

**2015 USA Track & Field Annual Meeting – Youth Session Notes**  
**Hyatt Regency Hotel - Downtown ~ Houston, Texas**  
**December 3 – December 6, 2015**

Minutes compiled by Lanesa (Nesi) Ballew - Nebraska Association Youth Secretary and Linda Ellis – USATF National Youth Secretary

**Thursday, December 3, 2015 – General Session – Start at 11:00 am**

Linda Phelps explained Organizational Services and the requirements to vote in any constituency as a delegate. She called out a list of Associations that had items to clear up with Organizational Services prior to the evening Official Opening Ceremony.

The minutes for the 2014 annual meeting were handed out for review prior to the vote tomorrow.

Ken Emerick covered items that were tabled from 2014.

1. Aero Javelin: It now has specifications. Motion made and properly seconded to remove the item from the table. Yes 43 No 3. The motion passed.  
Duncan Atwood stated the proper name is the Finn Flier. The dimensions will be added to the rule book.
2. Item 6: Amend Item 301. Take out the word “Cross Country”. Add “High School” and 15-18 High Division for Indoor Championship. Motion made and properly seconded to accept the amendment. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Item 7: Amend to remove the 1<sup>st</sup> line from Item 78. Motion to accept the amendment and properly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Item 8: This is related to Club and Association Transfers. Amend to line 3 of Item 79, “There are no other US clubs in the area of residence within a 50-mile radius.”  
Motion made and properly seconded to close the debate. Yes 25, No 21. The motion passes.  
Motion to continue the debate without a 2/3 vote and properly seconded. Yes 29, No 8. The motion passes.  
Motion to accept Item 8 as amended and properly seconded. Yes 36, No 8. The motion passes.
5. Item 9: Amend Item 81. Indoor Championship Events: Motion made and properly seconded to amend Indoor Championship events. Yes 49, No 1. The motion passes and the items will be added. A new list of indoor events will be added.

Add the Finn javelin to the 11-12 age group only. The motion was made and properly seconded to add this item. Yes 36, No 5. The motion passes.

Bruce Long, Field Event Referee gave a short synopsis on the 6 clubs across the Country that were donated the Finn Javelin to use last summer. He stated the clubs really enjoyed it. The current cost is \$79.99 and there will be a onetime offer coming out shortly to clubs so they can buy 2 and get one free to help offset some of the costs. Duncan Atwood handed out information regarding the sale. [www.finnflier.com](http://www.finnflier.com)

David Greifinger – L&L Rep: Presented the Law and Legislation items to the delegates that were submitted on behalf of the Youth Division.

Each constituent including the Youth Division will select their own representative for the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is currently made up of (15 total board members):

6 Constituents

3 International Athletes

3 Independent People

President of USATF

NCAA Representative

IAAF Council Member

Motion made and properly seconded to accept the Law and Legislation Proposals. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Item 10 – submitted by Rubin Carter for Lionel Leach who was driving at the time. Amend article 12A9. Anything that affects a committee should be discussed with the chair and reviewed by the committee. This allows for the approval of more than one person before things are sent out.

Lionel and Charles Oliver (AAU National Chair) met and resolved some issues...they agree to disagree. They will work to keep future conflicts at a minimum and agree to do what is best for the athletes.

**Session ended at 12:58 pm**

**Friday, December 4, 2015 – Start at 12:00 pm**

Linda Phelps established quorum.

Minutes for the 2014 Annual Meeting were reviewed for approval. Motion made and properly seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

The Youth Chair Awards were presented to the following people for their outstanding service to USATF Youth Program.

Lisa Morgan	Brandon Jiles
Marc Cizek	Bonnie Cizek
James Engel	Barry Havior
Kevin Foster	Elenora Battle
Adrian Mitchell	Bill Truman
Alicia Truman	

Jan Price presented a handout on and updated everyone on current health issues and products that are not good for the body.

