

Members Present: Ed Colona (Meet Director South Section and Group Meets at Egg Harbor) , Lou Fraulo (Assistant Director and Assignor of Tournament Officials), Bill Milone (Section Meet Director at Bernards), Rich Refi (Active Coach and Section Meet Director at Hillsborough), Carl Rickershauser (State Rules Interpreter and State Head Referee), Jared Wexler (Section Director at River Dell) John Schwartz and John Toner (Co-Section Directors at Ridge), Pam Willson (coach for Hackettstown), Len Pietrewicz (coach and Section Director at Randolph), Brian Rodak (coach), Al Stumpf (Athletic Director from Vorhees), Bob Byrnes (State Clerk), and Don Danser (NJSIAA Staff)

Absent: Jay Demarest (Section Director at Northern Burlington), Bill DePonte (Executive Committee representative), Tommy Mason (Coach)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those with whom I have had the pleasure of working both present and past since the mid 1970s doing these tournaments. I have enjoyed the opportunity with your help to make a difference in our sport for the thousands of boys and girls that participate in them. This year saw more than 22,000 entries in 9 section meets that ended with 2080 entries at the Meet of Champions. And, as is normally the case, this year's tournament went as smoothly as we could hope for a tournament of this magnitude. Mother Nature played her part, giving us almost perfect weather, but it takes a small army of athletic directors, meet directors and officials with the cooperation of hundreds of coaches and the participation of 1000's of student athletes to make it work as well as it does. Since I am retiring from my position as assistant director here at NJSIAA in December, this is the last Outdoor Track and Field Committee Meeting I will be attending. Thanks again for all your help and for what you do for the student-athletes of this state.

I would also like to thank Bernards High School, Central Regional High School and Northern Burlington County Regional High School for joining the host schools list that also includes River Dell, Randolph, Ridge, Hillsborough, Egg Harbor and South Plainfield for hosting tournament meets this year. It is greatly appreciated by NJSIAA, but more importantly by the 1000's of athletes that used these fine facilities this year.

A. Correspondence:

1. First one was received on May 31 did not like the fact that there was no ambulance on site at a section meet where an athlete was injured. This e-mail was a spectator and not directly involved with the athlete or his team. The meet had two certified trainers on site who called in the ambulance as soon as it was apparent that the athlete had broken his leg and would need hospital services. The need for an ambulance at these events is so small that it cannot justify not only the cost (around a \$1000 per day) but more importantly tying up of a valuable community resource with a minimal need for their services that could cause them to arrive even a few minutes later at an auto accident scene or similar scenario which is more likely to be life-threatening than that which usually happens at a large track meet.

2. An e-mail received on June 2, proposed that we officially recognize the private pole vault coaches and allow them to have their own boxes at the meets. First of all, the schools and the coaches they appoint – paid or volunteer – are legally responsible for the health and safety of the athletes put under their charge. Private coaches to have direct contact with athletes during NJSIAA sanctioned meets must have approval of that athlete's Board of Education. If a school outsources the coaching of the pole vault or any other specialty event, then all that need to do in the case of NJSIAA tournaments is to add the private coach to the list of coaches approved by the school on the meet entry form. They will be given a coach's pass like all coaches APPROVED BY THE SCHOOL.

3. The second correspondence received on June 3 rightly lamented the fact that the site did not have a wheelchair accessible bathroom available at a site where we were conducting wheelchair events. This indeed should not have been the case. All site directors are reminded to make sure such facilities are available even if it means renting wheelchair accessible portable toilets.

4. E-mail received on June 4 concerned a pole vaulter whose efforts were left out of the official results. Because of the human element and the pressure to get results processed as quickly as possible, mistakes are going to happen. We announce and post results hoping to get these mistakes corrected the day of the meet. And since this athlete did not actually score I can understand why it was not caught until the next day. We corrected the mistake and sent the correction out to Milesplit and other sites that post the results.

5. A June 5th e-mail took issue with the girls high jumpers being allowed to warm up at the same time as the boys (who were jumping first) thus keeping “many of the boys jumpers from warming up properly. Especially with the early start.” If the coach does not like what is happening they go to a) the field referee, b) the meet referee, and/or meet director. The easiest one to find is the director who is usually in the main tent. He is correct, the girls should not have been allowed to warm up and get steps down until the boys were done, but there is nothing that can be done about it 2 days after the meet.

6. A June 8th email wanted the committee to eliminate two procedures:

a. The designation of up to 8 runners in a relay event on the entry card.

“If there is a reason I do not understand then I apologize but I cannot figure out how this helps anyone in the sport. year after year we hear stories of someone who did not designate an athlete on a relay card and therefore could not use them in one of the rounds of the state tournament. In my eyes we have submitted rosters and if the student is clearly on the team and has not competed in excess of their 4 events, why is it necessary?”

