

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

USPS Priority Mail

February 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Included in this mailing, is a three page American Journal of Sports Medicine document, co-authored by Orthopedic Surgeon, Dr. Barry P. Boden. Dr. Boden specializes in sports medicine at The Orthopaedic Center division in Rockville and Germantown, Maryland. The title of the AJSM document is: "CATASTROPHIC AND SERIOUS POLE VAULTING ACCIDENT DATA."

I've also included the following 2002 quotation by Paul Terek, No. 6 vaulter in the nation at the time: "**100 out of 100 pole vaulters have had some kind of accident in their careers.**"
(<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/sports/college/stories/2002-02-23-dare.htm>)

DEADLY FACT: The MOST LETHAL weapon ever produced during the history of the Browning Arms Company is NOT a firearm... it is the fiberglass VAULTING POLE.

Attached with this three-page introductory note, is a packet of documents that I mailed to the Florida High School Athletic Association. I've done my best to describe and document my experiences relating to the needless perils that naive minor children and their parents will be inevitably subjected to again this coming track season. Please, peruse the enclosed documentation carefully.

On the following page is a copy of a 1963 advertisement, published by the Browning Arms Company, for the purpose of selling the "SKY POLE" brand fiberglass vaulting pole. Since that time, this implement has become infamous as a source of avoidable death and lethal injury inflicted upon gullible young athletes.

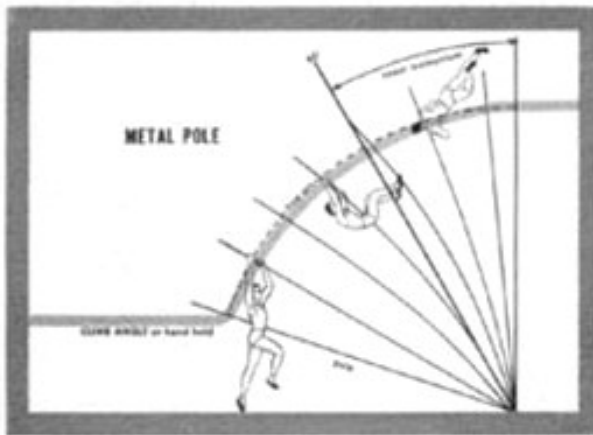
Established on a "**risk to the user per application**" basis, misused flexible vaulting poles transform into one of **the most lethal weapons ever developed** by human hands. In 1991, ELEVEN YEARS PRIOR to a teenage pole vaulter plummeting to his death during a nationally televised track meet, it had already become thoroughly obvious to me that EXCESSIVE RUNNING SPEED & BULL-PUSH are the primary avoidable sources causing the transformation of flexible vaulting poles into **DEADLY WEAPONS**.

In spite of the above facts, vaulting pole manufacturers continue to carelessly distribute their lethal products to anyone, at any age, with impunity. Parents who unwittingly allow their children to participate in such a haphazardly performed event have no idea of the dangers to which their children are being subjected.

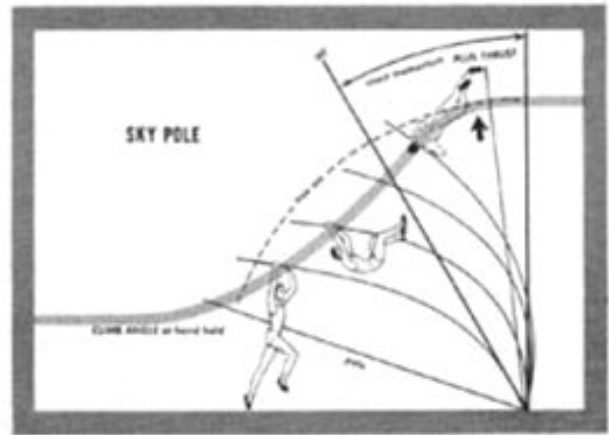
There is a glaring lethal physics principle that vaulting pole manufacturers and negligent coaches refuse to acknowledge: "**BENT FLEXIBLE VAULTING POLES WILL ALWAYS RECOIL IN WHATEVER LINEAR DIRECTION THEY ARE AIMED!**" As demonstrated in the sequence shown below, the vaulter is aiming the bent flexible pole in the linear direction from whence he approached. These drastic consequences are the result of deadly MISeducation provided by NFHS, USATF, NCAA and other negligent parties.



The MISeducation is rooted within the 60 year-old Browning Arms ad you will see on the following page.



At take-off the vaulter using a metal pole follows a nearly true arc. The change of direction of the vaulter is severely abrupt at the very start of the climb and most of the climb must take place before the pole is half way between its starting point and vertical. Much of the momentum of the run and take-off is lost through the severe jar as the pole meets the box.



With the Sky Pole, much of the vaulter's forward momentum is absorbed in the Sky Pole as it bends. The vaulter's initial climb is less abrupt and thus much smoother. Then as the Sky Pole reaches a 60° angle it starts thrusting the vaulter up with the momentum it has stored.

