

Masters Team Manager Report 2018

World Masters Athletics Championship – Malaga, Spain, September 4 to 16, 2018

The USATF team did well, we earned 61 Gold, 51 Silver, and 46 Bronze medals, we placed fourth behind Great Britain & Northern Ireland, Spain, and Germany (the counts are to totals of stadia and non-stadia, men and women, per the Malaga website).

While the competition generally went well, there were several issues:

1. Relay selections were, as always, controversial.
 - a. 128 athletes applied, I looked up all their performances and worked with the Team Selection Committee to determine what teams we would field and who the runners and alternates would be.
 - b. We submitted 31 teams, of which one was a self-selected volunteer team, so there were 120 runners selected as runners. While there were 120 slots, in many cases the same athletes were selected for both the 4x100 and 4x400, while many other athletes were not selected for either distance.
 - c. After the selections were published (on the shared spreadsheet anyone could read), several people questioned various decisions. We reviewed all of the questions and, in a few cases decided they had merit and changed our selections. In other cases we didn't.
 - d. Results:

10-Gold (including one world record)

7-Silver

3-Bronze,

5-4th

3-5th

1-6th

1-DQ or DNF

1-DNS

	4x100		4x400	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
35	5th	Bronze	4th	4th
40		Gold		Gold
45	Silver	Bronze	4th	5th
50	Gold	Silver	Silver	DQ*
		Gold -		
55	Gold	WR	Silver	Silver
60	Gold	4th	Bronze	Silver
65	Gold		Gold	
70	DNS**	5th***	6th	
75	Silver			
80		Gold	4th	Gold

*Last runner collapsed just before finish line

**Runner injured during warm-up;
to late to use an alternate

***Volunteer Team

- e. Following the meet, there has been discussion in various blogs and social media about the M65 to M80 teams in the 4x100 and the M65 and M70 in the 4X400. The M65/M70 selections

were discussed with the people involved before the selections were submitted while the M75/M80 issue in the 4x100 was first raised after the meet. My opinion, and the opinion of the committee, is that our decisions were correct. Unfortunately, in making these types of decisions, one can't please everybody.

2. The scheduling of the venues was unusual, relatively few of the high visibility events (the sprints) were held at the main stadium. This hampered some communications as athletes often were rarely at the main stadium. We accommodated by having the ATCs go to different stadiums based on where the largest competitions were each day.
3. The throwing circle at one stadium (in Torremolinos) was sub-standard and efforts to repair it worsened the condition. A temporary wood indoor circle was finally used.
4. One athlete missed his race after reporting to the call room; apparently the staff didn't notice that he was not there when his heat was taken out to the start and, when he did arrive at the start, he was not permitted to start. We protested, but the protest was denied.
5. Declarations were used, as far as I am aware only one athlete failed to declare and therefore couldn't compete in his first event (he declared for later events). At the same time, several (10?) athletes informed me that they would be unable to declare because of late arrival, I picked up their packages, declared them, and then arranged to get their materials to them.
6. Practice time on any track was very limited. Likewise, warm-ups were restricted.
7. Relay practice was only possible on Friday, September 14 (two days before the relay races) as this was the only time we had access to a track. This forced the Team Selection Committee to meet and do preliminary selections a day.
8. Several athletes had items stolen, include some uniform pieces.

One major change was in communications, we made extensive use of WhatsApp to communicate – both from Team Staff to athletes in general and between athlete. We also posted the relay team selection information (starting with declarations received, then the runners and alternates for each team, and finally the splits) into a shared spreadsheet. Finally, the Notes and Reminders, previously posted on the Team Information board, was also a shared on-line document. My option was that the communications were quicker and more transparent. Some athletes missed the emails that contained the links, I shared the links when I became aware of this and I assume others received the links from their teammates.

Ena Weinstein and David Craig served as the ATCs and we had only positive feedback about them.

Future WMA Championships:

2019 Indoors - Torun, Poland, March 24 to 30

2020 Outdoors - Toronto, Ontario, Canada, July 20 to August 1

2021 Indoors – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, April 6 to 12

2022 Outdoors – Gothenberg, Sweden, August 17 to 27

NCC WMA Regional Championships:

2019 - Toronto, Ontario, July 18 to 21