

December 1, 2011

Minutes of the Facilities and Equipment Subcommittee – USATF 2011 Convention,
St. Louis, MO

Bob Springer, Chair

67 persons were in attendance. A quorum was also present to act on any motion raised by the body.

Minutes of the 2010 Convention and Meeting were approved as written.

The Agenda for the 2011 Meeting was approved without change.

Old Business – Goals for 2011

- The Newsletter membership has expanded to nearly 900 recipients.
- Development of a rule regarding specifications for Indoor and out door weights. Specifically, the indoor and outdoor weights specification requirements were separated. As a result the outdoor weight specifications were not changed. The outdoor and indoor weight specifications were proposed as rule change number 9.
- Hammer handles have been resolved.

These were the major goals for 2011. They were met.

Implement issues in 2011

The majority of issues related to the failure of implements presented for inspection were related to owner maintenance. The chair, suggested that Inspectors inform Coaches that they need to take care of their implements so that implements , not only would last longer, but would also have a better chance of passing inspection. It was noted that High School lack of implement maintenance and care was the worse.

The Chair also requested that the results of implement inspection results be submitted to him for the National database. Information to be submitted should include the name of the competition, the number of implements inspected per event, the number of failures. Other information that would be useful would be the manufacturer or the distributor name for the failed implement.

Rule changes for 2012 –

Rule 9 – Indoor/outdoor throwing weights. No issue has been raised (minor wording change for the handle to ball connection) were raised. The Indoor weight issues relate to the manufacture of the ball. Specifically the ball must (as stated by manufacturers) contain a void to prevent the ball (bladder) from breaking on impact after sustained use. The fill material was also specified in the proposal. Specifically, lead or lead alloy was specified as the fill material with a specified void area. What has been found is that International athletes and some USA athletes have purchased Indoor weights that contain Tungsten. This material (more

expensive that lead) would be illegal. In addition, NCAA does not specify the fill material or void limitation.

With the specification for the indoor weight, and the potential issue of compression after sustained use, the Center of Gravity would be difficult if not impossible to determine. This latter issue is due to the change in the void area and compaction, or stratification, of the internal material.

As a result of the discussions, it was suggested that the Rule proposal be tabled for another year. This would allow additional deliberation and development of a more acceptable rule specification.

The change of the CG limit to 9mm was accepted and will be a minor text change. The current 6mm limit was a miss type in the earlier rule change.

In addition, the 15mm size addition for covering of the indoor weight bladder will be submitted in 2012.

Additional Discussions for 2012 regarding fill material for implements –

It was noted that one manufacturer is advertising their equipment as extending the center of Gravity for their hammers. Specifically, they hammer ball is being filled with Tungsten. It was suggested that this be reviewed for 2012. Whether the hammer in question can pass the Center of Gravity test (6mm) was not provided during the discussion.

Rule Proposal 19 - This proposal deals with the duties of the Technical Manager. This proposal is submitted to mirror the role of the TM under IAAF. However, in the USA the Inspector of Implements has been separated out of the duties of the TM under IAAF. The proposal would include a duty that the Technical Manager check to see if the Implement Inspection is being set up as to records, marking, impoundment, etc.. The duty is a pre-competition validation of activities that the Technical Manager is responsible for pre-meet activities. The Inspector of Implements for USATF would remain a cooperative activity with the Field Referee during competition. No change in the current responsibilities or authorities currently conducted in the US will change. The proposal was accepted.

Rule Proposal 33 regarding non-traditional competition facilities (Rule 149)– This rule follows IAAF regarding the needed requirements for competitions or events held outside a traditional stadium track and field competition. It requires Sanction. However, sanction only refers to liability. If the competition wishes to recognize a qualifying standard or record, the event facility must meet all technical requirements as if it was held in a recognized stadium event. The proposal was accepted.

Rule Proposal?? Regarding the minimum length specification for the hammer. This is being removed. The proposal is acceptable.

Goals for 2012 -

1. Address the Indoor Weight Rule.

2. Develop situational test questions for the 2012 re-certification exams for both the Implement Inspector and the Technical Manager. The questions must be submitted by July 2012.

Additional discussions –

An issue was raised regarding the specifications of the 750mm discus and the specifications of the 2k hammer, for Masters Athletes. Specifically, a request was made to change the specifications of the 750mm discus to those for the 1k discus. An additional suggestion was made regarding the 2k hammer. It was suggested that this issue be raised to the Masters Sub-committee for proposal.

Having no further information or questions, the meeting was adjourned.