

ATOM

Association of Track Officials of Michigan



Vol. 34; Issue 1: Summer 2021

2021 MHSAA Track and Field Finals Issue

President's Report

I hope everyone had a good track season. The weather started out being cold and wet but by the end of the season we did get some very nice days to run. It was interesting having to use the waterfall start this year. By the end of the season I started to really enjoy watching how the runners learned to use the waterfall start to their advantage. I did enjoy having more smaller meets to work and being able to talk to the athletes a bit more.



It has been enjoyable being ATOM President for the last two years. The zoom meetings that we had to use for the most part went very well. They allowed us to continue meeting and work on different ATOM agendas. With our September meeting we will be able to meet at the MHSAA Office. For those wondering about the ATOM Clinic this year we are glad to announce that we are able to put on the clinic. More information will be forthcoming.

It seems the summer is going by way too fast. I have schools calling already to schedule fall Cross Country meets. Enjoy what is left of your summer and stay safe & healthy.

Richard Lee
ATOM President



michigan high school
athletic association

Annual mandatory MHSAA training is available until September 16, 2021 at <https://www.mhsaa.com/officials>.

There are two parts to the online rules meeting: The (1) prerequisite general officiating portion and the (2) sport-specific rules portion. You will need to complete the prerequisite before completing the sport-specific portion; however, multi-sport officials only need to complete the prerequisite once per year regardless the number of sports they officiate.

2021 Finals Reports

Upper Peninsula (John Meyer)

June 5th arrived hot and stayed hot. By the afternoon we were in the mid to upper 90s. We began at 9:00 and kept going until the UP Finals were finished.

It was a good day for the officials and the athletes. There were a few questions that had to be answered and we did. We answered them to the satisfaction of both coaches and officials. We were able to back up any decision with rules and logic.

The officials involved were/are members of ATOM. They were: Jeff Schram, Mike Leanes, Victor Gross, Dee Jay Paquette and me. All the races and field events went well. The personnel running many of the events have been here for many years for the Finals. We have a very fine group of volunteers that can be depended on. Our Dickinson County Medical team was on hand all day; a good thing because of the heat and the number of people that needed medical assistance.

I would like to mention that another official was on site; a young man by the name of Jackson Ingells, a young man still at St. Ignace H S. He came over between his races to say hello. I asked him if he was still officiating and he said yes. It was nice to see a youngster coming up through the ranks. Hopefully, we can get him and others to rejoin ATOM after the last couple of years of not knowing what was going to happen.

I was able to get our banner on the fence across from the stands and the pressbox. We were the only banner on the fence so we did get lots of publicity

Best of luck for the rest of the school year.

Lower Peninsula Division 1 (Doug Kelly)

Saturday, June 5, 2021 brought athletes, families, friends, and fans back together after a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19 for the Division 1 Lower Peninsula Track and Field State Finals. That alone made it a wonderful day that only got better because of some tremendous performances. While there were limited clouds in the sky, the temperatures and humidity were high pleasing many of the sprinters but offering challenges for the distance races (the 3200 included a water station that the athletes could take advantage of if so chosen).

The meet was again hosted by East Kentwood who does a nice job of putting on the meet. Blaine Brumels as meet director always seems to add another level to their facility which this year included an impressive video board built into the scoreboard. A few meet day decisions were made to allow for a more beneficial competitive environment like changing the direction of the discus throw. Changes were made early and quick enough that no delays to the start of the meet occurred.

The officials for the day included: Staters Bertha Smiley, Johnny Robinson, and Keith Millisler, Clerks Gordie Richardson, Miles Cleverly, and Tom Eschman, Referees Hugh Matson, Jim

Cleverly, Dale Kutchev, and Doug Kelly were assigned to ensure a fair and safe environment for all. Several other ATOM officials handled the field events. As usual, the FAT timing by Jacob and Ellen of Michiana Timing went off without a hitch. The consensus of the officials is that additional umpires are needed to execute the meet at the highest level, but several individuals stepped in to help in this area. Several questions were raised related to the Men's 100M start, long jump foot fouls, and potential interference on a couple of the races, but after multiple discussions with the various officials no calls were made. The single disqualification occurred in the Women's 300M hurdles due a hurdle be knocked into a fellow competitor's lane. A request to rerun the event was denied due to the potential detriment to most of the competitors outweighing the potential benefit for the impeded athlete.

