

STANDING RULES
OF THE USATF
SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION, Inc.

RULE NO. 1
MEMBERSHIP, DUES, ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

A. MEMBERSHIP:

1. **Collection of dues:** All dues are payable to the National Office through the USATFConnect portal. Any individual membership dues paid to the Association shall be collected by the Membership Services Committee and forwarded to the Association Treasurer, who will complete the transaction on the USATFConnect portal.
2. **Dues:** Dues shall be collected as set by the Association and the National Office for membership categories Member Club, Event Club, Youth Athletes and Open/Masters Athletes.
3. **Association responsibilities:** The Membership Committee shall work closely with the Treasurer to insure timely deposit of funds collected.

B. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY: General

1. In all Association championship events an athlete must be a USATF and Association member to receive an Association medal.

RULE NO. 2
CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. GENERAL:** All Association Championships shall be conducted according to the latest requirements of the USATF Rules governing age groups, eligibility, entries, protests and competition are contained within the Rules of Competition.
- B. TITLE:** All Association Championships shall be known as “The USATF South Carolina Association Championships” and shall be referred to in all printed matter, entry forms and programs. The name of the principal sponsor may also be added to the name of the event.
- C. JURISDICTION:** The Sports Committee directly responsible for the event shall have control of the event; this includes the site, time, place, and officials.
- D. SPECIAL CRITERIA:** In Long Distance Running and Race Walking, all venues shall be certified.

- E. FINANCES: All entry fees and late fees for Championship Events shall be retained by the USATF South Carolina Association.
- F. REPORTS: Within thirty (30) days after the event a post event report shall be issued to the President of the Association. The report of the competition detailing scores and any record claims should accompany the post event report in accordance to the rules of USATF.
- G. RECORDS: The organization that conducts the event shall have on hand all forms and measuring equipment required to execute a claim of record. The Officials in charge shall familiarize themselves with the forms and action required to certify such claim.

RULE NO. 3 DELEGATES

- A. CREDENTIALS FOR VOTING DELEGATES:
1. Member Clubs shall, at least 10 days prior to the annual meeting, submit their membership list, identifying the delegates voting as a Club or Organizational member and their alternates, to the Credentials Committee. The list submitted shall contain the USATF membership numbers for each delegate and alternate. The Member Club may submit as many alternates as the number of delegates that they are entitled under Article 9 of the by-laws. The Credentials Committee shall check each voting delegate and seat them at the Annual Meeting.
 2. Individual unattached members, Club alternates and other Club members not identified as a voting Club delegate, may submit their names and membership numbers before the day of the meeting or at the time of the meeting.
 3. An alternate may not substitute for a delegate once the delegate has been seated.
- B. SELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL USATF CONVENTION:
1. **Automatic Delegates:** The President, and all Sports Committee Chairs shall be delegates to the National Convention. The President shall be the head of the delegation, and should the President decide not to attend, the President shall select another member of the delegation to be the chair.
 2. Additional Delegates may be selected by the delegates named under Rule 3.B.1 from a list of members supplied by the Member Clubs and other individual members with primary consideration given to the USATF guidelines regarding the minimum criteria for the association to include athletes, coaches and officials in the delegation. Such appointments shall be made at least 60 days prior to the National Convention and published so as to inform the general membership at least 30 days prior to the National Convention.

RULE NO. 4
MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

A. WHEN HELD:

1. The Annual Meeting and Special Meetings of the Association shall, to the extent possible, be held on Saturday or Sunday to insure maximum participation by all members.
2. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the call of the President. This meeting will be held during the month of August so that the membership may plan well in advance to attend.

