

MSTCA Outdoor Track Committee Meeting

6/3/18- Meeting Agenda #2- Canton, MA 9:00 AM

Chairman- Mike Miller, Matt Wilson, Chuck Martin, James Fletcher, Zack Creeden, Dennis Shepard, Aaron Ladd, Kevin Butera, Dave Dickerson, John Carroll, Linda Rowbatham, Sarah Woodward, Bill Tilden

1) Review of February minutes: key votes:

- MTFOA official at every MSTCA meet
 - Western Mass Heptathlon/Decathlon is all set
 - No confirmation on Eastern Mass Heptathlon/Decathlon yet
- Total team standard in throwing events
 - Did not do this at Steele Relays – no need, the meet ran fine without it
 - Consensus is that the team standard did not save a lot of time at relays
 - John Carroll suggests pegging or no measure line to save 30 minutes
 - Mike questions whether it is a matter of peg availability – John said there is a guy in Acton Boxboro who can provide what we need
 - The throwing events were run well, sheer amount of kids caused the lengthy time of the events
 - Mike suggests starting javelin 30 minutes earlier to even things out, cutting a discus flight worked so that does not need to start early
 - Sotirios notes that North Reading will not be able to host D3 relays again next year. Whoever does host should have pole vault on site, though
 - He is willing to help out as meet director, just cannot host the meet
 - Officials would like athlete names beforehand. Bib numbers as an option?
 - Add an official to the horizontal jumps like indoor will make that event run more efficiently
 - “Why are we in such a rush?” – Shep
 - We need to put athletes ahead of rushing to get meets done
 - Can “not rushing” the meet allow for running events and javelin to end at the same time?
 - 28 kids on the line at Boys State Coaches
 - Why not add a heat?
 - Tiering field events.
 - Don’t rush the next gender just because
 - For example, calling for shot when half the competitors are in finals at discus
 - At relay meet, let running events finish before calling field events (or vice versa)
 - Linda suggests giving officials lunch break after one gender, keeps the pace in check
 - This method works at Steele Relays
 - Require Meet Directors should e-mail coaches before and after meets
 - Reduces questions
 - Link to results
 - Allows easier feedback
 - For MSTCA and MIAA meets!
 - New meet formats (issue w/ WMass Decathlon)
 - Mike notes feedback on new formats was very positive
 - Communication issue for the WMass Decathlon, will be fixed next year

2) Updating of standards/ formats for MSTCA meets- if necessary

- State Relays- standards for all events?
 - Running events never hold up the meet
 - Slight worry about B teams or slower 4x800s, but no need to put standards yet
 - Relay Meet Directors should meet and be doing the same thing with the same expectations
 - \$100 late fee per team at meets just a small example. Is this enforced the same?
 - Potentially revisit the Javelin distance standards.
 - Conservative standard last year, making it harder may expedite event
 - No consensus on what that new distance should be
- J. Silvain (e-mail report) - return no measure line to relays (perhaps we need to explain better why we don't do this)
 - Bill Tilden suggests a minimal no measure line (like 50 feet in javelin)
 - Aaron Ladd suggests ordering flights by ability instead of by team
 - For example, time lost pulling tape measure from 110 to 80 to 50, back to 110
 - Kids self-select where they should throw
 - 3rd throwers first, 2nd throwers next, 1st throwers last
 - John Carroll counters that this would be hard to sort
 - Aaron clarifies that this order would just be per flight, not overall
 - John also notes pegging would be the right solution
 - Volunteers to try pegging at D1 meet next year
 - Mike recommends that we try pegging at D1 meet next year as a pilot program
- J. Silvain (e-mail report) - Meet Directors need to make example of slow/cranky/incompetent officials by having referee move them once complaints are issued
 - Officials should have name tags to identify them for coach and meet management purpose
 - Not filing complaints against "that bald guy".
 - Easier to interact with them in personable way
- **John Carroll motions site directors need to be paid \$500 for all MSTCA meets**
 - **Motion – Unanimous**
- We need to create incentive to host meets
 - More hassle than value to coaches and athletic directors
 - Example – North Reading backing out of hosting
 - \$350 for a staff and t-shirts and a hot dog aren't worth it
- **John Carroll recommends added compensation to school, beyond free entry**
 - **Motion – Unanimous**
- Add scoring to Freshman/Sophomore meet
 - Dennis notes all meets should be team scored
 - Concern is whether this violates MIAA rules of scoring a JV level meet
 - Counterpoint is that we bill Freshman/Sophomore as a Championship meet
 - John says Coaches Invite thinks it should be scored as well
 - **Aaron Ladd motion to team score all MSTCA meets**
 - **Motion - Unanimous**
 - **Aaron Ladd motions that we should give team awards to Top 3 teams in all MSTCA meets**
 - **Motion – Unanimous**
 - John Carroll suggests alternative awards for teams
 - Colored plaques
 - Relay Wheels a la Penn Relays
 - Aaron suggests a traveling trophy that goes with a school and gets brought back to the meet the following year

