

USATF ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
December 2, 2014 to December 5, 2014

YOUTH ADMINISTRATORS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENTAL WORKSHOP REPORT
December 1, 2014

Both Meetings were in Anaheim, California

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. I also attended the Youth Administrators Training and Developmental Workshop prior to the Annual Meeting. Information will be provided to our youth coaches and athletes.

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

Update on 2015 National Championships. No major problems were identified with: the Youth Indoor Track & Field National Championships being held in Prince George's County, Maryland on March 14 – 15; the Youth Outdoor Track & Field National Championships being held in Lisle, Illinois on June 30 – July 5; the JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships being held in Jacksonville, Florida on July 27 – August 2; or the JO National Cross Country Championships being held in Albuquerque, New Mexico on December 12. Find additional information on the individual event web pages.

Awarding of 2016 National Championships. JO National Outdoor Track & Field Championships was awarded to Sacramento, California (the only bidder). JO National Cross Country Championships was awarded to Hoover, Alabama (the other bidders were: Ames, Iowa; Lincoln, Nebraska; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana). Youth Indoor National Championships will be in Staten Island, New York (selected by Hershey). Location of the Youth Outdoor National Championships has not been determined (see Hershey sponsorship comment).

2015 IAAF World Youth Championships. Meet will be in Cali, Columbia, July 15-19, 2015 Trials for the world youth championships will be held June 30 – July 1, 2015 in Lisle, Illinois (prior to youth outdoor meet).

Hershey Sponsorship. Hershey is now the sponsor of both our youth outdoor and indoor national track & field championships. Name of these meets is now the USATF Hershey Youth (Outdoor or Indoor) Track & Field Championships. 2015 and 2016 indoor meet locations have both been selected (see above). 2015 outdoor meet will be in Lisle, Illinois (see above). 2016 outdoor meet location will be selected by Hershey and will be somewhere in the eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Maryland area. Hershey gets to determine the indoor and outdoor meet location every four years. USATF received \$ 100,000 from Hershey for these meets.

2014 Youth National Track & Field Records. There were 20 outdoor records set (10 by girls and 10 by boys). There were 69 indoor records set (36 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.

2015 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 and volunteers that have unsupervised contact with youth athletes must have background checks. Associations can suspend clubs who do not have background checks on all their coaches and volunteers. If all coaches and volunteers do not have background checks and something would happen, the club does not have insurance coverage through USATF. See new safe sports requirement.

Safe Sports Course Requirement. This is an USOC mandated course for all youth coaches. It is an 85 minute online course with a 20 minute test that must be passed. Have to December 31st to complete. The USATF web page will have material up shortly.

Level 1 School. There will be 40 Level 1 schools in 2015. Plan is to have Level 1 online in 2 years. Plan is to have requirement to recertify level 1 every 4 or 5 years.

Youth Level 2 School. Plan is to have Youth Level 2 School in 2015 – location not determined. If numbers don't pick up school might be permanently cancelled. Did not have school in 2014.

Youth Advisory Council. Comprised of people from USATF, AAU, National Scholastic Athletics Foundation and the Hershey Track & Field Games. Discussions centered on promoting track & field, and the establishment of the 2016 track and field and cross country schedule to prevent conflicts. Problems between USATF and AAU scheduling (other than part of Texas) have gone away. See next item for something of benefit for our coaches.

Race Walking. A 64 page book on race walking has been produced. Copies of the book have been 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. Race walk committee has also offered to provide assistance to association (no cost to association) to teach race walking techniques to athletes and judging to officials. They will be contacting youth chairs with more details.

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.

Youth Sponsorships. The following are sponsors of the youth program: Nike, Hershey, BMW, Visa, Rosetta Stone, University of Phoenix, Gator Aide, Gill Athletics, Lynx and St. Vincent Sports Performance. Go to the following link for more information and member discounts. <http://www.usatf.org/About/Sponsors.aspx>