

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION USA TRACK & FIELD ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, September 14th, 2008

Maggie Walker Governor's School – Richmond, VA.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15pm. Jim Holdren asked everyone to sign the roll and put their USATF membership number because we will be having elections today, and you have to have be a current USATF member to vote.

Treasurer's Report was given by the President – Jim Holdren

There is currently \$27,104.28 in a working cash account. There is in Sports Virginia an investment account an additional \$197,712.87, which we are currently using to run the office. YTD we have made deposits of \$39,569.17 to and disbursements of 46,942.91 from the checking account, with a large portion of that paying for the rent of the office and office expense that will be reimbursed from the investments

The February 2008 minutes was approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Race Walking – Ray Funkhouser

The 2008 season is rapidly coming to a close and plans are for 2009 are being made. Congratulations go to the Virginia athletes who competed in USATF events this year. Virginia walkers competed at the local, regional and national events this year at the youth, open, and masters levels. Virginia was well represented at the National H.S. meets this year both indoor and outdoor in Race Walking. Race Walkers participated and did well at the Youth Championships this year.

Alisha Higgins of Team Flash is to be congratulated on her outstanding season, all the way to the Nationals. She performed at a high level pushing to new levels of performance and representing Virginia and her club well. She has developed from a young age as a new race walker to a race walker that can compete on the national stage. Other walkers can have this same opportunity.

The number of youth competing in the Race Walk at the association championships was down this year. Ray hopes this is not a trend and is just a one year event. He would encourage all youth's clubs to encourage participation in the event of Race Walking. Please let him know if anyone needs guidance in introducing their athletes to the event.

The National Race Walk Committee introduced a program that is in the second year of implementation – The Elite Athlete ID Program. This program is to introduce athletes that have demonstrated a high level achievement in other T&F events to Race Walking with an invitation to a camp designated for the program. If anyone would like additional information, please contact Ray.

Special Thanks go out to the Tidewater Striders who for the second year hosted the USATF – Virginia Open & Masters 3000m Race Walk Championships. There was increased participation from a wider area this year. We even had additional officials to get certified this year with their specialty being Race Walk Judges.

Masters: Joe Mack

The first association State Masters Championships of the modern era were held on Saturday, July 12th 2008 at Maggie Walker Governor's School. Special thanks go out to all association officials who volunteered their time and came out to make sure this event was a success. Thanks also goes out Jim Holdren and his staff at Maggie Walker and the use of the James G. Holdren, Jr. Track complex cost free, which saved our association a significant expense.

Finally, special thanks to the members of the games committee for all the meetings they attended and hard work involved right up through the end of the meet.

Keith Witherspoon – Masters Co-Chair
Jim Triemlar – Meet Announcer
Deborah Snagg – Meet Manager
John Crute – Coordinator of Officials

Jim Holdren – VA USATF President
Vernon Clements – Meet Referee
Bob Disse – Facilities Coordinator

Meet Overview:

There were approximately 40 entries both association and open. Several meet records were set and several National 2008 leading performances were established. National record holders and at least one World record holder was in attendance. Meet management provided F.A.T., a professional massage table, concessions and t-shirts. The meet was viewed favorably by all who attended, and they look forward to returning in the future.

Bob Fine, Chairman of the Southeastern Masters Region and National Master Association board member, expressed his gratitude and pleasure to the Virginia Association for hosting the meet and encouraged the association to make plans to host an Indoor Regional sometime in the near future. Compliments go out to The Pony Express Masters Club who showed up in force with both men and women and won the meet. An overall financial report will be presented at the next meeting after all expenses have been finalized.

Youth Athletes – Dwight Porter

The 2008 Virginia Association Jr. Olympics Championship was held at Matoaca High School. There were 249 participants and 16 teams competed at the meet.

Special thanks to the Certified USATF Officials, volunteers and the Central VA. Track & Field Club for their hard work, dedication and professionalism. The 2008 Region III Jr. Olympics Championship was held at Rock Hill School and 142 athletes competed for the Virginia Assn. At the National Jr. Olympics Championship in Omaha, NE, the Virginia Assn. had eight athletes to compete.

Our Association still has teams that do not have USATF Club Memberships. Individual USATF memberships are MANDATORY for all athletes and coaches. Parents are encouraged to become USATF members. This process is fully explained on the Association website.

BACKGROUND CHECKS ARE MANDATORY for ALL COACHES AND VOLUNTEERS who work closely with OUR CHILDREN. This is an important task which must be taken seriously. It was decided at our February meeting that no USATF sanctions would be given to teams who did not have BACKGROUND CHECKS completed. This process is not being followed. The Virginia Association will host the National XC J.O. Championship. Virginia Assn. athletes who qualify at the Assn. level will go directly to the National Championship. NO athlete will receive a bye.

