

USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Convention Meeting
Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Minutes

[Note: Minutes reflect the order of the agenda. Topics were covered in a different order.]

Members Present: Rex Harvey (Iowa)(Chair), Rob Buzaitis (Michigan)(Secretary), Shirley Connors (Pacific), Mike Olsen (Oregon), Susan Petrelli (Colorado)

Others Present: Bill Boyd (Virginia), Bruce Colman (Pacific), Dick Connors (Pacific), Clyde Crimmel (South Carolina), Carroll Deweese (Michigan), James Dunaway, Dave Hanson (South Carolina), Len Krsak (Ohio), B.J. Palma (Adirondack/Arizona), Bob Podkaminer (Pacific), Bill Price (Potomac Valley), Margaret Sheehan (Pacific), Jim Skelly (San Diego-Imperial), Eric Smith (Florida), Bob Tice (North Carolina), Tony Wayne (North Carolina), Reginald Weissglas (Metropolitan), and Eric Zemper (Michigan).

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 25, 2005 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as written made by Olsen, seconded by Connors. Motion passes without objection.

2. Convention Clinics –Update

Harvey reviewed the sessions scheduled for the convention.

3. Proposed USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Organizational Structure

Buzaitis explained that each of the subcommittee members would have a particular position and responsibilities. A question was asked on how the subcommittee planned to get feedback regarding the training materials it developed. Harvey stated that the subcommittee did a survey in early 2005 to determine what training was being done in Associations and got responses from a little over half the associations. He said the same method could be employed. Another question was the role of the officials' rules subcommittee in the structure. Harvey stated that the training subcommittee's function overlaps with certification and rules and would require cooperation.

Harvey said the subcommittee would vote on adoption of the proposal (and whether it would include the training materials review team) by e-mail.

4. 2006 NFHS & NCAA Rules Update Clinic - Update

Buzaitis stated that a narrated PowerPoint clinic has been developed; this was one of the subcommittee's goals for this year. It should be available online in the next month or so and there will be a link on the USATF Officials website and publicized to officials.

5. Goals for 2006

Harvey explained that the existing training video was produced in the late 1980s. He explained that an officials' son from the Pacific Association was willing to work on updating the video at cost. He said that George Kleeman (Vice Chair – Rules) had written an updated script that could be dubbed over the existing video – this would probably cost about \$2000. The consensus was to keep the video in mind as a goal and see which group, assuming the organizational structure passes, should address updating the video.

Harvey stated that one of his goals would be to have a training clinic or clinics at the 2006 Outdoor Masters Track and Field Championships in North Carolina.

6. Budget for 2006

Harvey stated that the budgeted amount for 2006 would be \$3000, same as 2005. He stated that this year, the subcommittee did not spend its entire budget. If the subcommittee needed more money next year, it may ask the executive committee. [Note: the approved budget amount for 2006 for the training subcommittee is \$8200.]

7. Training Clinics at Outdoor Championships

Harvey asked for any suggestions regarding future training clinics. Buzaitis suggested a session about records – requirements for officials to follow and form completion. Another suggestion was a clinic on combined events.

The suggestion was made to have training clinics at more than just the outdoor open championships and the convention. Other meets suggested include the Indoor Open Championships, Indoor Open Combined Events, Indoor and Outdoor Masters Championships, Junior Olympic Championships, and the Youth Athletic Championships. [See 2006 Goals -- #5]

8. Other Discussion Items

- a. *NCAA Presentation at Officials General Session*: Bob Podkaminer (Secretary-Rules Editor) gave an overview of the presentation he was going to give to the officials' general session regarding actions taken by the NCAA committee this past year. He encouraged those in attendance to tell officials that unlike prior years, where every change in the rule book (including moved sections without changing wording) were shaded, this years' rule book does not have every single change shaded. Officials should read and locate the rules and their placement in the rule book. Some wording has been changed slightly, but the intent of those rules has not changed. He noted this was the first cover-to-cover editorial review since 1987.
- b. *NCAA Certification and Training*: Harvey stated that Linda Melzer (Officials Committee Chair) was interested in having an "NCAA" designation on certification cards. Podkaminer stated that the NCAA is interested in having highly qualified and experienced officials to work its meets. However, NCAA bylaws prohibit a requirement in any sport that an official belong to a certain group or attain a certain membership in order to officiate at an NCAA Championship. Other sports choose their officials based on conference recommendations, and the conferences have training and other requirements that its officials must follow. Therefore, Podkaminer said that the USATF Officials Committee can make people more aware of the NCAA rules, but CANNOT be the certifying arm of officials for the NCAA.

Podkaminer noted that other NCAA sports, notably water polo, have an "Officiating Improvement Program" where the NCAA conducts clinics for officials. He said that the NCAA committee proposed a budget item to host 17 clinics lasting about 2-3 hours for a Track Officiating Improvement Program. That item was denied because the funds went somewhere else. Podkaminer said that program would be for key officials (referees, starters, clerks, announcer, etc.) and head officials of each event and a precursor clinic will be held for about 2 hours at the 2006 Division I Outdoor Championships in Sacramento in June. The clinic would cover NCAA Philosophy, Policy, and Methods, but not rules. He noted that the NCAA is looking to expand its pool of key officials, and these clinics would allow them to do so. Currently, Division I has about 17 "key officials," which the NCAA pays the full expenses for those officials. Adding event heads would increase that number to about 25 officials. He also stated that for 2006, Division II received money to pay a stipend to each official working its championship. Division I and III requested similar funding, but were denied because the funds went to other programs.

