

## Re: Double Waterfall

From: Zemper, Eric (zemper@msu.edu)

To: rgodefroidt@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019, 1:29 PM EDT

Sorry for the delay in responding. When your email arrived, I was in the middle of working as field referee for the Big 10 meet in Iowa, and I'm just now working my way through the emails that backed up while I was gone.

→ There really isn't anything very specific in any of the rule books about assigning positions in races not run in lanes or in double waterfall races. The only specified rule about double waterfalls is that one-third of the runners should be in the outer alley and two-thirds on the inner waterfall line (spread across the whole width of the track). In general, the first round of any race (and the lone 1500/1600/3200 race in a meet would qualify as "first round") should have starting positions assigned randomly. But most often the games committee or referee will assign the faster seeded runners to the outer positions. You'll see this all the time in IAAF races even though it's not mentioned in any rules. → The only thing written anywhere is a note in the NCAA rule book about the number 1 seed should be placed inside the number 2 seed's position.

→ My recommendation would be to split the field into one-third on the waterfall line in the outer alley and the remaining two-thirds across the full waterfall line in the inside alley, with the higher seeded runners in the outer alley. That way, when they come off the break at the end of the turn they're in the outside positions and less susceptible to being jammed up, particularly if they're smart enough to run straight to the far turn and not run immediately to the rail (or if they're coach is smart enough to coach them to do that). Then it's a question of whether you want to randomly assign starting positions within each alley, or assign them according to seeding, fastest inside to slowest outside within an alley. Assigning by seed times will probably generate fewer questions or concerns.

Hope that helps.

EZ

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**From:** Rudy Godefroidt <rgodefroidt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 10, 2019 7:30 AM  
**To:** Zemper, Eric; Zemper, Eric; Eric Zemper; Zemper, Eric  
**Subject:** Double Waterfall

Eric,

Sorry for the repeat emails but I wasn't sure which one to use to I'm sending this to all the ones I have in my address book for you.

My question is that I believe the double waterfall with a one turn stagger will be in effect for spring 2020. I've been asked several times how the seeding on the line will go and I'm not sure I have found anything consistent. If you have anything available you could share I would appreciate seeing it so that I can make recommendations and possible format for our regionals and state finals next spring.

I run a 1500 in my middle school invite and line up similar to sprint races with two athletes per lane. But, the 1500 has a long straight away to start with where not all double waterfall lines do, especially in MHSAA competitions. So using 4 - 5 - 3 - 6 and so on might not be the best choice.

Any input you have will be greatly appreciated.  
Thank you,  
Rudy