



USATF-SC Annual Meeting Minutes September 29, 2020 at 2:00 pm via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm by USATF-SC President Brian Jordan. Quorum was determined with 41 members present, including representatives from ten (10) clubs and eleven (11) athletes. The following clubs were represented: *Caminata Elite, Carolina Gold, Classics TC, Florence TC, Greenville TC, Lexington Wildcats, Mt Pleasant TC, Myrtle Beach TC, Quick Striders, and Running is Good.*

1. Attendance. Members present: *Andrew Allden, Al Barron, Velicia Bridgett, John Blackburn, Michael Burchett, Maurice Campbell, Jennie Cirillo, Paul Cirillo, Stephen Clark, Tyrone Clary, Eric Doll, Yolande Dow, Michael Flournoy, Cleon Fowler, Patricia Frye, Susan Heiser, Jesi Heiser-Whatley, Tori Heiser-Whatley, Angela Hitch, George Illingworth, James Jacobs, Valerie Jacobs, Jennifer James, Brian Johnson, Donna Johnson, Brian Jordan, Darlin Jordan, Tracy Meyers, Steve Mullaney, Anna Owens, Debbie Sammons, Tommy Sammons, Greg Schneider, Erika Shaver, TaMara Sloan, Sylvia Vandross, Norman Venyah, Ian Whatley, Stephanie Whatley, Shelby Winn, Freddie Young.*

2. Approval of Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting and the Special Meeting of August 2020.

President Jordan introduced consideration of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes as well as the minutes from the Special Meeting of August 11, 2020. Tracy Meyers made a motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented and Darlin Jordan seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer/Finance Committee Report. President Jordan presented the Treasurer report as the Treasurer, Wayne Lacy, was not in attendance. Jordan stated that the Association has \$101,030 in the bank at present. 2nd Vice President, Steve Mullaney cited the cancelation of the Junior Olympic (JO) track & field series as the reason the Association income is low this year. Mullaney continued stating that Covid-19 and the canceling of outdoor track for Youth, Open and Masters has affected revenue from membership, sanctions, and clubs in addition to the loss of registration fees. Secretary, Susan Heiser presented the proposed 2020-2021 Budget including the JO and Elite athlete reimbursement programs, Coaches Education, Officials EDM Training, and the purchase of two (2) EDM systems. There was discussion on the budget item to purchase EDM equipment for the Association. George Illingsworth indicated that there are several different systems and equipment used by USATF, colleges and high schools. Freddie Young questioned how many times EDM would be used by the Association and suggested developing a list of EDM trained officials. John Blackburn suggested that we cooperate with a school or other current owners to save costs. Officials Chair, Patricia Frye, stated that we should have a set of our own equipment and should decide which system is best for purposes of training consistency. Frye also suggested that training be hands on with the same type of equipment that the Association will use. There was more discussion regarding EDM training and equipment. President Jordan suggested that a committee be put together to investigate training and equipment options. All interested persons are to email President Jordan, Officials Chair Frye and Officials Certification Chair Norman Venyah. Ian Whatley moved to adopt the Treasurer Report and the 2020-2021 Budget and John Blackburn seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports.

A. Coaches Education. Chair Andrew Allden presented the Coaching Education report stating that the USATF Level 1 school, held in December 2019 at USC, had 47 attendees with 21 from South Carolina. Allden stated that a year all Level 1 and Level 2 courses will be on-line in a zoom format with a limit of 50 people per class and that this will save on travel and housing. Last year the Association awarded nine (9) L-1 scholarships and five (5) L-2 scholarships to USATF-SC members. The proposal for 2020-2021 is to award twelve (12) L-1 and six (6) L-2 scholarships with an option for the Officers to increase that number if there are enough qualified candidates and funding. The matter was closed after a brief discussion on the advantages of having properly trained and knowledgeable coaches in our Association

B. Athletes Advisory. Chair Ian Whatley presented the Athlete Advisory report, thanking the Association for providing appearance grants for two (2) South Carolina athletes who are preparing for the Olympic Trials. Whatley explained that due to Covid-19, the only Olympic Trials that occurred in 2020 were the Marathon and the 50K Racewalk. Athletes Advisory has requested that the Olympic Trials program that was instituted in 2016 be continued for 2020-21, granting every USATF-SC athlete who competes at the Olympic Trials reimbursement of their entry fees and a \$600 stipend. Whatley summarized that with an estimate of 6 to 15 athletes the program would be less than \$9,000. Whatley concluded stating that the Athletes thanked the Association for protecting the rights and the safety of all athletes through their strict enforcement of the SafeSport regulations and adherence to the Amateur Sports Act.

