

USATF ANNUAL MEETING—Para Athletics Committee Meeting Minutes

Day 1

USP Update

39 medals in Doha, Qatar. Several upcoming athletes. Alexa Halco, Michael Brannagin, Sam ???? All about changing people's lives. California now will have disabled athletes included in HS state meets for points. Next step to include in association and regional meets. Not enough meets for athletes to have a true competitive experience. Indy international. Sometimes can run and wheel in same race. Would like to develop best practices for T&F at NHSAA. 1 or 2 wheelchairs ok in ambulatory heats, more should have their own race. Invite kids to come to association meets. Just add a few races to begin with and a seated pit. Work with Parks and Rec and adapted PE teachers assoc. Adds no more than 5 or 10 min to the program.

Send information to association chairs on how to include, best practices, people 1st language, facility accessibility.

What to do with this athlete, how to speak to them, Accept the person not the disability. Advocacy,

American Sports Builders have resources and ideas about building accessible facilities.

Cathy handed out "Chase your dream" which outlines how to become a Paralympic athlete as well as educational resources.

International classification is at Desert Challenge and Great Lakes Games this year. Any big events can get IPC certified. Must submit paperwork at least 45 days in advance. We have 177 events at RIO and the most we can take 80 athletes. Qualifying standards National team A is based on the 3rd place in the world. Done by percentage.

60 hours of Para competition in Rio will be televised on NBC, US Trials will be on ESPN

US Paralympic trials will be in Charlotte, NC June 30th – July 1st. NJDC will be in Madison Wisconsin, June 16th -23rd.

Officials certification course online is free and takes about an hour to go through. Coaches training online costs \$25.

Junior Olympic Issues

What USATF offered-- 2 categories, WC and Ambulatory, 100 and 800 and one throw. Placement medals only, not listed in any marketing,

What Para-Athletics offered-- Offered to bring own announcer & officials, assist with financials for athletes to enable them to compete. Were asking for more events, especially throwing.

Para events were not advertised on published program, ended up cancelling events due to lack of correspondence with Lionel and others.

USATF has not put forth effort to include AWD and there is talk about a lawsuit but we just want them to include us and not give lip service only.

General Concerns

Name change took place for committee but still not on USATF website correctly, para athlete, officials, and coaches checkbox not done, pictures not on website, media updates sometimes happening, no staff liaison person for our committee.

Excellence challenge grants for chairs of all other committees. The bylaws state: "USATF's Board of Directors previously adopted a \$21 million budget, which signals a 40 percent increase over recent years and includes five "Excellence Challenge Grants" to go directly to proposed programs promoting competitive excellence in the Youth, Masters, Race Walking, Long-Distance Running and Disabled disciplines. Total grant money, which will be distributed by USATF's

Board of Directors' standing committees, ranges from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for each group. (2009) No grant monies have been awarded to an athlete with a disability.

The Bylaws also allow for Committee Chairs to be reimbursed to travel expenses. Debbie has never been paid for any expenses like other chairs. Will look into guidelines on this.

USATF Performance Pool Funding- Athletes with Disabilities are not eligible at this time

To assist our top athletes to remain in the sport after graduation and to assist them with their everyday living expenses, USATF created a three-tier program of direct athlete support that includes:

Athlete Stipend

The objective is to invest resources in the athletes based on two criteria:

Olympic medal potential and Financial need

Medical Stipend

Qualified athlete receives between \$500- \$2,000 for preventive care expenses incurred in 2015, including massage therapy, chiropractic services, physical therapy, acupuncture, and medical expenses not covered by other health insurance.

Coaching Stipend

The objective of this program is to support those coaches who are producing medal-contending athletes. The criteria for this program coincide with our direct athlete support program criteria-in that a coach must have an athlete that falls under Tier 1 and Tier 2 to qualify for stipend.

The stipend amount will be \$2,000 for Tier 1 athletes and \$1,000 for Tier 2 athletes and the athlete must complete a form via Edge 10 to designate their coach of record in order for USATF to process the payment.

