# Kentucky High School Athletic Association – Track & Field Site Inspection

## Daviess County High School – Owensboro, Kentucky

Site Inspection Requested by . . . . . Julian Tackett, Assistant Commissioner of KHSAA
Site Inspected by . . . . . Gordon D. Bocock - #4848 – KHSAA Track and Field Consultant
Site Inspected by . . . . . Craig Hopkins - #13570 – KHSAA Track and Field Consultant

## Date of Inspection: Wednesday, March 26, 2008

| Venue # 1 . . . . . Running Tracks | |
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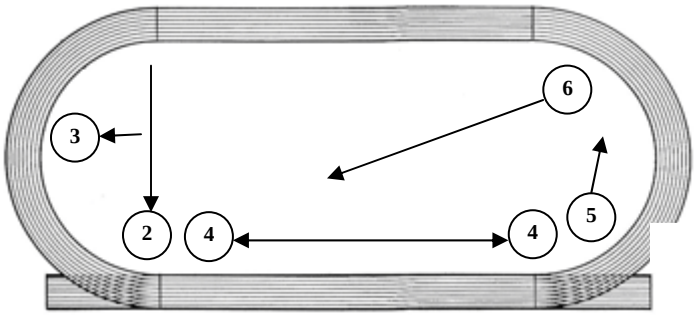
| Lanes (Number and Size)<br>General overall condition and concerns with the running track | The Daviess County Track and Field Complex is a 400 Meter Oval that has 8 (42") lanes and a "very" hard asphalt surface. It is pointed out that during the past year the track has received a new sealer a new paint job and looked excellent and all the lines, staggers and various marking were marked as recommended by the National Federation Track and Field Rule Book. It is pointed out that the hard surface currently in use for practice and competition leads to a much greater opportunity for injuries and/or accidents. This is due mainly to the constant pounding on the hard surface and the fact that the athletes can not safely wear the spiked shoes that are recommended for this sport to insure a proper foot plant in the various movements related to the sport. The inside and outside edges of the track are starting to show signs of potential problems (see pictures). The biggest concerns is the area on the finish straightaway that could not have the inside lane line painted because the sections of track is falling off. Athletes, by nature run very close to these lane lines and there could well be a problem here. The inside edge of the track is way to high and hopefully this will be corrected with the plans that were discussed with me for the new turf stadium and running complex. |
| Starting Lines<br>(Staggers) | 1 – Turn Stagger . . . . . White<br>2 – Turn Stagger . . . . . Yellow<br>3 – Turn Stagger . . . . Blue<br>4 – Turn Stagger . . . . Red<br>Distance races . . . . . A waterfall line is available for the distance races if the one or two turn staggers are not used. It is pointed out that in Regional competition the 4 x 800 Meter Relay and the 800 Meter Dash use a 2 turn stagger while the 1600/3200 Meter Runs use a 1 turn stagger. It is recommended that the alley starts and step up lines for distance races be placed on the track when a new paint job is done. |
| Relay<br>Exchange Zone<br>Markings | The 4 x 100 Meter Relay - First Handoff is Yellow to Yellow, Second Handoff is Yellow to Yellow and Third Handoff is Yellow to Yellow.<br>The 4 x 200 Meter Relay – First Handoff is Red to Red, Second Handoff is Red to Red and Third Handoff is Yellow to Yellow.<br>(It is pointed out that the Fly Zones are properly marked and available if teams desire to use them)<br>The 4 X 400 Meter Relay – The first handoff is Blue to Blue on the staggered pyramids while the second and third handoffs are Blue to Blue on the straight line of Blue Pyramids.<br>The 4 X 800 Meter Relay - All three handoffs are Blue to Blue on the straight line of Blue Pyramids. |
| Break Lines | A White broken line is properly located at the head of back stretch. There is no break line on the track at the head of the front stretch that is used in the 2 turn stagger. |
| Hurdles<br>Color Markings<br>Overall condition of hurdles | The hurdles are starting to show some age but those checked appeared to be in good working order and they had all 5 adjustable heights as well as what appeared to be the proper weight balances in each hurdle checked.<br>100 Meter Hurdles . . . . . Yellow<br>110 Meter Hurdles . . . . . Blue<br>300 Meter Hurdles . . . . . White |
| Starting Blocks<br>(Number & Condition) | The starting blocks were not available to be viewed at this time. |
| Starting Line<br>Safety | Crowd control is one of the strong points with the Daviess County Track and Field Complex. Very limited access for those not actually participating in the meet. With the location of the field events in relation to the officials doing the starting it could well become necessary to temporarily halt some filed events to get some races started. |
| Finish Line<br>Safety | Finish line safety may well present some safety issues . . .<br>Electrical post - to the left and just past the finish line (although well padded) is a concern for athletes finishing that must exit the track.<br>Edges of running surfaces at the finish area are a concern (see pictures)<br>The swamp just off the track to the right (see picture) is very much a safety concern and quite possibly a health issue for the young people that are exposed to it. |
| Surrounding area<br>(This could include bleachers, fencing, trees, limbs, etc.) | Crowd control is excellent around the entire oval. The only problem observed with the fencing is that located on the straight away is extremely close to lane 8 and could prevent some safety concerns with young people hurdling in the outside lane, especially those with bad hurdling technique and improper arm action. The capping that is used on outfield fences in baseball/softball is recommended to be used in all hurdling areas if lane 8 8s to be used. Bleachers on both sides of the track are more than adequate for track and field competitions. Athletes exiting the track during or after competition have some safety concerns. (see pictures) |

