

Active Athlete Report – 2022 Annual Meeting

There were three events in which the Active Athlete Representative had responsibilities – Masters Indoor National Championships in New York City, WMA Outdoor Championships in Tampere, Finland, and Masters Outdoor National Championships in Lexington, Kentucky.

Beginning in 2022, and prior to the first event – Masters Indoor National Championships in New York City in March, I began a more targeted online effort to deliver information regarding the championships (particularly aimed at first time national championship competitors, but with clear applications to veteran athletes as well). This effort included not only text driven messages via our facebook page, but also video messages to ensure that athletes had information presented in different formats for different learning styles. Included were messages and videos focusing on how to register, COVID rules, special information for field athletes and multi-event (particularly with respect to implements), status of entries, how and what to pack, drug testing, and online declarations. During the meet, I was available at the venue to answer questions and was responsible for the athlete meeting (the majority of questions focused on the upcoming world meet in Finland). At the end of the meet, I put out another post requesting comments regarding the meet and suggestions for future meets.

The WMA Outdoor Championships in Tampere, Finland seemed to be upon us before we had time to celebrate the success of Indoor Nationals. As with Indoor Nationals, I continued to distribute information in both written and video formats up through the time of the WMA Championships. Featured in these videos was information regarding registration (and deadlines), COVID rules, international travel tips, weather, WhatsApp info, and, of course, packing information. Throughout the meet, I assisted athletes with questions, declaration issues, and was part of the relay selection committee.

As soon as the WMA Outdoor Championships were over, it was time for Masters Outdoor National Championships in Kentucky. I continued the Facebook posts with modifications, of course, for an outdoor national championship meet in mind. Additionally, I reached out to first timers to offer a “mentor/ambassador” from among our veteran national championship athletes. Twenty-two first time athletes were paired up with athletes who were of similar age, gender, and events. The reports back from both the first timers and the veterans were extremely positive and I would like to continue this for all international and national championship meets.

Overall it was a busy, but successful year, and I look forward to next year!