

USATF Annual Meeting 2022
MTF Meetings Minutes

Day 1 – December 1, 2022

Today the Executive Committee met and went over a number of items.

After roll call, we reviewed that MTF is currently entitled to 39 active athlete delegates. Because only 21 completed applications to be delegates, all were presented to the Executive Committee and the committee unanimously approved the list.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of the WMA delegate which was selected by the MTF Officers after an application and interview process. The selected delegate is Colleen Barney, with Carroll DeWeese and Roman Marenin as alternates, in that order. The Executive Committee approved this selection.

Mike Travers, treasurer, gave the budget report. USATF has required all divisions to trim their budgets by 15% from prior years. MTF has done this primarily by making cuts in travel budgets to WMA meets and championship meets (previously required meetings were held at both indoor and outdoor national championship meets). Going forward, only have one in-person meeting, likely held during our outdoor national championships, will be required. This allowed cutting of the budget for travel to the indoor national championships for Executive Committee members entirely. There were additional cuts made to our budget, but the above represents the major cuts.

We discussed and approved a proposed draft of a Code of Conduct for athletes and those that travel with them (family, coaches, trainers, etc.) for national and international meets. Athletes will need to agree to the terms of the Code of Conduct in order to participate in these events and in the event of a breach, may be excluded from participation.

We received a report from the Law and Legislation Committee -- there are still some issues that are being worked out in the committee: 1) carried over from Youth -- who is responsible for choosing officials, etc. at major competitions; 2) athlete voting -- should it be weighted if there are not enough athletes to comprise the required 40% athlete vote; 3) how amendments can be made; 4) qualifications of board members (Safe Sport compliant, etc.) prior to being candidates for board positions; 5) L&L positions being termed out after 8 years; and 6) several other technical provisions. We were informed that these provisions are likely to pass after the next vote.

We reviewed amendments to our Operating Procedures, including: 1) how many in-person meetings the Executive Committee must have (based on the budget discussion above, this would be two meetings during the annual meeting and one meeting at Indoor Nationals OR Outdoor Nationals OR both); 2) a correction in the Duties section on how WMA delegates are selected; 3) some clerical corrections to clean up how the WMA delegate and Women's delegate to WMA are selected; 4) adding Marketing as an official subcommittee; and 5) updates to the descriptions of the Communications Subcommittee and the Marketing Subcommittee.

We heard a report on the Strategic Plan as it pertains to MTF. The Strategic Plan looks to include Masters exhibition events at the four Journey to Gold meets in 2023. There will be a survey of MTF members regarding data needed to present to potential sponsors (a point was raised that media coverage results should be part of marketing pitches to potential sponsors). In terms of "achieving our goals" they are looking for us to increase participation. As of now, we are up 5% (based on actual competitors, not paid competitors) over last year on all championships (including national and regional championships).

Chris Pasko gave a report on Board issues and the World Athletics Representative Elections. As for the election -- the two candidates are Willie Banks and Stephanie Hightower. There are some questions about how this election will take place (having to do with the 40% athlete voters requirement). Law and Legislation is currently trying to work this out. As for the Board, there is a question on term limits that is still being discussed. Chris discussed the budget cuts, the likelihood of membership fee increases, and increased costs due to inflation, costs of goods and services, and the like. Chris fielded a number of questions regarding finances, costs, and fees.

We ended with a discussion on current National and World Championship meets: 1) The Copernicus Hotel in Torun is fully booked, but there are still rooms at the Ibis Hotel; 2) We won't know the exact dates of the 2024 Outdoor Nationals until we know the dates of 2024 WMA Outdoor Championships in Sweden (currently it appears that the WMA Championships will be approximately August 13-25, but that is not yet official); 3) we will be reviewing bids for 2024 Indoor Nationals and 2025 Outdoor Nationals later this week.

Day 2, Session 1 – December 2, 2022

Active athlete delegates were approved to enable voters to transact business. A motion was made to rearrange the meeting agenda to accommodate the schedules of some of our presenters.

We first heard from Sandy Pashkin who went over the rule changes which can be found in the online document library. Focus: on item 64, because everything else was approved with no changes. Item 64 was originally presented as a proposed deletion from our rulebook to delete from the rule book the ability of a non-qualifying finalist to move into the position of a qualifying finalist who withdrew from an event.

