USA TRACK & FIELD℠
SOUTH CAROLINA

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2024
Lexington Library, Lexington, SC
Zoom Session and In Person Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance:
Members: 35 including 11 clubs and 11 athletes

In Person: Brian Jordan, Steve Mullaney, Ronald Geohaghan, John Blackburn, Megan Frost, Savannah Jordan, Valerie Sykes, Joyce Welch, George Illingworth, Mark Rumph, Debra Hawkins, Matthew Hawkins, Kegan Crowell, Darlin Jordan, David Moore, Steve Clark, Iesha Bodrick, Melanie Johnson.
Guests: Danielle Dree, Richard Wright

Zoom: Susan Heiser, Valerie Jacobs, Eboni Thompkins-Webber, Teekisha Armstrong, Tawanda Howe, Stephen Smith, Andrew Allden, Tami Dennis, Michael Burchett, Jennifer James, Ian Whatley, Maurice Campbell, Treva Campbell, Stephanie Dukes, Eric Fogle Jr., Jesi Heiser-Whatley, Tori Heiser-Whatley, Norman Venyah
Guests: Rod Larsen, Josh Dykes

Clubs: Greenville Track Club, South Carolina Elite, Mt Pleasant Track Club, Classics Track Club, Carolina Rockets, Caminata Elite Track Club, Lexington Wildcats, Running is Good, YoCo Throwers Club, A Touch of Speed, Fast Forward Track Club

After several minutes for logging in and technical set up President Brian Jordan started the meeting at 1:25.

Susan Heiser was tracking the Zoom attendees. A sign in sheet was passed around the room for in person attendee signatures and designations.
Quorum was established by Susan Heiser and Brian Jordan.

Opening & Welcome:
President Brian Jordan thanked everyone who was in attendance. This was the first in person meeting since covid and also allowing zoom attendees at the same time. Brian thanked Steve Mullaney for providing the meeting with a spaghetti lunch.

Minutes:
2023 Minutes which were posted for reference on the USATF SC website were requested for approval by Brian Jordan.
Valerie Sykes requested that thy be amended to show the full names – first and last – be put on the minutes.
Motions to accept minutes with this amendment set forth by Brian Jordan.
Accepted by George Illingworth, Seconded by Savannah Jordan.
Minutes declared approved with amendments as set forth above.

Treasurer Report:
Treasurer Ronald Geohaghan thanked all that had assisted him with this job. Treasurers Report posted for reference on the USATF SC website. Noted the bank balance 8/31/23 was $129,861.69 and 8/31/24 is $124,252.85.
Stipends were paid for the association meets. Persons who helped load and unload the rented truck were also given an extra stipend. The housing and meals are the big expenses for the meets.
We saved a large amount of money having our meet at Florence. They did not charge for the facility, paid for the police officers, provided ice and golf carts, paid for timing and their staff were a great source of the meet manpower.
We did receive a grant from the National office which was used for clinics for officials.
We provided grant funding to coaches for Level 1 and 2 classes.
The National Annual meeting is coming up and this is a large expense and comes out at the end of the fiscal year.
The 501C application is in its final stages. This was mandated by the National office.
2024-25 there will be more programs to do Officials training and the Level 1 and 2 coaches program. We are trying to increase our clubs and membership. Our officials are more visible at the High School meets and keeping everyone safe.

Finance Committee:

Valerie Sykes, Finance Chair spoke about the budget. Noted that there are 2 different types of financial reports. One is dated for the year 9/1/23 to 8/31/24 for a yearly report from the last annual meeting. The other report is the association's fiscal tax year 1/1/23 to 12/31/23. The budget is based on the 9/1 to 8/31 projections.

Upcoming expenses will be the cost for the National Annual meeting attendees. Ian and Susan Whatley will be sending names of Olympic Trial athletes to reimburse either 500 or 1000 dollars (depending upon which coast). Ian is researching for names of SC athletes who entered and asking them if they had any financial assistance. Susan is confirming that they entered. These costs may not be disbursed until the new year.

New this year was prize money for LDR, MUT and Open/Masters XC events.

New this year – 2 officials would be sent to LDR events and be visible in the running community. Grant money is used for this.

All reports are posted on USATF SC website.

Valerie thanked Ronald Geohaghan for his hard work on the 501C and correcting the previous years tax returns and straightening things with the IRS.

Motion to approve the proposed budget – Savannah Jordan, seconded John Blackburn and budget declared approved.

Communications:

Eboni Thompkins-Webber, Communications Chair reported she has sent out 27 email blasts, created and Instagram account and revitalized the Facebook page.

Report is posted on the USATF SC website.

Her goal is to keep engaging with the track & field community. She is still navigating the do's and don't's per the National office. They send her a packet with information they want sent out to the association and she has done this.

Valerie Sykes asked why not everyone gets these blasts. She has not and others are not as well. Eboni does not type in each email address. She uses the National office membership database. She will look in to this and find out why these are not reaching everyone.

