

USATF Officials Training Subcommittee Conference Call
Sunday, August 20, 2006
Minutes

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

Members Present: Rob Buzaitis (Michigan)(Secretary), Susan Petrelli (Colorado)(Chair, Advancement Training Group), Mike Armstrong (Arkansas)(Chair, Continuing Education Group)
Others Present: Raymond Pierre (Southwestern)(Member, Championship/Convention Clinics Group)

The meeting was called to order at about 7:20 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the November 30, 2005 Meeting

Because a quorum was not present, the minutes were not approved.

2. Report from Mid-Year Officials Executive Board Meeting

Because Vice Chair-Training Rex Harvey was not present, no report was given.

3. Group Reports

a. Championship/Convention Clinics Group:

Pierre stated that the group's goal was "[t]o create informational clinics for USATF officials at the USATF Convention & USATF Outdoor Nationals with the purpose of creating and developing uniformity among all levels of officials." He said that the group wanted to know about new technology so it could hold clinics before it was implemented. It has been contacting David Katz (IAAF) and Bob Podkaminer (USATF and NCAA) to get that information. It also wanted to state abreast of other rule changes.

b. Initial Training Group: No report.

c. Continuing Education Group:

The group's call had all five members present and lasted one hour. It started with a sharing of ideas and perceptions from the group's members experiences in their different associations. For example, in Virginia, there are 4 clinics per year in different parts of the state. In Arkansas, there have been doing training the last 2-3 years. The group noted that there was no criteria or standard resources for continuing education or defined certification definitions. It discussed the potential use of visual training methods (video, DVD, PowerPoint, websites). It talked about developing 1-4 hour clinics on narrow areas: vertical jumps, horizontal jumps, umpiring, etc. It discussed making available resources to Associations to assist in local training programs. I also wondered whether video clips from meets might not be available from USATF for use in officials training.

d. Advancement Training Group:

The group's call had three members present and last 100 minutes. The group did the SWOT analysis. The group asked about filming officials like we film athletes to help with training. The group noted that there were no consistent national standards, and officials tended to remain at one level; it asked the questions about how to improve officiating and maintain good officiating.

It mentioned the opportunity to mentor officials wanting to advance. It asked what are association certification chairs doing to promote officials' advancement? It brought up the issue of the average age of officials and suggested that younger officials needed to be rotated in. The Group's goal for 2007 was to develop consistent criteria for certification levels of officials. Its goal for 2007-2010 was to begin communication with training subcommittee and selection committee.

Buzaitis suggested, based on the Group's goal, that setting criteria would probably be important. He suggested that there could be a circular model of setting a standard, developing and presenting training to that standard, certifying that officials have met that standard, and evaluating based on that the standard. He suggested that the evaluation could involve the Evaluations Subcommittee.

e. Outreach Training Group: No report.

4. Review and Approve Group Goals for 2007

In the absence of a quorum and two group reports, this item was tabled.

5. 2007 Budget

Subcommittee members present on the call agreed that it was too early in process for groups to know what

6. Other Discussion Items

Those on the call also talked about consistent mechanics and procedures in a particular area. Petrelli stated that in umpiring, Charlie Ruter was the model and many officials do it his way and that fostered some consistency. Pierre said that starters don't have as much consistency and most of it depends who the head starter is. Armstrong stated that vertical jumps had a few heads who did things the same, but who the head event judge was made a difference. Armstrong stated that in looking at consistency, we should be outcome-based and not necessarily advocate or mandate what process or procedure must be used to reach that result.

7. Next Meetings:

The next subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 29, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the USATF Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Room TBD.

The meeting concluded at 8:34 p.m. EDT.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Buzaitis
Secretary, USATF Officials Training Subcommittee