

Up Coming  
National Meets

**NAIA Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Marion, IN-May 24-  
26

**NCAA Division I  
East Regionals-**  
Jacksonville, FL-  
May 24-27

**NCAA Division I  
West Regionals-**  
Sacramento, CA-  
May 24-27

**NCAA Division II  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Pueblo, CO-May  
25-27

**NCAA Division III  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Rochester, NY-  
May 25-27

**IHSAA Track &  
Field  
Championships-**  
Bloomington, IN-  
June 2-3

**NCAA Division I  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Austin, TX-June 7-  
10

**USATF Indiana  
Association Meet-**  
TBA-June 16-17

**USATF Youth  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Geneva Ohio-June  
26-July 1

Mikes Laps – Mike’s Laps – Outstanding content in this month’s newsletter! KUDOS to Dick Boyd in this April edition. I usually scan and read the newsletters before they are sent to you and this Newsletter is jam-packed with great information. You may find something that will help you become a better official. There is everything from April being Youth Sport Safety Month, minutes from the NOC Annual Mid-Year Planning Meeting, collaboration between NFHS and USATF in creating online Training Videos, Rules of the Month to Dick’s Trivia Questions. A great read for all of us. Also, thank-you Stu Goble and Paul Sargent for helping me with some of my official chair duties. They stepped-up with organizing our USATF Indiana officials rosters for the Indiana Association meets. Also, a thank-you to the Indiana Officials Committee for their willingness to lend a helping hand when ever needed.

Update on my son Jake...thanks to all for your continued support as we battle the beast of cancer. Jake is doing OK with the new internal pump as his numbers continue to increase. However, he is losing weight. So it is a mixed bag of blessings. Doctors are working now to determine why a Jake has lost 20lbs. I’ll keep you posted.

The Outdoor season is upon us, so be sure to stay dry and warm. You may want to consider tying some hammers to your shoes in this wind!!! Note: please stay abreast of your renewal dates for membership/background checks/ and SafeSport. We all need to be sure to stay 3 step compliant. This is necessary to maintain your valid certification status. See you at the ring!!!! Mike



APRIL IS...  
**YOUTH SPORT**  
**SAFETY MONTH**

USA TRACK & FIELD IS COMMITTED TO CREATING  
**A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR ATHLETES.**

Learn more about the resources and people available to help.



SAFE SPORT



**USCENTERFORSAFESPORT.ORG**

**USATF Toyota  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Eugene, OR-July  
6-9

**USATF Region 7  
Meet-TBA-July 6-9**  
**USATF Master  
Outdoor  
Championships-**  
Greensboro, NC-  
July 20-23

**USA National  
Throws  
Championship-**  
Lisle, IL-August 5-  
6

**USATF Junior  
Olympics-Eugene,**  
OR-July 24-30

#### *Quick links*

[Indiana Officials](#)  
[USATF National Officials  
Committee](#)  
[USATF Indiana](#)  
[NCAA Track & Cross  
Country](#)  
[Best Practices](#)  
[USATF Rule Book](#)  
[NCAA Rule Book](#)  
[Paralympic Rule Book](#)  
[TFO Training Associates](#)  
[Junior Officials Program](#)

#### **Indiana Track and Field HOF**

Visit the Indiana  
Track & Field &  
Cross Country Hall  
of Fame Museum.  
Terre Haute. One  
Great Experience.  
Visit their website  
at by clicking HOF.

- Did you know April is Youth Sport Safety Month? The goal of the USAGF Safe Sport program is to create a clear culture of awareness to protect the participants in our sports at all ages and levels. Learn more about USATF 3-Step Safe Sport Compliance at [usatf.org/safe-sport](http://usatf.org/safe-sport). #USATF
- April is Youth Sport Safety Month. At USATF, our Safe Sport program is committed to creating a culture that clearly advocates for and provides a safe environment in which our athletes compete and train – and what we believe is paramount to the success of all our programs. For more information, visit [usatf.org/safe-sport](http://usatf.org/safe-sport). #USATF
- As part of April being Youth Sport Safety Month, USATF's Safe Sport program has trained over 11,000 individuals. Get more involved in by becoming 3-Step Safe Sport Certified today. Visit [usatf.org/safe-sport](http://usatf.org/safe-sport) for more information. #USATF

## Officials Store

New items are continuing to be added to the Officials Store. Remember just because it is in this store does not make it part of the official uniform. Some of the new items are being discussed as a possibility of being part of the Official Uniform possibilities. The officials store can be found [here](#).



