



EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF T&F OFFICIATING BECOME A USA TRACK & FIELD CERTIFIED OFFICIAL

As an MHSAA registered track and field official, and a member of ATOM, you have committed to helping high school athletes in our sport to the best of your ability. Normally, when you contract to work a meet you will be working as the starter and referee for the meet. This means you will need to know much more than just how to start a race. As the meet referee you will need to be able to oversee all the field events as well, knowing the rules for each event and how the officials should be running the event. When a field event is being run by teachers, parents or other volunteers, you need to be able to assess whether they are doing it properly according to the rules, and be able to instruct them in proper procedures if they are not.

The best, most efficient way to gain this knowledge and these skills is to attend a USA Track & Field Officials Training Clinic. The USATF training program for officials is the most comprehensive training course available for T&F officials in the US, covering all event areas with regard to rules and fundamental officiating mechanics. All three rule books used in the US (NFHS, NCAA and USATF) are covered, as well as the important differences between them. At the conclusion of this training clinic you will have the opportunity to become a USATF certified official. This not only will demonstrate your commitment to becoming a more knowledgeable official, but it will be an important plus for you if you wish to work collegiate meets in the future (the NCAA does not require USATF certification to work local college meets, but it is highly recommended, and certification is required for those working in championship meets). And USATF certification is required if you wish to work USATF Youth or Junior Olympic meets in the summer.

The one-day USATF training clinics are held 2-3 times a year at sites around the state, usually in March-April, between the indoor and outdoor seasons, and in the fall. In addition, there are half day training clinics presented periodically that go into more depth on specific event areas, such as starting mechanics. If you would like to be notified about upcoming clinics, or have any questions, contact the USATF-MI Officials Training Chair, Dr. Eric D. Zemper (zemper@msu.edu; 734-663-0184).