YEARS OF RESEARCH AND TESTING preceded the development of the present Sky Pole; not merely in the laboratory but right at the vaulting pit until its designers knew the ideal characteristics of a good pole. Accordingly, Sky Poles are precisely engineered to an exact weight and degree of stiffness for each length of pole and vaulter's weight.

WITH THE SKY POLE PERFORMANCE IS UNIFORM with every vault irrespective of temperature or other climatic conditions. Neither the age of the pole nor the amount of use it receives alters performance. It will not corrode, become misshapen, or deteriorate in any way. With good care it will last year after year. Only the type of sharp blow that would fracture some of its glass fibers can damage a Sky Pole.



SKY POLE MODELS

MODEL	LENGTH OF SKY POLE	FOR VAULTERS WEIGHING	SCHOOL PRICE
52714	12	140 lbs.	\$51.00
52715	12	150 lbs.	51.00
54714	14	140 lbs.	54.00
54715	14	150 lbs.	54.00
54716	14	160 lbs.	54.00
54717	14	170 lbs.	54.00
54718	14	180 lbs.	54.00
55714	15	140 lbs.	57.00
55715	15	150 lbs.	57.00
55716	15	160 lbs.	57.00
55717	15	170 lbs.	57.00
55718	15	180 lbs.	57.00
56714	16	140 lbs.	60.00
56715	16	150 lbs.	60.00
56716	16	160 lbs.	60.00
56717	16	170 lbs.	60.00
56718	16	180 lbs.	60.00

Prices slightly higher in Canada

In ordering, always select the next highest weight if the vaulter's weight falls between those weights listed.

Prices subject to change without notice.

WHERE TO ORDER

Browning-Silaflex Sky Poles may be ordered through any Browning Dealer. Complete stocks are warehoused in St. Louis, Missouri; Costa Mesa, California; and Montreal, Province of Quebec. Shipments will be prompt.

NOTE: If difficulties are encountered in ordering Sky Poles locally, merely write, wire, or telephone Browning Arms Company.

IN THE U. S.

Browning Arms Company
St. Louis 3, Missouri
Telephone CEntral 1-2353

IN CANADA

Browning Arms Co. of Canada, Ltd.
4350 Mountain Sights Avenue
Telephone REgent 9-4727

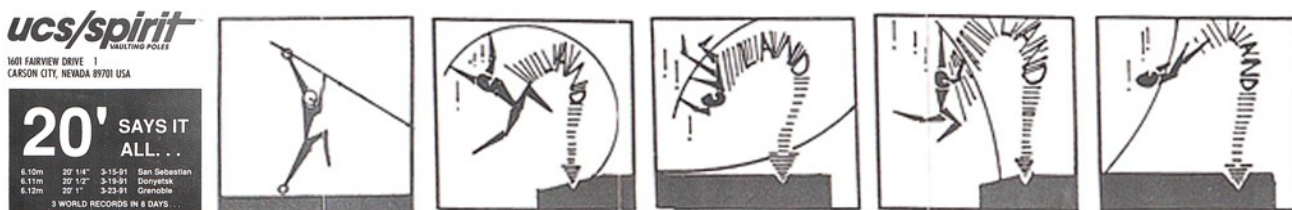
In **1992**, emulating the primitive **1963** MISinformation published by the Browning Arms Company in their advertisements three decades prior, the International Olympic Committee assembled a report titled: "**IOC Medical Commission, Summer Olympic Games of Barcelona 1992, Biomechanical Analysis of the Pole Vault Event.**" June of **2017**, copied from the International Olympic Committee "study," the following instructional sketches were presented to me by creators of **UST-Essx** vaulting poles. This is the supplier of the very same vaulting poles being irresponsibly distributed by Florida Pole Vault Rentals.



It is a matter of fact that **UST-Essx** promotes running speed and bull-push to **INCORRECTLY** load flexible vaulting poles. These lethal methods are advocated by every other vaulting pole manufacturer. This deadly MISinformation negligently teaches that flexible vaulting poles are to be applied as **curved levers to recoil diagonally-forward while vaulters are above runways and plant boxes.**

Notably, it is also incriminating that, in 1992, the same year the International Olympic Committee released their pole vault "study," two of the world's greatest athletes' Olympic dreams were shattered due to the fact they both applied this same lethal MISinformation. It was at the "**Olympic Games of Barcelona 1992**" that the world's highest pole vaulter **FAILED to clear any height** during his specialty event. Also, in 1992, the world's greatest decathlete was **DISQUALIFIED** from competing at the Olympic Games of Barcelona after he **FAILED to clear any height** pole vaulting during the Olympic Trials using these destructive methods.

Shown below, are the instructions provided with the deadly **UCS Spirit** vaulting pole I purchased in **1991**, which is one year prior to the publication of the **1992** Barcelona "study" and twenty-eight years after the publication of the Browning Arms Company 1963 pole vaulting ads.



Again, please, carefully examine the enclosed documentation as this is a very serious matter.

Sincerely,

Michael Toledo
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