



Kentucky High School Athletic Association – Track & Field Site Inspection

Eastern High School - Louisville, Kentucky

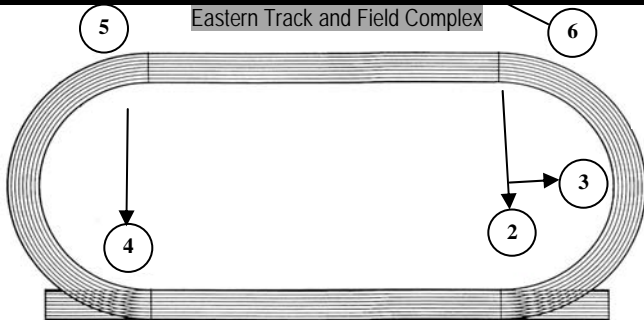
Site Inspection Requested by Julian Tackett, Assistant Commissioner of KHSAA
 Site Inspected by Gordon D. Bocock - #4848 – KHSAA Track and Field Consultant

Date of Inspection: Wednesday- October 31, 2007

Venue # 1 Running Tracks

Lanes (Number and Size) General overall condition and concerns with the running track	The Eastern High School Track and Field Complex is a rubberized asphalt oval that has 8 lanes that are 36" wide. The running surface has already been replaced in various sections and may other spots have bubbles coming up and patches that need replaced. This surface is getting close to its last mile and is in need of a new rubber surface. It is pointed out that this is an old 440 Yard track that has been converted to metrics. Some major concerns with the track is the area around all the drainage grates . . . a much larger than normal drop off from the track to the grass has some concerns of safety if a runner were to step off the track especially just past the common finish line. These jagged asphalt edges could be an issue for both track and football athletes as well as officials working the running events. In discussing this with the Eastern Principal and Athletic Director a desire was expressed that some additional pavement may well be added inside of lane one to help address these issues. It was pointed out that adding enough pavement to the inside of the curves could have the track converted from the old 440 Yard Track back to a legal 400 Meter Track. It was pointed out that the KHSAA Office could provide information on how this conversion can be done.
Starting Lines (Staggers)	It is pointed out that some of the old marks on the track are fading fast and may well not be visible this spring. Even if a new surface is not possible at this time it is well past the time to stripe the track. The current marks on the track do not all match what is recommended in the National Federation Track and Field Rule book. It is highly recommended that when a new strip job is given to the facility that you use a company that follows the recommendation of the National Federation. At the present time the various starting lines are . . . 1 – Turn Stagger There is no 1 turn stagger on this track . . . very few 440 tracks have a 1 turn stagger. (Should be a green line) 2 – Turn Stagger Yellow lines. (Should be a white line) 3 – Turn Stagger White line. (Should be a blue line) 4 – Turn Stagger Red Line. Distance races The track has two waterfall starts which serve as the starting lines for the 1600 Meter Run and the 3200 Meter Run. Normally these races are run on a 1 turn stagger with the athletes breaking in at the break line on the back stretch. There is no waterfall starting line for the 800 Meter Dash. The 800 Meter Dash starts on the red line in lane one but the red lines in lanes 2-8 can not be used for the start of the 800 since it is the start for the 4 x 200 Meter Relay with a 4 turn stagger. The 800 Meter Dash is normally run on either a one turn or two turn stagger and at times on a waterfall line. There are no marks on the Eastern Track for the start of the 800 meter dash except for lane one.
Relay Exchange Zone Markings	The 4 x 100 Meter Relay is properly marked with the 2 turn stagger and all the handoffs being yellow to yellow. The fly zone is properly marked. The 4 x 200 Meter Relay is properly marked with the first and second handoff being red to red and the third handoff being yellow to yellow. The fly zone is properly marked. The 4 X 400 Meter Relay is properly marked with a three turn stagger in place and the break line is place for the second runner. Zones are properly marked. The 4 X 800 Meter Relay is not properly marked. The race is 3200 Meters in length with each runner going a distance of 800 meters. The race starts in the same place as the 3200 Meter Run however there is only one exchange zone on the track when it would have to be marked with three different exchange zones for the athletes to be running the proper individual distances the race calls for.
Break Lines	Break line is in place at the head of the backstretch. It is recommended that a second break line be placed at the head of the front stretch when the track is re-stripped.
Hurdles Color Markings Overall condition of hurdles	Hurdles were not present to be observed at this site inspection. 100 Meter Hurdles Yellow marks 110 Meter Hurdles Blue marks 300 Meter Hurdles The 300 hurdles marks have faded into the sunset and have been replaced with some home made painting. Highly recommend that the home made paint job be checked to see that the distances are accurate as this is very important in hurdle races.
Starting Blocks (Number & Condition)	Starting blocks were not present to be observed at this site inspection.
Starting Line Safety	Crowd control is basically not available at this complex. Keeping spectators and non-participants away from the starting area is important for the safety of the athletes and the officials. With no fencing a lot of staking and flagging would be needed if this venue would ever be considered as a site for Regional Meet Competition. The starting areas are really showing sings of wear from the constant use of starting blocks digging into the track day after day and meet after meet.
Finish Line Safety	Same concerns as with starting line safety . . . no fencing, no flagging. The common finish area needs to be secured so that the athletes and officials can both perform at the best of there abilities.
Surrounding area (This could include bleachers, fencing, trees, limbs, etc.)	The running track is basically on its last leg. The surface would probably be ok for another year but it is doubtful that the painted lines will be totally visible after another winter.

