

Minutes: USATF Training Committee Meeting – 2008 Olympic Trials, Eugene, OR
14:00, 3July2008

Agenda:

Group Reports:

Championship/Convention Clinics Group

Initial Training Group

Continuing Education Group

Advancement Training Group

Outreach Training Group

2008 Budget Update

2009 Budget

Other Discussion Items\

Next Meeting(s)

Adjournment

Attendance:

Rex Harvey IA , Vice-chair

Rob Buziatis MI, Secretary

Ollie Bunch, Adirondack, Initial Training Group

Susan Petrelli CO, Advancement Training Group

Mike Armstrong, AR Continuing Training Group

Eric Smith, FL, Outreach Training Group

Shirley Connors, Pacific, Clinics Training Group

Rex stated his overall philosophy of directing the Committee and that is to assign responsibilities in the most logical manner possible and then to give authority to those doing the work. He did point out that Linda Melzer's management style was much more micro-managed and that Len Krsak probably would be much less so.

Rex pointed out, again, that it is generally much better to present a few important aspects of any subject rather than to overwhelm someone, especially these initial trainees, with so much that they are overwhelmed and learn nothing.

Rex said that he was running for this position again at this year's convention, and encouraged others to also do so, either now or at some future time.

Rex asked for public or private feedback from committee members on his performance leading this Sub-committee as it is certainly not his only volunteer responsibility. Mike Armstrong thought that it was going in a positive direction and would get even better.

Initial Training Group.

Ollie Bunch represented the Group at the meeting. Other members include Dave Bowers IND, Chair, Bill Price Potomic, Duncan McGregor, Mary Jane Archibald, Southern. Dave is heading the Umpires Module which is the closest to being published. It has been pared down considerably. It is about 60 pages long right now. Rob has worked with that Group closely on content and organization of that module. The basic organization is: Objectives, Body of information in logical order, then 4 or 5 multiple-choice Review Questions that emphasize the objectives at the end of each section. Rex suggested that a 3-page executive summary of 30-

page modules should be placed at the beginning of each module for those browsing for relevant material or those with little time. Rex also pointed out that Dave may have felt that we were criticizing his work, but really we were just condensing and adding some organizational logic that could be carried through all of the modules. We wanted this first module to be the model for successive modules if at all possible. However, Dave Bowers seems to want to work all the modules at once and change the Umpiring module later.

Ollie Bunch and Duncan McGregor are doing the Throws module which should be next. It was decided that safety aspects should be incorporated in the materials where appropriate rather than breaking it out as its own subject. Ollie stated that he had about 29 pages of material. Rex commented that probably was way too much for initial training, and that, while the 29 pages could remain as ready reference material, two or three pages of the most important points needs to be broken out for initial training purposes.

Bill Price PVA is working on Vertical Jumps module.

Duncan McGregor, GA and Mary Jane Archibald, Southern are also putting together a Horizontal Jumps module

Ollie stated that he had hoped that all the modules would be complete by now.

The plan is to have all these modules online in such a way that the material could be downloaded and printed. Rob will check with Mark Heckel and Jimmie Stuart to see what format and software would be appropriate.

Rob suggested that these modules should be passed by a new official to see what they did not understand.

Advancement Group:

Susan Petrelli, represented the Advancement Group. Other members include Tom Hott, IL Chair, Dick Lutzinger IA, Michael McCoy, and George Young, Southwestern. Susan read a Group report. General plan is to gather ideas and material through August and then review and revised those ideas by convention in December where they will be ready to announce and start actual work on their plans. There is some work going on a Referees Module that might be presented at the Convention. The group head also asked for ideas and approaches if anyone had them.

The Starter's Casebook is essentially done and is a very good piece of work. It is ready for posting as soon as Linda Melzer gives the approval. These Advancement modules will be much longer and more detailed, say 30 pages or so. Tom Hott IN, and Larry Zirgibel WI were appointed co-heads of the Group, with them deciding who would be the acting head at any given time. Tom was chosen first, and now, with Larry's death, Tom will be the sole head of the Group.

Eric Zemper's MI starting monograph was discussed at this time.. Rob gave a brief summary of the history of the monograph. He also pointed out that Eric also has adopted and continues to evolve a large general training presentation that was initially developed by Lawrie Robinson and Bob Springer in Pacific Northwest. Rex pointed out that both of these resources may be

very good, but that he had not reviewed them in detail. Last year Eric took it on himself to send a CD containing all this material to each Association. Rex stated that we never want to discourage good work by anyone, but these CD's were labeled as USATF Officials Training and used the USATF logo. This upset Linda Melzer enough that she sent out letters to each Association saying to ignore the material as it was not reviewed and approved by the Training Sub-committee. However, Eric did the exact same thing again this year. So Linda has said that Eric will soon be receiving a letter from the USATF legal department asking him to cease and desist. [It is not known if Eric would continue to be eligible for IAAF ITO status if he should be decertified as a USATF official.] Rex asked Susan to take back to Tom as head of the Advancement Group actually look at the monograph and the other material to see if it could be constructively used and approved as it stands. Credit needs to be given where deserved.

