

USATF ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
December 5, 2013 to December 8, 2013

YOUTH ADMINISTRATORS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENTAL WORKSHOP REPORT
December 4, 2013 to December 5, 2013

Both Meetings were in Indianapolis, Indiana

YOUTH ATHLETICS REPORT

Submitted by Fritz Spielman

During the annual meeting, I attended the opening general session, all meetings dealing with youth athletics, and the closing general session. Also attended the Youth Administrators Training and Developmental Workshop prior to the Annual Meeting

Youth Membership. Have over 80,000 youth athletes in USATF (over 62% of USATF members).

Update on 2014 National Championships. No major problems were identified with the Youth National Championships being held in Bloomington, Indiana on June 24-29; the JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships being held in Houston, Texas on July 21-27; or at the JO National Cross Country Championships being held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on December 13.

Awarding of 2015 National Championships. Youth National Championships was awarded to Lisle, Illinois (the only bidder). JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships was awarded to Jacksonville, Florida (the other bidders were Greensboro, North Carolina and Baltimore, Maryland). JO National Cross Country Championships was awarded to Albuquerque, New Mexico (the other bidder was Reno, Nevada).

2014 Indoor Championships. Midwest Zone Youth Championships will be at Proviso West High School in Hillside, Illinois (outside Chicago), and the National Youth Championships will be at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Prince George's County, Maryland on March 8th and 9th.. Entries will be done on-line this year thru Coach O.

2013 Youth National Track & Field Records. There were 21 outdoor records set (12 by girls and 9 by boys). There were 81 indoor records set (42 by girls and 39 by boys). Reason for the large number of indoor records is because we have only had a National meet for a few years.

2014 Youth Standards/Guidelines. Junior Olympic Combined Events performance standards and Youth Outdoor performance guidelines were discussed and approved. Do not have standards for the JO individual events (qualify by place) or Youth Outdoor (suggested guidelines provided so that athletes will not be embarrassed). Have JO Combined Events standards because athletes that are not first or second can qualify if they meet established standards. Standards can be found on the USATF National Youth webpage.

Coaches Background Checks. All coaches must have background checks. Associations can suspend clubs who do not have background checks on all their coaches. 115 Ohio Association coaches had background screenings done in 2013. We need to do better than this.

Level 1 School. Level 1 school is going thru a rewrite (hope to be completed by August 2014). Part of this rewrite is the requirement to attend a level 1 school every 5 years. Online test of 25 questions will be required to be taken within 3 months of course completion in order to be certified as a level 1 coach.

Youth Level 2 School. Youth Level 2 school is scheduled for Houston, Texas this year (after the JO Championships). If numbers don't pick up school might be permanently cancelled.

Youth Advisory Council. Comprised of people from USATF, AAU, National Scholastic Athletics Foundation and the Hershey Track & Field Games. Discussions centered around promoting track & field; problems between USATF and AAU and between USATF/AAU and high schools; pole vault safety; youth clinics in every association; coaching education opportunities; and the establishment of the 2015 track and field and cross country schedule to prevent conflicts. These are basically the same items that were discussed last year. See next item for something of benefit for our coaches.

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The NFHS has produced three online courses that are available to our coaches at www.nfhslearn.com. Courses are: (1) Fundamentals of Coaching Track and Field; (2) Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment; and (3) Pole Vault: Successful Skill Development. I'll put more information on our youth webpage and will send out information to our coaches.

Race Walking. A 64 page book on race walking has been produced. 26,000 copies of the book have been published and will be sent to each USATF region to be passed out in schools. Also, a video has been produced that shows coaches what good race walking / bad race walking is. This information is on the USATF Youth web page. We will put link on our web page and face book page to these items.

Zone Change. We increased the number of zones from four to five. Reason given for the change is an attempt to increase participation in the indoor USATF Zonal/USATF Championship meets; however, main reason was to have an uneven number of Zonal reps when items come up for vote. Consensus of youth chairs was that participation will not increase by adding another zone ó travel is still a problem for athletes.

New NCAA Academic Rule Changes. The NCAA is increasing grade point averages in required core courses. Many high school coaches and advisors are not making athletes aware of the stricter requirements. Our coaches have to be aware of these changes in order to help their athletes meet these new requirements. Coaches can go to freerecruitingwebinar.org to get this information. Again, I'll put this information on our youth webpage and send out the information to our youth coaches.

New USATF Initiatives. Future Stars and Safe Sport are two new programs. Future Stars is a program designed to engage youth athletes online ó athletes will be notified of this program. Safe Sport is a program mandated by the USOC dealing mainly with sex abuse ó again athletes will be made aware of this program by USATF. (I'll put something out to our athletes.) Hard to detect, have to set up system to prevent abusers the opportunity to abuse.

World Team. This team had more depth than any team the US has put together and scored the most points of any team. Had 2 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze medals from the 43 competing athletes.