RULE NO. 5
FORMAL GRIEVANCES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

- A. JURISDICTION: This Association shall have jurisdiction over all disciplinary and formal grievance proceedings relating to matters that arise within the boundaries of the Association, except sexual misconduct allegations and doping violations which shall be under the jurisdiction of USATF. All penalties imposed by an Association shall be effective only within the jurisdiction of that Association.
- B. ASSOCIATION ARBITRATION PANEL: The following shall apply to the appointment and conduct of the Association Arbitration Panel (AAP):
1. **Members:** The Association Arbitration Panel shall consist of three (3) members – a chair, an at-large member, and an athlete member. There shall also be a first alternate, second alternate, and additional alternates who may be appointed from time to time when any of the three members of the AAP are not available. Members of the AAP shall not be members of the Association Board or Executive Committee.
 2. **Appointments:** Appointments shall be made by the President with the approval of the Association Board. The appointments shall be duly reflected in the minutes of a properly convened Board meeting.
 3. **Terms:** Terms shall commence on January 1 of each even-numbered year.
 4. **Removal:** Members and alternates may be removed for good cause by majority vote at the Association's Board. Good cause may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Dilatory practices: A AAP members who causes or permits delays in the hearing process; and/or
 - b. Failure to follow procedures: An AAP member who disregards or fails to apply the hearing procedures or other provisions set forth in the Association Bylaws, Association Regulation, USATF Rules, USATF Bylaws, and/or USATF Regulations.

- C. **GRIEVANCES:** A grievance may involve any matter, other than sexual misconduct and doping offenses, within the cognizance of USATF that occurs in the jurisdiction of this Association:
1. **Grievance Complaints:** A Grievance Complaint shall state the following:
 - a. **Detrimental conduct:** Conduct detrimental to the best interests of Athletics, USATF, USATF South Carolina has taken place: or
 - b. **USATF violations:** A violation of any of USATF's Bylaws or Operating Regulations and/or of a violation of any of USATF South Carolina's Bylaws or Operating Regulations has occurred.
 2. **Parties:** Grievance Complaints may be filed only by and against individuals or entities which were at the time that the conduct complained of occurred, and at the time the Complaint is filed, members, directors, or officers of USATF or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of USATF South Carolina. A non-member, former director, or former officer of USATF South Carolina shall be subject to the jurisdiction of USATF South Carolina for the purpose of defending against a Grievance Complaint for an incident that occurred while he or she was a member, a director, or officer of USATF South Carolina or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of USATF South Carolina. A Grievance Complaint may only be filed by a person or entity affected by the issues raised in the complaint: and
 3. **Time Limit:** Grievance Complaints must be filed within one (1) year from the time the complaining party knew or should have known of the act giving rise to the Complaint.
- D. **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:** USATF South Carolina shall have the authority to discipline any member who, by neglect or by conduct, acts in a manner subject to discipline pursuant to Standing Rule 5 D-1 below.
1. **Activities subject to discipline:** USATF South Carolina may discipline any member who, by neglect or by conduct:
 - a. **Detrimental conduct:** Acts in a manner detrimental to the purposes of USATF, USATF South Carolina, or Athletics;
 - b. **USATF, IAAF, and Sports Act violations:** Violates any of the Bylaws, Operating Regulations, or Competition Rules of USATF or the IAAF, or violates the Sports Act;
 - c. **Eligibility violations:** Violates the rules of eligibility for Athletics:
 2. **Time Limit:** Disciplinary proceedings must be requested within one (1) year from the time the complaining party knew or should have known of the issue giving rise to the request for a disciplinary hearing.
- E. **RIGHTS OF PERSONS OR ENTITIES:** In all matters subject to the Regulation, all parties shall be provided with fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing prior to the adjudication or imposition of any penalty by the Association or AAP. All parties:
1. **Representation:** May be represented in any disciplinary, grievance, or Association proceeding by a person(s) who may (but need not) be an attorney;
 2. **Right to appeal:** May appeal any adverse decision in accordance with this Regulation;
 3. **Attendance at hearing:** May be present at any hearing; and

4. **Presenting and challenging evidence:** Shall have the right to present evidence and witness testimony and to cross-examine witnesses testifying against him, her or it.