Podkaminer stated the issue is how USATF (specifically, its officials) and NCAA and work together within the restrictions present in each organization. He said that training could be done at the local (institution) level, even though the NCAA cannot sanction it. He stated that how long it takes to implement the Officiating Improvement Program was unknown but that this was a slow, long process.

- c. *USATF/NCAA Basic Principle Cards*: Podkaminer brought copies of seven cards he created which cover the field events. He said he would like the training subcommittee to review the cards. After the review, he said Harvey (as training subcommittee chair) could announce that the cards were available. They could be sold by MF Athletic and Springco and also available for sale with the other officials merchandise on the USATF officials website.

Harvey solicited the following volunteers to review the listed card. Comments by the reviewer should be sent to Harvey (rexjh@aol.com) on or before January 20, 2006.

- Discus, Hammer, Weight Throw – Jim Skelly
- Shot Put – Mike Olsen
- Javelin – Carroll Deweese
- Pole Vault – John Shirley
- Horizontal Jumps – Shirley Connors
- High Jump – Bill Price
- 5-Alive & Time Limits – Rex Harvey

Podkaminer expected there would be about four additional cards and completed by late January 2006. Eric Zemper volunteered to review the card dealing with the starters.

- d. *IAAF Protest Protocol Handout*: Podkaminer provided the first five pages of a handout he prepared for a presentation to our elite athletes. Pages six and seven were not provided because they were strategic and proprietary information for team members only. He provided the handout as a reference for officials and suggested it be made available to officials. Harvey said it would be posted on the training section of the USATF officials website.

- e. *NFHS Officials Education Program*: Buzaitis passed around a new book published in September 2005 by the National Federation and American Sports Education Program titled "Officiating Track and Field and Cross Country." The question was asked if it would be updated yearly. Buzaitis stated he did not think so and mentioned that some of the information (e.g. sectors) would be out of date within one year. Bill Boyd mentioned he was involved with the project and there was an 18-24 month lag.
- f. *Starter's Monograph*: Zemper stated he would be updating his Starter's monograph in the coming weeks to incorporate the 2006 rule changes. He stated he would send it to Harvey for posting on the website after January 1, 2006.
- g. *New Officials Training PowerPoint Presentation*: Zemper stated that he would also be updating the PowerPoint presentation on the training section of the USATF Officials website to incorporate the 2006 rules changes. He noted that the presentation included a section on disabled athletics. He stated he has two versions of the presentation: a version with just the PowerPoint (posted on the website) and a version with video clips from the training video – this version with video clips requires either 3 CDs or 1 DVD.
- h. *American Track and Field Magazine Articles*: James Dunaway, editor of *American Track and Field*, mentioned that they had just done an article on the USATF Coaching Education Program. He mentioned that he would be writing a series of articles on the recruitment, training, and care and feeding of officials. He asked if anyone was interested in writing articles for the magazine to contact him. His contact information is jodunaway@earthlink.net or 512-261-8354.

9. Next Meetings:

The next subcommittee meeting or conference call was not determined.

The meeting concluded at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Buzaitis
Secretary, USATF Officials Training Subcommittee

Proposed Organizational Structure for the USATF Officials Training Subcommittee

Purpose: Develop an organizational structure that will allow the subcommittee to produce quality training materials leading to a comprehensive training program.

SUBCOMMITTEE

Membership:

- Vice Chair – Training for the USATF National Officials Committee
- Secretary (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)
- Chair of the Championship/Convention Clinics Group (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)
- Chair of the Initial Training Group (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)
- Chair of the Continuing Education Group (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)
- Chair of the Advancement Training Group (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)
- Chair of the Outreach Training Group (appointed by the Vice Chair – Training)

Duties: Assist Vice Chair – Training in performing the functions of his or her office by making decisions on the direction of the USATF Officials Education Program.

GROUPS

- Championship/Convention Clinics Group: Set up clinics at the Outdoor Championships and USATF Annual Meeting, including scheduling the sessions, making room and AV arrangements, and contacting presenters.
- Initial Training Group: Develop training materials for new officials to gain knowledge and skills necessary to be certified and to develop as a new official.
- Continuing Education Group: Develop training materials for certified officials, including new rules and procedures, continued reinforcement of correct rule application and officiating mechanics, and other in-service training.
- Advancement Training Group: Develop training materials for officials seeking to advance to National, Master, and Master Referee certification.
- Outreach Training Group: Develop training materials for non-certified officials and volunteers.

Membership: Group Chair plus 2-4 members appointed by the Group Chair.

Duties: Plan and oversee the development of training and training materials in their respective area or as directed by the USATF Officials Training Subcommittee.

TRAINING MATERIALS REVIEW TEAM

Membership:

- Vice Chair – Training
- Secretary of the USATF Officials Training Subcommittee
- 1 representative or designee from the IAAF Technical Committee
- 1 representative or designee from the USATF Rules Committee
- 1 representative or designee from the NCAA Track and Field / Cross Country Rules Subcommittee
- 1 representative or designee from the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee
- 2 USATF certified officials appointed by the Chair of the USATF National Official Committee

Duties: Review and approve training materials for consistency and endorsed officiating protocols and mechanics.