

FINISH LINE

NNTOA v.8Jan2021

The fully automatic timing (FAT) operator works closely with the Clerk of the Course and the Starter to keep the meet on schedule. When FAT is not used, manual Timers and Finish Judges handle duties at the finish line. Rule 3.8 covers FAT.

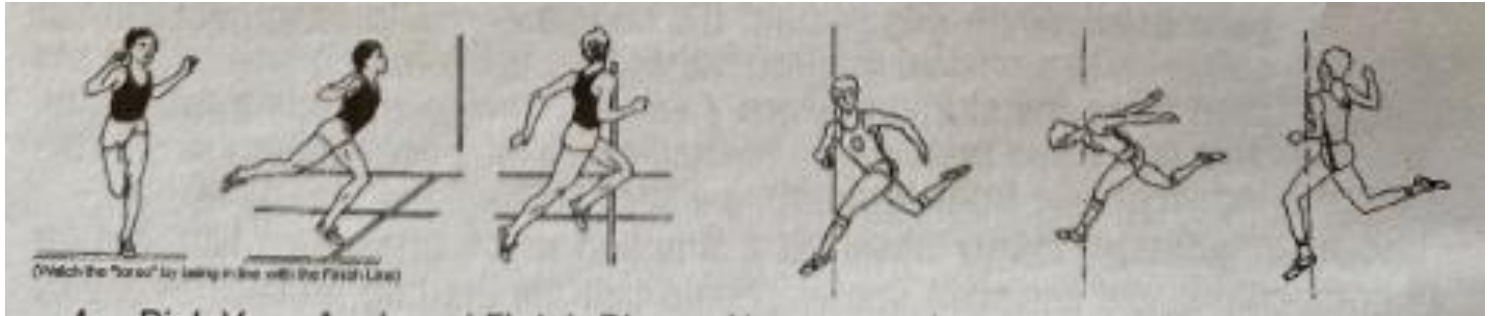
2" white line

Direction of runners



Finish line

Rule 5.8.1 The finish line shall be painted white, 2 inches (5.08 cm) wide, shall be marked on the track just outside the measured distance so that the edge nearer the start is identified with the exactly measured and true finish line. The competitors place in the order in which any part of their bodies, i.e., "**torso**" as distinguished from head, neck, arms, legs, feet or hands, reaches the edge of the finish line first crossed by the competitor.



Rule 3.8.4 When a FAT system is used, the games committee may reduce or eliminate the use of judges at the finish line.

Rule 3.9 covers finish judges and timers when FAT is not used.

Rule 3.9.1 (When FAT is not used,) *The head timer shall have general jurisdiction over the assistant timers. Each track event shall be timed by the head timer, two assistant timers, and one substitute timer. The time recorded by the substitute timer shall be used only when one of the three regular timers fails to record the time of the event. The head timer shall designate one of the assistant timers to announce the lap times in distance races.*

Rule 3.9.2 *The head finish judge shall designate the places to be picked by the finish judges. At least two judges shall be assigned to each place to be scored, and they shall be positioned on opposite sides of the track. The judges shall pick one or more finish places than the number to score. **Time by Place, Not by Lane.** Timers/pickers are always assigned to time a specific finish place (e.g., first, third, fifth place); they are never to be assigned to time a lane. Pay attention to the entire race. About 15 meters from the finish, check general placements, then turn to face the finish line. Count placers passing the line until your assigned place crosses the line and immediately stop your watch as your placer's torso crosses the line. Upon stopping your watch, focus on your assigned place finisher. Identify some unique features since several may be from the same school. Move out onto the track and identify the placer's last name and school (and number if one is worn).*

Rule 3.9.3 *The official time of a race starts with the firing of a starting device which provides smoke or visible flash from an electronic, gunless device. **Start with Smoke, Stop with Torso.** Just prior to the start, check your watch to make sure it is reset to zeros. Use the index finger to start the watch on the smoke or flash from the starter's pistol (never the sound). Stop the watch when your assigned finisher's torso crosses the front edge of the finish line. . . . If two watches agree and the third disagrees, the time indicated by the two is considered the official time. If all watches disagree, the time indicated by the watch showing the middle time is official. When only two watches record a winning time, the slower time shall be recorded.*

Rule 3.9.4 *Without consulting other judges, each finish judge shall write the number, or numbers, of the place winner he/she selected on a card and hand the card to the head finish judge. The decision of any judge picking the higher scoring place shall overrule the decisions of any judge(s) picking the lower scoring place. Order of Reporting: Times and places are recorded starting with the first-place finisher and working through until all places and times are recorded.*

Rule 3.9.5 *The head finish judge shall view the finish of each race as a whole. Should a place winner be overlooked, the head finish judge may place a competitor in the position which the head judge saw the competitor finish. The head judge may make such a decision only if the matter cannot be determined by the other judges.*

