

## COURSE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

There is a wealth of information on course certification at the Road Running Technical Council Site. Go to [rrtc.net](http://rrtc.net). You will be able to download and print many items regarding certification including:

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](mailto: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](http://www.usatf.org/assoc) under the Race Director's page.

## COURSE CERTIFICATION, more than accuracy

When stringent rules for course certification were enacted several years ago it was revealed that the vast majority of previously measured courses were too short and some were even too long. This inconsistency was due directly to the lack of well-defined rules and individuals willing to follow such rules.

The problem of accuracy seems to have been solved, at least in most areas of the country, with the new group of dedicated measurers.

However, accuracy alone is not the reason for course certification. Consider this. 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 often and without a certificate a new director would be lost.

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. Why have records in baseball or football? Records play an important role in creating interest. USATF Oklahoma LDR wants to 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 major factor in the growth of long distance running in the state of Oklahoma.

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

Certified courses and state and course record keeping are very important. An *Oklahoma Runner* survey indicated that certified courses were top priority by runners when listing the important items in a road race.

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 and caution areas are described. Courses expire after ten years and must be re-measured and re-certified.

Race directors should always show the course certificate number on the magazine ad and race brochure. Course marking should not be attempted without a certificate in hand. USATF Oklahoma has a copy of every course certificate in the state. This certificate will be provided to directors on request.

**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**