### European Athletics Newsletter

Our colleagues in European Athletics have published a newsletter for their officials. You can see the second edition here. It provides helpful information that supplements the valuable content you find each month in our NOC Newsletter.

Do you receive the USATF NOC Newsletter? If not subscribe [here](#).

Matt Merrill found a USATF Indiana Rain Jacket (L) and an XL Red Polo Shirt in his shop that he has left with us. The shirt is \$25.00 and the rain jacket is \$60.00. Both are new. If you are interested contact Dick Boyd at [usatfindianaboyn@gmail.com](mailto:usatfindianaboyn@gmail.com)

- It's about that time... outdoor season! There's a full calendar of events coming up this season – where will we see you officiating? #USATF
- After a successful indoor season, it's time to shift gears to Next stop – outdoor season! Where will we see you officiating and playing your part to #JourneyToGold? #USATF

## The NOC Mid-Year Meeting Took Place the 1<sup>st</sup> Three Weeks of March.

The NOC met virtually the 1<sup>st</sup> three weeks of March. The minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. There is plenty of information for everyone. Information on the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the NOC, collaboration on training videos with the National Federation, update on uniforms, new Best Practices Editor, grants, selection of national awards, training and so much more. Don't miss out on all of this information.



- National Student Athlete Day – Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- On this day we celebrate all student athletes for their dedication to the sport of track and field while keeping up with their education. #USATF
- Dedication determination, time management, work ethic – all these can be used to describe the incredible student athletes of the USATF Indiana Association. #USATF

## To Purchase a USATF Rule Book



The new USATF Rulebook is ready for purchase. Officials will again receive a discount. When you make the purchase you will be asked for a discount code. To get the discount code contact Mike. However, be sure to order with others to save on shipping costs.

Here is the direct [link](#) to make the purchase.

You can download the 2023 rulebook [here](#).

## Great Online Video Training Opportunities by World Athletics.

World Athletics has developed a series of great training videos that we are able to access. Topics include: Verticals, Horizontals, Throws, The Start, Combined Events, The Finish, The Race, Hurdles and Steeplechase Races, Relay Races and even Carbon Emissions.

Each event has a series of mini lessons ranging from 3-5 minutes long. For example, the high jump has 11 videos taking you through setup and how to conduct a jump off. Remember some rules vary between WA, USATF, NCAA and NFHSA.

Click [here](#) to access the site. You will need to create a free account. This will give you access to the video trainings, their newsletter, and many other interesting features. Be sure to take advantage of these.

**Have You Mentored Anyone Lately. This deserved a second look. Who is going to take your place?**



## USATF Rule of the Month

### Rule 146.4

An immediate oral protest regarding a decision by the Starter to charge a false start, made by the competitor being charged, shall be accepted by the Start Referee. In order to protect the rights of all concerned and provide the time required to consider all evidence with regard to the charged false start, the competitor shall be allowed the opportunity to compete under protest, unless the evidence of a false start immediately available to the Start Referee is extremely obvious, in which case the protest shall be denied. After that decision, no further opportunity to protest that specifically charged false start shall be available to the competitor.

This will probably be called the Devon Allen rule. This rule has been sent to World Athletics for their consideration.

## NCAA/NAIA Rule of the Month

### Point of Emphasis

**Mixed Gender Competition Eliminated.** Mixed gender events are no longer an option for competition. Rules 1-45 and 9-45 were removed and are not included in this edition of the rules book.

**Five Alive Procedure Eliminated.** The five alive procedure in the vertical jumps is no longer an option for competition. Former Rules 1-27, 5-4.3.d, 9-26 and 13-4.3.d were removed and are not included in this edition of the rules book.

Keep in mind NAIA may continue to run 5-Alive in their championships.