F. INITIATION OF PROCEEDINGS: Formal grievance shall be initiated as follows:

1. **Grievance complaint filing procedures:**

- a. **Filing location:** Complaints shall be filed with the Association President and Secretary. The Secretary shall forward a copy of the Complaint to each party charges in the Complaint.
- b. **Language:** All documents filed and exchanged with respect to this Regulation shall be in English; provided, however, that an original document that is in a foreign language must be submitted along with an English translation. The party submitting the document shall bear the cost of obtaining its translation which shall be conducted by a reputable translator or translation service. In the event of a challenge to the accuracy of a translated document, the panel chairperson may direct USASTF to order a translation of the document(s) in question and may allocate the cost of the translation to any party or all parties, as the panel deems appropriate;
- c. **Basis for the Complaint:** The Complaint shall allege clearly the nature of the dispute and, where appropriate, state the specific violation of the Bylaws, Operating Procedures, Competition Rules, or Policies of USATF, USATF South Carolina, or the IAAF;
- d. **Facts of allegation:** Factual allegations shall be separately stated in concise language with one allegation set forth in each numbered paragraph of the Complaint;
- e. **Signature:** The Complaint shall be signed by the person filing the Complaint;
- f. **Filing Fees:** A filing fee, at the amount specified by USATF for grievance appeals as of January 1 of the year in which the grievance is filed, must be paid by individuals filing a Complaint. The filing fee must be in the form of a certified check or money order made payable to the Association;

2. **Failure to comply with Complaint procedures:** Complaints that fail to comply with the procedures outlined in this Regulation shall be returned to the filer with instructions explaining the deficiency. A returned Complaint may be re-filed within thirty (30) days of the initial filing. After thirty (30) days, the Complaint will be deemed abandoned;

3. **Informal resolution of grievances:** Upon receipt of a Grievance Complaint, the President or his/her designee shall make every effort to resolve the dispute through informal means. In disputes pertaining to a specific sport discipline, the President or his/her designee shall also confer with the chairperson of the sport committee for the discipline involved. All discussions related to the informal resolution of a complaint shall be confidential;

4. **Formal resolution:** If the informal resolution of the complaint is unsatisfactory to any part, or if a party declines to pursue informal resolution, the party may request that the complaint be resolved by a formal hearing before an AAP panel;

5. **Hearing panel:** When one party has indicated that the matter cannot be resolved informally, the President or his/her designee shall coordinate the selection of a three-person arbitration panel as detailed in Standing Rule 5-B. The arbitration panel should include at least one Active Athlete. One panel member will be selected as Chairperson with responsibilities to control and conduct the process. The arbitrators shall not be members of the Association Board or Executive Committee.
- G. **NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS:** Within thirty (30) days of the commencement of a formal grievance all interested parties and the hearing panel shall be sent the following by the Association Secretary:
1. **Documents:** A copy of the complaint or other documents giving rise to the proceeding with any attachments;
 2. **AAP Members and Contact:** The names of the hearing panel members and the address and telephone number of the panel's chairperson;
 3. **Association Bylaws:** A copy of the text of this Regulation of the USATF South Carolina Bylaws and any other relevant USATF Rule or Regulation; and
 4. **Other relevant documents:** A copy of any specifically identified document(s) related to the dispute.
- H. **ANSWER:** The person(s) or entity(ies) named in a Complaint (respondent(s)) must submit a written answer to the Association Secretary within thirty (30) days after receipt of the letter notifying respondents that a proceeding has been filed ("Notice of Proceeding"). A copy of the Answer shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the complainant (the party filing the Complaint) and the AAP panel. The failure of the respondent(s) to answer within thirty (30) days after the receipt of the Notice of Proceedings will be deemed a waiver by respondent of the opportunity to have a hearing or have an appeal of any adverse decision. Upon such failure, and after confirmation of the receipt of the Notice of Proceeding by all parties, the hearing panel may proceed in the absence of the respondent and may decide the matter with or without a hearing and with or without taking testimony and evidence, as it deems appropriate. If a party raises a hearing panel challenge under Standing Rule 5-I, the panel chair may extend the time to answer.
- I. **CHALLENGE TO ARBITRATOR(S):** Within fourteen (14) days following the receipt of the Notice of Proceedings any party to the hearing may challenge the seating of any AAP panel member, on the ground that the panel member may not be impartial. The panel chairperson may extend the time to answer if a panel member is challenged. Failure to bring a timely challenge against the seating of an AAP arbitrator constitutes a waiver of such challenge.
- J. **HEARING PROCEDURES:** The following procedures apply to formal grievance, and other hearings:
1. **Pre-hearing conference call:** Within five (5) business days of the expiration of the arbitrator challenge the AAP panel chairperson shall conduct a pre-hearing conference by telephone conference call with all parties to discuss scheduling and procedural matters.