## Location of Field Events

Daviess County Track and Field Complex




Venue #2. Pole Vault is located inside the oval in turn two.

Venue #3. High Jump is located inside the oval in turn two.

Venue #4. Long and Triple Jumps are located inside the oval on the front stretch of the track.

Venue #5. Shot Put is located inside the oval in curve one.

Venue #6. Discus is located inside the oval in curve one near the head of the back stretch.

| Venue #2 . . . . . Pole Vault | |
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| New PV Landing Pad<br>19'8" wide<br>20'2" deep<br>16'5" back of box | It is pointed out that the Pole Vault landing pad is 21' x 23' which meets the National Federation Safety Standards for both practice and competition in this event. The pads have been properly put together and have a common cover that pulls the pads into a very safe landing area for the vaulting athletes. There is an all weather cover in place to protect the investment from the weather elements. |
| Vaulting Box<br><br>Zero Point Markings | The vaulting box is currently in excellent shape but as weather always does it will cause some problems. This problem can be corrected quickly by looking in the National Federation Rule Book on page 59 at Rule 7-5-12 . . . . . Note: it is recommended the planting box be of a color contrasting to the color of the runway. Suggest the painting of the box as the original color is getting dark and rusty a bring white/yellow would really make the planting box stand out and easy for the running vaulters to pick up as they come down the runway.<br>There is no box color in place ..... Please look on page 59 at National Federation Rule 7-5-14 ..... A minimum of 2-inch (51 mn) dense foam padding (box collar) shall be in place to pad any hard and unyielding surfaces including between the planting box and all pads. Looking at that attached pictures shows pallets under the pad that protrude out the on both sides providing very much a safety hazard. They should be covered at all times in practice and/or competition.<br>It is pointed out that without the box color some hard and unyielding surface was observed around the planting box. This situation needs immediate attention and the box collar should be in place before Daviess County athletes and/or others are allowed to practice and/or compete. With the box not set in concrete the edges of the box actually rise above the dirt it is setting in.<br>Zero Point is not marked on the vaulting surface as was instructed at the KHSAA Track and Field Rules Clinics. |
| Runway<br>130'0" | The runway at the vaulting venue was 116', short of the recommended length of 130', and 32" wide. The runway surface is in extremely poor condition so a rollout rubber runway that is roughly 100' has be put in place but it does not cover the entire runway. |
| Standards / Crossbars<br>13'8" – 14'8"<br>Bar – 14'10" | The standards were of high quality and working well in regard to the adjustment of the height of the cross bars and the sliding location of the vaulters standards. It is pointed out that both National Federation and KHSAA Policy state that the vaulting standards are to be secured to the ground and that is what was found at this venue. Cross bars were not available for inspection at this time. |
| Weigh in Athletes | It is pointed out that the host school is responsible to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the vaulters before each competition. It is highly recommended that each coach weigh his or her vaulters weekly to assure that they are legal for the vaulting poles that they are using. |
| Coaching Box | It is recommended that a coaching box be outside of the oval and plenty of room is present for this. |
| Area surrounding the Pole Vault Venue | The area around the vaulting venue is fine as all the hard and unyielding surfaces are covered. It is pointed out that the pallets under the landing pads need to be constantly observed as the constant movement of the pads during the athlete's landings causing the pads and/or pallets to move and sometimes the pallets become exposed causing hard and unyielding surfaces. This can be a major liability issue. |
| Pole Vault Venue<br>(General Notes) | Before the Daviess County vaulting venue can be cleared for Regional competition the box collar needs to be in place and the pallets that protrude from under the pit must be covered or secured in such a way that they do not move out from under the pit.. |

