

ATHLETES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1. Guidelines for Visually Challenged Runners
 - a. The guide should wear some type of distinguishing identification. A brightly colored vest is recommended.
 - b. The runner is allowed two lanes/spaces (runner and guide).
 - c. The runner may receive verbal instructions from the guide.
 - d. The guide pulling the runner is not a violation.
 - e. If the guide, however, runs wide to hinder other runners from passing, this is interference which must result in a disqualification.
 - f. Any other running infractions by the guide or runner, which is a violation, must also result in a disqualification.
2. Other Allowed Special Considerations
 - a. Runners who have either visual or hearing impairments should be given special consideration in assigning lanes, which will allow them to be located on the track so they have the best visibility possible in observing the arm signals of the starter and eventual firing of the gun.
 - b. A coach/manager, etc., can be allowed in the starting area or in the field event area for these athletes only to assist them.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the coach to communicate, prior to the meet, with the host school meet manager and then at the meet site with the meet referee and the starter/field event judge regarding necessary appropriate adjustments.