fence described above. Only safety concern is when the discus throwers walk out the exit area in the back of the discus fence. This area needs flagged so they do not turn right into the area of the shot put.</p> <p>The concrete slab is old and showing the signs of wear and has a crack from the front of the circle all the way through the circle to the back. Still somewhat smooth but will need some serious attention soon.</p> <p>Circle is an old metal ring that is secure in the circle.</p>
Sector and Markings 40 * 2'9.75"	Sector was at 40 degrees and is properly marked. The sector is a grass area that needs mowed more frequently during track season to assure the proper footing of the officials that may have to work in this venue.
Surrounding Area	An extra large metal ring is leaning up against the fencing inside the throwing area that needs removed for the safety of all involved. The biggest problem is the overall neglect of removing the limbs and dead leaves. The area around the fencing has not been maintained in some time. The grass around the actual circle really needs some attention. Old high jump standards against the fence and broken hurdles need removed.
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.
Discus Venue	Since the Discus cage does not even come close to the requirements of the National Federation this discus area is illegal for high school competition and I recommend that no high school practice and/or competitions be held at this venue. Aside from the cage the discus area needs some attention in regard to clean up and removal of several foreign objects from the area.

Running Track	
Lanes Number & Size General overall Conditions and concerns	The Berea College Track has 8 – 42" lanes with a rubber surface that is still a very good running track. It is pointed out that the track is starting to show some signs of wear. Several places large cracks are appearing all the way across the track and it is generally in places where seams are present. This may well be corrected if it is looked into soon and probably at a very reasonable cost.
Stagger Colors:	<p>1 Turn - Green 3 Turn - Blue 2 Turn - White 4 Turn - Red</p> <p>Waterfall starts are present to handle all the college and high school distance races. Steeple chase pit is located inside on turn two.</p>
Relay Colors:	<p>4 X 100 – Yellow/Yellow 4 X 200 – Red/Red/Yellow 4 X 400 – Blue/Glue</p> <p>The host school is to provide the necessary flags for the officials to properly officiate the exchange zones.</p>
Break Lines	<p>Green Broken Line</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 at the head of the front stretch. On the Pulaski track it would be the 100 Meter Starting Line.</p>
Hurdle Colors	100 Girls – Yellow

Overall condition of the hurdles	110 Boys – Blue 300 Hurdles – Red 400 Hurdles - Green Hurdles are showing signs of wear – they are getting old. Impossible to determine if they would have the 80 hurdles necessary to meet the needs of running a meet. They are all over the facility and many show signs of needing attention.
Starting Blocks Number and condition Block Cart	Were not present at the venue to observe. Cart was seen that could well be used for this.
Starting Line Safety	Flagging would need to be used on entire straightway to assure crowd control and the athletes safety while running. Straight away starts would be fine if flagged. Starting area for lane races would need additional flagging around the first curve for crowd control. No problems with 200 or 300 starting areas.
Finish Line Safety	If the flagging were to be put in place as mentioned in starting areas the finish line would have the control in place. Would be difficult to used automatic timing without some serious preparation of the finish area.
Surrounding Areas (This could include bleachers, fencing, tree limbs, etc.	Concerns with fencing on some of the brick walls that is showing some signs of wear. Observers in that area would have to be supervised causing more problems for meet management. Rest Rooms were not open to be viewed if indeed the area contains rest rooms.
PA / Press Box	No Press Box is available and any public address would have to be brought in and be totally portable.

Officials Overall view of this Track and Field Complex	With a lot of work on the part of meet management the running oval at Berea College could handle the regional track meet. At the present time I can only recommend the high jump venue for Regional Competition and that area will require some clean up of safety issues. The Long Jump and Triple Jump venue could be ready with some serious effort and the shot put would probably pass after another inspections. Discus and Pole Vault, I see no hope for this year.
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.	After giving a site visit to the Berea College Campus and the Berea College Track and Field Complex I can not recommend the facility be used for a KHSAA High School Regional Track and Field Meet. I have no problem with the running track however the majority of the field events have been so neglected that it would be extremely difficult to bring all the field events into compliance in the time remaining before the Regional. I do not think it would be possible to have the Pole Vault and Discus venues in compliance this year. With that in mind I recommend that Berea High School be moved back in the rotation until they can talk with the personnel of the college concerning the issues that have been presented in this site facility visit. I am sure that Berea High School wants all of there athletic facilities safe for all involved even if it is a borrowed facility. After they feel that all the venues at this facility are in compliance I recommend another site visit to assure the venues and site are totally safe for competition.

Respectively submitted,

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KHSAA Track & Field Consultant