

Association of Track Officials of Michigan

Minutes of November 8, 2009
Association of Track Officials of Michigan
East Lansing, MI

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Babcock, Lyle Berry, Cecil Burch, Jan Burch, Rudy Godefroidt, Blake Hagman, Mike Henry, Dan Johnson, Lorenda Jonas, Doug Kelly, Brian Macomber, and Allen Wood. Geri Jackson joined the meeting via a conference call at 10:20 a.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The October minutes were accepted as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Memberships are coming in, with 110 registered for 2010 so far.

ATOM NEWSLETTER:

Tom was not present for the meeting. If you have any corrections or news for the newsletter, please make sure to get it to Tom for the December mailing.

WEBMASTER:

George was not present. He contacted Lyle and has made some updates on the ATOM website. Currently there have been 3191 hits on the website.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dennis was not present but contacted Lyle. He is tying up loose ends with The Doherty and getting the notebooks together. Blake will forward the award winner names and presenters to Dennis.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT:

As a coach, Dan asked to bounce a few things from his Regional at Marysville off the board. The meet official stated that uniforms were to be worn as meant, so no tags to be visible (such as on shorts being rolled). Nate has stated this was something officials were not to worry about. There was a false start called and the athlete was talked to but allowed to compete. Discussion took place about the role of the referee in different situations, such as the mentioned false start.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

ZONE 1: Al received a few emails from zone 1 members and asked for the board's input before replying. One email inquired about a lifetime membership for ATOM. It is something the board has discussed but a decision was not made to do so at this time. Life memberships are honorary and granted by the board at this time and not available for purchase by members. It is something to add to the December agenda for further discussion. The second email stated a starter had been using a bright orange cap to distinguish her/himself from the other officials and stated some had expressed a preference for it. Discussion took place about the proper uniform and that a hat was optional, but if it was to be worn should be red according to the MHSAA guidelines.

ZONE 2: Doug stated he officiated less meets this fall due to a number of his family members being ill with whooping cough. Regionals was the biggest meet and had three DQs (a false start, jewelry on the regional champ, and one for impeding a runner). Some grief was given because the jewelry wasn't caught before the race, but after a conversation with the coach it was realized that the athlete was wearing gloves and long sleeves and the bracelets were covered until she got warm and pushed her sleeves up during the race. The MITS meets are starting to be scheduled for indoors, with the State Championships on 2/27/10 at Eastern Michigan University.

ZONE 3: Geri commented that she has had similar situations as Doug with jewelry and it may be a good discussion item for the clinic in Clare.

ZONE 4: Dan stated that he had an official at Regionals tell athletes that they had to stay on the white line while racing. The season went smoothly in zone four and he is trying to recruit more officials from the area.

ZONE 5: John emailed Lyle that he did not have anything to report at this time.

ZONE 6: Brian stated that all went well in zone 6, both large Regional Meets received great feedback (at Portage and Carson City). MITCA's idea of Regionals and Super Regionals has been discussed and is something we may have to talk about more.

ZONE 7: Lyle reported all went well at the 14 – 15 meets he officiated this year. The athletes were well behaved and the coaches were good. Jan stated that one official in the area referred to an article regarding the contrasting stitching and thought it didn't start until 2010.

ZONE 8: John was not present but emailed Lyle. He commented on the rule book options Lyle shared and he liked option number one.

USATF: Eric was not present but emailed Lyle. There was a level one training on October 31 and they will have another one at CMU on December 12. The IAAF adopted the no false start rule and Eric is happy they finally decided to follow the high school rule.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion took place about the Legacy Program and Blake stated that we are looking for more people to become officials and ways to support/mentor them.

Lyle shared a few options for rule books from what was discussed at previous meetings. It would cost approximately \$1800 to supply books to the membership. George received permission from Nate to publish the changes that have been adopted by the NHSAA on the webpage. Doug inquired about MHSAA receiving a discount for the rule books and if it was possible to purchase at their cost. Rudy will email Nate and ask. Doug feels that the rule book is critical and it is something ATOM should provide its membership if at all possible. Discussion took place about the impact the purchase would have on the ATOM budget. Al proposed that the board purchase 100 or so rule books and sell them to ATOM members for \$5.00. Blake asked that Rudy also inquire with Nate about the MHSAA's opinion on ATOM providing rule books to the membership. Doug made a motion, seconded by Blake, that ATOM provide rule books to all registered ATOM members on the years that one is not provided by the MHSAA as long as the MHSAA supports us doing so. Discussion took place regarding the motion. Jan asked Rudy to also find out when the MHSAA would have the books available, if they are willing to get them for us. Rudy will follow up with Nate and get back to the board at the December meeting regarding the MHSAA's support, ability to purchase the books at a reduced cost, and when they would have the books available for ATOM. Doug's motion passed unanimously.

Blake shared a copy of the award winners for this year's clinic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blake stated that Western Michigan University is currently fundraising in hopes of being able to reinstate the men's cross country and track teams and it looks like it may happen in the future, but not this year. Blake shared that while he was in Maine, a young man was disqualified for wearing a hemp bracelet in the state finals.

Rudy shared a concern that came from the MHSAA after Regionals and reminded the board that it is important for the meet referee to check over results carefully before signing them. Referees need to know the tie breaker procedures as well as the rules and procedures for qualification to the next level meet.

The 2009 Cross Country Finals were discussed. Rudy stated that things went very well from his perspective. After the number of years the meet has been held in this venue, the right hand knows what the left hand is doing and all is working together great. The construction on the suites at MIS did not seem to impact the meet at all. Jan mentioned that there was some congestion in the spectator parking when one division was leaving and another was coming in. Brian stated that he thought the meet went well considering all the construction and MIS was very accommodating for us. Doug inquired about any medical concerns and Brian stated that he was in the medical area after the meet and the biggest issue was dehydration. Brian stated a Williamston girl was pulled prior to the finish line due to medical concerns and she was transported to the hospital. A spectator expressed concern about officials not provid-

ing aid to the athlete sooner. Discussion took place about when/how to know to provide assistance or pull an athlete. It was agreed that when medical personnel are available, follow their advice. Doug stated that medical personnel were in plain clothes and it may be beneficial to find a way to have them marked as medical, such as with a red labeled jacket similar to what the course marshalls wear. Rudy has a follow up meeting at MIS this week and will let the board know what is shared.

Lyle thanked Doug for his help setting up the conference call so Geri could join the meeting.

The next ATOM meeting will be on Sunday, December 13, 2009. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. at the MHSAA Building in East Lansing.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 40 a.m.
Minutes submitted by Lorenda Jonas