

**2015 USATF Annual Meeting
Hyatt Hotel, Houston, TX
Race Walking General Session I**

Friday December 4, 2015

Order of Business: The meeting was called to order by the Vice-chair Diane Graham Henry as the chair was delayed at an early meeting.

- Roll Call – Taken by the Secretary and a quorum of voting delegates for the meeting is present.
- Acceptance of minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting
Motion to accept the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting as amended was made by Bob Hickey and seconded by Ray Funkhouser. The motion passed.
- Report of Officers
 - Chair - Ron Daniel: Ron reminded everyone that the Chairman’s report was already posted online and would take comments and questions. He then addressed the difficulty in moving five-year plan proposals forward with the CEO and national Board of Directors. Initial discussions were held with CEO Max Segal during his visit to the High Performance Committee meeting in Indianapolis in late 2014. In January of 2015 Ron discussed various marketing and media issues that were unique to race walk. Ron also discussed an advanced talent identification process by having a booth available at various races and events in other disciplines of track and field. A race walk clinician, manning the booth at these meets, could make presentations and provide demonstrations in order develop interest so that other interested elite athletes could be invited to receive intensive race walk instruction for a week at a Center of Excellence under the guidance of the clinician. If successful training could continue at another session. The meetings will now continue and include Duffy Mahoney during this year’s Annual Meeting to try to include the race walk plan within the USATF five-year master plan.
 - Vice Chair- Diane Graham-Henry also advised that her report is also available on line.
 - Secretary- The secretary requested that members update their email addresses whenever they change so that information can be correctly disseminated to members and associations.
 - Treasurer-Jo Burrows circulated extra copies of the finance report. The three components of the budget are administrative and annual meeting, race walk championships, incentives and award money for athletes. USATF has increased the budget for race walk for the 2016-17 year. Jo also advised that Race Walk as a judged event must provide a number of IAAF level II or III judges in order for a race to be considered “Records Worthy” event. Because of the requirement the IAAF level judges assigned to championship events chairman Ron Daniel will lobby at the budget meeting to have the expenses for IAAF judges financially covered from a separate section of the USATF budget. Ron Daniel also noted that the budget process has been so

totally altered so that there is no longer a lump sum budget that the chair can spend on various requests that occur during the year. USATF now requires line item submissions that they will or will not accept.

- Law & Legislation – Ray Funkhouser- The L & L package is available as part of the USATF booklet. The primary item for race walk is Item-22. The Association accreditation process was voted to be moved from organizational services sub committee to the Associations subcommittee. The make-up of the new subcommittee will remain under Herb Nichols. Item-14 affects race walking as the race walk committee previously recommended 3 members to USATF for nomination to the IAAF race walk committee. That will be changed to now state that the race walk committee as a whole will select the nominee for the IAAF Race Walk committee. The USATF Board retains the right to accept the nominee or to reject the nominee and the nominee has the right of appeal to the board of arbitration. The IAAF Council nominee including IAAF officer positions shall be elected by the USATF membership. The Board retains the right to reject a nominee for cause with a Board vote of 0.66% for rejection. The rejected nominee can appeal to the board of arbitration. Item-3 states that the president of USATF serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors. The Board wanted to select its own Chair, which would diminish the participation/will of the membership, which elected the president. The new Law will state that the president will be the Chair of the Board, but it now also includes a mechanism for the Board to remove the president as Chair and there is also a mechanism for the president to decline accepting the position of Chair of the Board. If that happens then the Board can select its own person as Chair of the Board.
- Standards – Steve Vaitones-the standards that will be used for the 2016 year. Steve first advised that the problem of 9 through 13 years olds not remaining as competitors in track & field disciplines as older teens is universal throughout sports and not unique to Race Walk. Studies of maturing teens show that as teen athletes grow and develop size and strength that is much greater than they had as pre-teens they become interested in other sports and disciplines more suited to their new bodies. He cited champion 13 year old runners becoming champion snow skiers by 16 years of age, and other such changes in athletic choices. The primary problem is to try to expand the base number of athletes knowing that many will move to other sports even if they love what they are doing in race walking. As few as 5% of the athletes who race as youth will remain in the same sport or discipline after they leave the pre-teen years.
- **Indoors** – Pre-race money for expenses will only be given for times earned at the indoor distance. Other times can be used for race entry but not for pre race expenses. All finishers in the top will receive money after the race.
Women's 3,000m – 14:40, alternate standards to enter the race are 7:30 for 1mi and 24:30 for a 5,000m time.
Men's 3,000m – 12:45, alternate standards to enter the race are 6:25 for 1 mi and 22:00 for a 5,000m time.
- **Outdoors** – This year is Olympic Trials standards for men and women therefore there are no options available for standards other than actually achieving the Olympic standard.