Be sure to not allow this to happen. Code of Conduct could come into play. **“Officials Knowing rules and being just objective and courteous, while firm in enforcing rules. Acts of dishonesty, unsporting conduct or unprofessional behavior are unacceptable in track and field and cross country and subject to reprimand and/or removal by the referee or meet management.”**

## National Federation Rule of the Month

Rule 4-2 Article 1...A competitor shall not compete in more than four events including relays

Contestant may officially participate in:	
Four individual events	No relays allowed
Three individual events	May be listed on any number of relays but compete in only one relays
Two individual events	May be listed on any number of but compete in only two relays
One individual event	May be listed on any number of relays but compete in only three relays
Zero individual events	May be listed on four relays and may compete in four relays

**PENALTY: A competitor who participates in more events than allowed by rule shall forfeit all individual places and points and shall be disqualified from further competition in that meet. In a relay event, the team’s relay points and places)) shall also be forfeited.**

## How About Some Trivia?

1. What is the world record in men’s and women’s pole vault and whom holds them?
  
2. The world record distance for the hammer throw for both men and women.
  
3. In 2012, Galen Rupp ended the United States’ 44-year drought of not winning a medal in any track race greater than 800 meters, excluding the marathon. What was the race he won the medal in?
  
4. John Taylor was the first African-American man to win an Olympic gold medal, running the 400 meters in the 1,600-meter team medley relay. What year did this occur?

5. In 1984, Al Joyner and Jackie Joyner-Kersey became the first siblings to win track and field medals at the same Olympics. What events did they win their medals in?

Scroll down for the answers.

1. 6.22 meters 20' 5". Armand Duplantis from Sweden.  
5.06 meters 16'7 "Yelena Isinbaveva Russia
2. 57.77 m (189 ft 6 in) Pat Ryan USA  
. 82.98 m (272 ft 2 in) Anita Włodarczyk Poland
3. He earned the silver medal in the men's 10,000-meter race behind Great Britain's Mo Farah
4. 1908
5. Al won the gold in the men's triple jump, and Jackie took silver in the heptathlon.



**Minutes**  
**National Officials Committee**  
**Executive Committee Mid Year Teleconferencing Meeting**  
**March 7, March 14, & March 23, 2022**

7:05 pm EST

The NOC Executive Committee Mid-Year Meeting was called to order by the Chair on March 7. The Mid-Year meeting will be conducted via a series of teleconferencing meetings.

The NOC Executive Committee members in attendance: Mike Armstrong, Gordon Bocock, Dick Boyd, Christopher Cummings, Mark Heckel, Robt. O. Kern, and Jamero Rainey. USATF Officials Coordinator: Conor Naughton.

A motion was made to adopt a floating agenda for the meetings. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made to adopt the Minutes of the NOC Executive Committee Meeting December 1, 2022. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

**Chair's Report**

The Chair provided updates on various topics, initiatives, subcommittees, and focus groups.

Chair Mike Armstrong, Vice Chair, Certification Jamero, Vice Chair, Training Mark, met via teleconferencing with NFHS Director of Sport, Julie Cochran, recently. The focus was the production of 5–10-minute Training videos for entry level officials. These would be “How to \_\_\_\_\_” videos. Gill will cover the production costs of the training videos which has the support and approval of the USATF National Office and the USATF Legal Department. Presently, topics, texts, and scripts are being formalized.

Focus groups on Women & Minority Officials are creating surveys to be emailed out to officials. Surveys to be available online about the end of May. The focus of the survey is to determine avenues to facilitate a greater involvement of underrepresented groups in USATF Officiating.

This year marks the 50th year of the NOC. Chair Mike Armstrong, Secretary, Robt. O. Kern, Treasurer, Christopher Cummings, and Officials Coordinator, Connor Naughton met recently with USATF Staff representing Entertainment, Merchandising, and Marketing. The focus was how to celebrate, publicize, and market this 50-year milestone in a cost-effective manner via videos, logos, and printed materials, etc.

The USATF 2023 Indoor Championship were held February 16-18 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. No protests involving officiating concerns were filed. Flexibility of officials to cover other areas made for a smooth and safe meet.

The WA protocols regarding sanctioning have been navigated at the NCAA level. An accelerated learning curve provided the necessary adjustments to adhere to the WA requirements.

The USATF Store has a surplus of white & red official's shirts. Strategies for their use were discussed as Navy Blue remains the USATF National Officials uniform shirt.

Applications were accepted for the position of Best Practices Editor. After a review of the applicants, the NOC has selected Greg Utecht (Minnesota Association). He will replace Richard Schornstein (Colorado Association) and continue the process of updating the Best Practices Library and keeping them up relevant.

#### **Vice Chair Awards Report**

Vice Chair Awards, Gordon Bocock shared the 2023 implementation of the NOC Awards nomination process. The eleven Area Chairs, their 5 Certification Chairs, and the four At Large Representatives will nominate one person for each of the awards per area. This will result in a more manageable voting process.