- Sarah Woodward notes Western Mass teams would rather have relay t-shirts for winners of individual relays instead of overall team t-shirts
- John Carroll asks about emergency forms for outdoor meets
 - Need to bring this to e-board
 - There needs to be a better way to do this

3) MIAA Meet issues-

- Seeding committee- recommendation to set clear guidelines to be followed by Tournament Directors
 - D1 seeding committee did great work correcting the seeds, did not get applied
 - Major Issue with Central/West D1 meet
 - Multiple Automatic qualifiers were not accepted
 - Meet Director “presumed” times were all FAT
 - Athletes of Coaches that follow the format were punished
 - MIAA Meet Directors work for the schools and should be held accountable to follow their own format
- Matt Carr e-mail of concern- Event winners from Divisional meets go to seeded heat in 800, mile, 2 mile, 4x800 (weather concerns)
 - Mike and Matt Carr agree the kid can opt out of the fast heat
 - **Motion: All winners of their Divisional meets in the 800, 1 mile, 2 mile, and 4x800 have the chance to opt in to the fast heat at All-States by Wednesday**
 - **Motion - Unanimous**
- 2019 and beyond: hand times for 100, 200, 100/110H eliminated
 - Matt Wilson notes Central Mass completely against this
 - Mid Wach Principals filing a complaint with MIAA
 - Financially not feasible for schools
 - FAT systems, bus travel
 - Aaron suggests potentially thinking out of the box and wonders why we can’t take winners from league meets to Sectionals
 - Mike Miller notes that the current format is allowing qualified kids to be bumped from the meet, that’s the biggest issue
- MSTCA sprint meets Thursdays in May to qualify
 - Potentially interferes with Dual Meets
 - Zack supports these meets, says he will use his sprinters at FAT meets instead
 - Mike notes these meets need to happen all across Massachusetts
 - Not just Notre Dame and Bishop Feehan
 - North Shore, Central Mass, Western Mass need to have local options
 - Matt Wilson wonders why we are trying to solve the problem in this way
 - Sprints are not what make a meet take a long time.
 - Set an “easier” qualifying standard in 100/200/100H
 - Yes fields will be bigger, but adding heats to these events won’t make the meet take longer
 - Top 8 will all make finals anyway
 - Field size will be appropriate at All-States

4) New business

- John Carroll asks why the 4x800m or Two mile can’t take place on Tuesday
 - Aaron says 4x800 at the end of the meet is less of a problem then when 4x800 is the first event
 - Chuck likes the 4x800 on Thursday so the 2 mile can be at the end of the meet

- **John motions that if the 4x800m is the first event in order of events at Divisionals, it should be moved to Thursday**
 - **Motion passes: 9-2-1**
- Mike notes that we should reward teams with depth. It's too possible for a few athletes to control a meet (Bromfield 2nd place at All-States with 5 girls)
 - Score all the places out?
 - Double relays?
- There needs to be a better way to do Coach of the Year nominations
 - Low participation from Central and Western Mass
 - Matt and Linda note that MSTCA reminders to nominate coaches cannot be on the bottom of e-mails as a footnote
 - Many Central/West schools do not attend MSTCA spring meets, so those e-mails about meets they may not attend may not even get read
 - Send a separate Google form in its own e-mail asking for nominations.
 - Potentially send a reminder e-mail before Divisional meets

5) Coach of the Year Voting and Discussion

- Results omitted as non-public information

Meeting adjourned: 11:08 AM