



Oregon School Activities Association
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To: Athletic Directors and Head Track Coaches
From: Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director
Subject: NFHS Track and Field Rule 7-5-3 – Pole Vault

A 2009 change to NFHS Track and Field Rule 7-5-3 deletes the option for participants to use etchings and serial numbers, which may appear on older poles, to replace the requirement of having the visible manufacturer's pole rating label. The change is outlined below:

Rule 7-5-3 (Notes)

1. *Etchings, serial numbers, etc. that may appear on poles **shall not** replace the requirement of the manufacturer's pole rating of the minimum ¼ - inch marking in a contrasting color on each pole.*

Most poles have an etching on the pole which is a code to the manufacturer. This code most frequently does not correspond to the proper weight rating for the pole. The rating appearing as the mark in contrasting color is established by the manufacturer, is clearly visible, and serves only this purpose. The new requirement addresses risk minimization and shall be strictly adhered to.

Therefore, if your track program has older poles and no manufacturer's weight rating label on the poles, you should contact the manufacturer directly to work to secure manufacturer's weight rating labels. If schools have poles without the manufacturer's weight rating labels and the company is out of business then these poles would not be legal for warm-ups or competition due to the lack of the required manufacturer's weight rating label.

Contact information and replacement instructions for all pole manufacturers is posted to the OSAA website on the Track and Field page located at <http://www.osaa.org/track> .

If you have questions please feel free to contact me at bradg@osaa.org or 503-682-6722 ext 229.

Pole Manufacturer Contact List

Each manufacturer has its own process to address the replacement of weight labels. It should be noted that the manufacturers will only supply, when appropriate, replacement labels for their manufactured product and not poles from another company. Specific needs and questions should be directed to the manufacturers.

Gill Athletics, Inc.

www.gillathletics.com

On home page, select Replace Worn or Unreadable Weight Labels on Vaulting Poles
(Online request form)

UCS/Spirit

www.ucspirit.com

1-800-537-7117

(Will require submission of digital picture of pole manufacturer's marks/etchings)

ESSX

www.officiallessx.com

7624 Pebble Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76118

(Will require engraved flex number, serial number, size of pole and \$10.00 fee)

Altius Poles

Jeff Erickson

1-800-374-7653

www.altiuspoles.com

(Call and then fax the labels requested, pole serial number and all information in etchings)

Please refer to NFHS Track and Field Rule 7-5-3 for the pole rating requirement. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.