

Masters Newsletter – June 15, 2021

Message from the Masters LDR Chair, Lloyd Hansen

We are witnessing the rapid and much-anticipated return to road racing in the U.S. As COVID restrictions ease, successful in-person races have been held in many parts of the country, including the Gate River Run in Jacksonville, Florida, with over 8,000 runners, and the Publix Gasparilla Distance Race Classic, with a half marathon field of 4,000. Other prominent races have announced their return, including Grandma's Marathon race weekend in Duluth, Minnesota with an expected 9,500 participants (June 17-June 19), the AJC Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta with over 30,000 participants (July 3-4), the Boston Marathon with a field of 20,000 (October 11), and the TCS New York City Marathon with a cap of 33,000 participants (November 7).

We plan to be part of this resurgence with an aggressive schedule of Masters Long Distance Running and XC Championships.

2021 Masters LDR Schedule Includes Three Spectacular Races

First, the USATF Masters 12k Championships which is part of the By Hook or By Crook 12k in Sandy Hook, New Jersey on September 19. The race is along the beach on a lightning-fast course. You can also combine the race with a visit to NYC, which is only an hour away by car or ferry.

Second, the 5k Masters XC event at the famed Franklin Park course in Boston. Franklin Park has been the host to hundreds of high school and collegiate championships and has been a host to the World XC Championships.

Finally, the Club XC Championships will be held at another world class XC facility at Apalachee Regional Park in Tallahassee, Florida on December 11. If you have never run this course, you are really missing something.

Points for the 2020-2021 Masters Grand Prix can be earned by running the 12k Championships and the 5k XC and there will be a special Masters National Club Cross Championships. We also reduced the maximum races that individuals and teams can score from three to two for the 2020/2021 Masters National Grand Prix. In total, there are four events eligible, including the two upcoming races. You can learn more about these events and our Masters National Grand Prix at usatfmasters.org.

2022 Masters LDR Schedule – The Best in our History

Our Championships Subcommittee has been working very hard at putting together what we believe will be one of the best-ever Grand Prix schedules for 2022. Right now, we have either contracts or verbal commitments for 10 events, including six road races, three XC races, and the World Masters Athletics (WMA) Championships in Tampere, Finland. There will be three races on the West Coast, three in the Northeast, two in the Southeast, and one in the Midwest/Mountain West. Please join us for a comprehensive discussion of the entire 2022 schedule at our quarterly Masters LDR Ambassador call on August 12. You will receive first-hand information directly from our race directors. You can register for the August 12 call at usatfmasters.org.

Get vaccinated for COVID-19 and you are good to run in USATF National events!

As we emerge from COVID-19, we want to protect the safety of our participants. All races have to comply with local state and county guidelines. We are also encouraging our participants to get vaccinated. If you have not been vaccinated 14 days before an event, then you must have a COVID test and test negative within 7 days of the event. You can learn more about the COVID protections for all USATF races at usatf.org/covid19.

Message from Jerry Bookin-Weiner, Masters Track & Field Committee Chair

USATF Masters Track & Field is coming back!!

Starting with the Mega Regional Championships in Maryland at the beginning of June, events will roll out across the country throughout the summer, a welcome change after a year of cancelled meets! Other meets coming up include the USATF Masters Outdoor Championships in Ames, Iowa in July, the National Combined Events Championships in Colorado and National Throws Championships in Seattle, both in August. Regional championships on the schedule now are the Southwest Regionals in Texas in late June or early July, the Midwest Regionals in Ohio in mid-July, the Northwest Regionals in Seattle (also in mid-July), and the Mid America Regionals in Colorado in mid-August. Still to be scheduled are the West Regionals.

Normally by this time we have all the details well nailed down, but COVID has thrown a number of monkey wrenches into our usual plans. There have been challenges in securing facilities, but we hope to resolve everything very soon.

COVID Protocols have been dialed back as the Centers for Disease Control eases restrictions. Now we only require only a single negative PCR test within seven (7) days of a sanctioned event, and those who are fully vaccinated are exempt from this requirement. Things won't be entirely "normal" this summer, but it's getting a lot closer than it was just a few weeks ago! Be sure to check out www.usatf.org/covid19 for updated protocols.

