USATF YOUTH DIVISION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES **NEWARK, NEW JERSEY** OCTOBER 10, 2009

The meeting was opened with prayer by Norine Richardson at 9:35 am.

Roll Call:

Lionel Leach, Executive Chair Sam Germany, Vice Chair of Operations Dorothy Dawson, Vice Chair of Administration Linda Ellis, Division Secretary Norine Richardson, Legal Advisor Mary Elizabeth Aude, West Zone Representative Tonja AmenRa, Northeast Zone Representative Inez Finch, South Zone Representative John Wissler, Midwest Zone Representative Tricia Floyd, National Office Representative

Henry McCallum, Regional Coordinators Representative

Karen Krsak, Associations Representative

Bob Flint and Harold "Lefty" Martin have been excused from the meeting per Lionel Leach.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made to approve minutes with correction to change Mary Aude's name to Mary Elizabeth Aude. Motion was unanimously approved.

New Items:

Policy of Executive Youth Board when a member transfers or leaves the board: John Wissler

Indoor Zonal Meets: Inez Finch and Mary Elizabeth Aude

Youth Council Clarification: Henry McCallum

Associations allowing athletes to run without USATF membership numbers: Dorothy Dawson

Update on status of bantam long jump: Lionel Leach

Clerking: Tonja AmenRa

Information being sent out in a timely manner regarding flights and hotel arrangements: Linda Ellis

Sub-bantam: Inez Finch

National Office Update: Tricia Floyd

Travel policies and reimbursements from the top down are being revamped. All vouchers must be approved by Lionel first. Lionel wants everyone to send a copy to Tricia at the national office because his mail gets delayed due to a screening process.

Tricia stated they are finding a lot of the passports in the trash at regional meets and wants to know if there is a need for them. Suggestion made by Linda to put them in a pdf file, have some printed off to have available at the regional meets. Henry stated regional coordinators can have the pdf files available at their meets.

Motion made by Inez for regional coordinators to pay for passports from their budget and second by Mary Elizabeth. Motion passed unanimously.

Regional coordinators have money in their budget, and can print copies and have them available at their meets.

Tricia had a handout of the schedule for the Annual Meeting. She worked on it to make it easier to follow.

Tricia also informed us that Melissa Beasley will provide us with a presentation on "Drug Free Sport" at the convention if the division wants it. Tricia is working on providing the division with a large room at the Westin Hotel during the convention.

Lionel informed the division that 48 athletes were tested for drugs and there were no positive results. Athletes who have been diagnosed with asthma need to be informed they must have a pulmonary function test on record. It is a requirement of the USADA program.

Tricia presented a handout with association and regional cross country championships. The national office will contact zonal reps who will go to the regional coordinators and youth chairs to get missing dates.

Youth Workshop: Lionel Leach

Andy Martin emailed Lionel and informed him that the person at the national office who secured funding for the workshop resigned and they will not be able to fund the workshop for 2010. Andy will go to the budget committee and request funding.

Dorothy asked if the workshop can be done on a smaller scale. Lionel informed the board that we should still plan for the workshop as if it has funding.

Mary Elizabeth asked if we can pick a weekend where more people can attend. According to Inez, based on the survey that was sent out the last weekend in March was the best weekend.

Inez stated people should not get reimbursed if they do not attend the entire workshop. It was also mentioned if you did not sign up for the workshop you cannot attend the banquet. The numbers for the seating and meals are based on the registration for the workshop.

The workshop committee is looking at places in Dallas, TX to host the next workshop. Inez, the committee chair and Dorothy will get together on this and report back to the division.

Coaches Level 2 Classes: Lionel Leach

The national office is still working on the accreditation of the coaching schools. Terry Crawford has been hired by the national office to handle the level 2 clinic. She sent Lionel an email regarding level 2 schools for youth coaches.

Stephanie Hightower and Doug Logan made a commitment to the youth division for a level 2 school.

Lionel is requesting a list of all level one certified youth coaches. Mary Elizabeth suggested a survey be sent out to get an idea of how many youth coaches would stay after the JO meet in Sacramento, CA for a level 2 coaching school.

Becky Oakes from the High School Federation is working on a developmental program for youth coaches. It will be presented at the convention.

Henry asked what will happen to the coaches credentials who already have level 2 certification? Lionel stated there is a work in progress to get an accredited mini course with an exam to satisfy requirements for the coaches who have already taken and passed the level 2 school. Currently the coaches who attended these schools are not officially certified coaches.