The men's team event resulted in a tie by Fenton and Rockford. The meet came down to the final event when Rockford's 4x400M relay finished third coming from a slower heat. The meet was extremely close with the top 10 teams separated by a total of 14 points! Oak Park women three-peated for another trophy. Detroit Renaissance was runner-up followed by Ann Arbor Huron. Audrey DaDamio of Birmingham Seaholm finished fourth by winning an impressive triple of the 800M, 1600M, and 3200M. Rockford, and Ann Arbor Pioneer.

Many of the races came down to a tight finish with several of the ultimate winners closing from behind in the final meters. Most of the field events were completed very quickly as some of the numbers of competitors were smaller than usual. The high jump being the only event that had a single facility took much of the day. The event was officiated efficiently under many limitations. All these efforts were noticed by spectators and multiple comments were heard throughout the day expressing appreciation for all that the workers did to make the best situation possible!!

Overall, it was a wonderful day celebrating the fact that we were once again able to come together to host an event that allowed Michigan's Track and Field athletes to reach and exceed their goals. It was obvious that the athletes recognized this and the thank-you's were countless for the officials and host site! Great job by all of those involved!!

Lower Peninsula Division 2 (Lew Clingman)



Lew Clingman and his expert pack of D2 officials

Lower Peninsula Division 3 (Kathy Hutfilz and Rudy Godefroidt)

The end of the 2021 track and field season came to an end Saturday, June 5th. The Division 3 meet was held at Jenison High School under the direction of Athletic Director Tim Ritsema. The community and schools out did themselves getting their facility ready for the hundreds of athletes, coaches, officials, workers and spectators. The meet finished at 4:28 p.m. for the girls and 4:35 p.m. for the boys. The temperature was 87 degrees at the end of the meet.

The officiating team worked very well together to give the athletes the best day, and to make up for the year lost due to COVID. Rudy Godefroidt and Fred Smith clerked. They had the athletes organized and had given instructions prior to turning them over to the starters. The starters for the meet were Barry Hobria, Dave Britten and Erika Raffin.

The referees were Jim Gibbons, George Babcock, Bob Fulcher and Kathy Hutfilz. They rotated throughout the facility covering the field events as well as the running events. The referees also helped the umpires watching the runners and covering exchange zones. The umpires were Dan Bentschneider and Bill Rubin. They were joined by Mark Haney and Mike Raffin when the high jumps were completed; and Lee Mitchell, Gary Maike and Tony McHattie when the long jumps finished. We had all the areas covered once the afternoon session of running began.

No meet is complete or can be run efficiently without numerous student workers. The young people from Jenison schools were outstanding. The hurdle crew, starting block crew to field event workers did a great job! Many hands make the meet run smoothly.

In the girls division, Grass Lake and Pewamo-Westphalia tied for first place with 41 points each. The third place team was Bryon with 34 points. We had four State Records set in the girls division. Lani Bloom from Ithaca in the 1600 with a time of 4:48.89; Sarah Marvin from Bryon in the shot put with a put of 50'9" and in the discus with a throw of 160'0"; and Lexus Bargasser from Grass Lake in the 400 with a time of 55.54.



The D3 long jump crew and friends kept things rolling along

In the boys division, Grass Lake was first with 68 points, Benzie Central was second with 34 points and Pewamo-Westphalia was third with 30 points.

An interesting fun fact from the D3 meet. Grass Lake had a brother and sister finish first in seven events. Lexus Bargasser, a junior, scored first in the 100, 200 and set a record in the 400. Her brother Brennen, a senior, scored first in the 100, 200, 400 and anchored the 4x100 relay.

Lower Peninsula Division 4 (Dave McPhail)

On a hot, sunny day made more tolerable by a steady wind, Hudsonville proved to be a top-notch venue and a great host for the Division 4 State Final.

