



December 27, 2013

Notes from USATF Annual Youth Workshop - 12/4-5/2013

Notes from USATF Annual Convention - 12/5-8/2013

- The 2015 USATF Youth Nationals will be in Lisle, Michigan. The 2015 USATF Junior Olympic Nationals will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. The 2015 USATF Cross Country Nationals will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Starting in 2014, the JO Nationals will have a high pit and a low pit to cut down on time. It worked so well this year that they will do the same for the pole vault to save time.
- Coach-O will no longer use PIN numbers. You are now required to set up an account. That account remains intact for your club or unattached account but if not used within 2 years from its inception, it will be removed. Unattached athletes from the same family or group will set up one account only; no need to set up individual accounts. The new face of Coach-O starts with the association meet through the national meets. If this is not adhered to, your region will not be allowed to participate in the national meet.
- Starting in 2014, all adults on youth team rosters over 18 will have to be TCLogic background checked or their team will not be renewed for the season. When the background check requirement started on the national level (remember, the Pacific Association had already had this requirement implemented years prior to national), we were exempt because of we were already doing it and at a much more efficient level. They were losing too much revenue from us so they discontinued that for the Pacific Association. We were then forced to get a TCLogic background check if anyone wanted to attend the national championship meets. Our assumption is they were still losing too much money, because it was changed to at least one coach TCLogiced before your team could be registered on the national level. Still not good enough so now every adult over 18 has to be TCLogic checked before the team will be registered on the national level. As long as the membership is renewed, they will remain renewed under the Pacific Association requirement. We are going to take this to the top and we will keep you informed as to the outcome. So for now, either every adult on a youth team roster must be TCLogiced or they must be move to unattached status.
- USATF is now requiring an email address for all memberships. This did not go over very well with the youth coaches. There were arguments that not all youth have access to computers or email accounts. Arionne Allen has taken this to the powers that be to see what can be done, if anything. We will be informed prior to start of the 2014 season.
- All Level I coaches must be recertified every 5 years. This requirement consists of a 25 question online test, not taking the entire Level I class again. This requirement is mainly to keep the coaches updated on the rules and/or any changes.

- All volunteers are required to go online and go through the online signature verification process. All volunteers are required to do this before their annual membership will be renewed.
- USATF, under the direction of Arionne Allen, has started a new program this year called Future Stars. This program will engage new youth members online. Each month a new theme will be communicated online. To stay connected to USATF, there will be monthly contests with give-a-ways. They will also receive tips from elite youth athletes. Future Stars is online now and will go live completely in January.
- There is still not enough recognition of track and field to so many of our country's student athletes. Many high schoolers throughout the country still haven't heard of USA Track and Field. USATF has seriously considered having Honor Roll T-shirts for High School State Meet Champions across the country to advertise for USATF.
- USATF JO Cross Country Nationals broke the record by more than 30%. There were over 3,300 participants
- The Youth World Championships was held in the Ukraine this year. Per Lionel and others, the athletes for USA were the best group of young athletes we've ever had. They received medals in areas we've never received medals in before. This is thanks to the exceptional and extended training on our part. There were 43 athletes who brought home 2 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze medals. Our Pacific Association's own Lee Webb was the Head Coach for this group of athletes. Lisa Morgan was the other administrator who traveled with the group. Get the word out for the next meet 2 years out because we did not even take our number one athletes from the US. We basically took a B-squad to the Ukraine and we still did exceptionally well. An awesome experience. If you want to see highlights from the Ukraine, please google "World Youth Championships - Ukraine".
- There are options for championship meet logos. It will be made available to us from USATF National headquarters. Look under the USATF Resource Center. You must use these logos only from USATF. You cannot use your own custom logo. Period.
- www.safesport.org – the USOC has initiative about awareness of sexual abuse in oursport. This is a mandated awareness and prevention program. Background screening is part of the program. Anna Salter gave a rather explicit presentation about the type of persons (with videos) who are convicted, incarcerated pedophiles. She was able to talk to them one on one and shared some of those videos with us. Pedophiles are always involved in organizations where kids are involved. Always. There are 3 areas of children. They are pre-pubescent children 0-13 years old, post pubescent adolescent if age 14+ and barely pubescent are ages 11 -14. Google Anna Salter to find more information about her work.
- Major racewalk help is now available. Contact www.DHTrack@aol.com. Ron Daniel, formerly of the Pacific Association and now living in Clinton, Connecticut, gave a report regarding racewalk. They are coming up with information to help coaches become better teachers of the racewalk. It should be completed in time for the 2014 season. I brought back a few racewalk books for anyone who is seriously interested in learning more about racewalk. Coaches should put more time and energy into promoting this sport. NAI A gives racewalk college scholarship to athletes. Check it out. A video has been created and is also available. We plan to order a group of books and videos for those coaches seriously interested in coaching racewalk. You can check with me later on into the 2014 track and field season to make sure I get this taken care of for you.