By way of example, if you have an 8 lane final and you run your rounds and have 8 people make it to finals and the person who finished in 4th then needs to withdraw (due to injury, illness, etc.), the prior rules allowed for the 9th place finisher to move into the now open 8th spot. There was some discussion and debate regarding the fairness of having someone who did not technically qualify for finals being permitted to run in the final. At the end of the day, it was decided that it was athlete-friendly to allow for that type of flexibility. We could have left the rule how it was, but upon further discussion and a motion from the floor, we moved to adjust and clarify that rule so that **up to the next 2 non-qualifying finalists to be able to compete in a final in the event of a withdrawal by a qualifying finalist.**

Again, by way of example, if there is an 8 lane final and the 4th place finisher withdraws, the 9th place finisher from the prior round can come to the clerks tent before the race is clerked and be allowed to run. In the event the 9th place finisher does not appear, the 10th place finisher will be permitted to run, provided they appear at the clerks tent before the race is clerked. We decided we will not go beyond that. All other rules were accepted and approved.

Track and Field Center at Gately Park in Chicago presented their bid for the 2024 Indoor Nationals. There was some thoughtful interchange regarding the bid – particularly regarding the design of the venue with the straightaway down the middle of the track requiring some changes with respect to how we schedule events. We determined it would not be possible to do that meet at that venue in 3 days, the usual for an Indoor Nationals, so it was decided to accept the bid from Chicago as a 4 day meet. This way we can accommodate the venue, the amount of athletes we hope to attend, and the officials (so they won't have to work all day and all night on a 3 day schedule).

Active Athlete report by Colleen Barney presented her report. She focused on efforts to make communication easier for everyone by doing videos for some communications and others in a textual format. She then discussed the mentorship program that was instituted at last year's outdoor National Championships for first time national championship competitors. 22 first time athletes were paired with more veteran athletes to help them navigate their first national championships. This program received rave reviews by both the first timers and the veteran athletes. We will continue this program

going forward. At the end of her report, Colleen's 2-year term as Active Athlete Rep was over and nominations were called for from the floor for a new Active Athlete Rep. Colleen was the only one nominated and was elected by acclamation.

Chris Pasko, MTF/Associations representative to the board discussed several of the items from last night's meeting – including our strategic goals to increase membership, some of our budgetary constraints, and some of the costs that are involved in operations (increased insurance costs, etc.), and potential increased membership costs. At the end of this year, Chris's term is also up, but he was the only person running for that position for the next four years and by acclamation he was elected to another four-year term representing MTF and Associations.

Greensboro, NC updated those present regarding the upcoming July 2023 Outdoor Nationals. Their primary focus is to make sure that we have an event that we can be excited and enthusiastic about.

MTF Vice Chair Robert Thomas gave a report on the 2022 Indoor and Outdoor National Meets. He also discussed the possibility of bidding for some WMA World Championships, likely 2027/2028. This comes with the enthusiastic backing of the National Office.

Session 2 – December 2, 2022

MTF Law and Legislation representative John Bahakel reported. There is one issue that is currently relevant to all attendees and is being dealt with by L&L and that is the language regarding the determination of representation on votes by athletes.

This is the same issue John reported to us about in the Executive Committee meeting. The question is whether or not the determination of how to count athlete votes should be done on a single vote basis or on a weighted basis. It is all quite technical, but they are working diligently on this issue to get some resolution before voting begins tomorrow (the first item which will come for a vote for our voting members is the determination of the USATF World Athletics representative).

Chris Pasko (spelled out his focus for the next four years which will be to increasing membership to pre-Covid numbers and beyond. There is a task force that is developing new ideas for growth. Chris is focused on the principle that to encourage more participation we need to put on more events and those events have to be better. He is focused on helping associations run better masters events. He also discussed how critical it is to have our travel grant program and will continue to work towards growing that program. He also discussed the Journey to Gold initiative and the fact that we will be including a masters exhibition event at each Journey to Gold event. Finally, he reiterated that we will likely see an increase in membership fees in the near future to cover additional costs of operations, insurance, etc.

We then re-reviewed and voted on the Operating Procedures Amendments discussed in the Executive Committee on Day 1. All of the proposed amendments were discussed, voted on, and approved.

We heard a report from Sandy Pashkin regarding records. We reviewed the 2022 record application requests and the Records Subcommittee's recommendations for acceptance, rejection, pending, provisional and superseded records and then approved the report and recommendations of the committee.

Mike Travers, treasurer, again gave the budget report (details under Day 1). He noted that the National Office is looking to return part of the 15% cuts returned to us and our officers will look at where these funds will be allocated among the various line items. A motion was made by Carroll DeWeese to approve the proposed budget as presented, but to empower the MTF Officers to change the budget to allocate any funds that might be added back into our budget by the National Office (the officers were not given any powers to change the budget if there were further reductions to be made).

Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California presented a bid for the 2025 outdoor national championships. The stadium is completely renovated and Mt. SAC is excited at the prospect of hosting a Masters Championships. After answering all of the questions presented to the representative of Mt. SAC, a motion was made to accept the bid by acclamation and that motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Albuquerque will be presenting tomorrow (as a pre-bid) for our 2025 Indoor Nationals.

