

MTF Exec Comm Call April 23, 2020

Jerry Bookin-Weiner MTF Interim Chair	Robert Thomas MTF Vice Chair	Amanda Scotti MTF Secretary
Mike Travers MTF Treasurer	Chris Pasko USATF Board Member	Elizabeth Guaneri Nat'l Office Liaison
Dr. Robert Chapman	Adam Schmenk USATF Nat'l Office	Bill Murray SE Region Coord.
Jim Weed MTF MA Region Coord	Steve Cohen MTF Anti Dop. Comm Chair	Jim Flanik Games Committee Chair
Sandy Triolo Comm. Chair	Bob Weiner Chair appointee to Comm.	Lester Mount SW Region Coord
George Mathews NW Region Coord	Sandy Pashkin Chair appointee	Mark Cleary West Region Coord

The meeting was called by the MTF Exec. Comm Chair, Jerry Bookin-Weiner, to address the message from Dr. Robert Chapman in response to Jerry's email regarding holding masters meets during the Covid-19 outbreak. (see below)

Dr. Chapman – On 3/15/20 the USOC chief medical officer reached out to USATF to create a Covid-19 taskforce/working group. The group consists of eight professionals and national-level experts in variously related fields such as disease control, epidemiology, etc. The group quickly composed organizational guidance regarding holding upcoming events. The initial recommendations were based on the best knowledge on the topic available at that time. It is updated regularly.

The recommendations are included in a document which includes elements such as a Return to Play guidance which is being sent to Associations, elite Athletes, Clubs, committees and which provides guidance based on a 'Decision Tree'. This guidance takes into account local regulations, current knowns/unknowns about the virus, and what recommendations about what should or should not be allowed regarding returning to practice.

Another portion of the document deals with event hosting: such as what kind of criteria should be in place if hosting an event. Procedures that would need to be followed, etc.

The working group made a conscience decision to hold off the release of this document for the time being to assess what is happening nationally. They do not want to release it too early in order to NOT give people a false idea of what is to come.

These are living documents, and the guidance provided by these professionals are based upon what is currently known about the virus and it's spread. The guidance may change and adapt as knowledge increases.

It is important for each USATF division to follow the guidelines sent forth by the national office so the message is consistent and unified. It is important to let these decisions be made by the medical professionals who can discern which information is valid.

Discussion

George Mathews wanted to put forth that masters athletes have different concerns than youth athletes and that should be taken into consideration.

Mark Cleary echoed that, wondering if this is would be a one-size fits all policy, or would localities going to be considered.

Dr. Chapman repeated that the Return to Training document is 9 pages long and begins with the statement that it is written with concern for the safety of ALL participants.

The Decisions Information includes three phases:

Phase one would be to check what a state government requires or suggests.

Phase two is to check any local or county health notices and restrictions

Phase three is to use the responses to the above questions then check the criteria table to see what can/cannot be done. There are milestones that would need to be met in order to hold an event. After checking the criteria, it will be apparent what on the list applies. The thresholds are based on WHO guidelines.

At this time, the Work Force cannot provide dates for possible events and strongly advise not doing so. Currently all USATF events are indefinitely suspended.

Steve Cohen asked about insurance coverage for meet LOC's. Dr. Chapman responded that this was another reason that definitive dates should not be given.

Jerry Bookin-Weiner mentioned that a small number of meets had received sanctioned already. Per Adam Schmenk, those sanctions will be nullified and refunds issued if the meet cannot be held. This is outlined in Bullet point #2 on the Covid-19 information on the USATF website.

Dr. Chapman asked those on the call to trust this Work Force group, they have an incredible depth of knowledge and know what they're talking about. Their recommendations will address the various USATF divisions.

Chris Pasko included that the USATF board is taking their guidance from the Work Force. Soon there will be definitive information to view and possibly make suggestions. Currently, it is not quite ready to publish.

MTF Exec Committee Discussion

Jerry Bookin-Weiner, as a committee, we should sit still and wait for the document.

Sandy Triolo suggested that we post information that the document is coming for the MTF community to see. Mark Cleary agreed.

Jerry Bookin-Weiner noted that the MTF Outdoor Championships are not, as of this date, not officially cancelled, but they likely will be. This is not the MTF committee's decision; this is up to the National Office and/or the LOC.

George Mathews stated that the CDC's definition of those most at risk are older adults (60+) AND those with underlying conditions. Bill Murray said that MTF athletes are not the same, health wise, as the general populations. Lester Mount said that we, the MTF committee cannot do anything anyway, we cannot set dates, we can only follow the guidelines provide. Jim Flanik and Sandy Pashkin agreed.

Bill Murray said that it had been agreed on a conference call with the Greensboro LOC that a decision about the meet cancellation would be made by the middle of May, so that likely will be the final response to the LOC.

Bill Murray made a motion made to follow the guidelines of the Work Force committee and put out a statement to that effect noting that there will be a detailed plan document published in the near future.

Seconded by Sandy Pashkin. Discussion? NO. Objections? NO. Motion Passed unanimously.

Email from Jerry Bookin-Weiner to the Exec. Comm prior to the meeting:

On Apr 23, 2020, at 12:41 PM, MTF Chair <mtfchair@usatf.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

A short while ago I received a message from Dr. Robert Chapman, USATF's Director of Sport Science & Medicine and head of the USATF COVID-19 Working Group. I had sent him our draft statement and asked for his reaction/input. In brief, he said that the Working Group strongly suggests that USATF speak with one voice on these issues and that that voice should be that of the Working Group. Accordingly, we are withdrawing the proposed Statement.

Robert has agreed to get on our call and discuss issues related to the Working Group's recommendations and MTF with us, and so we will go ahead with our call, starting with Dr. Chapman and then moving on to a discussion of what kind of statement, if any, we wish to put out.

Looking forward to a fruitful call this evening.

Best, Jerry

Interim Chair, USATF Masters Track & Field Committee

Email: mtfchair@usatf.org

Attachment:

Suspend all USATF Championship events and all USATF sanctioned events indefinitely.

Individuals who are greater than 60 years of age, have pulmonary, cardiovascular, or renal disease, are immuno-compromised, or any participant who lives with someone meeting the above criteria should not attend and participate, due to a higher risk profile.

CDC Advice

People Who Are at Higher Risk for Severe Illness

[People 65 years and older](#)

Older Adults

Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

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Steps to Reduce Risk of Getting Sick

There are things you can do to reduce your risk of getting sick.

Stay home if possible.

Wash your hands often.

Keep space between yourself and others (stay 6 feet away, which is about two arm lengths).