Men's 50 K standard is 5:15:00, Women's 20 K is 1:48:00, and Men's 20 K is 1:36:00. Also the 20 K windows for achieving the times for men and women are January 15, 2015 up to June 26, 2016.

- **Juniors** – This year the Outdoor Championships will be held separately for the Olympic Trials. The distance is 10,000m. Women's standard is 59:45, alternate time option of 28:30 for 5,000m. The Men's standard is 55:15, alternate time option of 26:00 for 5,000m.
- **Race Walk Team Championships** if held will have 50 K standard at 4:35:00, women's 20 K standard at 1:48:30, men's 20 K standard at 1:32:00, junior men's standard at 48:30 and the junior women's standard at 53:15.
- High Performance, Men's and Women's Development (Maryanne Daniel & Tim Seaman). The presentation was made by Maryanne – Development focuses primarily on the elite and near elite athletes.
 - Tier-1 athletes are those who enter and medal at the Olympics and/or World Championship races.
 - Tier-2 athletes are those who are between the top 8-12 athletes in their discipline in the world.
 - Tier-3 athletes are the immediate Post Collegiate athletes (within the first 2 years of graduation) who have achieved an "A" standard in their event.
 - Tier-4 athletes are the top 2 at outdoor USATF Nationals or ranked as top 2 in their event and have achieved the Olympic standard. This year's funded athletes are funded based on their previous year's performance. For 2015 Maria Michta, Miranda Melville and Jon Nunn were the Race Walk Tier-4 athletes based on their 2014 performance. Each discipline **can also name** 4 athletes who have demonstrated "Up and coming" performance. Based on the 2014 performances Maryanne recommended Nick Christie, Erin Gray, Alex Chavez, Katie Burnett, and Patrick Stroupe. Of that group Nick Christie and Erin Gray were selected by USATF to receive consideration and some support in the grouping called "Development Tagged" or as it is now called "Emerging Elite." Development Watch athletes do not receive financial support but do receive consideration. This group included Michael Manozzi, Katie Burnett, Emanuel Corvera and Cody Reich. The Tier-4 athletes receive an annual \$2,000 stipend towards training and \$500 toward medical expenses as the athlete sees fit. They can also apply for grants for international competition and two domestic competitions. Miranda used this process to attend a competition in Japan in 2015. Sports Psychologists are available for the Tier athletes. Miranda also applied for and received this. For the 2016 year only Maria, Miranda and John Nunn are eligible for funding as Tier-4. For "Up and Coming" performance Maryanne is recommending Nick Christie, Emanuel Corvera, Erin Gray, Katie Burnett, and Cody Reich. Robin Stevens and Michael Manozzi will be recommended but they are almost too old for the emerging elite status. Tier-4 is being phased out starting in 2017 as more money is being placed in the higher tiers **and is available for our Race Walkers as prize money incentives.** Example there will now be an incentive of \$10,000 available for each athlete to make the Olympic team.
- Rules – Dan Pierce Item 78 "standard distances" section was changed by IAAF and included in the race walk section. It does not include the 30 K, 1 hour, and 2 hour

events. World records will now only include: indoor 3,000m 5,000m, outdoor 5,000m, 10k and 10,000m, 20k and 20000m, 50k and 50,000m.

- In the USA we do have championships that are similar to the IAAF but not exact copies of what they have. The USA committee does not want to use the IAAF championships as the only USA championships and so voted. The general race walk committee as a whole advised Dan that it supported the decision of the USA Rules committee. Item 79 regards the usage of the Pit Lane Rule in the USA that must be somehow address in the USA Rule book. The Executive Committee of USA Race Walk felt a disservice would be made to our junior athletes to have no practice at all using the Pit Lane in events that would qualify for world competition.

