



Clarification of NEW 2021 GHSA Track & Field Participation Rule

The GHSA has adopted the NFHS participation rule for the 2021 Track & Field season:

NFHS Rule 4.1.2: Contestants officially become **competitors** when they report to the clerk of course or field-event judge for an event in which they are entered.

NFHS Rule 4.2.1: A **competitor** shall not **compete** in more than four events, including relays.

NFHS Rule 4.2.2: A contestant shall not be entered in more than four events, **excluding relays**.

PENALTY: A competitor who participates (*competes*) in more events than allowed by rule shall **forfeit all individual places and points and shall be disqualified from further competition in that Meet. In a relay event, the team's relay points and place(s) shall also be forfeited.**

The new GHSA T&F participation rule allows a contestant (athlete) to be entered into four (4) INDIVIDUAL events **AND ALSO** listed as a participant on any/all of the three Relay events (4x100, 4x400, 4x800). In essence, an athlete may be “entered” in up to seven events (four individual events and three relays), but **MAY NOT COMPETE** in more than four events in any one meet.

GHSA schools may now list a maximum of eight (8) participants on each Relay entry. Participants listed on each school's Area/Region Relay entries will carry over to Sectional and State Meet entries, should they qualify for competition in the next round of the State Meet series.

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL PARTICIPATION BY AN ATHLETE IN THE STATE MEET SERIES

- An athlete is entered in four (4) Individual events and listed as a participant on one or more of the three Relays in the Area/Region Meet. This is **LEGAL**.
 - In this athlete's **one-day Area/Region Meet**, this athlete competes in four Individual events.
 - Since this athlete has competed in four events at the Area/Region Meet, this athlete **MAY NOT** compete on a Relay team at the Area/Region Meet. However, the athlete is still listed as a participant on any/all Relay Team(s) that **DO** advance to the Sectional Meet.
 - In this athlete's **two-day Area/Region Meet** with running prelims, this athlete competes in four Individual events but does not qualify for the Area/Region Meet final in one or more Individual Running event.
 - Since this athlete has competed in four Individual events at the Area/Region Meet, this athlete **MAY NOT** compete on a Relay team at the Area/Region Meet. However, the athlete is still listed as a participant on any/all Relay Team(s) that **DO** advance to the Sectional Meet.
 - This athlete competes in four Individual events at the Sectional Meet but does **NOT ADVANCE** to the State Meet in one or more Individual event.
 - This athlete is still listed as a participant on any/all Relay Team(s) that **DO** advance to the State Meet, and **MAY** compete on one or more Relay Teams at the State Meet provided that this athlete does not **COMPETE** in more than four total events at the State Meet.
 - This athlete is entered and **competes** in four Individual events at the State Meet, and is also listed as a participant on one or more Relay teams at the State Meet but does not qualify for the State Meet Final in one or more Individual Running event.
 - Since this athlete has competed in four Individual events at the State Meet, this athlete **MAY NOT** compete on a Relay team at the State Meet