2. **Date of Hearing:** Best efforts should be used to set a convenient time and date for all participants. The AAP hearing panel shall schedule the hearing to take place within thirty (30) days of the initial pre-hearing conference. The hearing date may be delayed beyond the thirty (30) days period only upon a showing to the AAP panel that a substantial injustice would otherwise occur.
 3. **Location of Hearing:** Hearing shall be held in-person, unless good cause is shown to the AAP chairperson that holding the hearing by telephone conference call is in the best interest of the sport of Athletics.
 - a. **Reason for request for telephone conference call hearing:** If a party requests that the hearing be held by telephone conference call, such request shall be accompanied by a statement identifying the material reasons which the hearing panel should resolve in this venue.
 - b. **Deadline for request:** The telephone conference call hearing request must be submitted to the AAP chairperson within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the Notice of Proceedings. Failure to submit a telephone conference call hearing request during the above-described timeframe constitutes a waiver of the right to request a telephone conference call hearing.
 4. **Delays:** If an interested party causes an unnecessary delay, the AAP panel may dismiss the proceeding or, at its discretion, rule against the party causing the delay. If the delay is the result of AAP panel inaction, the President or his/her designee may dismiss the panel and replace it with a new panel. If a party or the proceeding fails to appear at the hearing, then the AAP panel may make a ruling based on available information and the testimony of those present at the hearing;
 5. **Evidentiary rules:** The rules of evidence generally accepted in administrative proceedings shall be applicable to the hearing; the formal rules of evidence shall not apply;
 6. **Burden of proof:** The burden of proof is upon the complainant to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that conduct described in Standing Rule 5-C-1 or 5-D-1 above has occurred;
 7. **Hearing record:** An official transcript or recording is highly recommended for hearings conducted by an Association. Any party to the proceedings may retain a court reporter or other competent individual to provide a transcript or recording of the hearing at the party's own expense. If made, such transcripts or recording shall become the official record of the proceedings and a copy shall be provided to all parties at their own expense; and
 8. **Closed hearing:** Hearing shall be closed to the public. Witnesses shall attend hearing only as necessary to provide testimony.
- K. **AAP DECISIONS AND OPINIONS:** The following shall pertain to AAP final decisions and opinions rendered in hearings and appellate proceedings:
1. **Scope of decision:** All AAP panel decisions shall be consistent with USATF, USATF South Carolina, and IAAF Rules and Regulations, and the Sports Act. If the implementation of an AAP panel decision and opinion would have a significant

budgetary impact on USATF South Carolina, the Budget Committee chair and/or the USATF South Carolina Treasurer shall review it and report their finding to the Board within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the opinion. In such instances, the decision and opinion shall not become final and binding unless and until approved by the Board. The Board shall determine to what extent any AAP decision and opinion having a significant budgetary impact on USATF South Carolina may be implemented, in light of fiscal consideration, and may remand the matter back to the AAP panel for modification based upon budgetary directives from the Board;

2. **Form of decision and opinion:** The AAP decision shall state in one or two brief sentences which party the AAP arbitrators have ruled in favor of. The opinion of the AAP panel shall set for the following:
 - a. **Issue:** The question(s) the AAP panel was asked to decide;
 - b. **Arguments:** A brief summary of the arguments made by each party;
 - c. **Finding of fact:** The finding of fact upon which the panel based its decision;
 - d. **Citations:** A Citation to the applicable IAAF, USATF, USATF South Carolina, Sports Act, or other applicable rule, bylaw or minutes, reports, guidelines, or other documents upon which the AAP panel decision is based, if any; and
 - e. **Stay provision:** Whether the effect of the decision shall be stayed in the event of an appeal, if appropriate;
 - f. **Frivolity.** In the event that either party presents so little support for their position that the AAP find it frivolous, they shall rule that the prevailing party is entitled to their costs in the action.
 3. **Time frame:** An AAP panel shall issue a decision with respect to the disciplinary, formal grievance, or other proceeding within fifteen (15) days after the conclusion of the hearing. The panel shall render a written opinion no later than thirty (30) days after the conclusion of the hearing, or after the submission of any post hearing documentation to the panel.
 4. **Effect of decision:** All AAP panel decisions shall be effective upon the date rendered, unless otherwise stated in the decision.
- L. **APPEALS:** The decision of the arbitrators may be appealed pursuant to USATF Regulation 11-P or other Regulation guiding such appeals.