| Venue # 3 . . . . . High Jump | |
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| HJ Landing Pad<br>16' x 8'<br><br>Exposed Surfaces | It is pointed out that the High Jump landing pad is 12' x 20' which more than meets the National Federation Safety Standards for both practice and competition in this event. The pads have been properly put together and have a common cover that pulls the pads into a very safe landing area for the high jumping. There is an all weather cover in place to protect the investment from the weather elements.<br>It is pointed out that the left and right side of the landing pads has a of area of hard and unyielding surface (see pictures). With that in mind please go to page 53 of the National Federation Track and Field Rule book Rule 7-4-4 where it states ....." Hard and unyielding surfaces, such as but not limited to concrete, wood or asphalt, that extend out from beneath the sides and back of the high jump landing pad shall be padded with a minimum of 2-inch dense form or other suitable material. " At the same time it should be kept in mind that the wood pallets under the high jump pad (see picture) do not fit entirely under the pads therefore they are providing a hard and unyielding surface with sharp edges. I suggest removing the wooden pallets or trimming them and securing them so they fit entirely under the landing pads and then officials need to be made aware that through the movement of the pads during competition they could become exposed again and must be placed back under the pads. |
| HJ Apron | The high jump apron is more than adequate to meet the needs to assure enough room for the approach for all the athletes in the competition. The surface of the high jump apron is a very, very thin layer of rubber that is well past its prime. In the area where the athletes plant the foot to leave the ground the rubber is gone (see picture) and the athletes can not get the spiked shoes to hold to assure a safe plant for take off. The apron is developing several cracks in the surface and in needing immediate attention. |
| Standards / Crossbar<br>12' apart<br>bar is 12' to 14'10" | The standards were adequate and appeared to be in good working order but the cross bars were not available for inspection at this time. |
| Area surrounding the<br>HJ Venue | The venue is located very close to the pole vault venue but the landing area should pose no problem. It is recommended that in large meets a Marshal be assigned between apron of the high jump and the runway of the pole vault to assure that athletes from each venue do not wander into the competing athletes. Flagging is a must in this area and it should be flagging that is quite visible. The Daviess County Boys Coach informed us that this area is flagged but none was visible at the time of this visit. |
| High Jump Venue<br>(General Notes) | The issues with the hard and unyielding surfaces and the exposed pallets should be addressed immediately before anymore competition and/or practice takes place. Once the safety issues around the pit are addressed the very poor condition of the High Jump Apron needs some attention, especially at the point of take off for the athletes. |