A representative for the 2023 Indoor Championships in Louisville, KY addressed questions about that meet. Registration is now up and running (although you can only register if you have already processed your 2023 USATF Membership). The host hotel is 10 minutes from the track and the hotel is 10 minutes from the airport. The track is a hydraulic banked track (so they will be able to lower to a flat track -- mostly likely for the 3000 and the racewalk). There will be a \$5 per day parking fee at the venue and it must be paid IN CASH. Relay fees must be paid by cash or check at the site.

We reviewed the revised (after Day 1 revisions were incorporated) proposed Code of Conduct for Athletes attending a National or International Competition. There was significant discussion regarding language surrounding an injured or ill athlete's obligations and we tabled further discussion on the Code of Conduct until Day 3 when we would have had some time to redraft the proposed language.

Cheryl Bellaire gave a report from the Anti-Doping Subcommittee. She has been writing articles on the topic which can be found in National Masters News with the hope to educate all of our masters athletes on issues surrounding Anti-Doping rules. She informed us that you can obtain a lot of information by going to our masters website and looking under "For Athletes" and then "Anti-Doping." Of particular immediate concern is that for athletes who take prescribed (or over the counter) medication, or supplements, you need to look up to see if they are allowed or not. If the medication is prescribed but on the impermissible list, you can apply for a therapeutic use exemption (TUE).

The immediate concern is, though, that if you intend to compete in Poland, a TUE issued by USADA is not accepted for World Championships. You will need to get a WADA TUE -- this could take a few months, so apply as soon as possible. Supplements are always a concern, as they can contain prohibited substances and you may not always know. Finally, remember that when you are competing, you will need your ID if you are selected for testing.

Sue Hallen gave a Throws Committee Report. This past year was a good year! She has created a Throws Championships document to help others to spec out throws requirements for a meet. She is actively looking at new venues for future throws championships. For the first time the Shot Put was the Masters Exhibition event at the Drake Relays this year, which is exciting. She has a written report which can be found online which contains a lot of detailed information. Next year, the Throws Championships will be held Aug 4 - 6 in Lisle, Illinois.

Day 3 – December 3, 2022

The day began with a 3-hour Masters Track & Field general session followed by a joint session of MTF and Masters Long Distance Running and ended with an MTF Executive Committee Meeting. I will try to recap all of these sessions in this update:

General Session: Carroll DeWeese was honored by the Para Committee with an award for his paralympic work at the outset of the session. This was followed by a report from Tina Klein, WMA Women's Delegate. Tina described her position as WMA Women's Delegate and the issues the WMA Women's Committee discusses regarding women (particularly issues facing more mature women) in sport. In Tampere this year they had a brainstorming session which touched on developing showcase

events and how to get women more involved in our sport. Following her report, Tina's responsibilities as WMA Women's delegate were complete and we needed to elect a new delegate. Tina was nominated from the floor and after no other nominations were made, she was elected by acclamation. We are looking forward to her continuing to advocate for women in our sport at the international level. This election was followed by a call for nominations for our alternate WMA Women's Delegate. Both Euleen Josiah-Tanner and Kelly Reblin were nominated and approved as our alternate delegates.

We then took up the postponed vote on the Code of Conduct after reviewing newly drafted language to split our requirements for athletes who fall ill or become injured (primarily during international meets). After much debate and wordsmithing the language regarding competing at an international meet while injured, we agreed upon the following language for the Code of Conduct: **"I will not compete while knowingly injured to the extent that it would hinder my ability to perform in a meaningful way on a relay team and/or by participating in any event could result in a serious injury."** A motion was then made to approve the Code of Conduct in its entirety (with the new revisions) and was approved by a majority vote.

Blake Boldon, Men's LDR Chair and Meet Director of the Drake Relays, made a quick presentation letting us know that they are excited to continue to host the Rex Harvey event which is a masters exhibition event at the Drake Relays this coming year. More information on this event will be forthcoming.

Albuquerque then presented and indicated their intent to bid for the 2025 indoor national championships. They have hosted this in the past and look forward to the opportunity to host again. They have a new track but will have the same issue as most indoor facilities -- they have their straightaway down the middle of the track which will require them to bid for a 4 day indoor championship rather than a 3 day meet.

Bob Weiner presented on behalf of the Communications Committee. He reviewed our push for press from various meets which allows us to grow the sport by making it more visible to potential new athletes. We should all be posting on social media. Marketing is working closely with Communications to produce materials that can be distributed at other events. We have used our Grow to Impact grant money for brochures to distribute at road races, senior games, and other events, as well as signage at our meets. We are working on sponsorship proposals to go out to potential sponsors.