Location of Field Events



- Venue #2.** Pole Vault is located inside the first curve near the common finish line.
- Venue #3.** High Jump is located inside the first curve near with the apron connected to the pole vault runway.
- Venue #4.** Long and Triple Jump is located inside the second curve with the pit near the start of the 100 Meters.
- Venue #5.** Shot Put is located outside the oval behind the bleachers near the start of the 200 Meter Dash.
- Venue #6.** Discus is located outside the oval behind the bleachers at the head of the back stretch.

Venue #2 Pole Vault

New PV Landing Pad 19'8" wide 20'2" deep 16'5" back of box	No landing pad was visible at this time to determine if all the safety requirements of the National Federation were in place. It is pointed out that the area that would be located under the pad was all grass and that no visible marks were in place to indicate that a ZERO point line has been in place. The box was properly in place but it will need to receive a new paint job by next spring so that it is a bright contrasting color for better visibility for the vaulters. It is pointed out that if a new surface is placed on the runway that the box may well have to be readjusted since it is to be level with the running surface to assure the proper pole plant.
Runway 130'0"	The runway is 145' in length and 38" wide. It is like the running track in that it is showing signs of wear and a resurface will soon be needed.
Standards / Crossbars 13'8" - 14'8" Bar - 14'10"	The vaulting standards and the cross bars were not available to be observed on this inspection. The concrete pads were present to indicate that the standards could be properly secured to the ground.
Weigh in Athletes	It is pointed out that the <u>host school is responsible</u> to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the vaulters before each competition. It is <u>highly recommended</u> 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	This would be no problem.
Area surrounding the Pole Vault Venue	The biggest problem with this venue is the runway being across the apron of the high jump. To assure that jumpers and vaulters do not collide, it is recommended that <u>flagging be placed between the jumpers and vaulters.</u>
Pole Vault Venue (General Notes)	A proper evaluation of this venue can not be made until all the vaulting equipment is in place to assure that all the safety issues recently addressed by the National Federation of State High Schools Associations are addressed.

Venue # 3 High Jump

HJ Landing Pad 16' x 8'	The High Jump landing pad was not in place to be observed at this time. It appears that the high jump pad is placed in a grassy area with the front edge being placed on the rubber asphalt apron. If this is the case there would be no hard or unyielding surface for the athletes to land on if the missed or fell off of the pit.
Exposed Surfaces HJ Apron	The apron is in pretty good shape and is 60' wide and 50' deep.
Standards / Crossbar 12' apart bar is 12' to 14'10"	No equipment was available to be observed at this time.
Area surrounding the HJ Venue	Biggest concern is the closeness of the pole vault runway to the high jump apron. It is recommended that flagging be placed between the jumpers and vaulters.
High Jump Venue (General Notes)	A proper evaluation of this venue can not be made until all the high jump equipment is in place to assure that all the safety issues recently addressed by the National Federation of State High Schools Associations are addressed.

Venue # 4 Long and Triple Jump

Landing Pit Take Off Marks LJ - (8' and 12') TJ - (28' and 32') And the Runway	There is only one sand pit at the Eastern Track Complex. A need for a second pit was pointed out to the Eastern Athletic Director. The remains of a sand pit was observed but it was impossible to determine the length or width of this pit. The runway was 145' in length and 38" wide with 6 different take off marks. The runway was in bad shape with the first portion being up hill and the Bermuda grass taking over the runway. It is recommended that only the marks recommended by the National Federation be permanently placed on the runway when it received a face lift. Additional marks can be added with duct tape the day of a meet when needed and removed immediately after the competition.
Sand Pit Condition	The sand pit is in terrible condition and a tremendous amount of work will have to take place before this venue is safe for practice and/or competition. At the present time this pit is totally unsafe.
Area around the Long and Triple Jump Pit(s)	No problem.
Long and Triple Jump Venue (General Notes)	It is pointed out that there is ample room for a second sand pit. The one pit that is currently being used is unsafe and needs immediate improvements before it can be used. It is recommended that they contact the KHSAA and get the layouts for constructing a new sand pit with proper drainage.

