

Excerpt

RULE 306

JUNIOR OLYMPICS PROGRAM

(Pages 178 - 181)



2023

USATFTM

**COMPETITION
RULES**

RULE 306

JUNIOR OLYMPICS PROGRAM

1. General -

- a) The Youth Athletics Division shall conduct the Junior Olympic Athletics program of USATF. Junior Olympic meets shall be solely sanctioned and conducted under the aegis of USATF and its procedures. There shall be no dual sanctioning of Junior Olympic meets of USATF.
- b) All of the competitions shall be conducted exclusively under the auspices of USATF. ("Exclusive USATF auspices" means that direction, publicity, promotion, rules, and awards must be entirely USATF.)
- c) There will be competition for boys and girls in Association, Regional and National Championships in age divisions by year of birth. Events and age divisions are the same as for the regular USATF Youth Athletics National Championships program. An Association may host preliminary qualifying meets as long as eliminations are performed and athletes must advance and qualify for participation in the Association meet.
- d) An Association is allocated, by agreement with other Associations in its Region, a certain number of athletes and relay teams from the Association level to the Regional level through the Association Championships.
- e) The Youth Athletics Executive Committee may advance any athlete into the National Junior Olympics meet because of extraordinary circumstances. The request shall be made in writing to the Association Youth Chair, who shall then submit it to the Regional Coordinator, who shall then submit it to the Zonal Representative who shall then submit it to the Youth Athletics Executive Committee for review.
- f) With the approval of the Association, athletes who miss their Association Championships because of extraordinary circumstances may be advanced to the Regional meet so long as such advancement does not displace an athlete who competed in the Association meet and does not exceed the Association's allocation to the Regional meet. If an Association has an athlete who meets an extraordinary circumstance and advancement would exceed their allocation, then the athlete may advance so long as all the Associations within the Region agree to the advancement.
- g) Once an athlete begins participation in the Junior Olympic Program, throughout the entire Junior Olympic Series:
 - i. Athletes who are unattached must remain unattached.
 - ii. Athletes who represent a club shall not switch from one club to another.
 - iii. An athlete may withdraw their club affiliation and compete unattached.

- h) In extraordinary circumstances, when necessary, the qualifying procedures listed in Rule 306.2 or 306.3 may be modified for the current year only as approved by the National Youth Executive Committee.

NOTE: Merriam-Webster defines extraordinary as: *going beyond what is usual, regular, or customary.*

- i) Individual athletes who compete in their state high school or collegiate championship series may be advanced into their Regional if their Association meet date is in conflict with the athlete's school competition. Conflict means both meets are held within 48 hours of each other. A Team may also be advanced provided that all alternates listed on the declaration roster are in conflict with the school competition; resulting in not having a minimum of 5 athletes to participate. The individual athlete entry or the team roster must have been submitted by the registration deadline of the Association meet and no additional names can be 2023 USATF Competition Rules – 180 added. The final decisions on the granting of this waiver shall be made by the Regional Coordinator.
- j) The entry procedure and awards information will be distributed by the Youth Executive Committee in the Meet Entry Information document.

2. **Track and field qualifying procedures -**

- a) An athlete can miss the Association Championship but not the Regional Championship, because of participation in a USATF cultural exchange trip. These exceptions must be worked out with the athlete's Regional coordinator before the meet takes place.
- b) Athletes who compete in the U20 National Championships, United States Olympic Selection Competition, Youth Olympic Games Trials-Track & Field, compete in either the Heptathlon or Decathlon at the Youth Outdoor Championships and meets the standard or any additional event authorized by the National Youth Executive Committee may be entered in the National Junior Olympic meet without having to compete in the Association or Regional meet provided that they meet the Youth Athletics age limits. Acquisition of the waiver and completion of the entry to the National meet must be made prior to the Regional meet via the Regional coordinator.
- c) Athletes from the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS) may be entered in the National Junior Olympic Championship without having to compete in a Regional meet, provided that they meet the Youth Athletics age requirements. They must enter through the Association hosting the National Junior Olympic Championship.
- d) Track and field shall advance five individuals and five relay teams from each Regional to National. These shall be the top five finishers in each event. The

combined events shall advance the top two placed individuals and any others who meet a performance standard at the Regional Championship. The performance standard for the combined events is the average of the 8th place in the last three National Junior Olympic Championships. The number of qualifiers from Regional meets is fixed and no alternates may advance. The host Association shall qualify a like number.

- e) An Association shall be allowed to advance alternate(s) from the Association to the Regional level, subject to the Association's filing deadline for the Regional meet.
- f) Athletes who tie for fifth place at the Regional Track and Field meet shall be advanced to the national Junior Olympic Championships.
- g) Advancement to the National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship shall be by Association Championship to Regional Championship to National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championship, except a Region, for a good cause and by a majority vote of the Associations in the Region, may provide for advancement directly from the Association Championship to the National Championship. Qualifiers for the National Championship shall be as follows:
 - 1) Region: The top 5 individuals by age division and the top five relay teams;
 - 2) Association: The top 2 individuals by age division and the top one relay team.

3. **Cross country qualifying procedures –**

Where an Association holds preliminary meets, these will serve as qualifiers for its Championships; Association Championships are qualifiers for Regional Championships, and the Regionals are qualifiers for the Nationals.

- a) It is suggested that 30 individual and five teams advance from preliminary meets to Association meets and a like number of individuals and teams advance from Association meets to Regional meets. These numbers may be adjusted by the Association chair and Regional coordinator respectively for the purpose of accommodating their local situations.
- b) Teams must represent current USATF member clubs; and athletes representing clubs must be registered members of said clubs prior to participation in their Association Championships.
- c) All members of the same club listed on the team declaration roster at the Association finals are eligible to compete on the club's team (minimum of 5, maximum of 8) in the next round of Qualifications up to and including the National Championships as long as the team qualifies. In order to declare a team, a club must enter a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 athletes by the entry deadline. The composition of the team at each round can change if you submit a change form at the registration at packet pickup at least 2 hours prior to the race and any athlete changed must be listed on the declaration roster.

- d) Advancement to the National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship shall be by Association Championship to Regional Championship to National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championship, except a region, for a good cause and by a majority vote of the Associations in the region, may provide for advancement directly from the Association Championship to the National Championship. Qualifiers for the National Championship shall be as follows: 1) Region: The top 30 individuals by age division and the top five scoring teams; 2) Association: The top 15 individuals by age division and the top two scoring teams.
- e) The number of qualifiers from Regional meets is fixed and no alternates may advance. Individuals finishing in the top 30 places and who are also members of the qualifying teams are not displaced so that additional finishers beyond thirtieth may not advance. Any team may advance if it has five or more individuals placing in the top 30 in the Regional meet. No team finishing beyond fifth place may advance based solely upon any of the first five teams' choosing not to advance.