

National Officials Committee Chair's Report - 2009

This has been a very busy year with all the changes and projects occurring. The first objective for 2009 was to re-certify all existing officials for the 2009 – 2012 Olympiad. I am pleased to report as of October 30TH, 2009 we have re-certified in excess of 5200 officials, with 1000 plus being first time certified. This was also the first year all officials were required to be members of USATF.

The NOC Executive Board had one change this year, Ken Taylor our treasurer resigned his position due to being selected to a seat on the USATF Board. A special thank you to Sue Polansky for accepting the treasurer's position as Ken's replacement. The remainder of the Board has been hard at work on your behalf, Jim Flanik with re-certification for the new Olympiad, Gordon Boccock continuing with the excellent Awards Program, George Kleeman keeping everyone up to date on rule changes at all segments of track & field USATF, IAAF, NCAA and NFHS, Rex Harvey and his Co Chair Rob Buzaitis developing excellent training programs, Tom Hott as Secretary keeping a record of the committee's proceedings and Don Berry Parliamentarian keeping us on course.

As there were many positive things that have occurred in 2009 we also have had some negative things occur also. First the positives. The National Office has agreed to additional compensation for Chief Officials working National Championship Meets. Head Officials will receive the following compensation: Transportation (airfare) paid and/or mileage, a daily stipend and lodging. This is a major step forward taken by USATF to accommodate the officials community. USATF Senior and Junior Championship meet letter and application were sent to all National and Master level officials the first of September 2009. 360 applications were returned by the due date of October 17th. As in the past selection of officials will take place at the annual meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Another positive is the Training Committee's power point presentation regarding basic training for new officials. An additional project being currently worked on by Rich Schornstein is "Best Practices". This is a project of taking the best of what officials are doing in a given Association and compiling it in a document to be distributed to all Associations, suggesting they use these procedures, "Best Practices".

Jimmy Stuart our new Official's Committee web-master is currently updating our website. There will be significant changes within the next several months. Jimmy also produces the bi monthly official's newsletter and is always looking for new articles to publish.

Bob Tice has been very busy this year contacting all college conferences and suggesting and influencing them to compensate and use USATF certified officials.

Now the negatives, as you all are aware by now we have had some major issues and errors occur this past year. Procedures are being developed by the training committee and others to eliminate situations like these from happening in the future. Local Association certification chairs/official chairs must conduct annual and or semi annual clinics. Use of materials the training committee has assembled will provide and elevate the level of officiating at all levels within your local area.

The life blood of any organization is to accept change. If we do not change and do not continue to up date Procedures, L &L, Rules, Equipment and Personnel we will stagnate as an organization. Change is hard but it is inevitable.

As I stated above 2009 has been a busy and challenging year. The USATF Officials Committee has accomplished many things in the past however we must continue to improve our skills to stay relevant. Our goal as an organization is to be the best officiating body of any sport. It's going to take a combination of many things to accomplish this goal with continued training, clinics, mentoring, dedication, experience, preparation and hard work. It can be done, It will be done and It must be done.

I have had numerous conversations with Stephanie Hightower and Doug Logan throughout the year. Both individuals realize the important role officials play within the USATF organization and have been receptive to official's needs and concerns. Another individual Brian Brase, USATF's office liaison to the official's committee has been very helpful and receptive in making sure officials have the tools that are needed in order to conduct a well run championship.

Len Krsak
National Officials Committee Chair