| Venue # 4 . . . . . Long and Triple Jump | |
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| Landing Pit<br>Take Off Marks<br>LJ - (8' and 12')<br>TJ – (28' and 32")<br>And the Runway | There are two sand pits at the Daviess County complex with the pit near the start of the 100 Meters being designated at the Boys pit and the pit near the common finish line being designated as the Girls pit. The boys pit is roughly 23' long and 9' wide and the girls pit is roughly 18' long and 8' wide. It is pointed out that accurate measurements of the pit are very difficult as both pits are in very bad condition (see pictures). Both pits meet are above the recommended length of 15' however the girls pit does not meet the recommended width of 9'.The hard asphalt runways are in very poor condition and if not for the rubber roll out runways the venues would be totally unsafe. The boys rubber runway is 93' in length while the girls rubber runway is 90' in length while 130' is recommended by the National Federation. |
| Sand Pit<br>Condition | At the time of this inspection both pits are unsafe for jumping (see pictures). On the boys pit the wood edging near the track is exposed with very faded paint while on the back and infield side the wood is completely covered with sand. The sand pit is designed to be a safe landing area with its boundary (edges) well marked. With the edges of the Daviess County sand pits basically covered the athletes can not distinguish where a safe landing actually is . . . .it is recommended that jumping be discontinue until these safety issues can be addressed. (see pictures). |

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| Area around the Long and Triple Jump Pit(s) | Athletes must be extremely careful when exiting the pit there are mounds to the infield side of the pits and drainage areas to the track side of the pit as well as exposed wooden edges that should be level with the ground. |
| Long and Triple Jump Venue (General Notes) | At this time the two sand pits are both unsafe and should not be used for practice and/or competition until all safety issues are addressed. |

| Venue #5 . . . . . Shot Put | |
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| Circle – Concrete Pad | The concrete slab is 8'0" x 8'0" and is adequate for the 7' circle that is required in the shot put competition. A 2" painted circle is in place as recommended by the National Federation. Red and White paint are in place to help indicate the back half of the circle but the paint needs to be refreshed. A toe board is in place and properly secured to the concrete slab and the 34.92 degree sector lines are in place on top of the toe board. |
| Sector and Cage | At the time of this inspection no sector lines were on the ground but the proper 34.92 sector marks were placed on top of the toe board. It is recommended that sector lines be on the ground even for practice to help athletes understand where the implements must land. No cage is present and it is not required for shot put competition. |
| Weight in of Implements | It is pointed out that the host school is responsible to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the throwing implements before each competition. It is highly recommended that each coach weigh his or her athletes implements weekly to assure that they are legal and that no alterations have been made to the implements. |
| Surrounding Area | Area should be flagged at all times practice and/or competition especially when the long/triple jump runway is in use. |
| Shot Put Venue (General Notes) | The biggest problem in the shot put is the grass clippings that are still on the concrete. Grass on the slab with moving athletes can be a safety concern. Consideration should be given to putting in a true shot put sector with the crushed lime stone which will cut down on the number of divots and holes in the all grass sector. |

| Venue #6 . . . . . Discus Throw | |
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| Circle – Concrete Pad | The concrete slab is 9' x 9' and is adequate for the 8'2 1/2" circle that is required in the discus competition. A 2" painted circle is in place as recommended by the National Federation. Red and White paint are in place to help indicate the back half of the circle but the paint needs to be refreshed. If you look at the attached pictures you will see a white area at the front of the circle which indicates that the correct 34.92 degree sector is in use. At the time of this inspection no sector lines are in place and this should be done for both practice and competition to help teach the athletes the area where the thrown implement must land. |
| Sector and Cage | The proper cage(netting) was in place and the front poles were within the required 4' to 5' range. The34.92 degree sector was marked on the throwing pad but the sector lines are not on the ground as they should be. |
| Weight in of Implements | It is pointed out that the host school is responsible to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the throwing implements before each competition. It is highly recommended that each coach weigh his or her athletes implements weekly to assure that they are legal and that no alterations have been made to the implements. |
| Surrounding Area | Area should be flagged at all times (practice and/or competition) It should be flagged with a highly visible material. |
| Discus Venue (General Notes) | The biggest problem with this venue is keeping it dry and clean to assure the proper footing of all the athletes. Looking at the picture of the discus venue shows that a problem may exist around the concrete at a rubber mat had to be put down because of wet muddy conditions. Wet and muddy conditions cause problems for athletes in an event where a lot of technique is involved. |

