

USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, December 1, 2010
8:00 p.m.
Cavalier Hotel (Virginia Beach, VA)

Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes from October 3, 2010 Conference Call
2. Group Reports:
 - a. Championships/Convention Clinics Group
 - b. Initial Training Group
 - c. Continuing Education Group
 - d. Advancement Training Group
 - e. Outreach Training Group
3. Proposed Budget for 2011

Championships/Convention Clinics Group	\$1,300
Initial Training Group	\$750
Continuing Education Group	\$750
Advancement Training Group	\$2,200
Outreach Training Group	\$3,000
4. Other Discussion Items
5. Next Subcommittee Conference Call:
TBD

SUBCOMMITTEE GROUP DESCRIPTIONS:

- *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 coaches, athletes, and volunteers and organize appropriate domestic and international exchanges for certified officials.

TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE DIRECTORY *Revised 11/27/10*

Vice Chair – Training: **Rob Buzaitis** (Michigan)

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Instructional Design Consultant: **Janice Berkebile** (Florida)

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Championships/Convention Clinics Group

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Outreach Training Group

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Training Subcommittee Vision

- 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.
- Work with USATF to share resources and create a curriculum that gives individuals the skills and knowledge necessary for officiating national championships.
- 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, etc.), unrelated to rules interpretation and application, is necessary to help individuals succeed as officials.

2010 REPORT OF THE USATF OFFICIALS TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

In 2010, there was change in the leadership of the USATF Officials Training Subcommittee. From January through April, Rex Harvey (Iowa) served as the Vice Chair for Training. In April, after Harvey's resignation, Rob Buzaitis (Michigan)(the subcommittee's secretary) was appointed by the NOC Executive committee to the position of Vice Chair for Training. Buzaitis appointed Robert Kern (Wisconsin) as the subcommittee's secretary. Janice Berkebile (Florida) continued as the subcommittee's instructional design consultant.

Championships/Convention Clinics Group: Because of a full meet schedule, the Group, chaired by Shirley Connors (Pacific) did not schedule any clinics at the Senior/Junior Outdoor Championships. Instead, chief judges of the events were asked to submit copies of any instructions/assignment documents used at the meet and those received were placed on the USATF Officials website (www.usatf.org/groups/Officials). The Group has scheduled seven clinics for the 2010 Annual meeting, including a 2-hour hands-on weights and measures clinic by Richard Messenger (West Virginia). The following other clinics were also scheduled:

- "Safety First: Track & Field's Top 10 Safety Issues" – Shelby Sharpe (Southwestern)
- "Decision Making and Soft Skills of a Referee" – Bob Podkaminer (Pacific)
- "Marshaling for Safety" – Shelby Sharpe (Southwestern)
- "Expectations for Event Heads at Big Meets/Nationals" – Mike Armstrong (Arkansas), Larry Callahan (Niagara), Len Krsak (Ohio), John Murray (Pacific)
- "The Importance of Cross-Training for National and Master Officials" – Jim Flanik (Lake Erie), Pat Lavelle (New England), Dennis Olafson (Oregon), Eric Smith (Florida)
- "Clerking" – Jim Smyth (North Carolina), Dan Reynolds (Arizona)

Initial Training Group: The Group, chaired by Dave Bowers (Indiana), has (as of November 15) released the introductory module and Umpiring/Marshaling module in its online series "Basic Training for New Track and Field Officials." The third module on the Jumping events should be released by late November / early December. The last two modules, one on the Throwing events and the other titled "Around the Track" (Clerk, Starter, Finish Line Personnel), should be released by early January 2011.

Continuing Education Group: The Continuing Education Group, chaired by Mike Armstrong (Arkansas), completed the 2010 NCAA Rules Update clinic in January. The Group is currently working on the 2011 version. The Group is also creating a Venue Inspection Checklist, geared primarily to referees at NFHS meets, with practical guidance for inspecting the event venues prior to meets.

Advancement Training Group: Last year, Tom Hott (Ozark) resigned as chair of the Group. Early this year, Richard Schornstein (Colorado) was appointed as chair. The Group is currently working on a video project titled "From the Ground Up," which will be a four-part series providing an in-depth demonstration in preparing a field event venue and equipment for competition. The target audience is officials working bigger college meets and higher and for National and Master level officials.

Outreach Training Group: The Outreach Training Group, co-chaired by Ken Yerger and Monique White (both Mid-Atlantic), again selected two individuals to participate in the UK Exchange Program. This year's selectees were Mike Armstrong (Arkansas) and Terry Thurber (Southwestern). Yerger, White, and a number of the other training subcommittee members who worked the Masters Outdoors Championships assisted in playing host to the UK officials who were the other half of the exchange. The Group is currently finishing its work on the 2011 version of the NFHS Pre-Meet Notes, now in its third year.

Other subcommittee activities: In March and April, the subcommittee held three pilot webinars on the following topics:

- Throws Safety – Mark Heckel (Three Rivers)
- Five Alive – Mike Armstrong (Arkansas)
- 2009 UK Exchange Program – George Adams (Southwestern) and Jo Burrows (West Virginia)

The webinars were recorded and should be available on the USATF Officials website. Future webinars are being considered.

A thank you to all the subcommittee members, members of all the groups, and others who have helped with the work of the training subcommittee, especially during 2010.