



December 17, 2014

Notes from USATF Annual Convention - 12/2-5/2014  
Anaheim, California

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Youth Chair Pacific Association

- The 2016 USATF Junior Olympic Nationals will be held in Sacramento, California. The 2016 USATF Cross Country Nationals will be held in Hoover, Alabama. The 2016 USATF Youth Nationals will be hosted by Hershey in partnership with USATF in Lisle, Illinois. Instead of Opening Ceremonies there will a cookout paid for by USATF and Hershey. We all were left out of the bidding process for this meet. This is in direct violation of Article 18 regarding the power of the USOC has over us to run our own youth committee. Max Siegel made this agreement to run the meet this way without any input from the youth committee chairperson. The Youth National Championships will be held in conjunction with Hershey every 4 years.
- The Indoor Youth Nationals is no longer a pilot program. The numbers for the past 4 years was 300, 360, 1000 and now 3000. It's given in conjunction with Hershey at the Ocean Breeze Athletic indoor track and field complex in Staten Island, New York. Rings will be given to 15-16, 17-18 winners.
- The National Office Youth Committee has decided to use Atkins Timing only for all of our National Championship meets. The cost will be split between the National Office and the LOC.
- The Coach-O online registration contract will expire in 2015. They will continue as our online registration company through the 2015 track and field season only. The 2015 cross country online registration season will be done by a new online company. USATF is currently putting out an RFP to find another online registration company.
- 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. All officials are required to do TCLogic as well. TCLogic's contract is coming up for renewal and it will be renewed. There will be no RFP going out for this business.
- The National Office wants to charge for any t-shirts with the USATF wings logo on it sold at our championship meets. This seriously affects profits for the LOC.
- 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. Check the USATF website.
- The National Office will give \$100,000 per year to the youth committee and we will need to decide how those funds will be used. The youth committee has actually negotiated to get approximately \$1,000,000 now through the 2020 season.
- Hershey and National will give book scholarships to graduating seniors by zones, paid for by the Hershey organization.
- USATF, under the direction of Arionne Allen, started a new program last 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. The youth athletes will also receive tips from elite youth athletes. Future Stars is online now. The program has still not taken off yet because it is not being communicated very well at all to our youth members and their families.
- 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.
- In the 800 meter race, we can no longer put 2 athletes in the same lane for a maximum of 12 athletes in each race. We must now use the waterfall start as done in the longer distance races.
- [www.safesport.org](http://www.safesport.org) – the USOC has an initiative about sexual abuse awareness in our sport. This is a mandated awareness and prevention program. Background screening is part of the program. This year at the annual convention in Anaheim, we had the option of taking our session on safe sport training. Every adult over 18 must complete the safe sport training by October 2015. Last year Anna Salter gave a rather explicit presentation about the type of persons (with videos) who are convicted, incarcerated pedophiles. Please do Google Anna Salter to find more information about her work.
- For our 11-12 year old javelin throwers, there was a push and a vote to replace the current turbo javelin with a new one from Finland called the Finnjav. It will become the javelin for the 11-12 year olds in the near future. The vote was tabled for this year. The Finnjav is sold by VS Athletics amongst other suppliers. The creator, Tom Petranoff was a world record holder in the javelin. He states that it helps train throwing the javelin correctly. It's an aerodynamic obvious replacement for the 600 gram javelin. The cost is \$79 retail. You can check it out on the web by going to [www.turbojav.com](http://www.turbojav.com)
- Major racewalk help is now available. Contact [www.DHTrack@aol.com](mailto:www.DHTrack@aol.com). They are coming up with information to help all level of coaches become better teachers of the racewalk. Coaches should put more time and energy into promoting this sport. NAIA gives racewalk college scholarships to our high school athletes. We need to promote racewalk in high school, like immediately.

- 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.
- Pole vault injuries came up again this year. The pole vault accounts for the most injuries in track and field, over 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. The cost is around \$600 to install the 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
- There was discussion last year about holding the Association Workshop in conjunction with the USATF Annual Convention, same as we the youth have done for 8 years now with our Youth Workshop. It came up again this year. We have been informed that “they” want to take the slot we already have set aside for the Youth Workshop and make that available for the Association Workshop. Personally, I believe “they” should find their own space and leave our Youth Workshop slot to us. We shall see. I’ve noticed how they do things when they want something. Case in point:
- The National Executive Board is trying to take away our right to a fair vote. They want to make decisions on our behalf without our input. Example: Even though we voted in the closing session for IAAF Bob Hersh, the board immediately took it upon themselves that day during a later vote amongst themselves, to place Stephanie Hightower into the position anyway. Despite the 350+ votes for him and 70+ votes for her.
- Effective immediately, 8 and under athletes can no longer use starting blocks, even if they know how. Coaches can train their athletes the proper use of starting blocks, but cannot allow their athlete to use them at our track meets. This applies to the 8 and under athletes only.