John stated if Pat Pretty, Chair of Coaching Education were given an opportunity to put on a level 2 school he would do a great job for our youth coaches.

John also stated and everyone agreed that the level 2 school for youth coaches should not be "dummied down". It should be the same standard across the board.

Norine agreed the course should remain the same in length so it doesn't appear as a special program had to be developed for youth coaches. We need to look at availability of the site at the JO meet in Sacramento.

Lionel will look at the week before the JO meet to host a level 2 school for coaches.

John Wissler Items:

<u>Protocol for Protest Committee</u>: The Committee is made up of the four zonal reps and Bob Flint will Chair the committee based on his position as Executive Vice Chair. If a zonal rep is not available then someone from the youth division will fill in.

There was a question regarding the jury of appeals being a consistent body. People are being brought in who have nothing to do with the issue.

Rules Interpretations, Uniform Specs and what things can be protested: John stated that too much is being asked for slight differences in uniforms. Tonja stated she and Lefty are consistent and have been more lenient when athletes come through. Norine commented the real issue is the zone judges ability to identify athletes who may be disqualified. In the past color tape has been used to help athletes with their uniform issues. Lionel stated we will no longer allow the use of color tape for that purpose.

Karen stated the NCAA rules have been revised to say uniforms will be the same "basic" color. That way the piping on a uniform can be a different color from another relay member if necessary.

Coaches Meeting at Nationals: John wanted to know if the coaches meeting is noted in the passport. It is noted in the passport and at packet pick up. Mary Elizabeth stated it should be coaches and parents but Lionel feels the meeting would become too big. Dorothy wants to make sure the coaches meeting time and location is added to the passport.

World Youth Olympics: Lionel Leach

We were looking to have a meet by April 3rd of 2010. The team has to be put together by May 31st. The selling piece was to invite athletes who met the qualifying standards to compete with Canada. They have pulled out of the meet.

Because it is so difficult to put on a meet with less than 100 athletes, there has been some debate on whether the USA should participate at all. Some concerns over how our relationship with other countries would be affected if we did not participate.

The IOC is going through some budget cuts but the funding for this should not be affected.

We are looking at athletes born in 1993 and 1994. We are taking a total of 18 girls and boys combined in all events.

There will be standards to come to the meet similar to the World Youth Trials. The standards are more stringent than the Singapore standards.

John made a motion for the Youth Division to participate in the World Youth Olympics. The motion was second by Inez. Everyone voted unanimously to participate.

Mid Atlantic Grievance: Norine Richardson

The grievance was against the board by the Mid Atlantic Association. Lamont Jones set up a meeting which was held yesterday, October 9th. The meeting was in person by the board and by conference call from the Mid Atlantic Association. Bob and Cindy Long drove in from Pennsylvania.

Youth Promotional Video: Lionel Leach

The board watched the promotional video. It was done per Andy Martin. They are going to give a copy to each association. The board the video was great.

Law and Legislation Package: Lionel Leach

It has become a power struggle within the organization. Doug Logan wants to make some decisions on his own and allow the board to make some.

In Greensboro, a conversation with Doug led him to wanting to take over the selection of officials for national meets and appoint a Director of our National meets and select the staff for our national teams. Lionel told him "no".

Ken Ferguson looked over the regulation and the bylaws and noted that you need 2/3 vote to pass a motion in our bylaws and in the regulation you need a majority vote. The regulation would be a disadvantage for the youth division in terms of getting things passed that would benefit our division. Ken also submitted the A17 amendment for approval.

We need to get the board on the same cycle as the Youth Chair.

Option 1: The 2 year election would end in 2010.

Option 2: The current officers would extend until the current election is over. They would extend until 2012.

The zonal reps election is this year at the convention. It will now be a 4 year term. The notice needs to go out that it will be a 4 year term.

Linda Phelps sent some proposed changes to the operating procedures for the youth division to Ken for review. Ken has not reviewed the documents he is currently reviewing documents for the athletes advisory council.

Inez requested section 11 of the operating procedures was incorrect. Linda did not use the current operating procedures from our youth guide. A second vote shall be conducted to elect an alternate zonal rep. Lionel stated to email it to Ken right away.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Youth Council: Lionel Leach

Henry requested member organization information. CYO is not a member because they did not pay their membership dues. Hershey did not have a representative present. The council is made up of every organization that has a youth component regardless of the discipline.

