

National Officials Committee 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

December 1&2, 2017
Columbus, Ohio

The Meeting (General Session #1) was called to Order by the Chair at 9:05 am Dec 1st.

Roll Call The Secretary advised that sign-ins resulted in a quorum; therefore, no Roll Call was required.

Change of Order for Business A motion was made and seconded to allow adjustments to agenda. The motion carried.

Reading/Approval of Minutes A motion was made and seconded to approve Minutes of the 2016 NOC Annual Meeting. The motion carried.

Officers' Reports

Chair The Chair's report is included in NOC Annual Report; in addition, he covered the following:

- Challenges in the certification process as we transitioned to the USATF server.
- Expressed thanks to many officials who devoted considerable time and effort to advancing our programs during the year; and appreciation to the USATF national staff and leaders (in particular, Desiree Friedman and Zack Raubuck, plus Max Siegel and Renee Washington) for their efforts on our behalf.
- Mentioned our planned move toward offering the rules reviews online in the future, and also a move toward integration of videos into our training programs in the future.
- Reviewed officials' excellent performance at the 2017 major championships.
- Spoke of robust USATF funding for the NOC in 2018, which should enable several initiatives and continue with the Young Officials grant program.
- Mentioned his Chair's report to the USATF President and Board early in the year, laying out the NOC plans, hopes, and challenges for recruitment, certification, retention, and rewards for certified officials.
- Described the USATF proposal for designation of "Junior Officials" for youth under the age of 18 who cannot be certified due to the inability to obtain a background check. Described the USATF proposal for a training/mentoring program, and our likely suggestions for modifications to that proposal.
- Discussed briefly the Selection Committee work earlier in the week, making selections of officials to work the 2018 USATF Indoor, Outdoor Senior, and Outdoor Junior meets. The committee reviewed officials' applications/resumes, certification profiles, meet evaluations, and Cert Chair evaluations. A total of 347 officials applied and 260 were selected. Selections will be posted for all to see at the conclusion of General Session #2, and will be posted to the NOC web site.

Secretary The report of the Secretary is included in the NOC Annual Report. In addition, the Secretary advised that sign-up sheets were placed at the back of the meeting room for officials to indicate their interest in serving on one or more of the NOC permanent subcommittees. The Secretary described the composition of the NOC membership and voting delegates. Officials were encouraged to visit the USATF Annual Meeting documents library to view documents pertaining to NOC business at the Meeting.

Treasurer The report of the Treasurer is included in the NOC Annual Report. The Treasurer reported that the NOC was in good financial shape and that we under spent vs. the budget for 2017.

Vice Chair of Certification The report of the Vice Chair, Certification is included in NOC Annual Report. - In addition, the Vice Chair also reported the certification process and database experienced serious problems at the start of the year. Not all have been fixed, but we have very good working relations with and support from the national office to address most of the issues.

- Approximately 4,600 officials are now certified across the country.

- Officials were reminded of the need to keep their background check current. Officials should receive a notice 30 days prior to expiration, advising them to renew the check; failure to do so would cause the official's certification to be suspended.

- There will be emphasis and work done to add more rigor to the certification upgrade process, to achieve more standardization and comparable quality in certification levels awarded nation-wide.

Vice Chair of Training The report of the Vice Chair, Training is included in NOC Annual Report. In addition, the Vice Chair reported that going forward we plan to make much more use of videos in training efforts.

Vice Chair of Rules The report of the Vice Chair, Rules is included in NOC Annual Report. With the USATF Rules Committee in the middle of their consideration of over 60 proposed rules changes, an update will be provided to the NOC during General Session #2.

Vice Chair of Awards The report of the Vice Chair, Awards is included in NOC Annual Report. In addition, the Vice Chair emphasized the importance and value of the NOC Outstanding Official award and the need for every association Certification Chair to submit nominations of deserving officials for the awards. Finalists for the various NOC annual awards were announced and the finalists were presented with a plaque. The winner of each award will be announced at the NOC Hall of Fame and Annual Awards banquet.

Nomination and Election of Candidates for NOC Officer Positions

The position of Vice Chair, Certification was open for a special election to fill the remaining one year term of office. One candidate was nominated through the standard process of the Nominating Committee. The floor was opened for the nomination of other candidates, and none were offered. A motion was made and seconded to elect Roger Burbage as the Vice Chair Certification by acclamation. The motion was unanimously approved.

