

COURSE CERTIFICATION, more than accuracy

Accuracy alone is not the reason for course certification. Race organizers receive a detailed map with tangents shown and complete documentation of start, finish, turnaround, if any, and splits. This means that a total stranger could take the certificate and determine the exact location of these points. Race director's change and without a certificate a new director would be lost. The certificate also shows the type of surface, type of course and type of terrain with elevations listed for start, finish, high and low points. When necessary, potential traffic hazards, restrictions and caution areas are described.

Course certification is one of the basic aspects of a high-quality race. Races should advertise that the course is certified and list the certificate number in brochures, ads and public announcements. In this manner, runners are assured that the course distance is accurate. Races should display the certificate and map near the start line on race day so runners can see the map of the route, start/finish and splits.

Courses expire after ten years and must be re-measured and re-certified.

Accurate times from a certified course submitted to USATF Oklahoma are considered for state records. These results are then forwarded to USATF Road Running Information Center for national records. Oklahoma has the most comprehensive set of state records in the nation. Long distance running is no different than any other sport. Records play an important role in creating interest. USATF Oklahoma LDR will recognize the outstanding performances. The regular publication of data, rankings and ratings both on a state and course level helps keep motivation and interest high and continues to be a factor in the growth of long distance running in the state of Oklahoma. An *Oklahoma Runner* survey indicated that certified courses were top priority by runners when listing the important items in a road race.

One important quality of road racing is that great performances are not limited to national, world or Olympic championships, but can happen in any race in the state over a certified course. No matter how small or how large an event is times are considered for records. It could be a small race in a small town or a big event like the Tulsa Run.

The current Oklahoma state open, female record was set in the Jay Huckleberry Run in 2006

The USATF Oklahoma web site lists the complete Oklahoma road race records dating back to 1970.

START AND FINISH LINES MUST BE MARKED ON RACE DAY. A LINE MUST BE MARKED ACROSS THE STREET. BANNERS AND PYLONS CANNOT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE START/FINISH LINE

COURSE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

There is a wealth of information on course certification at the Road Running Technical Council Site. Go to www.rrtc.net You can download and print many items regarding certification including:

The web site has a list of all certified courses in Oklahoma. You can download and print the course map by distance, city, etc. These maps list detailed information on start/finish, restrictions, etc. Not all maps list documentation of splits. If you need a course certificate with complete information, contact USATF Oklahoma at (918) 834-3259 or 633-1510. The email address is okrunjoe@cox.net. We will mail you a copy of the certificate. A self-addressed return envelope would be appreciated. The mailing address is 1416 S. Marion Ave., Tulsa, OK 74112.

You can download and print the RRTC Course Renewal Procedure and the RRTC Course Renewal from the USATF Oklahoma web site at www.usatf.org/assoc.org under the race director's page.

Oklahoma has several experienced measurers. Contact us for names and addresses.