#### **Vice Chair Certification Report**

The Vice Chair Certification, Jamero Rainey shared that as of March 7 we have 4,157 active officials and 337 officials in process. He will review to determine how come and why these officials have not completed their certification process.

2023 will also see a continuation of the 5 Certification Chair Teleconferencing Meetings. These regularly scheduled Association Certification Chair Meetings have been established to share information and assist in the understanding the many facets of Connect. To be proactive, these meetings are topical and relevant to the particular time of the year that they are held. Another topic with in Connect will be the changed or updated the search feature for finding officials.

Sending out of monthly files to Certification Chairs has been very helpful to maintain and increase officials' retention and support.

The recognition of Emeritus Officials standing is a step closer to becoming a reality.

#### **Vice Chair Rules Report**

Vice Chair Rules Richard Boyd shared the process of creating new Rules Reviews for next Olympiad. At present several are complete, while others are in process. Alpha Testing will take place by February 2024 and Beta Testing by June 2024.

A discussion ensued as to the relevance of the Referee Review. Presently in the selection process, having referee certification is not a requirement and many referees are chosen/selected. In the USATF Governance Manual, it is a recommendation, but not mandated. Certification Chairs will be surveyed, by the National Certification Chair, to determine the relevance of the certification at the association and regional level. Further discussion is needed to come to consensus. Officials with Referee Certification will be surveyed as to the relevance of the certification in their duties.

#### **Training Report**

The Vice Chair, Training Mark Heckel shared that the partnership with NFHS to produce the instructional videos is underway. A very aggressive timeline has been created and selected videos will be available by Spring 2024. NACAC will also be contacted and encouraged to become involved. This also presents a great opportunity for the NCAA to become involved with the training of officials and create a seamless presentation across all rule's constituency groups, NFHS, NCAA, and USATF.

EDM & EDR committees are moving forward and continue to fine tune the process and make it more cohesive, consistent, and codified. A pathway should be visible for all to see and work through towards certification. National opportunities should be made available for shadowing, mentoring, and hands on opportunities to ensure that the U-20 and National Championships have certified and qualified applicants, with the necessary skill sets. Presently we continue to certify officials in EDM & EDR Certifications, for those training situations that were preplanned and scheduled.

A discussion ensued on implementing the Coaches Education Model of providing Level 1 and Level training courses. Further discussion will be necessary.

There exists a necessity to present soft skills training. This will ensure that we produce officials to be the team leaders of the future. Utilization of technological learning could provide for some of the training...

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Christopher Cummings reported that expenses and reimbursements are continuously taking place are now updated and reported to the National Office. They will all be resolved by the Annual Meeting.

The ledger is presently being reconciled and he is working to anticipate and proactively address needs and expectations. Presently the NOC manages and plans to utilize funds judiciously as the budget has remained consistent over the past several years. An investigation is taking place to determine where we can reallocate funds to better reflect our values, purposes, and goals.

**Secretary Report**

The Secretary, Robt. O. Kern continues to provide updates to the NOC webpages and collaborate with appropriate individuals to facilitate ease of operation for webpage reorganization. Delegates to the 2023 Annual Meeting will be identified in the Fall and details of voting will be provided to all NOC Voting Delegates. NOC members will receive timely and appropriate notifications concerning matters relative to the Annual Meeting prior to the event.

The Secretary will investigate listing all the Subcommittee Members on the web site, as we always strive to encourage as much involvement as possible. The logistics and mechanics of these types of postings will be investigated with Officials Coordinator Conor Naughton. The NOC Operating Procedures may need to be updated to provide the validity necessary for these types of posting. Further discussion is necessary.

**Evaluations**

Subcommittee Chair Carolyn Hill reported that they are working to speed up the process of entering and maintaining an up-to-date database for evaluations. Matt Merrill is in a

learn by doing process to accomplish this task. She requests that more than one person have access to the database to set up and pull information.

Direction and information is needed concerning the mitigation process of moving the database and evaluation process to Connect or the new system being implemented.

Officials are reminded to submit their evaluations for the Indoor Championships that have been recently completed.

**Uniforms and Equipment**

The Subcommittee Chair, Patty Mitchell, shared the several issues that they are moving forward on. They include working to make the Uniform website gender neutral, enforcing the current uniform guidelines, a proposal to change the current officials uniform, and requesting involvement in the discussion of the Officials Uniforms for LA28. In addition, they would like to see an increase in approved items to be added to the National Uniform section of the Officials Store.