National Scholastic Sports Foundation asked for membership in the organization but it was tabled because they pay athletes to attend meets. John Blackburn requested an update and was informed it was tabled. Walter Hyde who was the Chair of membership services resigned effective 10/10/09

Nike should not have a voice because they give USATF sponsorship money and it would look like they are paying USATF for a voice.

Lionel stated the language will be adjusted not to include "member organizations" but will state "organizations that work with youth athletes".

Suggestions for Presenting Awards in a Timely Manner: Dorothy Dawson and Sam Germany

Sam would like to see the time frame lowered from the current 45 min track and 60 min field event wait. Suggestions were offered regarding ways to make this happen. Difficulty arises when there is a required wait time for appeals.

A recommendation was made to use the "AAU" style of disqualifying relays. When a team is disqualified, a coach from the team should be notified immediately instead of waiting until the results are posted.

Minutes of the Youth Executive Committee Meetings: Linda Ellis

Minutes from previous board meetings were not passed down from Susan Johnson. She informed Linda that she was forwarding her minutes to the National Office via a telephone conversation.

The NCAA Division 1 Cross Country/Track and Field Recruiting Calendar: Sam Germany

Sam requested we take a look at the NCAA recruiting calendar and work with the college coaches to have some of the quiet periods adjusted. Lionel informed the board that we should not involve ourselves in that. Our role is to do what is best for the athletes and recruiting at JO championships may not be in their best interest. It sometimes puts too much pressure on the athletes.

The coaches can attend the Youth Athletics Nationals. Lionel stated we will not do a letter because we do not want to get caught up in the politics. Norine stated that football has the same problem as track and field.

IAAF the "No False Start" Rule 8/12/09: Lionel Leach

A motion was made and passed to adopt the "no false start" rule for the intermediate girls/boys and the young women/men age groups. The motion passed and the rule will become effective January 1, 2010. Glen Fortune will be notified by email to add the rule to the manual.

The "no false start" rule is already in effect at middle school, high school and collegiate meets. USATF will now be on board with everyone else.

Chairman's Award: Tonja AmenRa

We need to know who can get the award this year. Inez wants to discuss criteria for the Youth Chairman's Award. We can use the current criteria, people who have been involved in the youth program for many years. They have promoted the youth program through hard work.

The plaques will be presented during the awards breakfast at the convention. Stephanie Hightower wants the breakfast to be better organized and not so informal.

The following names were submitted to receive Youth Chair Awards for 2009:

Larry Colbert Dorothy Dawson Harold Connley

Frank Davis Harold "Lefty Martin

Shirley Crowe Bob Flint
Booker Woods Ron Binker
John Wissler Steve Cuomo
Glenn Ladimar William Valerie

Waiver Request: Lionel Leach

Lionel received a request for a waiver from two athletes from region 13 to compete in the Cross Country Junior Olympic National Championships. They are freshman in college and will not be able to return to Spokane, WA for their regional meet. A motion was made second and passed to allow the two athletes to advance to the Cross Country Nationals in Reno, NV. Lionel will notify the parents.

Sub-Bantam: Mary Elizabeth Aude

Reno, NV. The item was tabled. The law and legislation would prefer we use the word sub-bantam and start with ages 7-8 years old. We need to limit the specific events and the number of events for the sub-bantam age group.

Illinois will be petitioning to let the sub-bantam age group participate at the national level. Glen Fortune asked to have the rule pulled, make the necessary changes and resubmit to have the rule passed.

Lionel suggested a way to have the rule passed is to send out an electronic survey asking questions regarding the subbantam participation at National Championships.

Once they have their own division, the sub-bantams will not be allowed to move up to the bantam age group. The law and legislation group doesn't want the name "pee wee" used.

Tonja asked the question "Do we really want our children competing at the national level as young as 7 years old."

Motion made to change sub-bantam age group to 7-8 years old and bantam to 9-10 years old. Discussion of events: Sub-bantam will have the 800m as the longest running event. They will be allowed 3 events total, no high jump, and no multi events. Field events will be turbo javelin, long jump and shot put. Relays will be the 4X100m and 4X400m.

Cross Country is ages 10 and under and they are running 3000m. We will add the 3000m to the sub-bantam age group.

A motion was made to have the sub-bantam age group 7-8 yr olds. Motion passed. 5-yes 3-No

John moved to have running events to be as follows: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 4X100m and 4X400m the motion was second by Mary Elizabeth. Motion passed unanimously.

