

**USATF Youth Division Board Meeting
Hillside, Illinois
March 11, 2011**

Member's Present:

Lionel Leach: Youth Chair
Kim Haines: USATF Board Member
Bob Flint: Vice Chair
Linda Phelps: Immediate Past Youth Chair
Dorothy Dawson: Vice Chair of Administration
Sam Germany: Vice Chair of Operations
Linda Ellis: Division Secretary
Norine Richardson: Legal Advisor
Ken Ferguson: Law and Legislation
Bruce Long: Northwest Zone Representative
Inez Finch: Southwest Zone Representative
Marc Jones: Midwest Zone Representative
Ron Mascarenas: West Zone Representative
Henry McCallum: Regional Coordinator Representative
Tricia Floyd: Youth Programs, USATF National Office
Marilyn Turner: Youth Programs, USATF National Office
Ron Mclean: USATF Member

The Board Meeting opened at 8:15am with roll call and a quorum established. Lionel welcomed everyone and thanked Dorothy and the Illinois Association for hosting the board meeting and the inaugural USATF Youth Indoor National Championship.

Chairman's Report: This has been a good year. A lot of good things came out of the board. The numbers are up 3000 athletes compared to this time last year.

The Board of Directors meeting was held at the Milrose Games. They are pleased with the direction of the youth division.

Board of Director's Report: Kim Haines stated the board is currently searching for a new CEO. Some of the candidates withdrew and they are now back to the drawing board. It is confidential who the candidates are. There are 76 candidates; several of them did not wish to relocate to Indianapolis, IN. Some of the applicants had no track background which was another elimination factor.

The elite athlete numbers were down at the Indoor Championships. The Master's meet went well but they were short on officials.

2011 Youth Indoor Meet Update: The school is working with Marc and Dorothy to get the meet up and running. There is a high school meet taking place until 3pm.

Inez wants the board to critique ourselves and adjust accordingly. The meet management set up needs some work.

The Youth Division Board will fill in for this meet. It is paid in full and the Illinois Association will make a little bit of money. The budget for the meet is \$15,000. There are 309 athletes total. There are 189 sub-bantams – youth athletes and 120 intermediate – YW/YM athletes.

Youth Athletics Meet Update: The meet is coming along well. Bob will be working on the rooming list for the meet. The LOC is planning on an athlete village and are working on putting on a special evening for the world youth team prior to their departure to France.

JO Meet Update: Ken Ferguson gave an update of the meet. Vince Bingham will be the Assistant Meet Director and Rainbow will be the Meet Director.

This year the JO meet will add a golf tournament before the meet. Some of our elite athletes, current and retired will be invited to play. The profits will go 60 percent to the LOC and 40 percent to the Youth Division. The tournament will be held on July 25th at a local country club in Wichita. This event will be headed up by Rubin Carter.

Jessie Owens Youth Athlete of the Year Award: The board wants to come up with something nice for Robin Reynolds. She had an outstanding year in track and field but did not win the Athlete of the Year Award. Trevor Barron was voted Athlete of the Year.

The Youth Board feels there is a need for a male and female athlete of the year. We will get this done when the new leadership comes in. We need a plan explaining why we want it, have good justification and make sure we get it in the right hands.

Inez made a motion and it was properly seconded to have a male and female athlete of the year for the Jessie Owens Banquet. We now need to get it written up and presented.

Kim stated the next Board of Directors meeting will be in Eugene, OR in June during the Outdoor Championships.

All of the athletes on the list have accomplished some great things before they were added to the list.

Lionel wants to involve more elite athletes in our program. He is proposing an essay writing contest. The winners will be selected from the field events, sprinters and distance.

The winner will get an all expense paid trip with a chaperone to work out with an elite athlete.

The field events will compete with each other, sprinters will compete with sprinters, and the race walkers will compete with the distance runners.

We will table it for now and bring it back on a future conference call.

Linda E., Norine, Ken, and Dorothy will work on the criteria for the athlete's essay.