The staff at Hudsonville went above and beyond to put on a top quality meet. New Long Jump takeoff boards were purchased just for this meet. The hurdle crew and starting block crew were prompt and efficient, as good as any we've seen, facilitating seamless transitions between events. Additional Hudsonville kids provided eager assistance in the field events. It's worth noting that Hudsonville is a Division 1 school, so while their top athletes were competing at another site, they still were able to host a top-level meet for Division 4. The facility provided two long jump and two high jump venues, allowing girls and boys to compete simultaneously, which allowed the meet to move much more efficiently.

We are all aware of what a difference a good announcer can make in the smooth running of a large meet. Our announcer did a great job of keeping the infield clear, and the fact that he was present on the infield rather than in the press box made it easy to ask for announcements as needed, such as requesting coaches to report for discussions with the referees.



Momma Killdeer was displeased with all the uninvited guests at her D4 Pole Vault runway

The meet moved efficiently, without any delays. Every final (fast) heat was full. There were no false starts, only one recalled start as it appeared at least one runner did not clearly hear the start commands in a sprint relay. Kudos to the recall starters for catching that and ensuring a fair start for the entire field. There was one disqualification for an exchange zone violation. The new 30 meter exchange zones made officiating the zones easier and reduced the number of DQs all season.

The coaches were cooperative. The trainers were visible and available. We had 12 registered officials, some acting in dual roles, such as field event officials and umpires. Officials were on site on Friday to inspect the entire facility. Two of our officials made a Home Depot run to purchase shims and screws to insure the new long jump boards were secure.

The top athletes in the meet were as competitive as any of the athletes from the larger schools, especially in the field events. On the girls' side, 3 High Jumpers cleared 5'4 and Pole Vaulters Tara Townsend from Frankfort tied a D4 record with a vault of 12'4. On the boys' side, 4 High Jumpers cleared 6'6. Ronnie Lemke of Kingston cleared 6'8, which equaled the best effort of the day among all divisions. In arguably the most impressive performances of the day, Zane Forist of Carson City Crystal had throws of 62'4 in the Shot Put and 196'5 in the Discus, easily besting anyone in any of the four divisions.

As well as being competitive, the athletes at Division 4 were friendly and appreciative. Several of them complimented and thanked the officials. In one instance, I noticed a girl standing near the timing tent. When I asked if I could help her she indicated that she needed to retrieve her water bottles from the outside of the track but she didn't want to disturb the start of the boys' race. I offered to walk across the track with her and on the walk back to the infield she thanked me for doing that and for being there as an official and she stated that she appreciated all of us giving our time to be there for the athletes. I told her we appreciated her and the other

athletes for giving us this opportunity. In hindsight I should have tried to recruit her as a future official!

With all of the positives of this meet, we're still looking for ways to make things even better going forward. There was a shortage of field event officials as some were not able to make it to the meet. I had to step in as girls' High Jump official in addition to referee duties. My limited experience made the "five-alive" rather challenging, but the jumpers were patient and I'd like to think I looked like I knew what I was doing!

Some equipment issues to consider for future meets included a lack of bungee cords for High Jump warm-ups, and a steel measuring tape, which would have made measuring the heights of the crossbar easier and quicker.

Field event officials should report before the gates open to competitors, to allow early warm-ups and project an image of professionalism and preparedness. Having more umpires would be nice, as more pairs of eyes would make things easier for all of us. There were kids acting as markers in the field events, and although they did a fine job, it would be good to have adults, preferably registered officials, performing these duties at such a high-level meet.



Dave McPhail and his all-star crew of D4 officials

We had 4 referees, none of whom was a field event specialist. Another observation is that among the 12 registered officials working the meet, we had only one female official. Much thanks to Christine Lee for putting up with the rest of us! This is a good indication that in our search for new officials, we are especially in need of female officials, as the sport of track and field has been a leader in equality and inclusion in pretty much all other aspects.

We finished at approximately 4:42 p.m., which was far earlier than our storm delayed event of 2 years ago! Overall, it was a highly competitive and enjoyable meet to be a part of, whether as an athlete, coach, or official!

Thirty Years of Fun: Reflections on a Lifetime of Officiating

John Greathouse

How time has flown! 30 years of MHSAA Track & Field. It has been an interesting time with highs and lows but many more highs without question!