| Meet Management | |
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| Seating and Spectator Control | The seating should be adequate for Regional competition. Crowd control is great down the entire front stretch and around the first curve to the entrance gate. |
| Public Address and Press Box | Did not observe but had good sources to indicate that it was excellent for a track and field competition. |
| Meet Management | With Ton Rowe and Lil Brunson serving as the Regional Managers I have no doubt that the Meet Management will be in good hands. They are reminded that Fully Automatic Timing must be used and that the Hy-Tek Computer program sent out by the KHSAA is the program that must be used. Daviess County has the Pyro System with an experienced operator. |
| **Regional Meet Site**<br>In your opinion would you recommend this facility to be considered as a Regional Track and Field Meet Site? | If the Regional Meet was to be held in April we could not recommend that the meet be held at Daviess County ..... the following items need to be addressed for the KHSAA to recommend a Regional Track and Field Meet at Daviess County High School.<br>Pole Vault issues pertaining to exposed pallets and box collar.<br>High Jump issues pertaining to hard and unyielding surfaces, exposed pallets and a very unstable take off area.<br>Shot Put issues pertaining to ability to keep the circle dry and clean.<br>Discus issues pertaining to ability to keep the circle dry and clean.<br>Long and Triple Jump pits need a complete overhaul the pits and runways need immediate attention. They are completely unsafe at this time.<br>Finish Line issues need to be addressed for safety concerns (electrical post, the swamp between the track and spectaror area) |

Respectively submitted,

*Gordon D. Bocock*

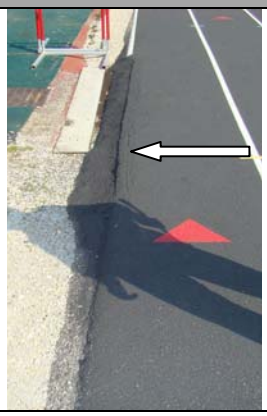
Gordon D. Bocock, #4848
KHSAA Track and Field Consultant

# Daviess County Track and Field Complex

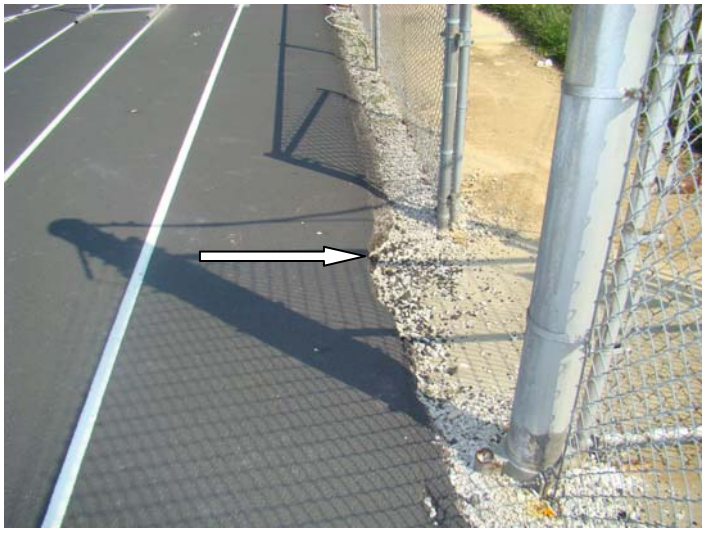
## Running Track Issues

Picture #1 . . . shows the 8 lane finish straightaway

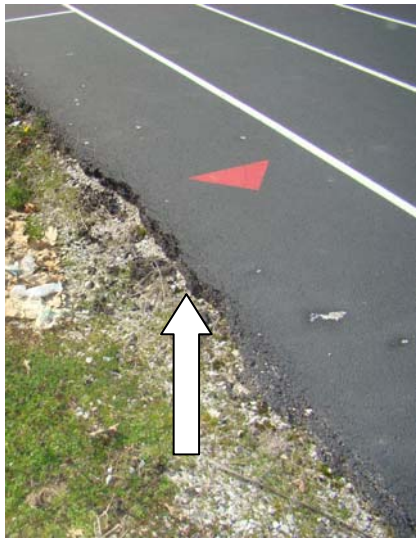
Picture #2 . . . shows the closeness of the fence to the athletes in lane 8, especially hurdlers with bad technique. Recommend capping this fence and the one on the backstrech and curve as well.