Some proposed criteria will be athletes must be high school age, write an essay, high school transcript, and community involvement.

The Masters requested another athlete also because they want whatever the youth program wants.

National Office Update: Tricia Floyd

- Personnel Changes: EAD, Carolyn Claude is gone and Kimberly is in elite athletes. Sarah Austin has been added as Legal Affairs Manager. In the marketing department, McKenzie left and works on the host committee of the super bowl. Taylor Payne is now in marketing and she moved over from diving. Tom Server is departing for Indianapolis Motor Speedway. There are no changes in the grass roots area.

Travel and Reimbursement Policy: The deadline for 2010 convention was January 19, 2011. The youth division folks are getting their paperwork in well.

TA Policy: When Tricia gets the request, she turns it in to Dorothy in travel and it is our responsibility to notify Dorothy for reservations. You have to have your reservations 21 days prior to your needed departure date. You must also notify Tricia if it is your intent to drive and you will only receive reimbursement equal to the amount of an airline ticket based on the mileage roundtrip. If you must cancel your flight due to an emergency, please notify Dorothy as soon as possible so she can possibly get credit to use for a future flight.

2011 Youth Guide: The first draft of the Youth Guide will be ready next week and will be available for the training and development committee to look at.

Bibs and Awards: When ordering awards you can subtract the number of events you are not contesting at your association meet like the hammer, steeple and/or the multi events.

Bob suggested the youth chair be responsible for ordering medals and awards for JO meets and other meets sponsored by clubs. If extra medals are needed then the bottom of the form needs to be filled out and the required fee needs to be paid. Associations can request extra blank bib numbers, 20 for the Association and 50 for the Regional meet.

2011 Bid Application and submission timeline: Inez made a request that the board approve the fees for the bid application process. Lionel stated that it is already done.

“Help Us Help You”: Tricia stated she would like responses to the emails she sends out. It helps them to help us. When we do not respond it can sometimes cause delays.

Legal Report: Norine briefed everyone on the factual basis of what happened with Maximum Output Track Club and Training Ground Track Club. Radir Amoor is suspended for two years. We are going after the Training Ground Coach after we complete the process with the Maximum Output Coach per Lionel.

With Radir Amoor we want to make it fair by getting the Maximum Output Coach as well We are working on a new grievance procedure where Ken Ferguson and Rubin Carter will head up this committee. They will take the documents and forward them to the appropriate place.

We as a division need to submit paperwork to put in place for Coaches that cheat. This needs to become a rule because currently we have nothing in writing for Coaches who cheat.

Norm in legal wants a decision made on a grievance, and then forward it to the National Review Panel and then it will go to the Board of Directors where the defendant can be asked to appear before the Board.

Norine presented the case of the Southern California Cheetahs. Bob questioned the time line of the issue. Norine stated it was tabled at the Annual Meeting and she was not present at the October meeting.

Inez stated since the Coach said he was not there then we should make a motion to drop it. Bruce feels this could set a precedent. Sam stated it should be sent back to the Association and handled at that level.

Inez made a motion and it was properly seconded by Bob, that there is insufficient evidence to take action against the Coach of the Southern California Cheetahs 4X800m relay. The vote passed with one opposed.

Norine will respond to Denise Smotherman and Chris Faulkner.

The Youth Chair from Southern California has been removed by the Association Executive Board. The Association also recommended that the Youth Chair be removed from Youth Division appointment and suspended from USATF for one year.

A motion was made by Dorothy and properly seconded by Sam to table the issue until the investigation is completed. The motion passed unanimously.

It has not been announced who the new youth chair is yet.

World Youth Trials and Champs Update: Tricia will be the team leader. The team make-up will be approximately 26 athletes based on a \$75,000 budget. The cost is roughly \$3000/athlete. Some of the funding will come from the Fine Design penalty money of \$11,000 (1st payment \$4500) and the webcast money from last year. Each Association will be asked to donate \$500.00 to help offset the cost of increasing the athlete participation to a sizeable number of 45.