Guests/Topics/Discussion

NOC Representative to the USATF Board Len Krsak greeted the NOC. He mentioned Board discussions concerning potential conflicts of interest for Board members. He further discussed the hard work and long hours put in by USATF leadership; finances, which contrary to some reports, are in good shape; and the fact that payments are generally being made promptly, though some are delayed for various reason, including issues with both the payer and the payee. He specifically asked the NOC to identify what they need and want from the USATF Board, and to relay those inputs to him through the NOC Chair.

USATF President Vince Lanana greeted the NOC and discussed USATF's past and continuing efforts to support officials particularly in the realm of recruitment and compensation. He emphasized the need for all of us to consider the legacy we will leave behind us for our successors, and the need to develop officials and processes for the future, to deliver ongoing exceptional support as we get to the 2021 World championships and the 2028 Olympic Games in America.

NCAA Officials' Assignor Nathan Smurdon, recently appointed as the NCAA Track & Field Officials' Assignor, discussed his background, plus his role and the NCAA's process for selection of officials to work NCAA championship meets in future years. He described a centralized process for online applications and selections of all officials for the NCAA D-I, D-II, and D-III national championship indoor & outdoor meets, and the D-I regionals. He, in collaboration with the individual meet officials' coordinators for each of the meets, will finalize the selections – for every official position at the meet. He anticipates announcing selections for the 2018 indoor meets by the end of December and for the outdoor meets by the end of January.

Spokane Convention & Visitors Bureau Representatives from the Bureau visited to deliver greetings and an overview of Spokane's plans to accommodate officials who come to the Spokane area to work the USATF Masters Outdoor Championships.

Insurance Representatives from Integro, USATF's insurance carrier, briefed the NOC on USATF's event liability coverage, which is primary coverage for USATF members including officials, for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. They reviewed coverage and limits. They then reviewed the Participant Accidental Medical coverage for officials, which is secondary coverage to any other insurance carried by officials – provided for USATF sanctioned meets only. Finally, they reviewed claims reporting details.

Report of Standing, Permanent, and Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Uniforms and Merchandise The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report. In addition, the subcommittee chair reported:

- The only uniform items now on the NOC web site are the blue officials' polo and the Boathouse jackets. The subcommittee chair intends to add additional items, but emphasized that these, and any items offered by associations must comply with USATF logo policies, and USATF permission must be obtained for logo use before offering them for sale or distribution.
- An official's "starter kit" was proposed, with items normally needed by new officials, to be offered online for ordering directly from the supplier with a 10% discount for certified officials. This may be followed by kits for officials in various disciplines. Also, there will be kits maintained by the NOC for use at major championships, beginning with a Marshal's kit including arm/hat bands, radios, and the like.

Battlefield to Ballfields. David Smith gave a presentation on the Battlefields to Ballfields initiative designed to assist veterans by providing training and compensation as they are placed with organized sports as officials. The Southern California association will conduct a pilot program in 2018, with an eye to expanding it to other associations which have a viable training program and compensation in subsequent years.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 am. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to come out of adjournment at 2:00 pm Dec 2, 2017. The motion carried and General Session # commenced.

Chair Remarks

The Chair expressed appreciation to Scott Rose and Karen Krsak for an excellent Hall of Fame & NOC Awards banquet. He reported on the presentation of Chair Awards to the following individuals:

Laurie Boemker, Ron Boemker, Connie Brand, Roger Burbage, Desiree Freidman, Patricia Hannah, Mark Heckel, Len Krsak, Gloria Louis, Wanda McNeil, and Rich Schornstein.

Vice Chair of Rules The Vice Chair related the results of the Rules Committee actions on proposed rules changes, providing specifics on several rules. All approved changes will be posted on the NOC web site as soon as possible.

Proposed Operating Procedures Amendments

Proposed amendments to the NOC Operating Procedures were presented by the Secretary. He advised that the amendments were sent to NOC voting delegates via e-mail more than 30 days prior to this meeting and posted to the Documents Library, and described the following significant changes proposed for the Regulation:

- Removal of the wording regarding minimum age requirements (Section 4. H.) This will be addressed in the Certification Regulation.
- Assignment of primary responsibility for Rules Reviews to the Vice Chair Rules, rather than the Vice Chair Training (Section 6. B. 3. g., and Section 6. B. 4. f.)
- Establishment a new permanent Subcommittee dealing with Young Officials. (Section 8. L.)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments. The motion was passed unanimously.