Venue #5 Shot Put

Circle - Concrete Pad	The concrete pad is 10' x 10' which is more than ample however the ring that is placed on the circle is a discus ring and not the 7' circle that is to be used in shot put competition. The toe board could not be observed because of the pallets and plastic that is being stored on top of the shot put circle. It is recommended that the concrete area outside the circle be painted in the school colors and that the back half indicators be placed on the pad as recommended in the National Federation Rule Book. The back half indicators are not currently on the concrete pad.
Sector and Cage	No cage is present for the Shot Put and the lines in the gravel sector indicate that the sector lines were not properly placed during the past season. The lines present were placed at 60 degrees when the rule book calls for 34.92 degree throwing sector in shot put competition. The shot put throwing sector is filled with large gravel and is not recommended for the throwing events. . . It decreases the life of the shot puts the athletes are using and actually does damage to the brass shots. It does not allow for an accurate measurement of the throws as the rocks spread out upon the impact of the shots when they land therefore causing an estimation as to where the shot actually landed. Athletes and/or officials that have to make a sudden move in the shot sector often times slip in the loose rocks. It is recommended that the rocks be removed and used in parking areas or other places on the campus. It is recommended that the sector be filled with a crushed grade of lime stone so that it will pack down, give a smooth surface that will provide footing for the officials in the sector, will not tear up the throwing equipment and will allow for a proper measurement.
Weight in of Implements	It is pointed out that the <u>host school is responsible</u> to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the throwing implements before each competition. It is <u>highly recommended</u> 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	The area behind the bleachers in not a level area and could be a much better throwing area as well an area that would drain and be much easier to maintain with some dozer work. Because of some safety concerns with the discus it is recommended that the shot and discus venues change places.. (See Discus discussion)
Shot Put Venue (General Notes)	The circle on the concrete pad does not meet the National Federation Requirement as it is a Discus circle and not the 7' circle that is used in Shot Put competition. The rocks in the throwing sector have safety issues as rocks have not place in athletic competition, especially when athletes and officials must make rapid movements from time to time. Recommend moving the Shot Put venue to the area that is currently occupied by the Discus venue.

Venue #6 Discus Throw

Circle – Concrete Pad	The concrete pad is 10' X 10" and has the proper circle on the concrete It is recommended that the concrete area outside the circle be painted in the school colors and that the back half indicators be place on the pad as recommended in the National Federation Rule Book. The back half indicators are not currently on the concrete pad.
Sector and Cage	The current cage is chain length fence and does not meet the requirements of the National Federation and the safety requirements for this event. The front poles of the cage are 4' behind the front of the concrete pad when they should be slightly in front of it. There are swinging gates in place but there is no way they could be placed the 5' distance from the 34.92 degree sector lines. With the front poles being 4' feet back it would have the discus hitting the thrower if the cage were hit. It is pointed out that the National Federation is looking very closely at disallowing the chain length discus cage and some strong safety concerns are currently being addressed.
Weight in of Implements	It is pointed out that the <u>host school is responsible</u> to provide scales for the KHSAA Meet Official to weigh all the throwing implements before each competition. It is <u>highly recommended</u> that each coach weigh his or her athlete's implements weekly to assure that they are legal and that no alterations have been made to the implements.
Surrounding Area	With the current location of the discus some safety concerns. Private property down the right side of the discus sector could see and errant implement landing in a neighbor's yard and this could be a serious issue if the neighbor were using the yard at the time. It also would have athletes trying to climb a fence to get there implement back. Down the left side of the sector there are metal bleachers that could damage an errant discus and very unlevel terrain that would have the implement going who knows where and it would not allow for accurate measurements.
Discus Venue (General Notes)	It is recommended that consideration be switching places with the shot put and discus. Concrete pads are the same and would not have to be altered. Some dozer work might be need to make the new discus are level and some of the larger trees might need to be trimmed. Very unlikely that any throwers would approach the fence . . . the shot put circle needs replaced anyway so that has to be done on either end. There is basically no way the shot put would go near the neighbor's fence and no way it would hit the bleachers. Would be a much safer throwing area for both if they switch place.

Meet Management

Seating and Spectator Control	Seating is fine and more than adequate for a track and field meet. There is no crowd control in place at this time. It was recommended to the Athletic Director that he consider visiting Dixie Heights High School to observe the excellent crowd control for both football and track and to observe how the field events were placed in the infield of the curves in a way that the maintaining of the area was almost non-existence. It was also pointed out that Bardstown has very good crowd control and some excellent field event venues.
Public Address and Press Box	Not observed at this site inspection.
Meet Management in regard to Running Events	Very difficult to do the job an officials needs to do with no crown control in place and with the unlevel conditions between the track and the infield grass.
Meet Management in regard to Field Events	No problems in the High Jump. Long/Triple Jump currently unsafe. Pole Vault has no zero point for officials to assure that the standards are properly placed. Shot and Discus officials would have to be more concerned with safety issues than running off an event.
Regional Meet Site In your opinion would you recommend this facility to be considered as a Regional Track and Field Meet Site?	At the present time I could not recommend the Eastern Track and Field Complex for Regional competition and regular season meets have some issues that need to be addressed to assure the safety of both the Eastern athletes and the visiting teams. Below you will find the basic reason why I can not recommend the current site for Regional Competition Improper starting line for the 800 Meter Dash. Improper relay exchange zones for the 4 x 800 Meter Relay. Unsafe sand pit in the long/triple jump. Safety concerns in the shot and discus and a cage that does not meet the safety requirements of the National Federation. Uncertainty in the pole vault with the equipment meeting all the safety requirement of the National Federation.

Respectively submitted,

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