

USATF ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Daytona Beach, Florida
November 28 - December 2

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.

Youth Membership. Have over 80,000 youth athletes in USATF (over 60% of USATF members) and nearly 2,300 clubs.

Update on 2013 National Championships. No major problems were identified with the JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships being held in Greensboro, North Carolina or the JO National Cross Country Championships being held in San Antonio, Texas. However, major facility problems were identified with the Youth National Championships that were scheduled for St. Louis, Missouri. Problems could not be resolved and the meet was moved to Edwardsville, Illinois.

Awarding of 2014 National Championships. JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships were awarded to Houston, Texas. (Other bidder was Omaha, Nebraska). Youth National Championships were awarded to Bloomington, Indiana. (Other bidders were Norfolk, Virginia and Jacksonville, Florida). JO National Cross Country Championships were awarded to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. (Other bidders were Gainesville, Florida and Charlotte, North Carolina).

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. Entries will be done on-line this year thru Coach O.

Rule changes pertaining to youth athletics. We discussed and voted on 32 rule changes. Eleven rule changes were accepted, five rule changes were tabled and sixteen rule changes were rejected. Rule changes pertained to pole vault safety, combined events, and age groups.

Change to age group designations. Age groups were changed to year designation (i.e. 7-8, 9-10, etc.). This was done because of a potential law suit with regards to the midget age group designation.

2012 Youth National Track & Field Records. There were 32 outdoor records set (15 by girls and 17 by boys). There were 73 indoor records set (40 by girls and 33 by boys). Reason for the large number of indoor records is because we have only had a National meet for a few years.

2013 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.

Level 2 School. Level 2 school scheduled for Baltimore this year (after the JO Championships) was cancelled because they did not get enough coaches to sign up for the course. Task force has been set up to determine when a good time would be to hold the school if right after the JO meet is not a good time.

Will probably be sending out survey to youth coaches.

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 2013 track and field and cross country schedule to prevent conflicts.

Coaches Background Checks. All coaches must have background checks. Associations can suspend clubs who do not have background checks on all their coaches. Will discuss this at our next board meeting.

On-Line Club Processing. Clubs can now do their club membership on-line and can also do batch processing of their athletes. I will provide details to all our clubs and put information on our web page.

Coach O Presentation. Will not have to load a team roster each year - athletes entered one time as they join club. Will also be separate accounts for clubs and unattached athletes. Coach O will also be awarding two grants each year (\$ 1,000 and \$ 500) to clubs for travel or equipment (provide details later).

Race Walking. There is currently a \$ 50,000 excellence challenge grant to promote race walking throughout the nation. Target is third to fifth graders. The committee has produced a 64 page book on race walking. 26,000 copies of the book have been published and will be sent to each USATF region to be passed out in schools. We will put link on our web page and face book page to this book.

Zone/Region Changes. Have moved South Carolina and Georgia from Region 3 to Region 4 for 2013. Are looking at increasing the number of zones from four to between five and seven for 2014.