



Athlete of the Year

Selection Criteria

Athlete of the Year categories shall include:

<i>Youth Track & Field</i>	(1 boy and 1 girl in each youth age division plus U20 division - total 14)
<i>Youth Cross Country</i>	(1 boy and 1 girl in each youth age division plus U20 division - total 14)
<i>Race Walking</i>	(total 1)
<i>Open Track & Field</i>	(1 man and 1 woman - total 2)
<i>Masters Track & Field</i>	(1 man and 1 woman - total 2)
<i>Open Long Distance Running</i>	(1 man and 1 woman - total 2)
<i>Masters Long Distance Running</i>	(1 man and 1 woman - total 2)

Each sport committee will develop an Athlete of the Year subcommittee.

The subcommittee which will select 2-4 nominees for each award and then independently vote to select their recipients.

The criteria for the committee to use for nominations and final selections shall be:

1. only performances made by current athlete members of USATF Indiana will be considered.
2. performances must be made in USATF sanctioned events (or events recognized by USATF such as collegiate, IAAF, NACAC events).
3. Primary consideration given to:
 - ★ top performances at USATF national, regional and association championships
 - ★ top performances in world, national, regional, championships recognized by USATF (examples: IAAF, World Masters Athletics (WMA), North American, Central American and Caribbean Championships (NACAC), NCAA, NAIA, etc.)
 - ★ world and national records established
4. for masters awards age-graded scores may be utilized.
5. for Youth Cross Country (except the U20 awards) the criteria shall be:

the following individuals, if they compete in two (2) or more Grand Prix or Junior Olympic events during the season, will be considered nominees (candidates) for each divisional Athlete of the Year:

- winner of the Hoosier Cross Country Grand Prix
- 1st place at the Indiana Association Junior Olympic Championships
- the top Indiana finisher at the Region 7 Championships
- the top Indiana finisher at the National Junior Olympic Championships

The winner of the Athlete of the Year shall be the individual that has the most wins amongst all the nominees. A win shall be defined as an individuals head-to-head placing in each Grand Prix and Junior Olympic competition against the other nominees. Example - If there are three nominees (Runner 1, Runner 2, Runner 3) and each competes at the Indiana Association championships with Runner A placing 1st in the race, Runner B placing 4th, and Runner C placing 15th then Runner A will be awarded 2 wins, Runner B will be awarded 1 win, and Runner C will not be awarded any wins.

Tie - If two or more candidates tie for the most number of wins than the athletes with the most wins at the three Junior Olympic meets (association, region, national) shall be declared the Athlete of the Year. If an athlete does not compete in one or more of the Junior Olympic meets that will be considered a "forfeit" and the other athlete will be awarded a win for that meet. If a tie remains after considering the wins in Junior Olympic meets then the athlete placing highest in the Grand Prix shall be declared the winner..

updated December 2018 - added Youth Cross Country criteria (paragraph #5)

updated March 2021 - updated tie-breaker criteria for Youth Cross Country (paragraph #5)