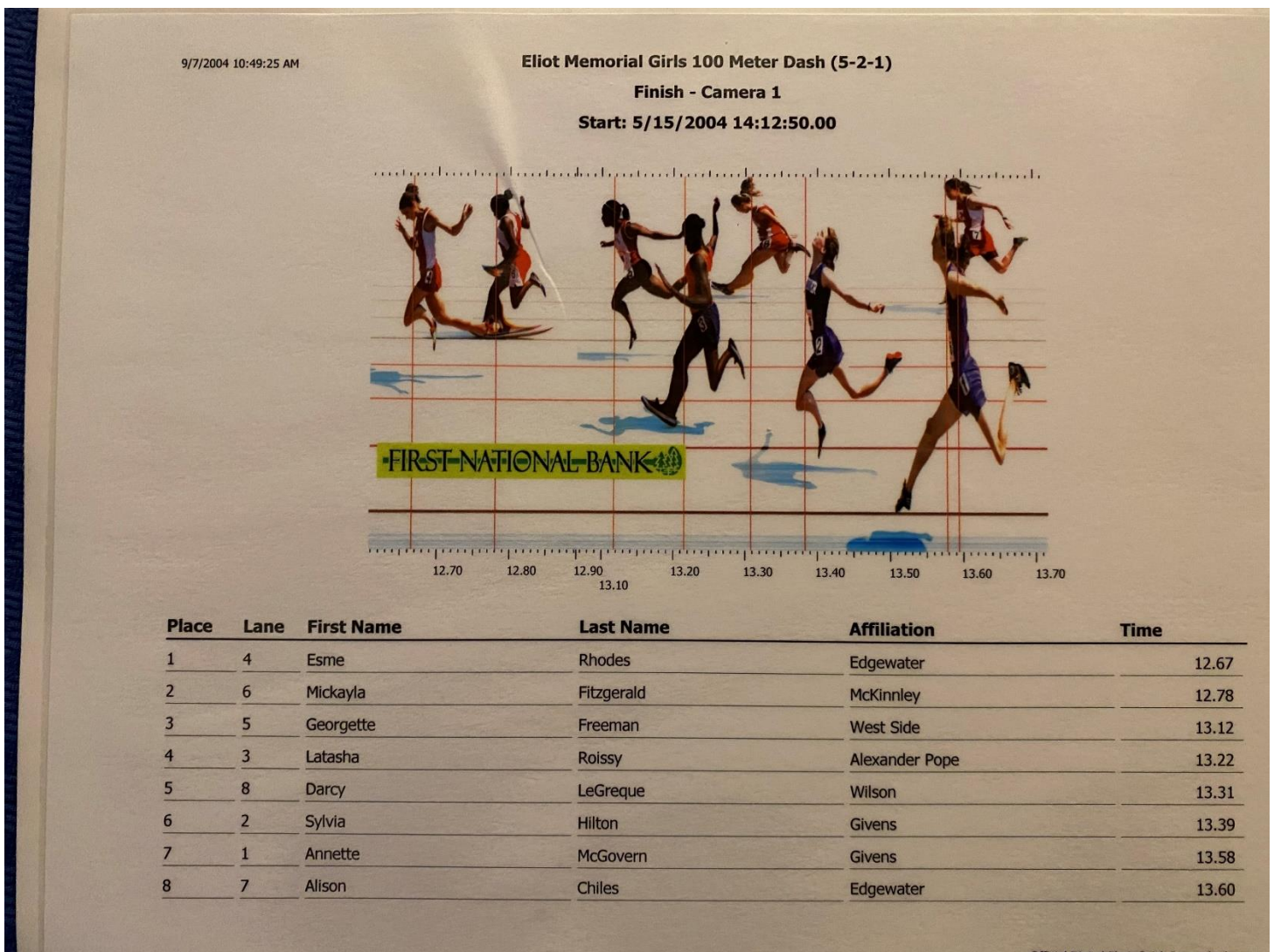
Rule 3.9.6 *The decision of the judges shall be final and without appeal except for possible misapplication of a rule by the individual or entity that has the final appeal. The games committee may authorize review of official pictures/video of the finish to assist in the final decision of place finish in a race.*

Rule 3.9.7 *Proper procedure dictates that judges concentrate on the competitors until they are within 10 meters of the finish line. The judges should then watch the finish line. In races 400 meters and longer, it is recommended one judge select the first competitor to finish, another judge select the first and second to finish, another judge select the second and third, another the third and fourth, etc. If the times disagree for two people assigned to time the same place, the slower of the two times is recorded.*

Rule 3.9.8 *Electronic or digital timers which measure one one-hundredth of a second must be used. However, unless it is a fully automatic system, times registered in one one-hundredth of a second shall be rounded up to the next tenth of a second. (Example: 10.42 will be recorded as 10.5 unless a FAT system is used.) If FAT and manual times must be integrated, the hand-held times shall first be rounded up to the slower one-tenth of a second. Then a conversion factor of .24 must be added (i.e., $MT + .24 = FAT$). A record shall not be granted unless the time is recorded by FAT.*

Rule 3.9.9 *Immediately after the finish of the race, timers shall present their watches to the head timer, who will record the official time. At the finish, timers are to never show or tell their assigned finisher the time on the watch. Times are not final until entered onto the submitted results sheet.*

Rule 3.9.10 *At the conclusion of a race, the head finish judge shall certify the order in which the competitors finish.*



Example of FAT image.