The reason has more to do with the scoring program. We start with meet with 36,000 athletes in the database. The next round the rosters are down to just the athletes from your team that qualified. If the athlete is not listed as an alternate, he/she will not be carried over to the next meet and the scoring tent would need to add them to the meet “on the fly or we would have to carry the full rosters of over 200 schools into the MOC, where we distribute bib numbers so that the college scouts can better identify the competitors. This means I would need 30,000 numbers instead of 2080 we issued this year. Remember, the coach has up to and including the day of the sectionals to adjust these names as he/she sees fit.

b. The “runbacks” and warmups in the long jump and triple jump

“By the time an athlete reaches a state section they should have at some point taken 1 minute to measure their anticipated step or run. Allowing athletes to run back slows down everyone else in warm-ups and creates a **very unsafe area**. We consistently see some collisions occur and many that barely miss as most do not expect to see this occurring at that point and time.”

Every coach in the meeting thought this procedure was necessary and should be allowed.

7. June 8 arrival: Advancement of High Hurdles and 100 qualifiers from trials to finals. The writer asks: Since Coaches submit seeds that are verified on MileSplit, why wouldn't the current qualification (2 rounds only) be run in accordance with Rule 5-6 article 2 (Page 33): **for the first round of competition, runners who are known to have the best times should be placed in different heats and given the preferred lane assignments.** “Seeding the trials consisted with 5-6-4 would create a true ***semifinal***”

The quoted rule makes TWO assumptions: First: You are running at ***least three times*** (Trials, Semi-Finals, and Finals) and Second: No one on the committee wanted to see three levels (races) in these events. You are using place or place **and** time to find your 8 qualifiers. In the Meet of Champions the boys and girls had 5 heats in the hurdles. You would have to use place and time to get down to 8 runners— Do I advance the winners and the next three fastest times or the next three fastest 2nd places? Either way there is a high likelihood that a runner with a time faster than one of the five winners or 2nd places will not qualify because heat 5 will have the 5th & 6th fastest seeds while the 1st heat has the 1st and 10th fastest seed. The top seeded runner knows he only has to win to advance and may coast since his best competitor is the 10th seed. Now we are also choosing qualifiers by comparing times from different races instead of runners who ran

head to head. And even more so, if I don't use place at all. Now we are comparing sprinters' times like they were 1600 runners from different heats. Yes the composition of the last heat of the trials is almost the same as the final itself, but it is the safest way to assure that the best 8 sprinters/hurdlers reach the finals.

8. Second e-mail wants the committee to reconsider moving the MOC to a Saturday date in 2017. It was suggested to take survey to see what the schools feel about this.

9. This and the next e-mail were received after the meeting. "After seeing the mistake made in the high jump at the Meet of Champions, could we make it a requirement that the series be listed in results at the sectionals, states, and MOCs?" is the question this writer asks. First, this would not have prevented the error because the data entry itself was incorrect. The series would have been correct but it would have been assigned to the wrong athlete so just by looking at the results we would not have picked up the error. Secondly, manually inputting all that material for 30+ athletes in 7 field events times at least 2 for male and female and times whatever number of groups or divisions you may have in the meet. This would dramatically increase the processing time and also exponentially increase the error rate. It would also require more equipment and personnel and therefore more expense. Any timing company who has FieldLynx is certainly welcome to use them in any of the tournaments.

10. This last e-mail came on June 9. During the Egg Harbor Group meet, after the group 4 discus for boys ended, the officials doing that event were moved to a second Shot Circle and called the Group 4 Girls shot contestants to report. "A lot of coaches I talked to were upset that their athletes were not given more of a warning which resulted in an insufficient enough time to warm up. I understand using the two discus circles for the meet as that event always seems to take the most time, but with the meet starting at 2:30, and the difference in quality between the two shot venues I don't know if it is completely necessary to use the 2 shot circles."

As tournament director, I agree there should be no change in order of events the day of the meet unless it is absolutely required because of some unforeseen circumstances. If the site wants to continue this in the future, it will be in the order of events before the meet.

2nd Item: "I was a big fan of: I believe one of the officials was at the discus for the MOC and did the same thing. Instead of giving athletes the usual 2 warm up throws, the crew conducted a timed warm up. I believe they gave each flight something like 12-15 minutes to take as many warm up throws as the time would allow them. Some athletes chose to stick with the usual 2 warm ups, but others were able to take 3-4 warm ups if they chose.

Without the benefit of a committee discussion on this, I cannot say one way or the other whether this method of warmup should be how all these events should be conducted or not. I see no problem with it, assuming officials keep track of time so that the next group doesn't get rushed because of impending darkness.

3rd item: . "On a final note, and I am cautious in the way I state this. The person on the mic at the MOC was a little over the top. It almost seemed like he was more concerned with yelling at people over the mic than the actual meet itself. I totally understand getting people off the fence so they don't interfere with lane 8, but there were a few instances when he could have easily walked over to a person or a group of people and stated his request but he chose to use the mic instead for everyone at the meet to hear. I saw and heard numerous people shaking their heads and commenting on the way he was utilizing the mic."

B. Tournament Regulations

1. Dates: Sectionals – May 27-28, 2016
 Group Meets – June 3-4, 2016
 Meet of Champions – June 8, 2016 (Reminder – Scheduled to move to Saturday in 2017)

The order of events at all meets will be the same, except Girls will go first, and the smaller group will go first.

The only other change will be that the top 12 preprinted cards turned in will constitute the top seeds for each event on six lane tracks, but 16 on 8 lane tracks. To get this protection coaches must enter their athletes on NJ.Milesplit before the deadline which will be Midnight on Saturday (May 21) before the sectionals.