



Dates to Remember:

June 15-16 Indiana JO at Ball State
June 22 Indiana Open/Master at Ball State
July 11-13 Region VII Meet in Joliet IL
Contact Jamero Rainey @
usatfofficials@gmail.com



Torrent Rain Jacket
\$55.95
Rain Pants Black
\$55.00

Links:

Indiana Officials [Web site:](#)
USATF [Indiana Gear:](#)
[USATF.org](#)
[Indiana.usatf.org](#)
[NCAA.org/playing-rules](#)
[Best Practices](#)
[USATF Rule Book](#)
[NCAA Rule Book](#)
[Paralympic Rule Book](#)

Don't forget to check your USATF membership renewal and background check. This can be done at [USATF.org](#) in

Do you know of a recent high school or college athlete that would like to give back to the sport? USATF Indiana has instituted a new program for young athletes that would help defer some cost. Contact Mike if you know of someone.

If you would like to learn more about becoming certified to officiate Paralympic Track and Field events following the following link:

<http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/7b/7b7884d5-9712-4e90-9c70-add9a9ea813f.pdf>

Mike's Laps—I just wanted to spread some kudo's in this newsletter to let you all know how proud I am to be an Indiana Association member. This past weekend I had the opportunity to work the Mid-American Conference (MAC's) at Ball State in Muncie. The officials were a skeleton crew but oh how everyone stepped-up and covered all the jobs that needed to be done without complaint and without being asked. **Wow!** The meet went so well that the coaches were very complimentary concerning the smoothness and quality of the meet! Way to go INDIANA.

From Facebook I saw many of our Indiana Officials were spread throughout the eastern USA working Conference meets and making us all proud.

Special Shout-out to the following Officials who were picked for the upcoming USATF and NCAA Championship Meets:

USATF Outdoors – Des Moines, IA. - Sean Bruening – Finish line Alternate; **Larry Henning**-Umpire Crew; **Alf Mendel**- Horizontal Crew Alternate; **Mike Trego**-Javelin Crew

USATF U20's – Miramar, FL. - Dick Boyd- Vertical Jumps Alternate; **Sean Bruening** – Finish line Alternate; **Stu Goble** – Hammer Crew; **Mike Trego** – Head Shot Put Crew.

NCAA – DI Outdoors – Austin, TX. – Alf Mendel – Horizontal Jumps

NCAA—DI East Regional—Jacksonville, FL—Mike Trego--Javelin

NCAA – DII Outdoors – Kingsville, TX. – Dick Boyd – Head Pole Vault Crew; **Curtis Donley** – Clerk – Line

NCAA – DIII Outdoors – Geneva, OH. – Sean Bruening – Clerk; **David Braumm** – Vertical Jumps Crew; **Alf Mendel** – Horizontal Jumps Crew; **Fred Kem** – Throws Crew **Dave Fry**—Pole Vault.

NAIA—Keith Mitchell—Field Referee; **Dave Harriman**—Race Walk

USAT Youth Nationals—Durham, NC Dave Fry—Pole Vault, **Sean Bruening**—Finish Line, **Dick Boyd**—Vertical Referee

USATF Hershey Junior Olympics—Sacramento, CA--Sean Bruening—Starting Crew, **Dick Boyd**—Vertical Referee

USATF Masters—Ames, IA—Larry Henning—Umpire, **Dick Boyd**—Pole Vault

Apologies if I left someone off, but I am working of list that are a few months old.

See you at the Ring! Mike

Lessons from the Selection Process: By Mike Armstrong For the past three years, I have observed or been a part of the Selection Committee for USATF Senior and U20 (Junior) Championship meets. I was asked to share with you some of the things that I have observed that might be helpful to you in the selection process.

- Make sure you are certified in the areas for which you apply. If you regularly work in an area, make sure you are certified in it. Talk to your Association Chair to bring your certifications up to date.
- Make sure your meet resume' reflects the events for which you applied.
- Work outside of your area and Association. Working in meets outside of your home area demonstrates an ability to work in different settings with different people who may do things in different ways.
- Let your Association Chair know when you apply for the USATF Championship meets next fall and ask him or her to complete their evaluation of you. Their evaluation is an important piece of information for the committee - especially for those officials who are new to national championship meets and may not be known by those on the Selection Committee.