Ronald Geohaghan asked where pictures can be sent to be posted on our website or the others Eboni maintains. He would like have pictures of officials who are working out of state and in state posted. This might help obtain more officials.

If people tag Eboni she can approve them to be put on the Instagram and if sent to Susan Heiser and/or Eboni they can approve for Facebook. Steve Mullaney and Brian Jordan can approve pictures for our SC website. Eboni noted that as long as the picture is from a participating USATF event they could be posted.
Eboni will create a form to send with the pictures for all to complete and will resolve the issue of persons not receiving the email blasts.

Membership:
Joyce Welch, Membership Chair – her report is posted on the USATF SC website. Our membership is down about 10%. She felt it could be for the youth membership due to Regionals in Florida. The Coaches Registry is growing each year. Officials are down but will hopefully pick up. Clubs are down 1 from last year. LDR events now offering prize money so she is hoping this will pick up some memberships.
Valerie Sykes asked if it is possible at these LDR events to purchase membership the day of the event start.
Discussion about this. Events that we offer prize money should have a link to membership and note on the event information that this membership is mandatory in order to receive the prize money. This link should be on the event website. This would need to be done by the event promoter. Andrew Allden noted that once you register for one of these events, someone has your email address at this point. That person could also send you an email with the information about the prize money and needed membership if they were interested. Something could also be put on the entry forms.
Susan Heiser noted that some of the people in the meeting attendance were not associated with their clubs. This is something everyone on each club should check and if you are not assigned to the correct club then fix this. There must be a glitch at the National office.

Athlete Advisory:
Ian Whatley, Chair Athlete Advisory spoke. He is researching for SC athletes who were at the Olympic Trials and/or Paris Olympics. If you know of any please contact him. He is contacting them to see if they were not provided any financial assistance. For those that were not USATF SC will provide $500 or $1000 – depending upon which coast. To date 10 have applied and there could be more but no more than 15 in total. These costs would not be reported until 2024-25 financial figures and would be around $16000. Susan Heiser is confirming in the results that the athletes did compete.

Special congratulation to Raven Saunders!

Coaches Education Chair:
Andrew Allden, Chair Coaches Education Chair reported. His report is on the USATF SC website.
The Level 1 and 2 programs were basically shut down for 6 month while the National office did the new curriculum. It is now offered on line and in will be offered in person in January 2025. He has applied to do an in person session and since he is now a coach at Davidson it would be offered there. This school is an hour out of SC. He will have a blast sent out once this is organized. Concentration will be the Level 1. Scholarship forms will be created for this.
Ian Whatley noted that the Level 1 is nearing its 4 year end date. Coaches should be sure to go online and do the course before this if possible. The course is new and worthwhile. Ian is offering a racewalk course.
Andrew agreed with Ian on the reupping the Level 1 on the 4 year cycle. There are all kinds of options to pick from to do this. Do not let it lapse.

Officials/Officials Certification:
George Illingworth, Chair Officials/Officials Certification presented. His report is on the USATF SC website.
2 Officials clinics were held in 2023. 2 are schedule for 2024. We certified 19 new officials since the last year. Unfortunately we have officials who do not recertify and it seems to even things out. We need to find a way to retain officials. Currently we have 130 officials – 74 apprentice, 32 association, 12 national and 12 master certified. Olympic year coming up so every official will need to recertify and get membership, background check, safe sport, do the test(s), and pay certification fee. We will have clinics to go over the rules review on the test. George will send out information on this in detail in October.
John Blackburn reminded all national and master officials that if they were interested in officiating at any of the National meets that there was a deadline you must apply by. Application on the National website.

LDR:
Joyce Welch, Chair LDR spoke. We had 3 championship races. Each one offered prize money. Half marathon in Lexington, 10K Green Valley in the upstate, Aiken event. She would like to add a 5K and have it in the Charleston area. If anyone has

suggestions of an event there please contact her. She felt the prize money will increase our membership. She hopes in the future this will catch on and we could offer and grand prix series.

MUT (Mountain/Ultra/Trail):
Mike Burchett presented for Chair Jennifer James. Report is on the USATF SC website. 2 events were hosted and all had prize money. The events were in the Upstate and Lowcountry. She is hoping to find an event in the Midlands. If you know of one please contact her.

Open/Masters:
Michael Burchett, Chair Open/Masters presented. Report is on the USATF SC website. We must do open/masters events for our accreditation. We know it will not be profitable and would lose excess dollars we partner with other events. Our track and field meet we partnered with Greenville Track Club again. The meet was 3 weeks earlier than normal as the track facility was being resurfaced. He felt this contributed to the decrease in entries. A Throws Pentathlon was offered which the athletes enjoyed.
For cross country we added prize money for the first time this year and partnered with the Paris Mountain Trail event and did a 7K course there.
The goal is to grow the numbers in these events.

