

Dear Coaches,

The 2011 season is in full motion and we have completed three meets thus far. As we move forward with the season, there are number of things that we need to be aware of and clarify.

1. COACH CONDUCT

There have been several incidents concerning coaching conduct with athletes, officials, and/or other coaches. I would like to remind all coaches that as a coach you are held to a higher level standard, with higher expectations from the United States of America Track and Field and its Three Rivers Association. As such, we as coaches must be mindful of what we say, what we do, and how we act at meets. In addition, please remind and express to parents that there is also a level of expectation and standards that they must adhere to as well. Parents, whether they are coaches, volunteers, or simply parents, also represent your organization. As representatives, they are expected to adhere to the same rules and policies as a coach. The Three Rivers Association Youth Committee will be putting into place protocols and disciplinary sanctions for improper and inappropriate coaching and parent conduct. Once these protocols are put completed they will given out at the meet and sent to coaches.

2. THE GREEN CARD

Now that the third meet has been completed, we will strictly be enforcing access to the in-field. If you have received a Green Card it is because you have completed the USATF TC LogiQ background screening. This Green Card is a **NOTIFICATION** that you have been approved as a coach/volunteer. **IT IS NOT A FIELD PASS. IT DOES NOT GIVE YOU OPEN ACCESS TO THE CLERKING AREA, COMPETITION AREAS ON THE TRACK, IN-FIELD, JUMPING PITS, OR THROWING AREAS.**

3. IN-FIELD COACHING AND ATHLETE ACCESS

COACHES AND PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THE CLERKING AREA, COMPETITION AREAS ON THE TRACK, IN-FIELD, JUMPING PITS, OR THROWING AREAS. Coaching boxes will be designated for the pole vault, all other coaching **MUST** occur outside the track along the fence. Coaches and parents can escort their athlete/child to the clerking area but are not allowed in the clerking. Coaches can help the Sub-Bantam and Bantam set their long jump marks, but must **IMMEDIATELY** leave after their marks have been set. **THERE WILL BE NO COACHING FROM THE IN-FIELD.** Any coach/parent caught will be warned once and their team notified. The second infraction will be disqualification of that athlete competing in that event and possibly from the meet. Anyone officiating and volunteering that is also a coach, must limit the amount of communication and coaching with their athlete(s) or any other athlete in that particular event(s) that they are officiating. If happens that you are officiating and need to coach your athlete please recuse/excuse yourself from that event/flight. I

understand that this may affect the officiating, but I would rather have a slower meet than the perception of unfairness.

4. OFFICIATING

Officials, please wear your Officials shirt at the meets when you are officiating more than coaching. If you are hosting the meet wear your team shirt. This limits confusion about who is who, why some people are on the in-field, and what people are doing. So the times that you are officiating more than coaching wear an Officials shirt, when you're doing more coaching than officiating wear your team shirt.

5. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Coaches and parents should know USATF rules and regulations. As the season gets more competitive, more concerns are going to arise. The best way to address these concerns is to know the rules, protocols, and procedures. There are procedures and protocols to follow and are spelled out in the rules book. There are guidelines for uniforms (especially for relays), guidelines for using starting blocks, and guidelines for officiating. Everyone needs to be aware and knowledgeable about these rules. Every team and coach should have a rules book. A rules book can be bought from the following: www.usatf.org/about/rules/2009/index.asp

By following the above guidelines, we are guaranteed to have a successful and great season.

Sincerely

Oronde Sharif
Youth Chair