

USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Convention Meeting
Wednesday, November 28, 2007
Minutes

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

Members Present: Rex Harvey (Iowa) – Vice Chair – Training
Rob Buzaitis (Michigan) – Secretary
Shirley Connors (Pacific) – Chair, Championships/Convention Clinics Group

Group Members Present:
Bill Price (Potomac Valley) – Initial Training Group
Eric Smith (Florida) – Outreach Training Group
Dennis Olafson (Oregon) – Championship/Convention Clinics Group
Mike Olsen (Oregon) – Advancement Training Group

Others Present:

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| Chester Bradley (Southwestern) | Becky Oakes (NFHS) |
| Bruce Colman (Pacific) | Bob Podkaminer (Pacific) |
| Dick Connors (Pacific) | Patrick Simon (Illinois) |
| Carroll DeWeese (Michigan) | Margaret Sheehan (Pacific) |
| Teddy Hayes (Pacific) | Jim Skelly (San Diego-Imperial) |
| Humberto (Al) Hernandez (Pacific) | Bob Springer (Pacific Northwest) |
| Robert Hooper (Arizona) | Eugene Stemm (Southern California) |
| George Kleeman (Pacific) | Jimmy Stuart (Southwestern) |
| Gloria Louis (Southern) | Lance Turley (New England) |
| Al Minturn (Southern California) | Cindy Wryrick (Potomac Valley) |
| John Murray (Pacific) | Eric Zemper (Michigan) |
| Sue Murray (Pacific) | |

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 20, 2007 Meeting

The minutes were approved without objection.

2. Group Reports

- a. *Championship/Convention Clinics Group*: Connors reports that Olafson joined the Group in early 2007. The 2006 convention clinics were well attended (30+ people each) and evaluations were completed and summarized; the summaries were distributed to the Group members. The Group has collected future clinic suggestions on the evaluations and that information has been very useful.

One of the Group's 2007 goal was to look for other meets to host clinics. The Group held two clinics outside the USA Outdoors and convention. The Group assisted in presenting a Laserlynx session at the USA Indoor meet in Boston. It had about 20 attendees; however, no attendance sheet or evaluations were received. Another session on electronic measurement and electronic recording was held at the NCAA Division I Outdoors in Sacramento. This session allowed attendees to practice in the field and helped them get certified.

At the USA Outdoors, four clinics were scheduled. The electronic measurement session had decent attendance, but did not allow for too much practice or the opportunity for certification. The laser measuring for long/triple jump clinic was not held because no one showed up. (It was raining that morning.) The Starter's Mechanics session, presented by the starters from the meet,

was attended by several local high school starters. Lastly, a UK Exchange program and discussion was also fairly well attended.

The Group decided to give an honoraria to the presenters of clinics at the 2007 convention. A single presenter for a clinic will receive \$50. Multiple presenters for one clinic will receive \$25 each, with a maximum of \$100 per clinic.

The Group felt it accomplished its 2007 goals and would continue working on those goals for the next year, evaluating them at the end of 2008. It has a request for clinic topics on the USATF Officials website and appearing in a listserv message. It still wants to be informed about new technology. It spent its budget on expenses for the two LaserLynx sessions and honoraria for presenters at the convention.

- b. *Initial Training Group*: The Group has compiled its survey results and is processing the information. It will be presenting an overview of the initial training module on umpiring at one of the clinic sessions. Harvey reminded the Group that because this training is for new officials, it should not necessarily be comprehensive. He also stated that if online, it should be interactive. The Group asked about permission to use USATF pictures. Bradley mentioned possible topics to include: accurately defining a lane, relay zone, breakline, and hurdle placement.

Mark Heckel and Jimmy Stuart were mentioned as resources for placing the training in electronic form. It was mentioned that if people submitted material, any copyright should be assigned to the USATF Officials Training Subcommittee.

- c. *Continuing Education Group*: No Group members were present. Buzaitis reported that the last information he received from Group chair Mike Armstrong (Arkansas) was that the Group was drafting a PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 NCAA rules changes.

Buzaitis raised the idea of working with the NFHS on a newsletter similar to the "NFHS Pre-Season Guides" written by Referee Enterprises for the NFHS. Oakes stated that she was interested in working together and keeping the lines of communication open. She said some ways to collaborate could be disseminating information via the NFHS website or sport-specific articles in NFHS Officials Quarterly. Any track and field officials interested in writing an article should contact Oakes. Harvey also mentioned Bill Boyd's e-mail notes as a one example of information dissemination.

Harvey also pointed out that the Group is not involved in making the rule changes but in educating and explaining the changes to help officials apply them.