This year, I had the chance to run the Discus at the Division 4 State Championships in Hudsonville and one of the top boy discus throwers that did not disappoint the crowds with a 198' toss, not is best but still a great throw.

But the girls were the show of the day. We had 25 girls entered with 2 scratched. Looking at their seed throws, it was anyone's event. During the discussion I have with the throwers, I told them that anyone of them could be in the finals as all 23 of them are with-in 30', and with the wind, anything can happen.

The first flight did not disappoint as of the 11 throwers 8 threw a PR! The second flight again had some great throws but of the 12 throwers, only 6 made finals as 3 of the first flight got in!

This was getting exciting as one of the first flight girls moved from 9th to 3rd! All of the girls had made their final throws except for one who was checked out for 2 back to back races on the track so we waited. She returned and did a couple of throws to warm up and on her 4th attempt was off her mark with an 86' toss. She did not seem to be bothered by it and promptly came back into the circle and threw again.

As I was watching her spin, I noted to myself that that was a smooth spin and did a quick head check to see the shadow of the discus straight down the center of sector and thought that this was going to be a good throw. Well it was not good, it was great! 103' 11"! That was 3rd place!

She made her 6th throw of 96' and then celebrated with her PR, not knowing that she went from 8th to 3rd! When I announced the final standings, she was beyond excited! As she ran back down to the track and her teammates, I don't think her feet touch the ground!

Her coach was enjoying this as well as he did not think she was going to make finals looking at the entry distances and the fact that she threw a PR and got 3rd just made his day... and mine to!

This is why we keep coming back year after year... the thrill of seeing these young men and women overcome the odds and excel

I know that you will see me at the track next year to see what fun and exciting thing happens next!



Official ATOM/MHSAA Gear



AM-LJ3
Sizes: XS - XXL

ITEM AM-LJ3 (Women)
\$49.99 (XS-XL) • \$54.99 (XXL)
• \$94.99 (3XL) • \$56.00 (4XL)

Our women's fully seam-sealed jacket offers outstanding waterproof protection to keep you dry whether you're on the field or in the office. It folds into a convenient carry pouch for easy compact storage.

- 100% polyester
- 100% POWERWEAVE™ ripstop fabric and hood
- 10000mm fabric waterproof rating
- 10000mm fabric breathability rating
- Zip-off hood
- Comfort waterproof zippers
- Separation with fabric tabs on cuffs with foam and tear elastics
- Front zippered pockets
- Flat Pockets™ for easy embroidery address
- Clean hem with locking drawcord
- Drawstring carry pouch included



AM-MJ3
Sizes: XS - 4XL

ITEM AM-MJ3
\$65.99 (XS-3L) • \$67.00 (3XL) • \$69.00 (4XL) • \$71.00 (5XL)

Full-on moisture and wind resistant, our Men's Jacket has an 8000mm fabric and a mesh lining for breathability. It separates from use in most offers additional warmth, so it can be worn year-round.

- 100% 8000mm fabric
- Drawcord hood
- Tear-free zipper with ripstop fabric
- Storm flap
- Interior vertical pocket
- Adjustable cuffs with hook and loop closures
- Taped full front waterproof seam for adjustability
- Tear-free hem with hook and loop closures
- The OFFROAD Logo is also embroidered on the end



AM-LJ11
Sizes: XS - 4XL



ITEM AM-MJ4 (Men) **ITEM AM-LPJ4** (Women)
\$33.99 (XS-XL) • \$35.99 (XXL)
• \$37.99 (3XL) • \$39.99 (4XL)

Our fully seam-sealed waterproof pant coordinates with the AM-LJ3 and AM-MJ3 waterproof jacket for head-to-toe weather protection. Tucks into a convenient carry pouch for easy compact storage.

- 100% polyester
- 100% ripstop mesh in the knee
- 10000mm fabric waterproof rating
- 10000mm fabric breathability rating
- Elasticized waistband with drawcord
- Hook and loop closures at lower legs for easy use
- Drawstring carry pouch included



AM-LJ55J
Sizes: XS - 4XL

ITEM AM-LJ5J
\$39.99 (XS-XL) • \$49.99 (XXL) • \$49.99 (3XL) • \$49.99 (4XL)

A full 3-in-1 jacket with a water-resistant mesh inner and a breathable mesh outer giving the jacket functional all-season versatility with plenty of options for movement.