A motion to accept the Pit Lane Rule as amended was made by Jim Bean and seconded by Tom Eastler. The motion passed.

- Race Walk Operating Procedure – Bill Pollinger. Bill reviewed the Operating Procedures and requests for changes to the procedures. The reviews were received and forwarded to the chair, vice chair and secretary. The secretary, Ed Richardson, forwarded the proposals via two email blasts to the general race walk community. A question came from Tom Eastler regarding the changes in the roles of the Coach and Manager of the USA Teams listed in the Operating Procedure. Bill advised that historically the IAAF designated that the Manager of the team as the team leader. This practice continued until 2009 because historically the teams of the world generally formed teams with an “eternal” staff made of coaches and officers from only within the national officers of the athletic federation. The responsibilities of the coaches were strictly limited to the athletes, and, the managers were the exclusive IAAF contact for each federation. Now the accreditation process has been expanded to include the coaches in having full access to IAAF staff during various competitions.
- A motion was made to table the vote on the operating procedure changes until tomorrow (Saturday Dec 5, 2015) with the proviso that the vote be held at the close of a 10 minute period for questions that will be provided at the 10:00 start of Saturday’s meeting. Motion was made by Tom Eastler and seconded by Bert Pickell. The motion passed.
- On Saturday Bill continued and received a motion to remove the motion to table the discussion, and now continue discussion, was made by Dan Koch and seconded by Jim Bean. The motion passed. Tom Eastler brought up that along with the Team Leader (manager) the Head Coach should also be able to attend as well. Bill advised that this is not a USATF decision that international meets are under the discretion of the IAAF, and that notion was not part of the proposals for the Operating Procedures that is before the committee. Tom withdrew his inquiry. There no further questions and the committee as a whole voted to accept the Operating Procedures as submitted. The new Procedures will be in effect as of December 6, 2015.

The chairman asked that the presentation be made at this time by the Oregon TrackTown organization regarding the 2016 20K Olympic Trials scheduled to be held in Salem, OR.

The presenters for TrackTown are:

Mike Reilly – CEO of Tracktown: In 2012 the TrackTown organization made a decision to show an event that would generally receive less recognition in the spotlight. They showcased the men's and women's hammer throw competition. It was moved to the Nike campus in Salem, OR. For 2016 Tracktown decided to showcase Race Walk. It began in December 2014 with discussions regarding the course. TrackTown noticed that efforts to hold the race walk on a road course just outside of the Stadium were always compromised by the issue of security. Rather than use the Autzen Field street again or search for some general street location a decision was made to consider showcasing Race Walk in the capital of Salem, OR as had been done with the hammer throw competition. The decisions while working with the Executive Committee, Jim Bean and others resulted in an IAAF certified course that starts and ends outside of the state capital building. Political leadership will be involved from the state and city, state workers and the schools and youth in the city will all work together to make it a memorable event. Arrangements will be made to transport athletes and officials to Eugene for official recognition of the results. The primary goal of Tracktown is Event Delivery to help create growth in the discipline.

Sasha Spencer-Atwood a former Oregon high school athlete who also competed for Georgetown University. She then became an elite USATF athlete also racing for racer the Nike team. In this endeavor Sasha stated that she is involved to achieve the primary goal is to help grow the sport by providing an opportunity for an exciting event and exposure to many youth within the state and city who would not otherwise know anything about this discipline. This would also include introducing the athletes to children in the schools and teaching race walking to staff and students in the outside community, which is the most effective method of helping to grow the discipline. The city of Salem is committed to help this be a very successful event.

