

2016 High School Coaches Survey Results

In April a Coaches Survey was emailed out via Constant Comment to approx. 500 Youth and High School Coaches within the Pacific Association. The goal of the survey was to find out what the needs are of the coaches, how aware they are of Pacific Association and USATF, as well as how Pacific Association can be of better assistance to them.

We received 44 coach responses back which is almost a 9% response rate. More than half of who responded were high school coaches; more than a quarter of who responded served as both high school and youth coaches; and a smaller number served as youth coaches only.

- ✓ The majority of coaches who responded had coached for 21 years or longer followed by the 6-10 years of coaching category. In the 1-5 years of coaching category only three responded.
- ✓ Surprisingly, of the 44 respondents, 16 were not yet USATF Certified, although 27 were either Level 1 or 2 Certified and one was Level 3 Certified. Eighteen percent of the coaches (8) were not aware that Pacific Association provides Coaching Certification Schools.
- ✓ The majority of Coaches felt that the most important resource they would benefit from is Training and Workout plans, followed by Meet Management information, Insurance Liability information and lastly, First Aid training.
- ✓ More than half did not know they could post their meets on the National USATF calendar free of charge. More than a third did not know how to sanction a meet and why sanctioning a meet could be beneficial. More than a third were not aware of the internet availability of the High School and Youth Rules/Revisions.

With regards to funding “breaking-even” was the most common response followed closely by funding “shortages”.

- ✓ The most important funding sources were Pay-to-Play where parents/guardians pay for their youth to participate in sports, followed by funding from school Athletic Boosters, which was followed by team fundraising events where “hosting meets” was the number one choice for “hands-on” fund raising.

Bright note, a majority of Coaches responded that they do advise their youth of preseason and post-season meets.

- ✓ With regards to Certified Officials, more than a third of the Coaches were not aware they could obtain a list of Certified Officials from Pacific Association and more than a third were not aware of the Certification Clinics available for parents and volunteers.

Overall, the survey reflects that while there is some established knowledge among coaches, especially with the more experienced coaches, there is still a need to reach out more often to coaches in general about how Pacific Association and National USATF can help them and what tools are available to do so. Also, providing more coach-to-coach and mentor-to-coach networking events, training seminars, educational clinics and grant opportunities/financial aid to help pay for such programs are needed. A consistent “Get the Word Out” campaign to Coaches to express the importance of Certification and staying on a path of ongoing education in the sports of Track & Field and Cross Country are important. In addition, it would be wonderful if a financial aid program could be developed where specific costs, such as school uniforms, equipment needs, bus transportation to/from meets and meet application fees could be applied for through Association, National and Sponsor levels.

Respectfully submitted to the USATF Pacific on 20 Sept'16

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