Most of the monographs, that were created about 2000, have not been updated. Rob mentioned that it would be good if the Advancement Group looked at them with the goal of replacing, or updating them for advancement purposes. Umpiring has lots of information but maybe not organized too well. Rex asked Susan to ask Tom Hott to specifically look at the Starters monograph to see if it was appropriate advancement material that should be endorsed and published.

George Kleeman updates the Weights and Measures monograph each year. George Kleeman and Rex Harvey update the Combined Events almost every year.

Outreach Training Group

Eric Smith, Chair represented this group at this meeting. Other members include Mike Maryott, NEB, Bob Tice, NC. Tony Wayne and Richard Messenger are going to England in early September on the England – USA officials exchange. This year it was for Referees. We had about a dozen people interested, but many were not Referees and not eligible. The choices were made on a Conference call set up by Linda Melzer after a short announcement on the listserv.

Rex said that, in his opinion, the first exchange of Starters was a medium success, and the exchange of throws judges the next year was somewhat less than that. Arrangements have already been made this year and we look for bigger success and a full report at the Reno Convention from both Tony and Richard.

Eric stated that technical volunteer training was a subject that they would like to work on, but that not much had been done.

It is not yet decided if the “preseason guide” effort should be here or in the Continuing Education Group.

Clinics Training Group

Shirley Connors represented this Group. All are active with the exception of Vernon who is not very involved currently. Honorariums: \$100 for clinic with more than one person. \$75 for clinic for one person. It is a Government and USATF requirement that we must have Social Security number from anyone that gets an honorarium (for tax purposes).

There was some general discussion of the Electronic Measurement Judge clinic to be conducted the following day.

Rex pointed out that Training Committee owns 12 palm pilots that are currently in the possession of Jim McGloin. Ollie gave the opinion that there should be an electronic recording judge clinic at every possible opportunity.

Clinics planned for Reno: Walks, Throws, Exchange (45 minutes), Electronic Recording (PalmPilot), History of the Rules, Eric Zemper (45 minutes), and possibly Weights & Measures, Advancement, How to teach introductory officiating classes, meet Officials Coordinators from various levels of meets.

Rob has talked to Linda and asked for 2 rooms, three hours each. (4 x 1.5 hour clinics)

Rex pointed out that Jim Flanik's session with the certification chairs is not really a clinic, but more of a meeting.

Rex suggested that the subject of a possible clinic of interest would be to have David Katz give a clinic to explain the philosophy and process of the IAAF rules as they are the basis of our USATF rules.

Rob said that Michael Roth (who is willing to do it) has asked for clinic on Umpiring of Intermediate Hurdles, the positioning, what to look for, etc.

Shirley, Rob, and Rex discussed payment of honorariums. It would be best if Shirley could get the proper paperwork (ie: Social Security numbers) ahead of time so that they could be presented with their checks at the clinic.

Continuing Training Group

Rob talked about the Preseason Guide publication that he thinks should be in the Continuing Education training group is considering doing. These are 16 page guides for many different sports rules changes, emphasis, quick tips, mechanics, etc. Becky Oakes, at National HS Headquarters, is willing to help with this project. Maybe it will be published by their publisher.

Ollie pointed out that we could ask USATF for access to their photograph archive, or contract the professional photographers that cover track meets, to specifically take working officials pictures to use in our training materials. We would have to give specific instructions as to what we want.

Budget:

This year \$16,000 total was initially requested for the training committee, that was reduced to \$12,000 at the Convention. That was further reduced to \$8,000 at the Executive Mid-year meeting.

Shirley said that she will be pressed at the current \$1200 or so that she has left. They would want \$3000 next year.

Initial: Ollie said to ask Dave Bowers. Rob thought it may need \$5000 for publication (paper?, web-language?, DVD?)

Continuing: Not much needed – maybe \$2000.

Advancement: Referees Module is main work \$4500-5000 in Rob's opinion. \$4500 requested.

Outreach: Exchange costs \$3000-4000 Rob thinks that the "preseason guide" might not have too much cost from High School Association if we do most of the work, but Mike pointed out that it would be good to have it in the budget just in case. \$3500 requested.

That totals \$18,000 for 2009.

Also USATF Foundation money for specific projects is available and one of their specific goals is to teach future officials. Web-based Interactive Initial training could be a clean proposal for this money.

It was mentioned that it would be good to ask on the listserv if there were any graphic artists among the officials to perhaps assist with the various training materials being prepared.

(Prepared by Rex Harvey)