Moving forward the subcommittee would like to increase the amount of direct interaction and communication with the National Office and NOC, to best serve the needs of officials and to facilitate and move uniform issues forward.

**USATF NOC Officials Liaison**

NOC Officials Liaison Conor Naughton recently met with Merchandising to discuss the 50th Year of the NOC logos. Next week they will be meeting to discuss PSA and promotional videos to highlight the 50th Year of the NOC. The PSA would be played at national events.

Another official’s promotional initiative could be the presence of an informational table at national events. A potential PSA could be the “Face of the NOC”, short 30 second videos illuminating how officials became involved in track & field officiating and the intrinsic gratification they receive from officiating.

Discussion continues with the National Office on the integration of the USATF web pages and the NOC Dashboard web sites.

Evaluations and Applications prototypes, on Connect or the new system being implemented. Will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. The prototypes will be provided for review by the NOC.

**A motion was made** to recess the meeting at 9:48 pm EST, it was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

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***A motion was made and seconded to come out of recess, at 7:08 pm, on March 4, 2023. The motion carried and the second session of the Mid-Year Meeting commenced via teleconference.***

### **Officials Grants**

Grant recipients have all been notified of their selection. All have applied and many have already been accepted to the various National Meets for 2023. The National Scholastic Outdoor requested that their meet be included as one of the selected meets for applicants to utilize. The NOC concluded the funds should be utilized at USATF National Championships.

For 2023, the National Youth and Masters Indoor Meets made their selection of officials prior to the Young Officials Grants being awarded, therefore limiting meets available. Financial disbursements are made immediately upon confirmation of award and selection.

Young Officials Grants presently are designed for officials aged 40 & under. The Vice Chair of Certification will report back with data, about the numbers of officials in this age category. He will also provide data concerning the numbers of officials' 45 years of age and younger.

New in 2023 is funding for the Apprentice Referee Program. The selected applicants are Angela Freeman and Lisa Colvin. Each of these officials will attend both the USATF Indoor & Outdoor Masters Meets. The NOC will reallocate funding to cover their grant support funds.

The Secretary will review the criteria for all grants received from the NOC. Identification of criteria is to ensure selection aligns with criteria.

### **WA Technical Officials Subcommittee**

In prior years WA Technical Officials were part of the Rules Committee. Now they are under the jurisdiction of the NOC. The Chair of the Subcommittee is appointed by USATF Chair and the USATF Governance Handbook outlines their duties.

In November of 2022, WA launched a new education certification system which also renames officials titles. Presently it is an online certification testing process with minimal pretesting support network. Plans are being made to provide supportive webinars for future testing. Martin Johnson (Colorado Association) has passed the initial certification process.

In February, a course and certification were offered for 1st time, for the role of NACAC - Technical Delegates. 4 USATF Officials individuals participated in the course and test in the Dominican Republic.

A handbook is being developed to outline the new roles, responsibilities, and pathway for obtaining certification.

### **New Officials & Roundtable Meetings**

In 2023 Chair Mike Armstrong will again host a series of teleconferencing meetings, to continuously provide insight and support to new officials and ongoing training and discussions for all officials. Executive Board members will be able to share the roles and responsibilities, provide insight into what we are and what we do, and provide a means for dialogue, interaction, and communication for officials. The dates are as follows:

NEW OFFICIALS - Monday, June 5 - 8:00 pm EST

ROUNDTABLE - Monday, June 12 - 8:00 pm EST

**Officials Survey**

Secretary Robt. O. Kern and Treasure Christopher Cummings will collaborate to develop an official's survey. The results of the survey will be utilized to determine strategies to be used for the recruitment of officials. Phil Sutton, NOC Officials Newsletter Editor will assist in the implementation of the survey.

**2023 USATF Annual Meeting**

The 2023 Annual Meeting to be held in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The NOC will be requesting the usage of the International North Room for all meetings. In addition, the NOC is seeking the ability to record Officials Clinics, for trying purposes.

As all agenda items on the 2022 NOC Executive Board Mid-Year Meeting have been discussed and reported upon, the third day of the Mid-Year Meeting will not be utilized.

**Next Meeting:**

The next NOC Executive Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 8:00 pm EST.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded, and carried by unanimous vote at 9:51 pm EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Robt. O. Kern,*

Secretary