Standards for the 2016 Youth Outdoor National Championship and the standards for the 2016 Junior Olympic Combined Events were presented by Diane Martin. The motion was made and properly seconded to accept the 2016 standards. Motion passed unanimously.

Records were presented by Denise Smotherman. She handed out the paperwork with pending indoor and outdoor records.

There are 18 outdoor records pending approval. Motion made and properly to accept outdoor records, motion passed unanimously.

There are 38 indoor records pending. Motion made and properly seconded to accept the indoor records. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made and properly seconded to allow Ken Emerick to speak on Rules. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion made and properly seconded to reconsider Item 9. Motion passed unanimously. Aerojav/Finn Jav for the 11/12 age group will start in 2017 instead of 2016.

Motion made and properly seconded that Item 9, the Finn Flier Javelin be approved for 2016 as exhibition and become a formal event in 2017. Yes 52, No 2. The motion passed.

Item 30, crossing out the rule that an athlete can walk across the track to speak with their Coach. This is not applicable to Youth rules. IAAF requested this change.

Relays: If you make a relay declaration, whatever order you write the athletes down is the order they must run or they will be disqualified. This rule does not apply to youth athletes.

The cross country rule cannot be fixed this year. The formal change will be made in 2016.

2017 Junior Olympic Bid Presentation: Tallahassee, Florida

The bid presentation and the question and answer took place. A roll call paper ballot was handed out, collected and counted. Yes 33 No 34

Based on the votes of the delegates, Tallahassee, FL was not awarded the bid. It will be opened up to the rest of the country to bid on.

A motion was made and properly seconded to have another vote due to the close outcome. After some conversation regarding the request, there were only 9 yes votes and the motion failed.

Motion made and properly seconded to destroy the Cross Country ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

Harold (Lefty) Martin: Running Referee, gave information on what the site evaluation team is looking at during the visit. Informed everyone it is not what you plan to do it is what you currently have.

Bruce Long: Field Referee, presented information on the field event side of the house and updated the delegates on the site visits.

2015 J.O. Cross Country Update: Ron Mascarenas, Vice Chair, presented information regarding the final preparations for the JO Championship in Albuquerque, NM.

New Agenda Items to be added:

Update on Meet Management

Add Indoor Dates to National Calendar

Mark Springer Grant

Motion made and properly seconded to close new agenda items. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chair introduced the new Youth Chairs and their Associations.

Board of Directors: Sam Germany, the youth Board of Directors representative, spoke to the delegates regarding his role on the Board and his plan is to continue to support the Youth.

2016 National Indoor Championship Update: John Padula

The Ocean Breeze Indoor facility on Staten Island, NY will host the championship. It is an IAAF certified facility. The Host Hotel will be the Hilton Garden Inn. The hotels are approximately 7-8 miles from the facility. The Championship will be held on March 11 – 13, 2016. A slide show presentation and description of the facility was shown to the delegates.

Correction to the site evaluation paperwork for 2017 Bids

\*De Moines, IA was cited for no javelin and that should be a yes on the document.

\*Miami, FL the seating should be under 3000 not 8000+.

2017 Youth Outdoor Track and Field Championship: Miami, Florida

The bid presentation for Tropical Park in Miami, FL was presented to the body. The question and answer period completed. A roll call ballot vote was handed out, collected and counted.

The final vote count was Yes – 25 No – 42.

Based on the votes of the delegates, Miami, FL was not awarded the bid.

Motion made and properly seconded to destroy the ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

International Competition Committee: Lefty Martin informed everyone that the next World Youth Championship will be held in Kenya. The trials will be held at the 2017 Youth Outdoor Championship.

The meeting will recess until 8:30am on 12/5 2015.

**Saturday, December 5, 2015 9:30am**

The opening of the General Session was delayed due to a Board Meeting with the CEO and COO.

David Greifinger reported the outcome of the Law and Legislation submission.

\*The six constituents will elect their Board of Directors representative.

\*The President of USATF will be the Chair of the Board of Directors. If there is good cause not to then it will go to an arbitration board which will be an unbiased group.