Tracy Sundlen – Coach and coordinator for Tracktown and many west coast events. Tracy advised the Trials will be on Thursday, June 30, 2016. The start time of the race will be 11:00 AM to try to have the best combination of temperature and time for presentation of the discipline to the community and schools. The start and finish will be in front of the state capital building which will provide the "Shot" that will be in the news. The host hotel is The Grand Hotel, Salem, OR. Solomiya Login asked on behalf of the athletes if the block of rooms has been made and the date is frozen so that athletes who may not be tiered athletes can book their hotel room and flights. Tracy and Mike confirmed that the date is confirmed, and the time will be in the morning so that athletes and their families can be advised to set their arrangements. The goal is to provide the greatest exposure of a discipline at the best overall time. The time of day will continue to be discussed. Each athlete will have a youth "team" of school children supporting the athlete with their own team tee shirt in an "Adopt a walker" program. The school district will allow the schools that are participating to alter their schedules so that the students will be able to travel to the course at the Olympic Trials start time. Tom Eastler suggested that a way to effectively expand an ongoing program is to have the athletes and clinicians teach the 3rd and 4th grade teachers in the participating area how to race walk. He added that when the teachers including physical education teachers teach those 8 and 9 year old students, then within 5 years there will be youth who fill the JO programs, understand the discipline and they will be able to race at much higher levels. Tracy promised that the discussion group would attempt to resolve outstanding issues prior to the day of the event. Tracy then introduced Jennifer Nanister as the secretary for the TrackTown group.

- 2010 Race Walk Excellence Challenge Grant Program – AC Jaime; AC advised he is deeply concerned about the cause of the loss of athletic continuity in race walking after the high school years. He feels the attrition rate is well above 90% and this is a serious problem for race walking in general. He is working with Dr. Juan Gonzalez at the university of Texas on a study called “Understanding the causation of psychological factors of burn-out in former (retired) elite race walkers.” AC requests that current coaches allow access to their former athletes by the university to enter them in the study. He has a form available for that purpose. The athletes will be contacted by email by the university team.
- Junior Camps – AC Jaime- AC was proud to advise that this past winter the 9th junior camp was held in Pharr, TX. Due to illness in his family Ac will no longer hold the camps. Beginning in 2015 the camp will now be run by Tim Seaman in Imperial Beach, CA at the YMCA Surf Camp. The dates are December 27 to Jan 3, 2016 and will include a 5,000m race at the end of the camp.
- AC also advised that he is unable to continue as the chairman of the Challenge Grant Program. The new program chair will be Diane Graham-Henry and AC is confident that she will ably continue to move the program forward. The excellence program has spent \$13,548.50 and still has \$36,000 available. AC also advised that the program has spent about \$2,500 on DVD’s that have been distributed throughout the USA. Diane has now taken over Challenge Grant Program the program and is assisted by Patricia Hanna. The DVD’s are distributed whenever a request comes in for them from the Regional Coordinators or are requested by clinicians. Maryanne asked if a report has been forwarded to USATF that summarizes the athletes that have been supported by the program and their successes at USATAF championship events. AC advised that the TX youth report had been submitted. Diane advised she would include additional youth who have been supported and that the 2015 camp will be held at the YMCA Surf camp in San Diego, CA near a running path. There are a total of 30 athletes who will attend this December 27th. Tom Eastler also replied to Maryanne’s inquiry to advise that he visited Mark Dennet a former race walker in CT who is now a teacher in a K – 6 school in Augusta, GA. There were 400, K-6 students who met with 8 current and former race walking athletes from Maine who accompanied Tom to Augusta. The athletes demonstrated first for the teachers and then the students, the proper race walking technique. The one-hour session concluded with relay races and was very well received. For the 2016 year the program will be repeated with six elementary schools reaching approximately 1,000 students.
- Regional Coordinators, Youth – Diane Graham-Henry. The program is working to establish Regional Coordinators in every region so that there will be an expert available within each region to help attract new youth to race walking and Diane will be better able to support their efforts. Tom Eastler will provide organizational support through NARI and help however Diane requests. Diane also distributed a survey for all attendees to complete to better understand the needs of the leaders of the race walking community. She is also committed to expanding the communication pipeline and making it a more responsive two-way system.

- 2016 Competitions
 - Staff Selection (Proposed)– Gary Westerfield
 - Site Selection Sub Committee Report – Rod Larson-provided the site selection list for the 2016 calendar. Elliott Denman noted that the Millrose games race will be held on February 20th. Jim Bean advised that the date proposed for the Olympic Trials was also confirmed as June 30th in Salem, OR. Rod thanked both as these were a new dates and agreed to add them to the calendar. Ginger strongly recommended that the Masters events be included with Open events wherever possible so that bidders will have the possibility of an expanded field and the comradery between masters and open athletes can continue to grow.