USATF ONLINE ENTRIES WILL BE UTILIZED FOR ALL VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION LEVEL COMPETITIONS, beginning with the 2008 XC JO Championships. This will insure that ALL athletes have current and valid USATF membership numbers prior to entering the meet and will make the entry process easier.

Officials – Bill Long

As of September 14, 2008, The Virginia Association has 152 certified USATF Officials. The Certification levels are: Master 22, National 45, and Association 85. Because of the count, the Association is entitled to name an additional representative to the National Official Committee at the National Convention.

The National Officials Committee recognized three Virginia officials for their long-term service as USATF officials. The National Outstanding Official Award was presented to Ed Fitzgerald of Chesapeake, John Foege of Chesterfield and Joe LaRocco of Salem.

The National Office has indicated that Certification for the 2009-2012 Olympic period will begin in November, 2008. The reason for the change from September to November is that if a membership in USATF, which is now mandatory for officials, is purchased before November, it expires at the end of 2008. Mr. Long anticipates changes in the process due to changes in policy made at the National Convention in 2007. Much of the work will be done on-line. The other change is that officials will be covered by insurance and the cost will be \$10.00.

Mr. Long stated that his service as Official's Chair started as a one year volunteer job in 1984, and has gone on for 24 years. This is the last Olympic period that he will be involved with certification of officials. He wants to thank all the officials he has work with through the years. He does not intend to retire from officiating, but he will no longer be involved in the certification of officials. Everyone applauded Mr. Long and thank him for all his service.

Official's Training – Bill Boyd

1. This year (2008) we conducted four USATF/VHSL Rules & Mechanics Clinics. We attempted to have more hands on training in our 6-hours clinics, The attendance was as indicated:

Location	USATF Officials	New Officials	VHSL Coaches	Total
U of R	32	6	16	56
2-PVOA				
C.N.U.	27	19	2	48
VMI	18	7	7	32
G.M.U.	1-VA	4	10	32
17-PVOA				
Totals	78-VA	36	35	168
18-PVOA				

2. The training projected by the Virginia Association for 2009 will track along the lines of the 2008 clinics. The exact locations and times are not set as we have to coordinate with the host college coaches as to the availability of their facilities and the building schedules. The meetings will be on Sundays, starting in late January and during the month of February. He does not recommend having the Association Clinics any earlier due to the fact the USATF Rules will not be passed on as official until December 7, 2008, and the NFHS Rules Interpreters meeting is in Indianapolis on January 22, 2009. The target date for his manual to go to the printers is about January 10, 2009.

3. For RECERT purposes, He is recommending that those (78 members of VA Assn.) who attended one of the four 2008 clinics listed above be credited with the USATF clinic attendance for this cycle of recertification in order to initiate their application process. This decision should allow about 75% of our most active official's to start the RECERT process ASAP.

4. In order to have the material that you as officials'/members require, he will make another request in the Virginia Track Notes for all to make suggestions in the scope of the clinic instruction. It is a concern of the NOC that we have a number of officials across the country that have events listed on their certification ID badge that they have not worked the events in years or not qualified to work at the Master or National level.

5. Rules changes for the 2009 is still a work in progress. The NFHS rules committee received about 50 proposals with Virginia submitting 23 rules changes, 12 editorial changes and 33 items in the official's manual. The High School Rules Book should be out later this month and will go into effect after this winters state meets. The NCAA had 50 rules change proposals up for review. The blue draft is in the review state at this time. He expects the rules book to be out in November. The USATF rules change proposals were due just a few days ago.

This, not being a rules change period for the IAAF and with the Olympics just over, Mr. Boyd is expecting about 100 items to be proposed at this time. A large portion of these will be in the Youth, Master and implements. The major problem discussed at the Olympics was the intentional false starts and how do we attempt to handle them within the rules.

Background Screening – Tony Vaughn

So far this year there have been 45 background checks performed up from approximately 25 a year ago. All have returned with negative results. The number of background checks performed was representative of 9 clubs. There were checks done on individuals in which clubs were not listed.

It is mandatory that background checks are performed on all coaches and volunteers that have direct contact with our youth athletes. If these checks are not done, then the club is not covered USATF liability insurance which could have major repercussions on the club. The following offenses are being screened for when a background check is performed on an applicant:

1. any crimes against children
2. any sexual offenses
3. drug convictions (within 5 years)
4. weapons violations
5. assaults, battery or any other crime of violence
6. lewd conduct

At the USATF Region III track meet, coaches who normally would have gotten into the meet free did not if they had not had a background check performed. Some of our coaches did run into that problem, however since Tony had his computer with him, he was able to get their background checks done on those individuals. To read more about the criteria for backgrounds within USATF, go to the national website under "Resources" and click on Club then background checks on the left side.

Request for background checks can be mailed to the Virginia Office to Gloria Thompson or to Tony at the address listed on the form. Tony can also receive them by fax as well. If you have difficulty in faxing the information to Tony please call him directly at (757 434-3192). You can also scan it into a PDF file and e-mail to him. The form is located on the Virginia website.

