

Important information to the OK Association USATF, from Ervin Wyatt, Youth Athletics Chair

First, I would like to thank Mike Barber with Jenks Track Club for running the JO Association Cross Country Meet this past November.

Keitha and I went to the **USATF national convention** this year and all I can say is WOW. This was a voting year and I think that every candidate took a page or two from the past political race. I'll give you the information in bullet format in no specific order.

- The New USATF President elected is Ms. Stephanie Hightower
- Mr. Lionel Leach will continue to be the National Youth Athletics Chair
- Intermediates & Young Women/Men at the national level will have to go through the doping screen (random selections)- coaches are encouraged to educate their athletes regarding illegal/banned substances and over the counter supplements from GNC that may cause them to test positive
- An athlete must compete in his/her home residence association
- An athlete cannot compete in one association meet, then compete in another without permission from both associations (for dual residence)
- 2010 Youth Nationals will be held in Lisle, IL.
- 2010 JO's will be held in Sacramento, CA.
- I'll be working with Andrea (AAU) so that track meet dates don't conflict this year
- All coaches and volunteers will be required to have a back ground check
- All coaches are highly encouraged to keep checking the USATF website for updates regarding Junior National Qualifiers for International Teams (athletes are encouraged to seek a passport as early as possible)
- There will be another youth coaches training workshop in March 2009 to focus on on-line entry education- Hy-Tek (location TBA)
- There will be a summer Junior Olympic Camp in 2009 in which the top 5 athletes and coaches will be invited to attend a hands on training camp- continue checking USATF website for future updates
- Dr. Rick McGuire expressed that "Great coaches are great communicators with positive messages". He highly emphasized that we as coaches should remember to always utilize a "Build It" model and never cut our young athletes down.
- International Simultaneous Marathon was implemented this year and high hopes are for future teams to get on board with this wonderful idea
- The New CEO Mr. Bruce Logan made a verbal commitment to assure that if there is a Level II Coaching Clinic it will not interfere with youth coaches summer track and field schedules.
- All coaches are encouraged to become Level I certified coaches and to seek becoming a certified official
- Every team has to have @ least 1 Level I coach
- All coaches are HIGHLY encouraged to educate themselves as best as possible regarding the governing rules of track and field based on USATF documented updates. Always keep your rules book on hand! There are too many rules/exceptions pertaining to youth athletics to remember without it. Make it a habit to always take it with you.

*December 31, 2008*