Motion to accept the dates for the 2016 calendar as presented by the Site Selection Committee was made by Bob Nichols and seconded by Bob Hickey. The motion passed.

- Grand Prix for 2015 and 2016 – Ron Daniel presented for Dave Talcott. Ron noted that the adjusted ending date created too many problems with race dates, awards and recognition. Ron wants to go from Mid October to Mid October. Motion was made by Diane Graham-Henry to restore the dates of the Grand Prix from starting on October 16 and ending on October 15 of the next year, and seconded by Ed Richardson. The motion passed. Solomiya asked who would complete the actual Grand Prix schedule. Ron advised that the Grand Prix is made by the Site Selection committee. Solomiya Login then advised that the inclusion of the 5,000 m indoor race as the official national championship race would give juniors an additional chance to choose a race. She added that the Junior Camp is also an excellent opportunity but agreed with Mike Mannozi that all junior athletes do not travel to CA for the camp. Maryanne proposed that the 5,000 m race be included in the junior grand prix and Jon Price seconded. The motion passed.

Solomiya Login proposed to maintain the Penn Relays as part of the Junior Grand Prix, and Tom Eastler seconded. The motion passed.

Solomiya Login made a motion to keep the November 2015 national championship 50 K and the February 2016 50 K national championship races in the same Grand Prix year for the purpose of Grand Prix points, and Michael Mannozi seconded. The motion passed. Ron Daniel requested a response for Dave Talcott's question for information about the team scoring points for the Grand Prix.

- 2015 Competitions Report – Ron Daniel
 - Pan Am Cup Trial, Whiting, NJ – Between the PAC trials and the 50 K PAC Trials held during the previous December a total of 15 athletes were selected to represent the USA in Chile. Of the 15 athletes who went to Chile 10 set personal records during their Trials competition performances.
 - Pan Am Cup, Arica, Chile. Unfortunately, most USA athletes did not perform anywhere near their personal performances by time and none had personal or season performances. Duffy using time performances stated that USATF was underwhelmed at the performances yet Ron advised that Maria and

Miranda finished 5th and 7th respectively. Duffy then requested the past year's training program for the athletes. Ron advised that the travel time approached 20 hours for the athletes, and they felt that race performance time was affected by not enough recovery for travel. Robert Chapman studied correlations that included travel/recovery time to world level competition and length of recovery time from the travel and length of time from the trials. Mike Mannozi advised that the humidity was significant in Chile and that all times including those of local athletes were slower than their usual performances. Marianne advised that higher humidity requires more time for acclimation and that was not built into the travel plans.

- Pan American Junior Championships – Anthony (Peters) was 4th and Anali (Cisneros) was 5th in their respective races but there was no USA Team.
- IAAF World Youth Championships – no USA athlete qualified for this event.
- Other Sub Committee Reports as needed through out meetings
 - IAAF – Maryanne Daniel
The IAAF now includes a women's 50 K world record. They may go back in time for the record time or only from 2016 forward. The world designation for "Junior" will be U-20, and the designation for "Youth" will be U-18. The World Cup is now named "The World Team Championship" to more fully emphasize the team concept including greater prize money for the teams. Russia has been banned as a federation for 2016. Australia, Italy and Canada have already entered bids for the World Team Championships and the World Youth Championships. The bid process is now continuing and is considered an expedited process ending on next Monday. It is expected that the bidding will need to be in excess of one million dollars. Ron Daniel advised that Victor Lopez, the President of the Pan American Athletics Association (APA), has offered to provide a bid package to Ron but he does not yet have it.
 - Development – Maryanne Daniel & Tim Seaman (see above report)
 - Medical, Scientific & Psychological Services – Maryanne Daniel
Distance Initiative (Altitude Training) – Maryanne. The full report is available on line. The preliminary findings: Most athletes and coaches had not optimized altitude training. First and foremost iron supplement testing must be conducted. If low it must be increased using liquid supplement which is much superior as liquid form will create the proper absorptive compound immediately when it reaches the intestinal lining. The supplement should be taken along with Vitamin C. Without correcting the iron deficiency prior to initiating an altitude program any potential training gains will be negated. The correction must be made at least four weeks prior to commencement of altitude training. The training should be at an elevation to create an EPO_{max} which is between between 7,500 and 8,500 ft for a minimum optimum of 28 days. The athletes who lived at higher elevation but completed high intensity training at low altitude (then returning to high altitude to live) performed the best plan. The competition window is between 48 to 72 hours of returning to low altitude depending on the length of the race. Longer distance races have a longer period of return on the effects of altitude training prior to racing. Tom Eastler

advised of attempts of several athletes to use altitude tents while training at sea level to replicate the altitude training effects.