\*The IAAF nominees will be elected by the constituents. If there is good cause not to then it will go to an arbitration board which will be an unbiased group.

Motion made and properly seconded to accept the legislation. The motion passed unanimously.

2017 Junior Olympic Track & Field Championship Bid Presentation:

Lawrence, Kansas ~ Rock Chalk Park and Des Moines, IA ~ Drake University

Roll call, ballots handed out, collected, and counted.

Winner is Lawrence, Kansas

Motion made and properly seconded to destroy the ballots. The motion passed unanimously.

2015 Frank Sevigne award winner: Rubin Carter

2015 Bill Hargrove award winner: New England Association.

Race walk Chair Diane Graham-Henry, representative for the youth. She informed the delegates they have the Associations broken down in regions and there are now regional race walk chairs. There was a brief video on proper technique and proper judging the by the race walk officials released a few weeks ago. Contact her at [dghphoto@gmail.com](mailto:dghphoto@gmail.com) if you would like to arrange from a race walk coordinator to come to your area for training.

National Youth Coaches Association report was given by the President, Ron Williams. They currently have 75 members and are looking to grow the membership. You can become a member for an annual fee of \$20.00. Go to the website NYTCA.com. The organization has a new logo. Awards were presented to the Youth Coaches Association members who were on the staff on an International team. Please go to the website for more information about the organization. Next year there will be 5 zone awards due to adding the Southwest Zone.

Associations Report was given by Latonya Salley-Sharif. Looking at multiyear membership for youth and possibly changing the calendar year. They are currently working on increasing club memberships and possibly using a survey to assist with the process.

A motion was made and properly seconded to add 2017 Cross Country Bid to new agenda items. The motion passed unanimously.

Cultural Exchange Program was presented by Mary Elizabeth Aude. She explained that she and Cindy Long get together and create an extensive brochure for the World Youth Team athletes and Coaches to use during their travel. It contains information that will be very useful during their travel. Information such as common language such as please and thank you; money exchange rates and information on the area that is useful are included in the brochure. The next brochure will be Kenya where the next World Youth Championship will be held.

Background screening information was presented by Brenda Martin. She read the number of background screenings in each of the Associations. There was a total of 8,481 screened for 2015 and increase of 542 from 2014. Nebraska had 141 people screened in 2015.

2015 JO Cross Country Update: Arlena Dickerson updated the delegates on the upcoming Championship. They hosted the region 10 and region 16 meet and it went well. They are ready to go.

Calendar was presented by Linda Phelps and Inez Finch; proposed for the next 10 years. The calendar was designed to work with AAU to prevent conflicting with each other's Championship dates. The calendar will be sent out once the indoor dates are added. Motion to accept the calendar and properly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

It was also noted the 2017 and 2018 Convention has been moved back one week and is in direct conflict with the Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships.

Hoover, Alabama is the site of the 2016 Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship. Mary Birdwell informed the delegates they are preparing and on track for a great Championship.

Sacramento, California is the site of the 2016 Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship. The hotels are open, the officials' application is online and they are still accepting applications. The meet will be held at Sacramento State.

Ethics reported by Carolyn Griggs that all Associations need to have a conflict of interest statement on their webpage. There is a template on the national website under ethics.

The meeting recessed until 3pm.

#### **Saturday, December 5, 2015 – Afternoon session – 3:07 start.**

After a brief meeting with Organizational Services and the Youth Chair, a motion was made and properly seconded to allow the Youth Board to appoint the Vice Chair of Operations until 2016 when elections are held. The motion passed unanimously.

Coaching Certification requirements were explained to the delegates by Pat Pretty. The level one course fee is \$75.00 (\$50 for the course and \$25 for the test) and the test consists of 150 questions. Safe sport is a requirement for all Coaches and Officials. They would like to get high school coaches involved; this might get them to get USATF memberships. The CAC/Coaches Advisory Committee is trying to get reduced cost passes for admission to the big meets for the coaches. This would be a small reward for coaches. This is an Olympic year for combined events. Qualifying ends on June 26. Make sure you declare/enter the meet. If not enough athletes enter then they take the next best athlete who has declared/entered.