Brian Jordan and Steve Mullaney both reiterated to all that the prize money offered at any of these events in LDR or MUT was only for USATF SC members.

Racewalk:
Susan Heiser, Chair Racewalk reported. Her report is on the USATF SC website.
3 events were done this year. At one of these an officials training was incorporated with it. An additional training course was done at Montreat. 3 SC athletes qualified for the NAIA Outdoor Nationals. Jesi and Tori Heiser-Whatley were 2 USATF SC athletes who did this and also competed at the 20K Racewalk Olympic Trials. Susan would like to next year add to these and find a 1K loop we can get certified to have a 10,20,35K Championship on. If anyone knows of a location please contact Susan.

Youth:
Steve Mullaney, Youth Chair Reported. His report is on the USATF SC website.

Our track & field and cross country events were held in Florence. The track and field went fantastic and the cross country had absolutely miserable cold and wet conditions. He noted how expensive the food and lodging is as everything has gone up in price. We also added more officials to the meets which was a good thing as it made the meet go smoother but did add to costs.

The JO National XC meet has been moved from Kentucky to Indiana at a location about 50 miles away. You can call him for the details on the change.

JO Association XC meet has been moved to North Western High School from Winthrop. This is about 4 miles distance difference and still in Rock Hill. Regionals XC will be at Winthrop.

He is still looking at hosting a national JO track & field meet and/or cross country championship. He is looking for partners and discussing with the national office.

Discussion ensued about the cost to put on these events and how the National office continually loses money and the host associations continually lose money on hosting these events.

Steve has posted on the USATF SC website information about multis and also how the multis are scored.

Javelin – it will be announced at the National annual meeting the decision to obsolete the turbo javelin and replace it with the Aero Jav. Once the decision is announced the association will purchase 10.

Regional JO Rotation – Florida has been removed for the next 5 years. It will go back and forth between GA and SC. Florida need to build up its financial position and youth membership before they will be put back in the rotation.

Site Selection – Steve collects RFP's and puts all the information except the name of the facility in a spread sheet. The spread sheet is shown to the Youth Committee and they decide upon the site. In 2025 we will have the association and regional JO track & field meet at Florence. Facility free, timing paid, police officers paid, ice paid, golf carts supplied, portajohns paid, and an unbeatable staff for meet manpower.

Records – Steve has updated the JO records on the USATF SC website for our association and region. He has also updated the national website and contacted them that he has done this. This involved 2 committees he has organized that confirms any changes and verifies them. One committee for the association and the other for regional.

It was noted the changes in the High School meets – Date was changed which poses an issue for our athletes competing in regionals as it is the same day. Steve will compose a waiver form to simplify asking for a pass to nationals from the national

office for these athletes. Some qualifier high school meet location were also changed.

Awards:
George Illingworth, Officials Chair announced Outstanding Officials awards to Valerie Jacobs and Megan Frost.
A new award has been created – Outstanding New Officials Award – it was awarded to Gina Hambrick.
Gina and Valerie were not in attendance at the in person meeting and George will present their awards at the cross country meet.

National Annual Meeting:
In Person part of the meeting persons who were interested in being a delegate at the upcoming National annual meeting signed their names. Others in the Zoom were asked to email the USATF SC office account per Brian Jordan.

Unfinished Business:
Brian Jordan, President asked if there was any unfinished business. None reported

New Business:
Susan Heiser proposed that a meeting be set up before the next association annual meeting to do proposed SC Association bylaws changes. We need to discuss and review prior to voting and send out and post in a timely manner. We have some bylaws that need to changed to align with the National organization's.

Susan also noted that we need to address how we want to do next years meeting.

Discussion on Coach's entry at association and regional meets. Coaches must be on the Coach's Registry for any national meet. For SC Brian Jordan composes a list from the SC membership with any on the National Registry and SC members associated with a club designation as a coach that have their membership, safe sport and background check in good standing.
If you go anywhere besides SC for a youth event then their rules would be followed for this entry. Steve Mullaney should be contacted if you should be on the Coach's Registry and are not as he can fix this.

Valerie Sykes, Finance Chair asked that the number of delegates being sent be watched and try to keep at the minimum we must send per the rules. This is a very expensive to send people to.
Susan Heiser noted that she felt we aim for 10 so that all sport committees are covered. She also noted that one third have to be athletes. Brian Jordan noted that delegates were sent to the areas that they could vote in.
Valerie Sykes noted that the workshop held the day before is really worthwhile and people should aim to be there for that.

Adjournment:
Brian noted for adjournment at 4 pm for adjournment. Valerie Sykes made a motion, George Illingworth seconded. Motion approved.

2024 Draft Minutes prepared by USATF SC Finance Chair

Signature Valerie Sykes

Minutes considered/approved at the USATF SC-2025 Annual Meeting

Signature _____ Date_9/13/25_____
Brian Jordan, USATF SC President