

USATF East Region Masters Coordinator Annual Report – 2016

This was another very active year in the East Region. Virtually every association in our far-flung region held association championships either indoors or outdoors or both. In most cases the masters meet was a component of the larger association championships, with relatively modest masters participation. Significant exceptions were in the New England and Mid-Atlantic Associations, where stand alone masters championships were held.

The East Region Indoor Championships were held Providence Career and Technical Academy in Providence, RI, in conjunction with the New England Association Masters Indoor Championships. It attracted an excellent turnout of more than 200 athletes. The facility, which has hosted the meet several times in the past, is an excellent one that is well suited to the meet. The Outdoor Championships were held at Widener University in Chester, PA and organized by the Mid-Atlantic Association. Participation was strong with more than 170 athletes registered.

This year we continued the practice of team scoring at the regional championships, helping to increase participation. Trophies were given to the first and second place clubs (combined men and women) at both meets. In both cases the regional budget was used to supply championship medals and patches as well as the team awards. For the indoor championships the local organizers handled all of the entry details and retained the entry fees collected (beyond what was used for starters, other officials and other logistical elements). This arrangement has worked well for the past several years and has resulted in our hosts raising between \$1000 and \$2000 to support their local programs while saving the region from paying expensive facility rental fees. For the outdoor championships the expenses for the facility at Widener University made this impossible and the regional budget was tapped to pay for a portion of the facility rental (\$1500).

At the 2014 East Region Meeting the schedule of regional championships was discussed and fixed through 2019.

1. INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

2015 – Potomac Valley

2016 – New England

2017 – Potomac Valley

2018 – New England

2019 – Potomac Valley

OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

2015 – Long Island (Potomac Valley as backup)

2016 – Mid Atlantic

2017 – New England

2018 – Potomac Valley

2019 – New Jersey

However, there will be deviations for the 2017 regional championship meets because of the early dates in February for the indoor nationals, which make it impossible to hold the indoor championships as planned in the Potomac Valley Association because of facility availability. As a result, the 2017 East Region Indoor Championships will be held again in Rhode Island at the Providence Career and Technical Academy on Sunday, January 29; this will be the fifth time in six years there. In all likelihood the meet will return to Providence again in 2018 because the indoor nationals are slated to be held in Landover that year. The search for other indoor facilities in the region is on-going, with a new one on Staten Island in New York being a possibility. It has just opened and will hosted the USATF Indoor Youth Championships in 2016.

Because the New England Association is hosting the indoor championships again in 2017 the outdoor meet will likely return to Potomac Valley next year, probably in late June.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Bookin-Weiner
East Region Masters Coordinator