It ultimately proved unsuccessful at best and the tents as part of the training regimen was abandoned. The Norwegian team comes annually to Flagstaff, AZ to train for two weeks annually, and they have allowed USA athletes to come to train with them.

- Equipment / Facilities – Jo Burrows
 - a. The aero javelin that is the javelin the used by the youth committee is now a 500gm transitional javelin for the 11-12 year old athletes.
 - b. The indoor weight throw length is now changed from 406.4 to 410 mm.

Race Walking General Session II

Saturday Dec 5, 2015

- Committee Awards (Ron Zinn Awards given at Awards Breakfast)
The recipients athletes are John Nunn and Maria Michta-Coffey
 - Henry Laskau Awards
The recipients are Anthony Peters and Anali Cisneros
 - Mike Riban Awards
The recipients are:
Robert Hickey – Outstanding Lifetime Contributor
The New Jersey Association as the Outstanding Association of 2015
 - Chairman Awards. The four recipients are:
 1. AC Jamie – Outstanding Support of the South Texas Program and Youth Program
 2. Don Lawrence – Very Successful 2015 USA vs. Canada Dual Meet
 3. Ron Salvo & Freehold Area Running Club – Outstanding Job in Hosting the 2014 World Cup & 2015 Pan Am Cup Team Trials
 4. Jim Bean – Race Director of many USATF Outdoor Championships & Research of the 2016 OT Race Course
 - Masters Race Walker of the Year Awards
The recipients are: Dave Swarts, Erin Taylor-Talcott and Marianne Martino
 - Grand Prix Awards Open Division recipients are:
1st Place-Michael Mannozi, 2nd Place Nick Christe, 3rd Place Dave Talcott
1st Place-Maria Michta-Coffey, 2nd Place Erin Taylor-Talcott,
3rd Place Miranda Melville
Junior Division:
1st Place Anthony Peters, 2nd Place Cameron Haught, 3rd Place Matias Serna
1st Place Katharine Newhoff, 2nd Place Katie Michta, 3rd Place Anali Cisneros
Masters Division:
1st Place David Swarts, 2nd Place Leon Jasionowski, 3rd Place Dave Talcott
1st Place Debbi Topham, 2nd Place Darlene Backlund, 3rd Place Susan Randall
Teams:
Men: 1st Shore AC, 2nd Pegasus AC
Women: 1st Pegasus AC, 2nd Shore AC, 3rd Wasatch Walkers
- Ron Daniel then acknowledged the 2015 Lori Maynard Officials Award, given the previous evening to this year's recipient David Snyder.

Masters Age Group Walkers of the Year

Age Group	Men's Winners	Women's Winners
35-39	John Nunn	Erin Taylor-Talcott
40-44	Pablo Gomez	Susan Randall
45-49	John Soucheck	Mary Anne Taylor
50-54	Dave Swarts	Carolyn Kealty
55-59	Ian Whatley	Leslie Latterman
60-64	Vince Peters	Karen Stoyanowski
65-69	Andrew Smith	Marianne Martino
70-74	Leon Jasionowski	Darlene Backlund
75-79	John Backlund	Rita Sinkovec
80-84	Alan Poisner	-----
85-89	Jack Starr	-----
* Indicates a tie		

