

AEC Conference Call

May 31, 2009

Attendees:

Karen Krsak	Val Foss	Clif McKenzie	Alan Roth
Willie Banks	Ed Koch	Richard Messenger	Steve Vaitones
Linda Bommicino	Kevin Lucas	Patty Petesch	Ruth White
Pam Fales	Andy Martin	Pat Pretty	

Conference call began at 8:04 pm ET.

Associations Page - Andy needs to track down Kieth to have him explain how to grant permission for Linda to write to the Associations page. We will have minutes, workshop items, annual meeting, etc., and if there is something else you would like, please let Karen know. Our goal for the page is to be able to communicate with the Associations who may not have the opportunity to attend a Workshop or the Annual Meeting, as well as being a resource for our committee.

USATF Foundation - Andy attended the Foundation meeting where he put in a request to continue funding the Youth Administrator's Workshop for a three year period, as well as to help fund creating an on-line entry system for the Junior Olympics. They also would like an Outreach program for children who have no exposure to track and field at all, whether it is through a park based program or school based programs. Hopefully, this would give children a glimpse of what a great sport track and field is and get more kids involved with the sport. This could also address the child obesity issue.

Benefits - We still need to iron some things out regarding the Benefits program. Andy has received mixed messages and he needs to get clarity on what Marketing and Legal and Doug want to do with continuing to add new companies to the program. We do have some companies that we have been working with, but we haven't been able to finalize an agreement with them. Andy does know we will add two new equipment distributors – Gill and VS Athletics.

Workshop - Karen will meet with Andy and Sherry to finish the workshop agenda. Andy will post it on our page once it is finished. The Workshop information is posted in the Association Resource center, and we have a link to it on our Association's page, as well.

Sanction fees – we put together a task force with Steve Viatones, Marlene Atwood (Georgia) and Andy, with Karen joining in as well. The goal of the call was to throw everything out on the table and discuss in very broad terms what was needed to determine if there is an issue, and, if so, what is the best approach to take. Right now association's charge either a standard fee across the board regardless of the size of the event, or they charge on an escalating scale, like the National fee. They talked about discounts for members or charging too much for non member clubs, and what is the purpose for the wide range in that fee. If we do move forward with standardizing fees, how would that impact associations financially. In the next call they will have statistics available to tell how many Association's discount for member clubs vs. non-member clubs; how many Association's are using the standard sanction fee structure vs the escalating fee structure; the average sanction fee for each of these levels. Steve mentioned they would also look at programs the Associations offer vs. their sanction fees. There can be justification for higher fees if there are many programs available. However, there is never any justification to charge a higher sanction fee than the National fee. There is an example of one Association going from no local sanction fee to one of the highest in the nation. Are some Associations charging a high fee, even when they have enough money in the bank? Kevin was concerned that we need to ensure there are not extenuating circumstances that we do not know about. Andy said we would be sending out a survey to find out specifics first. The plan is to have weekly calls to stay on top of this issue.

Youth – The IAAF gave us an extension on the deadline for naming of our World Youth Team (to midnight on 7/1/09). We were faced with tough deadlines because of the timing of our meets this year. We've known this for quite some time. However, we won't be able to use the marks from the World Trials in Detroit.

Zones - Harry will be organizing a conference call with the zone reps before the Workshop. The North Region sent out a newsletter. Karen and Andy and the other Zone reps would also like to receive a copy.

Coaches Ed - Pat reported that he has not heard a thing for two months now from the Coaches Ed Committee and he is wondering what is going on. Andy has not heard anything either, and Karen feels that nothing at all is happening in Coaches Ed right now. Pat is concerned since this is the time of the year when we should be getting information. Willie said this is something he can bring up at the next Board meeting in mid July. The Board is just now starting to get a grip on what's going on. Also if there is anything we need to come before the Board, let him know. Karen said Coaches Ed was the major item. Willie asked if everyone saw the press release regarding Benita Fitzgerald Mosley, a former Olympian, is our new Chief of Sport Performance for elite track and field. More information will be forthcoming. Also, Jill Geer was promoted to Chief Public Affairs Officer, directly reporting to Doug, and Ivan Cropper is now Senior Director of Marketing and Communications.

Rules – Steve reported that we need to emphasize to everyone that the rules must be followed in light of the recent settlement of a lawsuit stemming from the Connecticut Association's 2001 JO meet where a pole vaulter was injured. To summarize it, the pole vault was moved from outdoors to indoors and the athlete vaulted without supervision. The individual who was running the event said to wait; the athlete fell in the box and was paralyzed. He was awarded multiple million dollars. While there is a lot more that goes along with this on both sides, there are a couple of issues to keep in mind. The prosecution based everything on what the rule book said. Even though the facility was legal for a college meet, it was not legal for a USATF meet. The rulebook specified there would need to be 4 officials for the pole vault, and even though the accident happened before the competition started, it did not matter. There were not 4 officials manning the event. So, we need to emphasize to everyone putting on a meet to walk through their facility with the rule book to ensure they meet requirements. Steve will also work with the Rules Committee to try to change the wording so that it is geared toward Association Championships as opposed to National meets where the standards are much lower. We need to minimize the risk at our meets. Andy is working on putting out a formal notice on this. We may need to add some language to our JO waiver to address risk management.

There will be no call in June. The next meeting is July 19, 2009.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by
Linda Bommicino, Secretary