- d. *Advancement Training Group*: Harvey reviewed the role of the Group: develop training materials for officials seeking to advance to National, Master, and Master Referee certification. He mentioned that he was seeking nominations for the chair position. Regarding referee training, Kleeman and Podkaminer stated that the Pacific Association had a Referee Manual and conducted one-day sessions on refereeing to help provide some consistency. They stated that referee should consider options in making decisions. Buzaitis asked how they would structure a referee training. They said it would have about 10-15 people with some experience as a referee (1-2 years) so the people would be able to contribute some "war stories" to the discussion of situations. It was mentioned that USATF does not have a case book. Questions were asked about covering Youth rules. Kleeman said Pacific had a separate clinic regarding Youth and Masters competitions.

- e. *Outreach Training Group*: Smith reported for the Group regarding the UK Exchange Program. The Officials Selection Committee had a conference call in early 2007 to select the officials. Lavelle, one of the officials selected, stated that the trip was “short and sweet” and that the officials worked all field events. The Group suggested that in the future, a checkbox should be placed on the officials application for those interested in participating in the UK Exchange. Smith mentioned the Group had difficulty scheduling conference calls because of individual members’ schedules, but did have two conference calls this past year. On the calls, it discussed sources of contacts for recruiting volunteers, including college work-study, ROTC, and local running clubs, and the potential of getting them to be certified officials. Price mentioned that he taught an officiating track and field officiating class at a local college. The Group discussed creating a job description for competition volunteer coordinators and short (5-15 minute) training for volunteer duties.

3. Review and Approve Group Goals

Harvey said that the groups should set small, obtainable goals for next year. The subcommittee discussed and developed the following 2008 goals for each Group:

- a. *Championship/Convention Clinics Group*: It decided to continue the same goals from 2007. The Group’s budget will also pay for Justin Kuo to attend the NFHS Interpreter’s Meeting to present a session on laser measurement.
 - Create a database of evaluations for clinics presented.
 - Create a list of suggested clinic topics. It was suggested to look at having a referee clinic at the Olympic Trials.
 - Add message to USATF Officials website requesting clinic topic suggestions.
 - Investigate the possibility of offering clinics at venues other than the convention and Outdoor Championships, including Junior Championships.
- b. *Initial Training Group*: The Group will continue to work on the first initial training module on umpiring. The next area will probably be starting or throws (based on survey feedback). A copy of the survey report will be placed on the Training page at www.usatfofficials.com.
- c. *Continuing Education Group*:
 - Produce PowerPoint presentations on rule changes in NFHS, NCAA, and USATF.
 - Build a bank of situations to create a case book – working with the Officials Rules Subcommittee.
 - Research and report on new and emerging technology.
- d. *Advancement Training Group*: Once a group chair is appointed, the Group will move forward to finish receiving comments and editing the Starter’s Case Book for publication. It was suggested the book be sent to some association officials for feedback.
- e. *Outreach Training Group*: The Group will continue involvement with the UK Exchange, if the program continues. Smith stated another goal was to increase the participation by the group members.

4. 2008 Budget

Harvey announced he requested \$13,500 from the Officials Committee for the subcommittee’s 2008 budget. The following is a Group breakdown and notes about where expenses will go:

- Championships/Convention Clinics Group:\$2500
(to include payment for presenter at NFHS meeting)
- Initial Training Group:\$4000
 - Initial Training Module
- Continuing Education Group:\$1500
 - Rules Updates
- Advancement Training Group:\$2000
- Outreach Training Group:\$3500
 - UK Exchange Program

5. Other Discussion Items

- a. *NFHS*: Harvey announced that Oakes had contacted Linda Melzer regarding have someone present a session on laser measurement at the NFHS Interpreter’s Meeting in January. Justin Kuo was selected.
- b. *LaserLynx*: Harvey mentioned there is a subcommittee establishing certification standards for Electronic Recording Device (ERD) and Electronic Measurement Device (EMD) operators and Electronic Measurement Judges (EMJ). He said the members were Mark Heckel (Three Rivers), Jim Hume (Pacific), and Jim McGloin (New England). Harvey said the Continuing Education Group should be the liaison with this subcommittee.
- c. *Succession Plan*: Kleeman suggested the subcommittee consider how to keep continuity through the next year, when the National Official Committee Chair position is up for election. No suggestions were given.
- d. *Net Meeting*: Buzaitis mentioned this technology might be a way to deliver training to people between meets/convention where clinics are held. He may explore a test clinic using this technology.
- e. *FAT/Hytek*: Podkaminer said that with the new technology, we are redefining jobs, some to match the IAAF. It was suggested that a case book for FAT/Hytek might be helpful, compiling the combined knowledge in one place.
- f. *Training DVD sent by Eric Zemper*: Zemper stated that he sent out a DVD to all Association certification chairs. He said he has added video clips to the PowerPoint and updated the rule changes. He stated the cost was \$150 (\$2.50/DVD) and asked for reimbursement. No action was taken at the meeting.

6. Next Meetings:

The next subcommittee meeting or conference call was not determined.

[There was a recess break from 2:35 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.]

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m. After the meeting adjourned, some attendees remained to watch Podkaminer demonstrate a laser and video foul detection devise for horizontal jumps.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Rob Buzaitis
 Secretary, USATF Officials Training Subcommittee