- Ray Funkhouser presented special recognition awards on behalf of the Masters Division for outstanding service: Wayne Armbrust, Elliott Denman, Dan Koch, Dave Snyder, Rod Larsen and Jo Burrows
- Ray advised that there will now be two indoor masters championship races 1,500m and 3,000m and these will be held on back to back days. These will be part of the Masters Grand Prix which will run from October 16, 2015 to October 15, 2016.
 - Officials & RW Officials – Reggie Weissglas officials who have worked at national events will receive a subsidy for their background checks.
 - IAAF has proposed a Pit Lane to improve officiating. Therefore the Pit Lane is in the IAAF Rule Book for Youth and Juniors. After receiving the 3rd red the athlete will be shown a red paddle must step off the course and into the Pit Lane and for how long in seconds he or she must stay in the Pit Lane before re-entering the race. The Pit Lane Official will have a special red paddle with either a “60” or a “120” on it. The usage of 60 sec. or 120 sec. is determined by the length of race. If the athlete finishes the race before they can serve the penalty in the Pit Lane then the time will be added to their finishing time. If an athlete leaves the Pit Lane and then receives a 4th red card then disqualification of the athlete will occur. If an athlete receives 4 or more red cards they are immediately disqualified from the race.
 - Solomiya Login prepared a spread sheet last night listing the Grand Prix schedules for 2016 so that the committee as a whole can decide which races are individual and which are team. The Grand Prix task force established the rules for establishing teams including entry of team members prior to races and reviewed with Dan Pierce of the rules committee. The team by definition could include all athletes 14 year old and up therefore masters

and junior athletes are automatically included the Open Division Team scoring.

- Beginning in December 2015 Year the new Indoor 5,000m Championship in Rochester, NY will be included both an Individual and team scoring event and will be included in the 2016 Grand Prix. The committee as a whole accepted the Team scoring events and rules as presented.

- Summary of team scoring events approved by the committee as a whole: Team scoring Championship events for the Open Division Grand Prix: 5,000m, 5K, 10K, 15K, 1 hour, 30K, 40K, 50K.

- Championship Events that are not part of the Grand Prix Team Scoring: The USA indoor championships (3,000m), USA outdoor championship (20K), USA Indoor one mile (Millrose Games), all USA Team Trials events (Pan Am events, World events, and Olympic Trials).

- Measurements – Bruce Leasure advised that for Open and Juniors Championships the new USATF governing rule is that courses for championship races have to be pre-verified for records to expeditiously processed. That would also include usage of AIMS/IAAF A or B. This USATF pre-verification requirement goes into force on January 1, 2016.
- During the discussion of courses and what event directors should include Maria Michta-Coffey added that she felt athletes appreciated the “Merch” received at meets, but for many athletes, one of the most important items is the course which includes the timers, and the feedback (meaning posting of times) so that the athletes can immediately benefit from the experience of that race in real time.
She recommended a transponder on the bid verses just a simple chip on the shoe because the transponder allows for electronic splits to also be recorded. She felt that event money should be mainly spent on things that will serve the athlete the most and for the longest time such as the course, timing features and speed of feedback.
- Media, PR & Marketing – Don Lawrence. Last year the athletes were used as part of the marketing for tee shirt design. Don created tee and vee neck shirts. For the Olympic Trials print cards were created similar to baseball cards with pictures of the athletes on the cards for distribution. Don wants to work with meet directors to create “buzz” for upcoming events. Don is available as soon as needed. Ed O’Rourke, Diane Graham-Henry and Bill Vayo, are also members of his team. They are also available to help set marketing plans with or for companies that wish to sponsor either the event or race walking in general. Ray Funkhouser advised that there is a USATF Branding book that shows all of the USATF sponsors and how local sponsors can be used. The medial group is listed on the USATF web site as a subcommittee under race walk.
- Race Walking – Defining and Creating Our Own Image – Bill Vayo, RW Chair, NY Association. Bill stated that he felt there are three categories of Associations in USATF. There must be at least 15 championship level events for accreditation including 3 at the masters and youth level. Race walk must account for 20% of the total accreditation. A-groups: These are Blue groups that regularly hold local and

association level events. They also have many athletes and/or officials. They may even possibly hold national level race walk events. B-groups are Red groups that have held some types of local and association events and are developing a few officials and athletes. C-groups hold few if any events at any level, have few officials and few athletes. Bill reviewed the USA vs. Canada meet and how well it was received. He recommends for event directors to be sure that athletes receive adequate support before, during and after the race.

Ron Daniel and Ray Funkhouser and noted that the conditions for cities, and municipalities often change at the last minute and create problems. Records forms should be available on line and athletes should also be aware if they are going to attempt to achieve the record.

Ron Daniel then concluded the General Session meeting. There were Judging, Coaching and Working Group sessions for the balance of the afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Richardson,
Secretary