

MSTCA XC Committee Meeting Minutes - 12/3/17

1. Attendance: Scott Ouellet (Lowell), Mike Glennon (Brookline), Don Hennigar (Newburyport), Jayson Sylvain (West Bridgewater), Greg Zopatti (Pembroke), Paul Trovato (Franklin), John Laverty (Plymouth North), Tim Broe (Wellesley), Dennis Sheppard (Marshfield), Chuck Martin (Norwell), Tim Cimeno (Sharon), Jeremy Nute (Westborough)
2. Frank Mooney Award Nominees - XC 2017
 - Boys Nominees: Tristan Shelgren (St. John's Prep), Sam Acquaviva (Newburyport), Andrew Mah (Newton North)
 - Girls Nominees: Grace Connolly (Natick), Sarah Roffman (Littleton), Margaret Donahue (Wellesley)
3. Coach of the Year Nominees - XC 2017
 - Western Mass Girls: Mike Robowtham (Westfield), Bill Dillon (Agawam), Stu Elliot (Greenfield), Larry Bell (Mount Greylock)
 - Western Mass Boys: Brandon Palmer (Northampton), Scott Berdick (Mount Greylock), Bob Smith (Frontier)
 - Central Mass Girls: Marc Saucier (Littleton), Keith O'Brien (Tyngsborough)
 - Central Mass Boys: Mark Murray (St. John's - Shrewsbury), Ben Benoit (Parker)
 - Eastern Mass Girls: Kristin Pollizotto (Stoneham), Hannah Bruno (Concord-Carlisle), Katie McNulley (Nauset)
 - Eastern Mass Boys: Scott Ouellette (Lowell), Joe Colbert (Triton), Perry Pappas (Wakefield)
4. Wrentham XC Site - Rick Kates updated the committee concerning WDC news
 - The MSTCA is continuing to push for an increased presence and permanent markers on the course which could include trees, bleachers, a stone wall, and/or more. The permanent markers can help keep a consistent start/finish area throughout the years but also help to beautify the course.
 - There are three tiers of administration at the WDC which Rick and Frank must work with in order to receive approval for field modifications.
 - Tim Cimeno and MSTCA admin continue to look for more sponsors (especially local businesses) for the site.
 - The 5K course was certified both at the start of the fall season and just before the EMass Divisional Championships, and will continue to be certified in the future.
 - A suggestion was made to have the starting line and boxes professional striped along with having the MSTCA logo painted at the start and perhaps at other parts of the course along the lines of the NCAA meets.

5. Multiple Mats for Mid-Race Scoring

- Rick experimented with a 2nd mat at the Frank Mooney Meet
- If placed at the mile mark, the mat would have to be reset once the final runners cross over during the initial loop and before the lead runners reach the mile;
- A larger section of the course near the mat would need to be fenced off in order to keep the non-competing chips (either pinned on cheering, non-racing teammates or attached to the clipboards of coaches) from registering in the results;
- Rick will also need additional staff to learn how to run the MyLaps system and MSTCA will need an announcer and a bluetooth outdoor speaker system to present the live results.

6. Twilight Meet

- Meet was the largest yet with just under 3,000 runners crossing the finish line;
- There was a medical emergency in the middle of the meet at the far end of the first field which caused a 15 minute delay due to issues with the on-site medical staff; the trainers did a fantastic job to help control the situation until off-site medical personnel arrived;
- MSTCA Admin has received permission from the CC Fairgrounds to alter the fence at the end of the opening field in order to avoid the initial bottleneck which occurs 25 seconds into each race; the MSTCA will pay for these fence alterations, however...
- The enormity of the meet has caused the Executive Board to direct the XC Committee to investigate future formats for this meet.
- Much discussion was held regarding the possibility of hosting the meet over two evenings instead of just one.
- A survey will be created and distributed to the coaches in order for the committee to have more information in regards to future decisions regarding the meet.

7. Frank Kelley Meet

- ~3030 athletes entered and just over 2200 raced
- A new format was used for the meet in order to distinguish it further from the Bay State Meet held two weeks later.
- The championship races each had ~135 competitors and were well-received.
- Some of the races had extremely small numbers (Girls D1 Open 5K = 67 runners, etc)
- 2 teams from outside MA competed: Southington, CT and Coventry, RI
- Coaches were polled and 63% were in favor of keeping the championship races
- 70% of coaches were in favor of keeping the 3K format for the future
- The break between the morning and afternoon sessions should not be as long.
- Discussion was held as to whether the Middle School Bay State Meet could fill the space between the sessions or if it should be held after the final afternoon session race is complete.

8. Bay State Meet

- Numbers for the meet were small (820 runners total); most likely due to meet running just 2 weeks after Frank Kelley;
- two Rhode Island teams attended;
- already booked Northfield Mountain for next year's meet on 10/13/18.

9. Frank Mooney Coaches Meet

- numbers in the large school races were enormous again, especially in the Boys Large 11/12 race with 498 competitors;
- Rick Kates commented the computer registered 180 finishers in one 60-second span;
- a motion was made to split the Boys Large 11/12 race into two races (one for Grade 12 and one for Grade 11) and to continue to monitor the other races (especially the Boys Large Sophomore, Boys Large Freshman, and Girls Large 11/12 races) closely; the motion passed unanimously;
- the large school schedule on the entry form will be altered accordingly and also needs to be updated due to an old typo.

10. 2018 XC Schedule

- Frank Kelley - either 9/22 or 9/29 @ WDC - looking to avoid Ocean State conflict
- Bay State - 10/13 @ Northfield Mountain
- Bob McIntyre Twilight - 10/20 @ CC Fairgrounds
- Frank Mooney Coaches - 11/3 @ WDC

11. Next Meeting: Saturday, February 24 @ 8:15 a.m. @ the RLC prior to the Indoor Track and Field All-State Meet