Note: Your coach must be registered (current) under USATF Coaches Registry to receive stipend.

Athlete stipends and medical stipends are processed by the USOC once athletes have completed the necessary paperwork (see processing details below).

Tiers	2015 Athlete Stipend	2015 Medical Stipend	2015 Coaching Stipend
Tier 1	\$9,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
Tier 2	\$6,000	\$1,250	\$1,000
Tier 3	PCSF Stipend-2014	\$1,000	N/A
Tier 4	\$2,000	\$500	N/A

Many believe that if able bodied athletes are receiving funds to train for the Olympics, then funds should be available for Paralympic Athletes also.

We must be vocal about what we believe to be fair and ethical for Para Athletes and Coaches. Parents, coaches and athletes need to bombard the national office, write articles for association newsletters and HS association, identify a person in each association to be a go to person if we are to progress the cause.

Everyone needs to promote within associations by clinics, in school trainings, for all ages and all aspects of sport. Tom from California is developing an outreach program to set blueprint for other 56 associations. Tom volunteered to talk to Max and Renee about issues.

Becky from NHSAA will be able to get the word out to HS coaches and administrators.

We don't have National Awards at the USATF annual meeting again due to lack of a budget. We will need to put budgetary requests in writing as well as any other by laws/ regulations changes and submit in a timely manner.

Respectfully submitted by Melinda Wheatley, ad hoc secretary :0)

USATF ANNUAL MEETING--PARA ATHLETIC SUB COMMITTEE

Day 2

Junior Olympics—Lionel Leach, National Youth Chair presentation

When he took office he wanted to include Athletes with Disabilities in JO's. Added 3 events, 100, 800, shot

LOC doesn't dictate how championships are run, youth JO committee does. LOC just gets the benefit from the event. Lionel can't just add events in, it has to be voted on by committee. Adding events just adds time, need officials, etc. Noreen and Lefty disagreed on something and Lionel dealt with it. Emails went back and forth and his computer was hacked. He claims to never have received anything from us prior to April 2015. Conference call **among who???** was scheduled and got heated.

For 6 to 7 years JO's have offered the same events and he asked that they get included again last year. They run 175 heats of the 100 in 68 minutes. 85K youth in USA get funneled down to 15K who then get whittled down to 8K. No other committee works with Paralympics to include AWD in program (**long distance racing????**).

Moving forward, we have to establish process for qualifying. There are 15 regions and the host association gets to be a region... total 16. Typical process is the Association championships, top 8 go to regionals and then top 4 to JO's. USP has a regional system in place. We want more access to local meets so that AWD can compete more. Numbers at local able bodied meets are projected to be minimal. Lionel says he will get push back at the association level and will have to educate Association chairs over the 2016 year. He will send out a message to encourage the Associations to include AWD. Gives kids more opportunity to compete, officials more experience, and bring more revenue to the area.

We will discuss events, plan for inclusion, process for qualification, and funding for progression to National Competitions. Suggested to keep the process simple and stay within the meet limitations. Discussion to just take top Ambulatory and top WC athlete from each region for a total of 32 athletes. Then run 2 heats or 2 flights of each event.

JO's are always the last week in July

Youth Nationals are the last week in June

CURRENT—1 heat of Ambulatory and 1 heat of Wheelchair

--100, 800, Shot Put, Turbo Jav (Assoc to Regional to National qualifying)

-- Total of 8 athletes in each event. (Like an all comers with no qualifying)

EVENTS—Wheelchair and Ambulatory (VI, ID, CP, Amp)

--Ambulatory can run and throw with Able bodied

--Can combine in ages in heats but medal separately

AGE-- There will be no age classes unless more races are granted

--Anyone 7-18 can participate even though some kids attend school through age 22.

The meeting concluded with a suggestion to develop a tutorial to show youth and Association chairs how to include AWD in their local meets. Also would like to ask the training committee to include some Para Rules in their training tutorials i.e. preparation of takeoff for blind athletes, tips for starters, etc.

Respectfully submitted by Melinda Wheatley, ad hoc Secretary