Jim Pearce reported on Strategic Plan Implementation. We need to measure "how we are doing." The most important metric to make that determination is how many athletes are competing. Jim has produced a spreadsheet which shows that our outdoor championship numbers (including regional championships) increased roughly 5%. We discussed the fact that we need to increase our female competitors, who are currently outnumbered 3 to 1 at our national championships. We discussed featuring women athletes and their stories to increase potential sponsorships. Bill Shelton then offered to personally contribute a meaningful amount to help spur on this initiative.

Mike Travers, treasurer, after meeting with people from the national office was able to give us the good news that our 15% budget cut will not be so dramatic as the national office is going to be giving us some of that money back. In addition, there was an additional account discovered which added another \$9k to the 2023 budget.

Sandy Pashkin returned from the Rules Committee to go over a couple of items on which we had previously voted. She explained that whenever we accept or reject a rules change, it then goes to the Rules Committee and they, sometimes, tweak the language to conform with our USATF and current rule standards. They did just that with our item 64 (discussed in Session 1) in a non-substantive way. They also deleted some of the language in the note on the item regarding the pole vault to delete some language they deemed to be redundant.

Sandy also reported that some of the records that we had previously recommended to reject were reviewed by the Records Committee and they did not accept our recommendation. For the M80 4x800m relay there was a slight issue on the zero gun control test that was determined to have not been a problem -- we then recommended this record to be approved. Additionally, there were two throws records that we recommended to reject because they were measured on the imperial standard (not metric). The Records Committee wanted to talk to the meet officials and get some further information before determining how to handle these records. We accepted that proposal. NOTE: Ultimately those records were also ratified.

The MTF/MLDR meeting focused on a couple of topics. The first topic addressed by MLDR chair Perry Jenkins was collaboration between the two groups over the past year or two and continuing these collaborative efforts moving forward. We then heard from several members regarding past events and future events. We ended with the revelation of the 2022 Hall of Fame recipients for each group as well as the athlete of the year recipients, and the service award recipients. These well deserving athletes and administrators are going to be revealed in a separate post by our communications chair. The new word regarding the NCCMA 2023 championships is that it looks like it will not be held in Mexico as previously thought, but instead be held, in San Jose, Costa Rica. As soon as we have more information on this meet, we will post it online.

Vin Lanana joined our joint session. He again congratulated Jerry Bookin-Weiner on his President's Award and explained that roughly 30-40 individuals are nominated each year and Vin personally reviews all of the nominations and selects that year's recipients. Vin vowed over the next few years to move forward some of the things we are trying to execute on such as improving membership, increasing visibility, and making sure that all voices are heard. He has spent the past three years working on the recently held World Championships and is already thinking about what global event we should next host. Vin then fielded questions on the following topics: access (or lack of access) to training facilities, the WA new rep -- Willie Banks won the election; and issues with the website and the inability to find meets.

We then heard from Sandy Pashkin, Phil Greenwald, and Mary Rosado regarding the upcoming WMA meet in Torun. The venue is the same as 2019 and the schedule will be nearly identical as well. The deadline for registration is January 31, 2023 (you must be a 2023 USATF member to register). There is a great deal of information regarding the meet on our website. We will handle relay selection as we have in the past -- we are, however, waiting to hear from the WMA Competition Committee on the rules for the mixed 4x200 relays. They also stressed that if you need a TUE to compete (if you are taking medications that would otherwise result in a disqualifying drug test) you will need to get a WADA approved TUE and that process could take a couple of months, so you should get started on it right away. We will not be forming any of the long distance (non-stadia) teams until after the close of registration. Our primary means of communication leading up to the meet and while in Poland will be via our group on WhatsApp. You can get that link from the meet information document on our website. Ground transportation from Warsaw to Torun and back is being handled by the Local Organizing Committee -- you can sign up for a transfer bus on the meet website. There are also trains that are available. Travel grant applications are due by 1/31/23.

Phil Carlin gave a report on the 2023 Masters Grand Prix. He reviewed the races that will be part of the Grand Prix. He also reminded athletes that points from non-stadia MTF events at the World Championships count.

The day ended with a concluding Executive Committee meeting. The primary focus of the meeting was the Law and Legislation issue regarding the weighting of athletes' votes. A special Law and Legislation meeting was going to take place immediately following the Executive Committee meeting.

We were encouraged to pay particular attention to any items up for vote tomorrow that are described as "compromise proposals."

We discussed the issue of a shortage of medals at our last few national championship meets and we discussed several ways to ensure that we have enough medals to cover all recipients, without being left with an inordinate number of unused medals.

Finally, we heard from Chris Pasko regarding the Board's emergency meeting today (again regarding the weighting of votes). Chris is very supportive of the proposed amendments to the bylaws on which we will be voting tomorrow in the General Assembly (for those who are delegates from their associations).