Report of Standing, Permanent, and Ad Hoc Subcommittees

Affirmative Development The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report. The subcommittee chair offered a summary of the report's findings and data regarding diversity of officials. One measurement was a comparison of USATF athletes and officials – seeking to more closely mirror the population we serve, and to attain more diversity in selections for championship meets. He stated that the next steps are to identify and implement possible solutions to the problems identified.

Appeals/Selection The subcommittee chair reported that during calendar year 2017 there were no official appeals submitted by officials.

Communications The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report. The subcommittee chair also reported that the officials' newsletter is a valuable resource, but only if officials subscribe, open it, and read it. He reviewed the means to subscribe, and the need for all officials to keep their e-mail addresses current. Work is in progress with USATF to place all past newsletters on the NOC website as reference material.

Equipment and Facilities Specifications The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report.

Evaluations The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report. The subcommittee chair also reported that evaluations were expanded this year to include officials at the Masters and the Junior Olympics, as well as evaluations of event heads by crew members and referees. In the future, evaluations will be available for officials to view in their online profile, but for the time being, they must ask the Evaluations Subcommittee Chair to send the evals to them. Access to evaluations is limited to the Evaluation Subcommittee, the Selection Committee, and the individual official. Going forward there will be efforts to develop a separate appraisal tool to evaluate an official's performance at a particular meet and provide that feedback directly to the official.

Insurance The subcommittee report is included in NOC Annual Report. The subcommittee chair also expressed thanks to USATF for agreeing to pick up the full cost of officials' insurance for 2017 and future years.

Law and Legislation The subcommittee chair reported there were 68 law & legislation proposal initially considered, many of which have been modified and a few withdrawn this week; and discussed proposals for the grievance process for individuals subject to USATF suspension by the USATF CEO or Board. He also expressed thanks to our previous subcommittee chair for assistance provided to him.

Technology The subcommittee chair reported he has three initiatives: refining the process to prepare for selections, making it more streamlined for officials; supporting the collection and use of evaluations for the Selection Committee and individual officials; and supporting training initiatives.

Old Business

IAAF Issues The Vice Chair Rules reported that the ITO Subcommittee will in fact be moved from the USATF Rules Committee to the NOC; and indicated that there will be efforts directed at development of an NTO program for US officials.

Young Officials Program & Grants Don Berry reiterated the need for nominations for the Young Officials grant program. At the start of the Annual Meeting, only seven applications had been submitted for this year's program – a \$500 grant to enable younger officials to work national level meets in order to encourage and speed their development as officials. The deadline for applications is Dec 20th.

Best Practices The Best Practices Editor reported on the content of the Best Practices library - almost 300 documents, with more than 40 items updated during the year and 8 new items added. The website endured problems early in the year, but it's now fully functional and has a revised layout for ease in selecting items. The editor encouraged all officials to submit their ideas for improving existing materials and ideas for any new topics. Officials selected to be event heads for the 2018 championships will be expected to perform a detailed review of documents in their discipline, recommending any needed changes.

New Business

Certification of Minors The Chair reported that individuals under the age of 18 cannot, for the most part, obtain a background check; thus they may not become certified officials. This matter has been under consideration by the USATF national office, which just last week sent to the NOC a proposal for a Junior Officials program. The USATF proposal needs to be adjusted and the NOC will provide comments and suggested changes back to USATF. We also need to resolve how we handle 14-17 year old officials who were certified in the previous Olympiad – will they be decertified or be “grandfathered” and remain certified?

Guests/Topics/Discussion

Associations Committee Karen Krsak reported on changes to the accreditation criteria for associations.

IAAF Update David Katz reported a proposal to create a certification discipline for road course measurers for LDR and race walk courses. The NOC Executive Committee will consider and act on this request. He also offered assistance on any question concerning the legality of facilities for record purposes.

Para Athletics Information Cathy Sellers updated the NOC on the success on para athletes in the past year; reminded officials of the free para athletic officiating online course leading to certification in that discipline; asked us to welcome and accommodate para athletes in our competitions; and asked us to encourage athletically inclined individuals to contact her, to be guided in their athletic development.

NCAA Rules Committee The NCAA Rules Editor reported that year most rules matters are administrative in nature. He mentioned the possibility of future NCAA changes to react to USATF and IAAF rules changes regarding field event time limits, ring violations, and lane violations.

Athletes Advisory Committee Three athletes representing the AAC visited to thank officials for their work at competitions and to say they look forward to our furnishing professional management of events. They indicated they may participate with us in a clinic next year to discuss officiating from an athlete's point of view.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm. The motion carried.