The World Youth Olympics took 20 athletes. A total of 16 out of 20 athletes made the "A" finals, and 7 athletes won medals.

Here are some previous (2005, 2007, and 2009) stats.

2005: There were 32 athletes and 20 made it to the finals (67%).

2007: There were 37 athletes and 22 made it to the finals (66%).

2009: There were 55 athletes and 39 made it to the finals (66%).

A team was put together for a competition in Japan for youth athletes and neither the Board of Directors nor the Youth Chair had knowledge of the team or the trip. It comes down to who has jurisdiction over the team of youth.

Ken stated the coaches breached the bylaws by not informing the Youth Chair or Board of Directors about this trip for the youth. The problem needs to be directed to the Board of Directors for a recommendation.

Dorothy made a motion and it was properly seconded by Bob requesting a letter be written to the Board of Directors and the President of USA Track and Field along with the affected parties. The letter is to address the International trip to Japan with USATF Youth on February 5, 2011 without informing the Youth Chair or the Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned for lunch.

The Board Meeting convened with a quorum at 1:55pm.

Online Entry Changes: Henry provided everyone with an update on the online entry changes. You must start your date of birth verification in the first round which in some Associations that would mean the preliminary round. If an athlete is entered through the back door they still must have their DOB verified.

All athletes must have their membership purchases by the preliminary level.

Waivers to the Junior Olympic Championship:

The board discussed getting away from the waiver because in most cases the coaches are signing them. If the form is online or not it still has the same issue. Regional coordinators are complaining about having to travel to the JO Championship with the waivers.

Currently waivers are granted to the JO Championship Meet from the Junior Nationals and a waiver was granted to the 2009 athletes who competed in the World Youth Trials whether they made the team or not.

The discussion came up regarding how we can allow athletes to advance from the Junior Nationals and not allow athletes to advance from our own World Youth Trial Meet which also has high qualifying standards.

There was a motion made and properly seconded to table the waiver to advance athletes from the World Youth Trials to the JO Championship Meet. The justification is to see how the meet will run first since this is the year to add sub-bantams and advancing the top 5 in each event. The motion was unanimously approved.

Waivers to the Youth Athletics Meet: Any athlete who competes in the World Youth Trials and do not make the team can enter the Youth Athletics Meet without being charged a late entry fee.

Youth Committee Minutes: The posting of the Youth Division minutes was addressed and they will be available for posting online after board approval.

Junior Olympic Logos: The approved logos for Association and Regional use are located in the USATF Associations Document Resource Center. You must send Tricia a copy of the logo you plan to use to get it approved in writing.

Region 10 and Region 11: Utah who is currently in Region 10 is requesting to move to Region 11. Lionel stated that both regions have agreed with the move. Ron has requested they do not make the move until January of 2012. One of the problems with Utah is they are Mormons and they do not compete on Sunday.

Bruce stated Region 11 should decide when they come in and when Utah will rotate to host the region meet.

Linda P. stated we should allow them to move to Region 11 and work with them and their religious beliefs.

Linda P. made a motion and it was properly seconded by Bob to allow the Utah Association to move from region 10 to region 11. This would be subsequent of the signed approval of the regions involved. The motion was approved unanimously.

Henry will have the coordinators on the call from region 10 and region 11 to finalize the process.

Lionel stated he received a call and a letter from the Association of Little People and they are requesting USATF to change the name of the "midget" age group. No decision made on this issue at this time.

Henry said it was brought to his attention by regional coordinators that they are allowed to make site visits for regional meets. They will need the Associations to pitch in for this.

The question was asked if Associations can use flat fees and the answer is no because our rules are set up to charge per event.

Ted Beverly from the Southern Coaches Association has a group of coaches who cannot pass the background check. They were trying to sanction six meets. USATF will not sanction the meets until they have their background checks verified.

Inez asked how sanctions and background checks tie together because Ted Beverly passed his background check but the other coached have not.

Sam requested to go into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

Respectfully Submitted By,
Linda E. Ellis