As we emerge from the pandemic, there are still many athletes who are hesitant to travel to meets or who do not feel fit enough to compete. And yet, there is anecdotal evidence that many more are ready, willing, and able to compete this summer.

Welcome Back!!!

2021 USATF Masters Mega Regional Championships – Landover, MD

The 2021 USATF Masters Mega Regional Championships, incorporating the East and Southeast Region Championships, as well as the Potomac Valley Association Masters Championships, took place on Saturday and Sunday, June 5-6, at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Center in Landover, MD. For full information, including results, [click here](#). A full summary of the event will be available in next month's newsletter.

2021 USATF Southwest Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Webster Texas

The 2021 USATF Southwest Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships will take place June 26 at Challenger Columbus Stadium in Webster, Texas. This meet is being held in conjunction with the USATF Gulf Association, and full meet information will be posted on usatfmasters.org once it is available.

2021 USATF Midwest Region Masters Track & Field Championships – Geneva, Ohio

The 2021 USATF Midwest Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships will take place July 10 at the SPIRE Institute in Geneva, Ohio. This meet is being held in conjunction with the USATF Lake Erie Association, and full meet information will be posted on usatfmasters.org once it is available.

2021 USATF Masters Outdoor Championships – Ames, Iowa

The 2021 USATF Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships will take place July 22-25 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. Meet information, including registration information can be found on the event webpage. The “on time” deadline for entries is June 24; the late entry deadline is July 1.

USATF 2021 Northwest Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships – Seattle, Washington

The USATF 2021 Northwest Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships will take place July 17 at West Seattle Stadium in Seattle, Washington. Full meet information is available, including a link to the online registration on the meet website. The meet is being held in conjunction with the USATF Pacific Northwest Association Open & Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships and the Seattle Masters Classic.

2021 National Masters Combined Events Championships – Fort Collins, Colorado

The 2021 National Masters Combined Events Championships will take place Wednesday and Thursday, August 11-12, 2021, at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. The meet consists of the decathlon (for both men and women) and the heptathlon (for women only). Full meet information will be posted on usatfmasters.org once available.

2021 USATF Mid America Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships– Fort Collins, Colorado

The USATF 2021 Mid America Region Masters Outdoor Track & Field Championships will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 14-15, 2021, at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. Full meet information will be posted on usatfmasters.org by once available.

2021 National Masters Throws Championships – Seattle, Washington

The 2021 National Masters Throws Championships will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 21-22, 2021 at West Seattle Stadium in Seattle, Washington. The meet consists of the Throws Pentathlon, Ultraweight Pentathlon, and Superweight. The Throws Pentathlon is limited to 84 entries, while the Ultraweight Pentathlon and Superweight are each limited to 72 entries. Full information, including links to the entry portal and Status of Entries and information about the Awards Dinner on Saturday evening, can be found on the event webpage.

Nominations for MTF Hall of Fame due September 15, 2021

Do you know someone you think should be considered for the Masters Track & Field Hall of Fame? If so, nominate them here! Eligibility criteria are on the nomination form. Nominations for 2022 class consideration must be made by September 15, 2021.

WMA Championships Schedule

World Masters Athletics recently announced dates for several of its upcoming championships and also announced a WMA Cross Country Championship to take place concurrently with the World Athletics Cross Country Championships in 2022.

2022 – WMA Cross Country – Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia – February 19 – 20, 2022

2022 – WMA Outdoor Championships – Tampere, Finland – June 29 – July 10, 2022

2023 – WMA Indoor Championships – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada – March 27 – April 3, 2023

2024 – WMA Outdoor Championships – Gothenburg, Sweden

2025 – WMA Indoor Championships – bid from Spokane, WA to be voted on in 2022

2026 – WMA Outdoor Championships – bid from Daegu, South Korea to be voted on in 2023

Neither the dates nor the site has been announced for the next NCCMA Track & Field Championships, scheduled for Summer 2023.