John moved to have the field events to be as follows: shot put, turbo javelin, and long jump the motion was second by Mary Elizabeth. The motion passed unanimously.

John moved to have the distance for the sub-bantam cross county be the 3000m. Mary Elizabeth second the motion. The motion passed with 6-yes and 3-no.

Motion made by John and second by Mary Elizabeth to change the bantam age group to 9-10 year olds. Motion passed unanimously.

John suggested an announcement be made at the National Championships that the sub-bantam age group is a new age group added to the Nationals.

Tricia pointed out that using the specific age group of "7 and 8 year olds" we have just eliminated approximately 1000 athletes in the 5 and 6 year old age group that competed in the past in the sub-bantam age group.

South Carolina Bid: Linda Ellis and Lionel Leach

The Myrtle Beach LOC contacted Lionel with the possibility of pulling their bid because of the confederate flag controversy in the state of South Carolina. The board talked about their feelings regarding the flag and everyone agreed that Myrtle Beach should continue with the bidding process. Lionel will follow-up with Myrtle Beach LOC.

Long Jump Issue: Norine Richardson and Lionel Leach

Lionel and Shirley Crowe had a conversation and he suggested the officials get on a conference call and look at the photos. The officials are planning to put it in writing that they made a bad call.

As a board we can remove the record after calling a bad jump. The other option is to take it to the convention floor with pictures and let it be handled there. Norine suggested we pull the record and the results.

Sam made a motion the results be removed and the 1^{st} place jump be removed from the results as well as the record. The 2^{nd} through 9^{th} place be moved up to $1^{st} - 8^{th}$ and the proper awards redistributed. Motion second by Tonja, and the motion passed unanimously. Lionel stated he will notify Toni Nichols of the outcome.

Budget: Lionel Leach and Dorothy Dawson

A copy of the budget was given to Dorothy. Lionel stated he only had one copy so he would email the board a copy

The youth budget was \$22,000 and \$15,900 was spent. The board can use up to \$4,000.

Each regional coordinators budget comes out of a pool according to Lionel.

Mary Elizabeth asked if the zone reps can use their budget toward the convention. Lionel stated he was not sure if their money can be spent for that purpose. He stated the \$4000 that is available does not include the zone reps budget.

Indoor Zonal Meets: Inez Finch and Mary Elizabeth Aude

The West Zone meet will be in Fresno on Saturday, February 6th 2010.

The South Zone is looking at the weekend of February 13th 2010 looking at LSU or Prince Georges in Maryland.

The Midwest Zone is looking at Kansas for their meet per Lefty Martin.

The Northeast Zone: Tonja has moved to AZ and no information on the meet is available at this time.

The question was raised regarding the reimbursement for zone meets. It is up to \$3,000. You only get reimbursement for expenditures pertaining to the meet that you have receipts for.

Clerking: Tonja AmenRa

Tonja stated the clerking area at the JO's this year was too close to the coaches and parents. She stated there was a lot of interference and the area did not feel secure. She requested when going on future site visits if the team will look at the clerking area to ensure it is secure enough to keep coaches and parents far enough away to prevent interference.

Information being sent out in a timely manner regarding hotel and flights: Tonja Stevens

Tonja requested hotel and flight arrangements be sent out earlier. She was informed that the national office handles the flight arrangements and they are forwarded when the arrangements are completed. She was also informed that the rooming list request was sent out on September 8th and everyone did not respond. If no response was received then roommates were assigned. The hotel information including travel to and from the airport was sent out on October 3rd a week ahead of travel time.

Policy on Board Vacancy: John Wissler

When do you replace a position on the board when it becomes vacant? If a person transfers or resigns you don't want a position to be vacant for a four year term. The guidelines are located in the Youth Guide.

Associations athletes to compete without USATF Membership numbers: Dorothy Dawson

Associations are still allowing athletes to run without membership numbers. Inez stated there were over 130 athletes in the Florida Association that competed in the qualifier and the Association meet without membership numbers. Inez asked what happened to her formal complaint she turned in to Norine? Lionel stated he brought it to Robin's attention at the Youth Council Meeting and they are still using paper membership numbers. Henry asked Norine what was the status of the Florida investigation regarding athletes running without current USATF numbers in their Association and Regional championship? Norine stated that she was sorry but she had not done anything. But she will check into it and report back to the board of her findings.

The board meeting adjourned and went into Executive session.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda E. Ellis USATF, Youth Division Secretary