

Terri & Richard

Below is my short summary of my experience at the Annual USATF Meeting held at the Columbus Convention Center. I have also attached my expenses to this email.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

This was the Association Workshop and I started my day by attending the **SafeSport** presentation. The presenter spoke of how abusers groom the athlete and their parents to create a level of trust to gain access to the child. Most abusers can go for 20 or more years before being caught and sometimes the abuser starts abusing other when they are in their early teen. Also boys are less likely to report abuse than girls. Unfortunately, most parents of abused children do't take the signs seriously and follow a pattern of "It has to be upsetting to me before I make it important to address".

I next attended Association Matters where discussions were around: 1) Association Bylaws and how they reflect the National Bylaws, 2) Financials being transparent and audited at least every two years.

My next meeting was around the USATF website where it was acknowledged that there are serious problems with the current website and the action steps being taken to resolve.

I ended my day by attending a session where Association Resources were discussed.

Thursday, November 29, 2018

I attended the Officials Training Subcommittee Meeting where the subcommittee chair reviewed the direction the subcommittee is taking to address training needs for officials. The topics discussed were:

- Preparation of a short video series on Violations
- Issues around the use of Branding, Releases, etc when preparing video sessions.
- Focus on Para-Training Series development.
- Moving to an on-line Q&A for Re-certification

I then attended a session where the NFHS rule changes were reviewed.

- Not implementing new 30M exchange zone or 30 sec time-limit for field event trials
- More friendly Uniform Rule: School approved and similar
- Change to recognize anything under the uniform as a foundation garment.
- CC - Finish is when torso crosses finish-line when wearing chips on shoes.
- Size of long jump pit clarified with reference to jump board.

Discussion on the use of an incident or near miss report for reporting potential safety issues. Also reviewed a small book containing best practice references to be distributed at later official meeting to attendees.

Friday, November 30th, 2018

I attended the NOC General Meeting where the following topics were discussed

- Para Athletics
- Jr Officials Program and a path toward certification.

- NCAA Championships
- NFHS Rules Changes

The next meeting was the Paralympics training Course. We only got through 2/3's of the course material as only one hour was allocated for a 60+ slide presentation. Links to the on-line course and testing site were provided so those interested could complete the course for certification.

Saturday, December 1, 2018

I started the day attending the Officials/Athlete Round table. I was unsure what to expect but was pleasantly surprised on the topics of discussion and how open all parties were to listen to each other and determine some next steps forward. I considered this to be one of the most enlightening sessions of the entire meeting schedule.

I then attended the Advance Starting Session where I learned more of the habits of experienced starters and the use of the SIS Start Information System and how to read the wave reports to determine if and when a false start occurs.

I ended the day going back to the closing session of the NOC General Meeting where we discussed NCAA Rules changes, available meets and some general housekeeping information.

Overall Summary

The four days that I was able to attend were informative and well organized. Overall I think that day 2 (Thursday) was the one day that I found the fewest programs that were of interest to me. Seeing the workings and support behind the machine that drives USATF at multiple levels brought me a new appreciation to the support provided to athletes and the importance of the systems we put in place to provide each athlete with a fair and equitable schedule of meets. Thank you for the opportunity to attend this annual meeting.

Regards

Mike Nissenbaum