

MESSAGE FROM THE MEN'S CHAIR, USATF-FL

Men's Track & Field

Thomas E. Johnson, Men's Chair: The event we have all been waiting for is just around the corner. The much anticipated 2016 Olympic Games in Rio is just six months away. After an exiting World Relays and World Championships in 2015 Team USA is poised to make a bang. The World Championships definitely put things in perspective for the national office and the state of Florida is poised to be a part of a revitalized organization that is providing more assistance and opportunity to Olympic and Developmental athletes. I am excited to present my first letter as the Men's Chair of USATF-Florida. I am even more excited about the future opportunities and success of our organization. Florida has a unique opportunity to tap into the tremendous growth and development that our National office is presenting to each association throughout the country. Here in the state of Florida we host training sites and opportunities to more Olympic athletes than any association. Several country federations as well as individual athletes come to Florida for year round training and even more for spring training and competition. The economic impact as well as the valuable opportunities this presents for our open and elite level athletes are tremendous. Our track clubs and officials are gaining even more opportunities due to the tremendous number of events that have been sanctioned to host developmental meets, sprint series and elite athlete exhibitions.

The 2015 Annual meeting in Houston, TX provided much excitement for our association. While we had an opportunity to bid on hosting several championships. We were also given the green light to produce competitive opportunities to host developmental meets for our current and future Olympians. As the Caribbean Circuit grows so does the opportunity for South Florida. We have sanctioned several Elite level meets, which include the ATL in Jacksonville; Sprint Series in Orlando, West Palm Beach and Miami. The High Performance Division is working with Duffy Mahoney of the National Office to assist with identifying the best locations and opportunities in Florida for USATF sponsored developmental events in conjunction with the Caribbean Circuit. An item that received significant attention and is a top priority for the safety of our athletes was the introduction of Safe Sport. The success for all our programs and the future of our sport is our youth. The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) recommended USATF implement

Safe Sport to all Olympic national governing bodies (NGB's), which also includes a Coaches Registry, with background checks to increase awareness and protect the participants in our sport at all levels, but particularly those athletes who are 18-and-under. Please visit the USAT-Florida website to complete training.

USATF's Sports Performance Workshops have increased throughout the country and Florida is at the forefront of Coaches Education. These opportunities are designed to utilize sports science resources in an applied manner to help coaches and athletes enhance performance and optimize training. These workshops, clinics and training opportunities feature individualized, on-track interactive experiences for athletes and coaches, with USATF and a network of USOC sports science and medicine professionals. Level 1 Coaches education opportunities are offered to enhance the coaching ability and familiarity with the latest scientific approaches and developments. Coaches are encouraged to continually update their resume by attending these workshops and clinics more frequently. Level 1 Coaches, who were previously certified must go through recertification. Level 1 courses consist of a 4 year recertification period. The current Level 1 course provides an updated and improved curriculum with a second edition textbook and inclusion of two modules provided by USADA on PEDs. The recertification provides the Level 1 coach the most up to date and cutting edge resources to keep their certification current. The Coaching Education Committee will provide multiple opportunities for coaches to attend courses to recertify. For those coaches, who have already completed their Level 2 certification are not required to recertify Level 1. USATF-Florida has already facilitated a Level 1 Course in which I had the pleasure of attending at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), where our very own Rick Rothman was an instructor. We look forward to hosting more coaching education opportunities with a LEVEL 2 Course for those coaches, who have completed Level 1. We look forward to an outstanding year as we are currently planning to host our Association meet in South Florida date and location TBD. Let's get ready to motivate, encourage and support all our athletes, who train in Florida as they prepare for the World Indoor Championships in Portland; Olympic Trials in Eugene, OR. and the Olympic Games in Rio.

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