Picture #3 . . . shows the problem that is developing because the inside edge of the track being so high with no ground support holding it in place. This is lane 1 on the finish straightaway.



Picture # 4 . . . shows the outside edges of the track that have having chunks to disappear.



Picture #5 . . . show lane 8 with the edges of the track falling apart.

Picture #6 and Picture #7 may well be more of a Health Issue but safety issues could well come into play if a falling athlete were to land in the Daviess County Swam

## Finish Line Safety

Picture #8 . . . Shows the Daviess County Swamp in relation to the finish line. It also shows the Maroon Monster that houses the finish line electrical supply. Although well padded. To the right is the drainage ditch and the long ump area. Where do athletes safely go when exiting the track?

Picture #9 to the left shows the condition of the area where the distance runners and relay runners must step off the track after competitio to allow lapped and other athletes to go by.
Not sure footing at best.

## Pole Vault Safety Issues

Pictures #10 and # 11 . . . Pllets are great for keeping the air circularing and add life to the vaulting pits, but are very much a safety issue when they become exposed. They are very much a hard and unyielding surface that must be covered in both practice and competition.

## High Jump Safety Issues

Pictures #12 and #13 show the problem with the pallets as well as the hard and unyielding surface that is exposed. Both the pallets and the hard and unyielding surface should be covered in both practice and competition.

Picture #14 . . . shows what was once a very good high jump apron. The rubber is extremely thin on most of the apron with many cracks starting to appear. The worst area of the apron is the most important part of the apron . . . the take off area. The take off are is now worn to very hard blacktop and it does not give the athletes the ability to properly plan there foot for take off. This area need immediate attention.

Shot Put Safety Issues

Picture #15 . . . shows the shot put circle with all the loose grass clippings that need to be removed to assure safe footing for the athletes. It shows the need for a new paint job as well.

It shows that sector lines have not been placed on the ground and this should be done for practice as well as competition

Discus Safety Issues

Picture #15 . . . shows the discus circle with the loose grass clippings that need to be removed to assure safe footing for the athletes. The proper cage is in place. It shows the need for a new paint job as well.

It shows that sector lines have not been placed on the ground and this should be done for practice as well as competition.

Long and Triple Jump Safety Issues

Picture #16 . . . this picture shows what is described as the boys long and triple jump pit. The red arrow shows what is supposed to be the edge of the pit and it is supposed to be visible all the way around the pit. When it is not visible it is hiding a potential hazard and that is a liable situation.

Picture 16 and 17 . . . together show the finish straightaway of the track and the possible safety concerns that an athlete would have if they had to step off the track during competition.

The area around the track is not level and because spikes are not recommended on the very hard track surface, the spikeless shoes tend to slip in the gravel and/or down hill slopes.

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|  | Picture #17 . . . shows the boundry board visible near the track but where is it on the other sides. |
|  | Picture #18 . . . the edges around the pit should all be ground level to help athletes avoid from tripping as they leave the pit. |
|  | Picture #19 . . . Shows that you can not tell where the pit begins or ends. |

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|  | Picture #20 . . . again shows that the boundary lines of the pit are not present all the way around. The boundary lines should be level with the surface around the pit but the slope of the crown on the football field make this difficult.<br><br>The arrow points to a sharp corner of the boundary lines that is very much a liable situation. |
|  | Pictures #21, #22 and #23 show the pit that is designated for the Girls.<br><br>The area to the right of the pit is very unsafe with the drop off to a drainag ditch and the down hill gravel, no safe footing .<br><br>The arrow points to a very sharp edge that is a liable situation.<br><br>Picture 21 and 22 show that the boundary lines of the pit are only visable to the right. Where is a safe landing on the left? |
|  | Picture #22 . . . shows that the runway approach is off center. The pit is supposed to be 9' wide but the best measurement we can obtain is 8' and with the runway set more to the right it is a very dangerous pit as the right side is already unsafe. |
|  | Picture #23 . . .<br><br>Where is the Girls Long Jump/Triple Jump Pit in this picture. |