C. Officials Certification. Chair Norman Venyah presented the Officials Certification Report, announcing that there are two openings on the Officials Certification Committee. Venyah explained that the Certification Committee reviews requests for upgrades to National or Masters level and members must be a National level official or higher. Venyah then indicated that officials recertification for the 2021-2024 Olympiad will start in November and noted that many Officials did not stay current in 2020, likely due to Covid-19. Presently there are 54 officials that are currently certified in South Carolina and nine (9) that are suspended for not maintaining current Background Screenings and SafeSport training. There was a brief discussion about Officials Training with Officials Chair Patricia Frye and others discussing options for virtual clinics during Covid-19. Certification Chair Venyah stressed the importance of submitting an updated officials resume to him at the end of every year. Venyah stated that resumes should cover the previous four (4) years and would be used to determine certification levels, upgrades and awards. The annual officials awards were announced for the USATF-SC Outstanding Officials of the Year. The 2020 awards were presented to Maurice Campbell, Steve Mullaney and Mark Rumph.

D. Communications. Chair TaMara Sloan presented the Communications report, indicating that last year the Association sent out twelve (12) Blasts, two (2) Newsletters as well as ongoing notices and updates to the Association website and FaceBook page. Sloan then stated that the USATF blast system was discontinued in January 2020 and a replacement has not been provided, however, in May National indicated that Association blasts can be sent through the National Office. Sloan explained that for now all blast are sent to the National Office then forwarded to Association members. This has limited our ability to send blast to the membership and target groups.

E. Membership. Secretary Heiser presented the Membership report since Chair, Joyce Welch, was not in attendance. Heiser stated that membership numbers are down due to Covid, and that the Officials and Masters categories have seen only small decreases in membership, while Coaches, Open and Youth have had larger decreases, with less than 1/4th of Youth athletes renewing their memberships in 2020. Heiser also indicated that Club renewals are also down, however, memberships are expected to increase in November prior to the Cross Country Championships.

F. Mountain, Ultra & Trail (MUT). Chair Jennifer James presented the MUT report, stating that the MUT USATF-SC Championship was held in October 2019 as part of the Urban Ultra event at Lake Conestee in Greenville SC. Distances contested were 30K and 50K. James also indicated that MUT is planning on partnering with Greenville County again this year but it is still uncertain if the County will permit group activities in their parks. James continued, saying that MUT is growing fast in the state and the Committee would like to provide prize money to the top USATF-SC male and female finishers at their next event.

G. Racewalk. Chair Susan Heiser presented the racewalk report, stating that the SE Region/SC 1 Hour Racewalk was held in November 2019 and was combined with a first chance outdoor/indoor 3000m Racewalk for our college athletes. Heiser stated that 16 athletes competed in the 1-Hour racewalk and 14 athletes competed in the 3000m racewalk, with five (5) college athletes qualifying for NAIA Nationals at this event. Heiser noted that four (4) South Carolina colleges contest racewalks in their conference meets as well as at NAIA Nationals. Heiser continued explaining that the Racewalk Championships typically combined with Youth, Open and Masters track and field events have been canceled for 2020 but the Racewalk Committee is looking for opportunities to partner with other events to host a USATF-SC Track Racewalk championship in the fall.

H. Youth Committee. Chair Steve Mullaney presented the Youth report, stating that 2020 has been a difficult year. He explained that the Youth Cross Country meet at Generations Park in Aiken last fall was great, and the Committee added two new members this past spring. However, the National Youth Committee cancelled the JO T&F series and, while the committee attempted to continue with a SC Youth meet in June, the USATF Sanction and Covid restrictions were too difficult to overcome. Mullaney indicated that Nationals had not yet made a decision regarding the JO Cross Country series and are evaluating the Covid restrictions in Kentucky with a final decision planned for the end of September.