OFFICIAL NEWS

Volume 1/ Issue 2



SafeSport Update: There have been some recent updates regarding SafeSport. These updates have come to USATF from the US Center for SafeSport. Here is some information that applies to our officials:

- Your SafeSport Certification is valid through the 2020 Olympiad
- SafeSport has developed an annual Refresher course. This course is not required at this time.
- New SafeSport Certifications can only be completed online. The use of the DVD in group settings is not currently allowed. The NOC is working to try and re-instate the group option.



Long Sleeve Polo
\$29.00

NCAA Rule 5.8.4-- Positions for Receiving the Baton ARTICLE 4. In the sprint relays, outgoing runners, while waiting for the baton, must be positioned entirely inside the 30-meter exchange zone within the runner's lane. Outgoing runners may place two separate pieces of self-adhering, affixed tape or suitable material as determined by meet management on the track. When conditions dictate, the use of tacks may be used to assure that the markers stay in place. These markers may not be longer than the width of the lane nor wider than 2 inches, and may be placed anywhere within the outgoing runner's lane. These marked points may be outside the exchange zone

USATF Rule of the Month: 180.11 A competitor may not leave the immediate area of a field event during the progress of the competition for reasons other than effecting the provisions of Rule 144.4(a) or Rule 144.4(g), unless the competitor has the permission of the Chief Judge and is accompanied by an official. If possible, a warning should first be given but for subsequent instances or in serious cases the athlete shall be disqualified. Competitors excused to compete in another event need not be accompanied.

NFHS Rule of the Month: 5.7.1 When a pistol (closed barrel) is used as a starting device, .32 caliber is recommended for outdoor venues and a .22 caliber is recommended for indoor use. Editor note: that this says recommended not required however it does say closed barrel

Continued from page 1

- APPLY. You cannot be selected if you do not apply. It is not unusual for officials to not be selected the first few times they apply or not to be selected every year. After all, there are many more application than there are available positions. But continue to apply. I do realize that the cost of travel does influence some when it comes to applying. Please know that those who are selected for the Senior and U20 (Junior) Championship meets receive a \$100 a day stipend (up to a maximum of \$500) that can help offset the travel costs.

TRACK AND FIELD OFFICIAL'S LIABILITY - HOW TO AVOID IT April, 2015

by J. Shelby Sharpe^a

Track and field officiating has never been easy. Mistakes can be very consequential. In today's world, these mistakes can precipitate litigation. If avoiding litigation or winning unavoidable litigation is important, then this paper will be very valuable. In fact, it is a paper that a track and field official should carry to every meet that requires officiating responsibilities. It is as important to an official as the competition rule book for the meet.

The vast majority of track and field competitions are small meets. These meets have a limited number of officials and quite often just barely enough for the competition to take place. Rarely, do these meets have marshals. Liability exposure is often higher during a small meet because of the limited number of officials. **However, regardless of the size of a meet, every track and field official needs to know the legal responsibilities imposed on the official by the courts. Accordingly, knowledge of the judge's rule book is just as important for the official as is the competition rule book for the meet.** The official must never forget that the judge's book has considerably more bite than the competition rule book.

Athletic competition has an inherent risk of injury for the competitors, as well as those involved with the competition, including officials, venue personnel, media and spectators. Some injuries are not preventable, while others are. It is almost a certainty that when an injury occurs, litigation will almost always follow. Following the recommendations made in this paper provides the best opportunity for avoiding these injuries, and if litigation comes, will place those sued in the strongest position possible to prevail.

It is the intent of this paper to provide practical recommendations to help avoid the preventable injury. The language in this paper has been selected for persons who are not legally trained. There are sample questions at the end of each section of this paper to illustrate how an attorney for an injured person might seek to establish liability for failure to do what the judge's rule book requires; i.e., the law. The questions are not exhaustive.

Mr. Sharpe is an attorney who has specialized in insurance defense for almost thirty years and has been officiating track and field events since 1963, including international, national and conference championships as well as other major track and field competitions. He is general counsel for the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, and the U.S. Track Meet Directors Association.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qU7AXfX1e5Xp6M9Gc7ItD_wTbaWzMcJZ/view?usp=sharing