- Each association must develop a “Code of Ethics” and have it reviewed by a legal advisor. The advisor must go over it to make sure it is appropriate and meets the guidelines set by the USOC.
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- The High School Coaches Association speaks about Junior and High school participation of handicapped and disabled athletes becoming a part of the USATF program. We have over 1 ½ million participants currently participating in track and field in this country. Moving forward we are going to include them in our annual National Championship program.
- The pole vault accounts for the most injuries in track and field, 17%. Starting with the 2015 season, all high schools will have to meet the AFPF standard for pole vault. They will have to add additional landing padding. This padding will go down into the sides of the box. This is additional padding to the already existing padding. Colleges will have to do this in the 2014 season. The ASTM logo will be put on the padding to designate that the requirement has been met. The cost is around \$600 to install the pole vault padding to comply with the new ruling.
- USATF, USOC, NCAA, NHS have come together regarding an educational opportunity for pole vault. There is a free online course (30 minutes). Every coach and anyone doing pole vault is encouraged to take this free online course for pole vault. It is available on the USATF website. USATF.org
- The National Executive Board want to take the championship meet awarding rights away from the youth committee. CEO Max Siegal spoke, reassuring us that we have come to an agreement and the youth committee will continue to have the ability to award the championship meets as we currently do now, with minor changes. He committed to help our youth program grow. Jon Drummond spoke and reassured us that the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC) has our back regarding this issue. They later reneged on their agreement with us and took those awarding rights away. We then took it to the floor on the last day of the convention and we voted to have our meet awarding rights restored.
- USATF has made a 7 year deal with NBC for track and field on television same as so many other sports. www.usatf.tv is the website where events can be seen online. An NBC documentary series is coming soon. They admit that youth are the backbone of USATF. They also recognize that we collectively are over 75% of the total membership. They want to introduce ways to make it exciting to be a USATF member from the kids’ point of view.
- There is discussion about holding the Association Workshop in conjunction with the Annual Convention, same as we have done with our Youth Workshop.
- The USA Junior Nationals will only use the A Standard, no longer the B Standard from now on. Descending order will be used to fill the remaining slots. Meet will be held in Eugene, Oregon in July.

- USATF is establishing the USA Track & Field Obesity Program. All associations need to document information about athletes regarding obesity in their association. We must start this program with our youth athletes.
- Waivers to the JO Olympic Nationals must be submitted to the National Executive Board to be voted on by the board members. Automatic qualifiers for the JO Nationals are athletes competing in the following:
 - USOC Olympic Trial competition
 - Youth Junior Nationals
 - Department of defense schools I.e. overseas students (DOODS)
 - Youth World Track & Field Trials
 - US Olympic Selection Committee
- They are continually making a plea for younger officials. They want them involved because the average age of officials applying at these meets is between 65-70 years old.
- A disabled athletes program will be added to the USATF JO Nationals
- Dan Eassa has been to 38 states to do presentations regarding his website. His website is www.freerecruitingwebinar.org. They are partnered with 46 states to do presentations. Starting in 2016, there will be new standards for NCAA eligibility. The GPA is increased from 2.0 to 2.3. There is no more “catch up” making it as seamless as possible to make sure athletes are eligible and maintain that eligibility throughout school years. 10 of the 16 core course requirements are locked in. Out of the 10 core class courses, 7 must come from English. A couple of the coaches in attendance stated how exceptional the website is for our athletes. So coaches and parents please check it out.
- There are no more “full ride” scholarships. Only 30% is the maximum now. It can however, increase based on academic grades. 65% of students focus and 35% improve. www.corecoursegpa.com

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