5. Youth Site Selection. Chair Steve Mullaney presented the committee report, indicating that the Youth Site Selection committee will be issuing a new RFP for the 2021 JO T&F Championships. The committee had hoped to roll the 2021 award over to the 2020 site, but the Spartanburg tourism grant was only for 2020, so Spartanburg is out and the committee is seeking bids. Mullaney stated that the 2021 Association JO T&F meet is scheduled for the last week in June as is required by the USATF calendar. John Blackburn announced that the National Scholastic High School meet will no longer be sponsored by New Balance. The meet will have a new sponsor and will be held after the 4th of July weekend. Cleon Fowler noted that the USATF Olympic Trials may also be held the last week in June and there may be a conflict for officials.

6. Awards. 2nd Vice President, Mullaney presented the *Meritorious Service Award* to Norman Venyah for his outstanding service to the Association as the Officials Certification Chair as well as his service as the Interim President. Venyah accepted the award and stated his many thanks and his desire to continue to serve the Association.

7. National Convention Delegate Nominations. President Jordan instructed anyone interested in being a delegate for the National Convention to send an email to both the President and Secretary emails. The National Convention will be on-line through zoom this year so costs will be reduced.

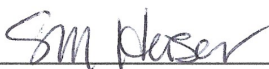
8. Unfinished Business. None.

9. New Business. President Jordan introduced proposed revisions to the Association Standing Rules. He indicated that the last changes were made in 2008 and there were typos and grammar corrections needed, as well as corrections to materials and processes that are out of date. There were technical issues sharing the draft document, so the additions to the Standing Rules, items 6 to 10, intended to

memorialize programs and processes that we currently follow, were presented verbally. A short time later, the technical issues were resolved and the presentation resumed with proposed revisions to existing policies. A motion was made by Ian Whatley and seconded by Jennifer James to adopt the changes. Discussion of the proposed revisions ensued. An informational discussion, regarding Standing Rule 5 and how the Association Arbitration Panel (AAP) is selected, followed. Proposed revisions are only to filing fee, not process. Tracy Meyers explained how AAP members are selected. Valerie Jacobs indicated that she had been asked to sit on an AAP. Freddie Young stated that he would like to be added to the AAP list. John Blackburn noted that the grievance reports on the Association website lists the names of the members who sat on those AAPs. With no further questions regarding revisions to existing Rules 1 to 5, discussion proceeded to proposed additions. Discussion regarding Rule 6, National Championship Reimbursement, involved language changes to clarify that the program is only available for events that have a qualifying mark or process, such as the Senior and U-20 National Championships and the Junior Olympic series. There was no discussion on Rule 7-Coaches Education Scholarships or Rule 8-Meritorious Service Awards. Discussion proceeded on to Rule 9-Mandatory Changes to Bylaws and Rule 10-Election Methodology. After a brief discussion on proposed Rule 9, Whatley amended his motion to eliminate proposed Rule 9 and renumber proposed Rule 10 to be Rule 9. After further discussion, it was generally agreed that this provision is not needed because Mandatory Changes are already addressed in the USATF-SC Bylaws. Discussion then proceeded on to proposed Rule 10, with it being noted that information is addressed in the bylaws. Whatley amended his motion to remove proposed Rule 10.1 and asked that the minutes reflect that... "The Association understands that if there is a Standing Rule in place that addresses a mandatory bylaw change, then that standing rule will be moved over to the bylaws." Discussion continued on Rule 10.2, with John Blackburn indicating that this should be in bylaws, Valerie Jacobs verifying that all constituencies get an equal percentage of the vote, and Freddie Young proposing that bylaw changes be incremental with ample information to members prior to voting. Whatley clarified that this standing rule is an explicatory clause for the bylaws, similar to Rule 5 that explains the Association disciplinary procedures. Jordan stressed that the goal is for each constituency to get an equal amount of say and with benefits to all constituencies. Whatley restated the motion with the removal of proposed Rules 9.1 and 10.1, and with language modifications to Rule 6.B to clarify that the Association shall make a determination annually based on budget projections and that Rule 6 shall apply only to National events that require a qualifying mark or process, including the USATF U-20 and Senior Championships, the Olympic Trials and the Junior Olympic Championships. Jennifer James seconded the amended motion. John Blackburn called for the question. Motion unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Draft Minutes prepared by the USATF-SC Secretary.

Signature: 
USATF-SC Secretary, Susan Heiser

Minutes considered/approved at the USATF-SC 2021 Annual Meeting 9/12/2021.

Signature: _____ Date: _____
USATF-SC President, Brian Jordan