

2018 USATF Annual Meeting Highlights

– submitted by Brian Stephens, December 10, 2018

Attended the following sessions:

1. Ethics – USATF Code of Ethics Overview

Ethics Committee functions as an investigatory arm of USATF, making recommendations to the Board – (6) members. “Conflicts of Interest” are the major complaint issue. The Committee does not handle grievances or SafeSport issues. Some Associations have set up their own ethics committees as many conflicts can be handled at the Association level.

2. Officials –Equipment & Facilities Subcommittee

The Subcommittee Chair reviewed equipment problems encountered during the 2018 track and field season, based on observations provided by some member Officials. The Subcommittee would like to see more comments from other member Officials as well. Likewise, the Subcommittee’s newsletter is at risk of not being published semiannually without more articles from member Officials (Ivers would still proofread for the newsletter). Noted some rule changes affecting equipment specifications and facility requirements, e.g., 1K discus max OD increase for Masters, exempt 4K shot from 15mm OD differences from outdoor to indoor competition, takeoff board for HJ/TJ to be 20cm rather than 8 inches.

3. Rules – General Sessions

Several USATF rule changes were proposed, mostly clerical and housekeeping changes. NFHS and NCAA representatives were present but their rules were already set. Discussed in some detail time for Masters Athletes entering the pole vault competition after 3 height changes. Masters Committee wanted one minute to make one attempt without crossbar.

4. Officials – Junior Officials Program

Provided a copy of the proposed Program Structure Mentoring Handbook. Program geared for youth between 14 and 17 years of age. The Junior Official may assist a certified Official on any event except the throwing events. However, they may not serve as a competition Official. Considerable discussion on how some costs that may be incurred by the Junior Official can be offset at the Association level, e.g., USATF membership, SafeSport, and other related expenses. Yet to be determined.

5. Officials – General Sessions

Comments made by Officials Committee members including NCAA and NFHS representatives on the Committee. ~5470 Officials currently certified. Safety Subcommittee to be organized with focus on Officials’ safety (training, review).