

Paige Biglin – USATF Annual Meeting 2013 Report

Thank you for selecting me as Ohio's athlete representative to this year's annual meeting. As a long-distance runner, I focused on attending Women's and Men's Long Distance Running sessions as well as Athletes Advisory Committee sessions when not in conflict.

In AAC meetings, the 2013 USATF Track & Field standards were discussed. This year there will no longer be a B standard; instead all athletes who have achieved the A will attend with a descending order list used to round out the fields, which will also be increased in size this year. **It should be communicated to our Ohio athletes (likely mostly collegians) that if they are fairly close to the A standard they should declare in order to be considered on the descending order list.**

In addition, Max Siegel announced that the prize purse for both indoor and outdoor track and field championships will be doubled this year after remaining the same level for many years. **I found it notable that USATF provides the prize purse for track championships whereas long distance running (road) race championships prize money is funded by each local organizing committee though overall payout is roughly equal.** Max Siegel also announced a new partnership with the University of Phoenix although details on benefits were unclear at this time.

Women's LDR sessions included announcements of award winners and a recap of the recent Chiba Ekiden competition. There was also discussion of upcoming international LDR opportunities as well as selection procedures. The Olympic Marathon Trials site selection was discussed briefly. **Cincinnati has been eliminated as a possible site, so it will be either Houston (January 2016) or Los Angeles (March 2016).** Currently Christina Murphy (Columbus) is Ohio's sole qualifier on the performance list.

As a 2013 selection for Athlete Development Project funding, I was asked to speak about my experience at the 2013 USATF 15k Championship in Jacksonville. Only 3 races provided funding for ADP this year and LDR representatives were encouraged to pass along the standards and application information to association members. It was also reported that USATF suggests that each association match the funding from the championship LOC. Especially if the Ohio association does match funding, this would be a great incentive to get Ohio athletes competing more often on the national stage, as the ADP funds alone are not enough to cover travel expenses. **I am happy to volunteer to contact Ohio's elite athletes and speak to the benefits of the ADP.**

A review of 2013 USATF road race championships was conducted and 2014 planned championships were discussed. New sites include the Cherry Blossom 10 Mile (April), Bix 7 Mile in (July), and there are 2 bids pending for the 5k distance. **The committee reported that they would like to continue to increase the number of road race championships and encouraged bids for the 8k distance (not currently held) as well as competing bids for other distances.** In addition, the new .US 12k championships entry procedures and points weight for the road circuit were discussed. Those present were in favor of recommending it be worth only double points as opposed to triple points

as it was this year. In addition, I volunteered to be a liaison to the new Para Athlete division and attended their session on Saturday. I am not yet sure what my responsibilities will be.

Men's LDR sessions also reviewed recent and upcoming USA road championships and selection procedures for international competition. In addition, a rule requiring provision of private fluids for elite athletes was debated with those in attendance favoring this rule be applied to championship races equal to or greater than 20km.

Finally, I was able to touch base with Bob Latham and Ed Torres outside of formal meetings regarding the planned USATF Half Marathon Championships to be hosted by the Cap City Half Marathon here in Columbus. I know Liz Maus, Ohio's Women's LDR rep, had previously been in contact with the Cap City committee regarding the championship bid and I am also willing to help.

Thank you!