Mr. Holdren wants to encourage coaches to send background check applications directly to Tony.

OLD BUSINESS:

Association Accreditation Report:

The Virginia Association has met all the required criteria and is fully accredited.

Proposed Constitution and By-Laws Change Article IX C
Election: All officers are to be elected for a term of four years. A person may not hold the office of President and any other officer position; however, a person may be named in other capacities to fill a vacancy. *Officers elected at the annual meeting for four years will begin their term on January 1 following their election at the annual meeting. Officers elected to fill an unexpired term will begin serving at the conclusion of the election.*

Italics indicates the addition/change

Ray Funkhouser, the Law and Legislation chair talked about the changes that have be made to the Association's Constitution and By-Laws..There have to be additional changes to the Association Constitution By-laws and the deadline is October 15, 2008. He said all this is coming down from the National office There are 2 categories that need minor wording changes, (1) the removal of elected officers and committee chairs. (2)Operating regulation for formal grievance and disciplinary proceedings.

The Executive Committee can make an adjustment to fall in line with USATF required regulation. Ray is proposing that the executive committee adopt this, make the needed changes, get it in by October 15^t and at the February meeting he will report back and have the membership vote on the changes. The Association has everything covered; it is just some minor wording that we have to change in our Constitution.

The proposal was unanimously accepted by the association.

Ray also reported on the proposed USATF Restructuring. The USATF Board restructuring involves changing USATF Constitution and By-Laws. The USOC concerns were with our current structure and what we are doing to address it. We will be radically changing the make-up of our Board of Directors in USATF.

Most of our Board of Directors will not be from the USATF, they will be outside of the organization. The Board that we have right now will become a volunteer governing Board that will help govern the volunteers like us in this meeting.

Ray will be attending the Law & Legislation meeting in Indianapolis the week of October 15 to finalize all of the restructuring. For those going to the Convention this year, Wednesday will be a very important day. Before the opening session Wednesday evening, the USATF Board is going to meet in the morning to finalize the restructuring proposal, then Law and Legislation will get together and do all the house keeping. In the afternoon there will be several different sessions where everyone can go and look at it, make comments, and have some input, because at the opening session a vote will be taken to accept the proposals for restructuring, which will go into effect at that point. It will be important that we have our credentials in order so that we can vote.

Election of Officers & Committee Chairs

The election was conducted according to our Constitution and By-Laws and the following were elected:

Jim Holdren - re-elected President
Annette Sirica – Secretary
Melissa Johnson – Membership Chair

Ray Funkhouser - re-elected Vice-President
Tony Vaughan – Treasurer

Sports Committee Chairs:

Kim Bullock - Men's Track and Field
Gene Bowen and Donyell Morton-Thompson – Women's Track and Field
Joe Mack and Keith Witherspoon – re-elected Master's Co-Chairs
Greg Roth - Men' and Women's Long Distance and Road Racing Chair
Dwight Porter - re-elected Youth Athletics Chair
Ray Funkhouser – re-elected Race Walking Chair

Other Committees:

Gene Bowen – Coaches Education
Chris McCann and Bill Anderson – Officials

Election of Delegates to the National Convention

The Association is allowed to have 14 delegates.

The Convention is December 3rd – 7th, 2008 in Reno, Nevada.

A motion was made to designate \$8000 from the VA Association for expense for delegates to the National Convention to be divided among the delegates who attend the Convention and represent the Association including the final voting meeting with no more than \$1000 going to any one delegate.

Motion was carried.

The following delegates were selected:

Jim Holdren, Bill Boyd, Bill Anderson, Carol Dolberry, Dwight Porter, Tony Vaughan, Chris McBeath, Ray Funkhouser, Kim Bullock, Chris McCann, and Charles Delaney. President Holdren

will attempt to fill the remaining slots. Selected delegates were asked to inform the President if they are unable to attend in a timely manor so the substitutions may be named.

New Business

Mrs. Sirica asked a question about qualifying for the J.O. Cross Country National Championships that the Association is hosting. Mr. Holdren explained that there are 15 Regions for Youth Athletics. Because VA is hosting the Cross Country Nationals, we becomes the 16th Region and our athletes qualify directly to the Nationals from the Association Championships. In the past our Association Championship has been the Sunday of the weekend of the State H.S. XC Championship. Those who participate in the State meet got a waiver to the Regional meet, but then they will have to compete in the Region to go on to the Nationals. Because VA athletes qualify directly from the Association Championship we had to move the Association meet so it did not conflict with the State H.S. meet, because athletes cannot be waived to the Nationals. Only the VA Association Sub-Bantam athletes compete in the Region meet because they do not go on to the Nationals.

Carol said entries for the Association meet will be done online and any other Youth Athletic Association meet will also be done online.

Entry forms can be access through our website.

The next meeting will be February 15^t, 2009 at Maggie Walker Governor's School at 2:00PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.