

At this year's USATF Annual Meeting, I focused on attending Women's LDR, Men's LDR, and Joint LDR sessions as I have the past few years. It was great to see familiar faces and catch up with my counterparts in other associations as well as take part in discussion about long-distance running on the national level.

The upcoming Olympic Trials (2/13/16) was a focus of many of the sessions. The course is now finalized and will be safe for fast times and the LA Marathon Committee is excited to host the biggest field ever. There will even be live coverage on NBC. Julie McKinney will host course previews 12/27, 1/3, and 1/10.

2016 will also feature the World Half Marathon Championships. Selection criteria is on the USATF website. In the future, the committee is going to try to publish selection criteria for international competitions further out from the competition date so athletes can make the best choices for selecting their goal races. In addition, they are considering a process for athletes to self-report times to be considered for international competition since the issue with overlooking Craig Leon's marathon time for PanAm selection.

There were 11 USATF road championships in 2015. Molly Huddle won almost half and was selected as women's LDR athlete of the year. On the men's side, Jared Ward had the best cumulative finishes. In 2016 the number will be about the same (some bids were still being finalized). Championship selection committee wanted to let people know that they are open to nontraditional distances (i.e. 30k, 2 miles). They also considered some bids received after the official deadline.

World Cross Country Championships has changed distances for both men and women; now each race will be 10k there as well as the upcoming USATF XC championship in February. Michael Scott will be polling runners at this year's Club XC championships to understand preferences for future club championship distances.

On a similar note, Anne Phillips of the IAAF women's committee is planning to propose that the 10,000m be added to the girls program at the Junior World Championships. Currently girls race 1500, 3000, 3000 steeplechase, and 5,000 while boys race 1500, 3000 steeplechase, 5000, and 10,000. A vote of those present in the Women's LDR meeting showed strong support for adding the 10,000 for junior girls.

The Records Committee is considering a process of "rapid ratification" (rather than waiting until the December Annual Meeting) so that athletes can receive credit and publicity in a more timely manner.

Thank you for another great year as part of USATF-Ohio!