- 100% polyester mesh shell bonded to a water-resistant inner and a 100% 2000mm fabric mesh outer
- 10000mm fabric waterproof rating
- 10000mm fabric breathability rating
- Ripstop mesh upper
- Elastic binding of cuffs
- Open hem with adjustable locking drawcord



AM-LJ5P
Sizes: XS - 4XL

ITEM AM-LJ5P
\$31.99 (XS-XL) • \$33.99 (XXL)
• \$35.99 (3XL)

- 100% Polyester wicking knit polo
- Contrast color soft fabric collar
- Contrast color tagline sleeves
- Boarder-style pocket
- Three matching buttons with color accents



AM-LJ5
Sizes: XS - 3XL

Authorized ATOM/MHSAA officiating gear is now available at
Hagin' By A Thread
 Weidman, MI
 Call **989-644-5738**

NOTE to ATOM Members:


Short sleeve shirts will on longer have black sleeves due to supply issues. Both types of shirts are authorized.

Necrology

If anybody knows of an ATOM member who has passed away, please get the information to Dan Johnson. He needs the name and the city where they lived.

Contact Information: **Dan Johnson**
 Email: dm4johnson@hotmail.com
 Home Phone: 989-823-2525
 Cell Phone: 989-550-2308

Association of Track Officials of Michigan (ATOM)

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Please send *ATOM Newsletter* announcements, photos, submissions, or other correspondence to atomichigannews@gmail.com.



Association of Track Officials of Michigan
 Christine Lee, Treasurer
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Check one please: New Member Current Member Former Member

2022 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name			ATOM Zone #
Address			MHSAA ID #
City	State	Zip	
Home Phone	Cell	Work	
Preferred Email			

The Association of Track Officials of Michigan offers an annual clinic, a newsletter, online resources, and an opportunity to get involved in a professional organization whose goal is to improve the quality of officiating in the sports of cross country and track & field and improve communication between the track officials in our state and the MHSAA.

Description	FEE:	Post Marked	Amount Submitted
2022 Membership	\$		\$
ATOM Patch	\$2.50		
ATOM Lapel Pin	\$5.50		

Amount Due
 ⇄

Update personal information on this form and return with payment to:
 Christine Lee, Atom Treasurer
 7140 Lincoln St,
 Brown City, MI 48416

Use by Treasurer only
 Cle# _____
 PD \$ _____
 Date ____/____/20____

Clinic 2022 – Doherty Hotel
 Please put these dates on your calendar January 29-30 2022. There will be a separate registration form to sign up for the Clinic. Coming out soon! Hope to see you all in Clair in 2022.

Thank-you!
 ATOM Board

Tentative 2021

ATOM Board Meetings

All meetings are at the MHSAA Building, 10:00 AM start.

September 12

*October 10 Past Presidents 9:30 AM,
 Board 10:30 AM

November 7

December 12

Annual Meeting at Clinic 2022
 January 28 at 7:00 PM



Membership dues for 2022 are:
 June 1 – October 31, 2021
 \$25.00
 November 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022
 \$30.00

PLEASE make checks out to ATOM and mail to the address listed on the registration form.
 Thank You!



2022 ATOM CLINIC REGISTRATION FORM

January 29 – 30, 2022 Doherty Hotel

For rooms call (877) 236-4378 or (989) 386-3441

< Register before January 5 for discounted fees >

Christine Lee, Treasurer
7140 Lincoln St, Brown City, MI 48416
810-346-2492
christinejlee10@yahoo.com

Check one please:

Current Member <input type="checkbox"/>	Non- Member <input type="checkbox"/>
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Name	ATOM Zone #
Preferred Email	MHSAA ID #

Description	FEE: Before Jan 5	Post Marked After Jan 5	Amount Submitted
2020 Clinic	\$50.00	\$55.00	



Subtotal	
Amount Due →	

Checks payable to: ATOM

Use by Treasurer only	
Ck#	_____
PD \$	_____
Date	___/___/20___