

## **RACE SANCTION, WHAT IS IT?**

Sanction, according to the dictionary has several meanings. When referring to long distance running, track and field or racewalking it means that you as a race organizer or sponsor have the approval of not only USATF Oklahoma, but, USATF nationally, in conducting your event. Approval is a broad term. Such words as ratification, blessing, support, encouragement would also be appropriate. How do you as an organizer receive this approval? You have agreed in your application for sanction to do certain things. In fact, you have signed a contract. In addition to the basic items such as safety, etc., you have agreed to do other things, all of which are intended to make your event not only safe, but high quality. Are sanctions automatic? Definitely not. Some promoters are under the impression that filling out an application form and paying the required fee makes them automatically eligible. This is not true. Failure to follow the prescribed guidelines and to submit the papers on time is reason to have the sanction revoked. Is a sanction really necessary? Yes. How necessary is full coverage insurance? Would you drive your car without insurance? Would you own a home without it? Insurance, however, is not the primary reason for sanctioning an event. A sanction is one way of uniting a group of race promoters into one strong organization. This organization is USATF Oklahoma LDR. As a member of USATF Oklahoma LDR your group or organization shares ideas and suggestions with about 135 other groups in the state. Your delegate at the annual state meeting and race director's conference permits you to voice your opinion and vote on important matters regarding USATF Oklahoma LDR business. Like any other democratic group our purpose is to work together with a view to constant improvement. You are an integral part of USATF.

Sanctions can be issued to races providing their own insurance if this insurance is similar to that provided by USATF. Some may feel at first that they are being forced to pay fees or follow rules that are unnecessary. This contract is not a trade-off. The requirements by USATF are items that directly benefit your event. USATF has a primary objective, the same objective as the promoter, to see that a safe, high-quality event takes place. When your group, as a member of USATF, conducts this type of event it is a direct reflection on you and USATF; conversely, when your event is not high quality it has an adverse effect. If promoters are not interested in the basic ingredients of safety and high quality, then a sanction will not be issued. Every effort must be made to keep wheeled vehicles and animals off the course. In addition to the requirements in the sanction application, what else is required? Oklahoma LDR requires that you provide accurate results suitable for publication and for consideration for state records. If this is not done, then the sanction will be subject to revocation. This, of course, does not apply to fun runs and non-certified courses.

**SANCTIONS MUST BE APPLIED FOR AT LEAST 3 WEEKS IN ADVANCE.**

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## Event Sanctions - Overview & Benefits

### What is a "sanction"?

A USATF sanction is an official designation issued by USATF, through a local Association, which approves and licenses the holding of a competitive track & field, long distance running or race walking event in the United States. The sanction is also a contract, which evidences the event's commitment to follow national and international rules and regulations of the sport and to provide a safe environment for the participants and spectators. Once the event has satisfied the sanction requirements, the event's application for sanction is approved.

### Benefits of sanctioning your event:

- Increased Prestige - For many events, the USATF sanction improves the event's public perception. A sanction tells athletes that an event is being run according to applicable competition rules. Sanctioned events have the ability to use the USATF logo to promote the fact that the governing body has sanctioned the event.
- Liability Insurance - Most governmental entities including cities, counties, state highway departments, parks and community centers require general liability insurance for all events. The cost of a sanction is very inexpensive compared to the prices of most event insurance policies. It is important to know that events that are already insured may choose to waive the insurance coverage and pay a lower sanction fee.
- Medical Insurance for Athletes - Any athlete who is a USATF member and is injured while participating in a sanctioned event will be eligible for secondary medical insurance coverage for the injury. This insurance not only provides valuable coverage to USATF members, but it serves as a valuable deterrent to lawsuits.
- Calendar Promotion - Sanctioned events will be included in the USATF online calendar and be highlighted to distinguish them from non-sanctioned events.
- Records - In general, for non-road events, a sanction is required for a record to be set. There are some exceptions to this rule, however.
- Special Offers and Discounts - [view offers & discounts available to sanctioned events](#)
- Resolving Disputes - If requested, USATF will act as an arbiter in disputes between athletes and sanctioned events.
- Other - Each Association may provide additional benefits to its sanctioned events. Please contact your local Association for more details.

[Download an application](#) and apply for your sanction today!

Go to [www.usatf.org/assoc/ok](http://www.usatf.org/assoc/ok) or see **SANCTION, MEMBERSHIP AND RELATED FORMS** from the Race Director's Page.