

USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, December 2, 2009
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
Janice Berkebile (Florida) – Instructional Designer
Shirley Connors (Pacific) – Chair, Championships/Convention Clinics Group
Dave Bowers (Indiana) – Chair, Initial Training Group
Mike Armstrong (Arkansas) – Chair, Continuing Education Group
Monique White (Mid-Atlantic) – Co-Chair, Outreach Training Group
Ken Yerger (Mid-Atlantic) – Co-Chair, Outreach Training Group

Group Members Present:
Roger Burbage (North Carolina) – Continuing Education Group
Tom Hott (Ozark) – Advancement Training Group
Gloria Louis (Southern) – Continuing Education Group
Robert Kern (Wisconsin) – Continuing Education Group
Mary Onken (Metropolitan) – Initial Training Group
Susan Petrelli (Colorado) – Advancement Training Group
Bill Price (Potomac Valley) – Initial Training Group
Lance Turley (New England) – Initial Training Group
Reggie Weissglas (Metropolitan) – Championship/Convention Clinics Group

Others Present: Bill Boyd (Virginia) Pat Pretty (Wisconsin)
Seth Brower (South Texas) Jim Skelly (San Diego – Imperial)
Robert Hooper (Arizona) Jimmy Stuart (Southwestern)
Ron Laird (Lake Erie) Eric Zemper (Michigan)
Kris Lung (Central California)

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 27, 2009 Conference Call

The minutes were approved without objection. Harvey stated that he took the minutes for the March 2009 conference call, but they were not available to approve.

2. Group Reports

- a. *Championship/Convention Clinics Group*: Connors explained that after the clinics in Reno, the Group tallied the evaluation sheets and e-mailed the results to the Group members and clinicians. From April through June, the Group worked on possible clinics for the USA Senior/Junior Championships; however, because of the meet schedule, there was no time for clinics. The Group wanted to collect the written information event heads gave their crews, but it was unable to follow through. From August through November, the Group selected clinics and presenters for the annual meeting which were approved by Harvey. It also had clinic descriptions posted on the listserv message and made final arrangements for handouts and equipment.

The Group is also looking to hold electronic measurement and electronic recording clinics at meets where equipment and operators (to serve as clinicians) are present.

There will be seven clinics at this years' annual meeting:

- “Introduction to Disabled Officiating in Track and Field” by John Stevens (Florida)

- “Coordinating and Officiating the Combined Events” by Harvey and Buzaitis
 - “Developing an Eye for Safety” by George Kleeman (Pacific)
 - “How to Prepare for an International Officiating Experience” by White, Robert Kern (Wisconsin), Win Eggers (Illinois), John Head (South Texas), Bob Springer (Pacific Northwest), and Yerger
 - “Effective Umpiring” by Gordon Bocoock (Kentucky)
 - “The Art of Starting Including International Starting Methods and the No-False Start Rule” by Hott
 - “UK Exchange Program Presentation” by George Adams (Southwestern) and Jo Burrows (West Virginia)
- b. *Initial Training Group*: The Group continues to work on the training modules for new officials. The Group has a December 14 conference call on the Jumps module and is expecting to work on the Throws module in February and the “Around the Track” module in Spring.
- c. *Continuing Education Group*: The Group is looking at the new rule changes. The NFHS rule changes are covered in the Pre-Meet Notes newsletter created by the Outreach Training Group. The 2010 NCAA Rules Update is in progress and will not be merely a list of the rule changes. The Group is also looking to add other projects.
- d. *Advancement Training Group*: Hott stated that a year ago, the Group discussed looking at the minimal agreed upon criteria for National/Master officials. Hott said he and Dan Woolley (Potomac Valley) sent out a survey to certification chairs. He said the results were that Associations were all over the place. The Group thinks that the National Officials Committee should not mandate criteria but establish minimum suggested requirements.

Hott stated that the Starter’s Casebook is available for download online for free or for purchase at www.lulu.com for \$10.

The Group is collecting information for a referee casebook and referee training. Boyd said he and Wooley are working on a training manual with scenarios.

- e. *Outreach Training Group*: White and Yerger said that this first year as co-chairs has been a time to learn about the Group’s projects. The Group held two conference calls and received applications for the UK Exchange program. It also wrote 14 articles for the Pre-Meet Notes.

There was discussion about finding out information about the exchange program earlier and thinking about going to countries other than the UK. Harvey said Netherlands may be an option. He also said it was not known at this time whether the program would continue into 2010 because it was budget sensitive. People who have gone said it was a great experience. Someone asked about an exchange with Mexico. Harvey asked the question how a Mexican exchange would benefit us. It was mentioned that our people would have their eyes opened with problems in different countries. Turley suggested exchanges with upcoming Olympic hosts (i.e. Brazil in 2016).

There was a question about having the individuals create a monograph or manual from their experience. Buzaitis said that a written report is required for those who travel, and the reports are posted on the website.

White and Yerger said the Group could use more members.

3. Review and Approve Group Goals

The subcommittee discussed the “Training Subcommittee Vision” attached to the agenda. Below is the “Training Subcommittee as adopted:

- Create a comprehensive program for the education of officials – from new, inexperienced officials through preparing individuals to serve as referees at national championships and be candidates for IAAF National Technical Officials (NTOs).
- Explore and consider online training, when possible, because of its ability to (1) be available 24/7; (2) provide a single, uniform message; and (3) allow for remediation.
- Consider the ROI (return on investment), generally spending time and resources on materials and programs which reach a large number of officials.
- View the subcommittee’s role as important to recruitment by providing quality materials and education programs to non-certified officials, volunteers, and others.
- Understand that training on “soft skills” (e.g. communication, conflict management, cultural sensitivity, etc.) unrelated to rules interpretation and application is necessary to help individuals succeed as officials.

There was a discussion about the use of evaluations. Buzaitis pointed out that the current evaluation system had a single purpose – assist the Selection Committee in choosing individuals to officiate at the national championships. There was discussion about better feedback which could be given:

- Comments to help correct weaknesses
- Why someone is rejected from working the national championships and if there is a time period this is taken off the official’s record.
- Instructions, examples, and expectations for evaluators.
- Evaluations should be based on facts.

Harvey and Buzaitis said it will bring this discussion to the attention of the Appeal and Evaluation Subcommittees.

4. 2010 Budget

Harvey stated that the subcommittee’s proposed 2010 budget is \$10,000. The proposed group budgets are below with any comments on projects for 2010:

Championships/Convention Training Group (handout copying, clinician stipends):	\$1200
Initial Training Group (finish basic training modules):	\$2000
Continuing Education Group (checklist for H.S. referees, going through monographs):	\$1000
Advancement Training Group:	\$2000
Outreach Training Group:	\$3800

5. Other Discussion Items

- a. *Wisconsin Track and Field Coaches Association:* In 2009, the Wisconsin Track and Field Coaches Association created an officials association and included clinics on the Saturday of its annual meeting for officials: rules meeting, field event session, new/experienced officials session, and group session. It has resulted in an increase in new officials.
- b. *Recruitment of Officials:* The comment was made that in New York, officials are recruiting former college athletes to serve as officials.

- c. *College Course*: Price mentioned that USATF Official Bo Myers taught a college course on officiating in the Washington D.C. area.
- d. *Pacific Association*: The Pacific Association holds clinics before all-comers meets and then has those individuals work the meet.

6. Next Meetings:

The next subcommittee conference call will be scheduled after the Advancement Training Chair position is filled.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Buzaitis
Secretary, USATF Officials Training Subcommittee