RULE NO. 6 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REIMBURSEMENT

- A. **JUNIOR OLYMPICS:** The Association Treasurer shall reimburse all entry fees for USATF-SC athletes that compete at the National Junior Olympic Track & Field or Cross-Country Championships, when such event is part of a series of qualifying events. The Youth Committee shall provide a process for streamlining these reimbursements.

- B. USATF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: The Association Treasurer shall reimburse all entry fees for USATF-SC athletes that compete at a USATF National Championship that requires a qualifying mark, or other qualifying standard. This shall apply to the National U-20 Championships, the National Senior Championships, and the Olympic Trials. The Association Officers shall annually determine if funds are available for entry fee reimbursement for these events based on budget projections. The Athletics Advisory Committee shall provide a process for streamlining these reimbursements.

RULE NO. 7
COACHES EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- A. COACHES EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS: The Association shall provide funds annually for scholarships for USATF-SC Coaches to attend Coaches Education courses including: Level 1, Level 2, and USATF online campus courses. The Coaches Education Committee shall recommend the numbers of scholarships to be made available each year. The final numbers of scholarships shall be determined by the Association Officers based on budget projections. The Coaches Education Committee shall provide a process for scholarship applications and awards. No member shall receive more than one award for a Level 1 course. No member shall receive more than one award for a Level 2 course.

RULE NO. 8
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS

- A. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARDS: These awards are to be presented to USATF SC Association members who have made significant contributions to both the Association and to the event groups within the jurisdiction of the Association. The awards may be given in either of the two categories: Outstanding Service (yearly) and Life Time Service (occasional).
1. **Nominations:**
 - a. Potential award nominees shall be identified via nomination.
 - b. Nominees are required to be a member of USATF South Carolina, in good standing.
 - c. The nomination window shall be April 1st through May 31st.
 - d. Nominations shall be due no later than May 31st.
 - e. Nominations shall be submitted via email on forms prepared for this purpose.
 - f. Nominations shall include written summary of why the nominee should be recognized.
 - g. Nominations shall range from 250 – 500 words.
 2. **Selection Process:**
 - a. The USATF-SC Association Officers shall establish a Selection Committee by March 31st of each year.
 - b. The Selection Committee shall review nominations starting June 1st.
 - c. A closed meeting shall be held before June 30th to select the winner.

3. Ordering Awards:

- a. The order for the award should be placed no later than July 1st.

4. Bestowal:

- a. The award shall be given to one (1) individual annually.
b. The winner shall be unsealed (announced) at the South Carolina Association annual meeting.
c. The award should be bestowed at the South Carolina Association annual meeting.
d. The identity of the winner shall not be disclosed prior to bestowal of the award.

5. Unique Circumstances - Life Time Service Award:

- a. In the case where an exceptional nomination is received for someone who has made life long contributions to the Association, a Life Time Service Award may be awarded by the Selection Committee. In these cases one or two Meritorious Service Awards may be awarded, one for Life Time Service and one for Outstanding Service.

**RULE NO. 9
ELECTION METHODOLOGY**

- A. **FIVE CONSTITUENCIES:** This clause explains the process and does not change nor supersede the bylaws. The election process in USATF-SC is designed to provide each of five constituencies with equal voting strength. The counters shall count the number of ballots cast within each constituency and express those as a percentage of the votes within that constituency. The percentages for all five constituencies shall be added and divided by five to yield the final figure. The results of each election shall be reported as the percentage of voting strength cast for each candidate.

Approved at the USATF-SC Annual Meeting on August 29, 2020.

Signature: 
USATF-SC Secretary, Susan Heiser

Signature: _____
USATF-SC President, Brian Jordan