

## 2012 Pacific Assoc. Masters Committee Report

The 2012 Pacific Assoc Masters Committee held our annual meeting at the Pacific Assoc Masters/Open Championships May 27, 2012 in San Mateo CA during the noon "break". The meeting was repeatedly announced on stadium PA from the morning, until a long announcement as the meet was about to begin with the announcer identifying me physically (so others could see me, while I was waving my arms to be identifiable). There were 4 Masters Athletes present (3 + myself). In addition, later received input from 3 additional Masters Athletes at the competition who were unable to give feedback during this period of the meet (many events were continuing despite being on "break").

I gave a short talk of the significant USATF (particularly PA) developments, and then spent the remaining 90% of the meeting listening to input from members.

The top issue *du jour* was the Combined Masters/Open meet. Apart from one person who said this meant there was one fewer meets he could attend, no one said anything negative, and there was apparently unanimity of it being positive with quite a few positive things said. Note: since then, Open Representatives & some of those responsible for the Open meet have said this meet did not work for them. While conjecture, this might have been due to:

- Unusual delays (e.g., 3 different hurdle issues) at this meet which doubtfully will recur
- Delays in Throwing events from an influx of Elite throwers (Discus & Hammer – e.g. 6 of 10 top USA female DT'ers, incl current Gold Medalist), and those who wanted to compete with them
- A general Olympic year athlete influx
- Open Athletes uncomfortable waiting for many age-groups. To Masters Athletes, "Open" was just one more age group to the many (e.g., 14 at Nat'ls) we are used to in each event.

### **Other Master Suggestions that were offered during this meeting:**

- PAUSATF needs more/better marketing
- We should give 30+ year old athletes the option of competing as Masters, just as we give all Masters athletes the option of competing as Open
- Recruiting should be an area of focus, incl getting word out these can be Family Events
- USATF needs a national Masters spokesman
- Would like more local meets
- One athlete prefers this meet in the Sacramento area, where he lives
- PA needs to include Status of Entries on the website
- Pricing of this meet not popular. Claims this lead to decreased participation. One athlete signed up for 2 events in 2012, after 6 & 8 last two years only because of the \$15/event cost higher than ~any other master meet, and far higher than any similar meet
- We should have Masters Combined Event competitions in Pacific Assoc . Belief there were:
  - Zero Indoor Pents (M/F), Zero Outdoor Pents (M/F), Zero Indoor Hepts (M), Zero Outdoor Decaths (M/F), Zero Outdoor Hepts(F)
  - Zero of all the above in 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, ...?
- One spoke strongly that hurdle spacing for M60-69HH should be 13m to first hurdle vs. 12m
- I reiterated what Dave/Irene told me that there are not enough Distance Track events. No one at this meet said this affected them, but no one disagreed

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph D. Ols – 2012 Chairman, USATF Pacific Assoc Masters Track & Field