Combined Events Standards for the 2016 Olympic Trials are 8200 points for the men's decathlon and 6200 points for the woman's heptathlon.

Women's Track & Field report given by TammyRa Jackson and Toni Nichols. The committee is in the process of developing grants in the name of coaches for post collegiate athletes.

The standards were approved for Indoor National's and only one set of standards will be used. Athletes must declare before the deadline. If more athletes are needed, then they will pull based on performance order.

Men's Track & Field report given by Byron Turner. There were 27 records approved. Prize money has been set for the Outdoor Championships. The Olympic Trials will be one week later and will mirror the Olympic schedule. Over 80% of medalist are receiving funding in the tier one system. 10% are receiving funding from tier two. They are considering allowing the athlete to watch the official video prior to filing a protest. A NACAC area grant for \$1000.00 has been added to bring the number of domestic meets with prize money up to four.

Officials report was given by Carolyn Griggs. USATF President and CEO spoke to the officials; she will continue to honor their stipends. They will elect their own Board of Directors representative for the next term. The official's shirt will change. All certified officials with a current membership will receive one shirt. They can order/pay for additional shirts from the website with a current membership and certification number. The Safe Sport must be completed by all Officials. The deadline has been extended due to some Associations not receiving the video. Random volunteers at meets do not need to be Safe Sport compliant.

#### **New Business:**

**The USATF Youth Program will be switching from Hytek to Meet Pro effective in 2016. It will cost the Association \$250 per year with unlimited meets.** More details to come in the near future. A delegate made the recommendation to roll out Meet Pro next year at the Youth Workshop. A member of the technology committee recommended is working with Meet Pro to ensure it will meet our needs.

Delegate William Mongovan requested the minutes to show there was no appearance this year from the IAAF Representative. The concern voiced was lack of IAAF update.

Mark Springer Grant update from Arionne Allen, Associate Programs Director. Informed the delegates how the grants are distributed and how to get reimbursed with the grant money. She encouraged clubs to look out for the announcement on the USATF website and apply. If you get the grant, you must turn in receipts showing how the grant money was used. There were 18 associations which received the grant for 2015.

CoachO registration will expire the end of 2015 and the contract will not be renewed. The Technology committee will be evaluating other online registration programs for the Youth Program could use. Everyone will be notified of next steps once they are worked out. This information was provided by the National Youth Chair, Lionel Leach. The majority of the industry is using the new system that we will more than likely move to. There is a demo on the Meet Pro website...30 Day Trial. We previously moved from Wilderness to HyTek, now we are moving from HyTek to Meet Pro. Meet Pro works with Finish Links.

Code of Conduct will be sent out in the near future for the Club Coaches to use in their program.

TCLogic is on a month to month contract but they will continue to be the background screening program for the Youth Division. USATF is trying to move from long term contracts to shorter contracts which may be month to month.

Lionel addressed the delegates regarding the paralympic events in the Junior Olympic Program. He explained the events can be added to the schedule but it is up to the experts in the field to select the athletes for the competition.

The 2017 Junior Olympic Cross Country and Youth Outdoor Bids are on line and back up for bidding. The bids will close on February 29, 2015 at 5:00pm (National Office close of business).

The bid presentations will be held at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida along with the 2018 bids.

The Youth Guide will be sent out to incoming chairs. The contact information for chairs is almost always out of date. Please be sure to update the contact information asap when there are changes.

Several delegates spoke of their disappointment at the Opening Ceremony when the athlete video was presented there was lack of youth representation. Arionne Allen informed the delegates she will pass the information along to the Renae ?? and Adam Schmenk to ensure more youth are included in the future presentations. It was also mentioned that no paralympic athletes were in the video and should have been.

Motion made, properly seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:17pm