

2017 MSTCA Outdoor Committee Postseason Meeting

Reggie Lewis Center, June 11, 2017 11:00 AM (Attendance: Mike Miller - Chair, Matt Carr - Vice Chair, Matt Wilson - Secretary, Sotirios Pintzopolous, John Carroll, Linda Rowbatham, Emma Gardiner, Jim Kelley)

Meeting Agenda:

2017 MSTCA Meet Recap:

- 1) **State Pentathlon- Steve Nugent-** NO OFFICIALS was a challenge...not even a starter. The coaches all chipped in and helped to officiate, however this had a major impact on the meet.
 - **Motion - There should be an MTFOA official at all MSTCA multi-events (motion by Carroll, second by Carr)**
 - **Vote 8-0**
- 2) **State Relays**
 - a) **Revisiting the removal of No Measure Lines which the committee requested in 2016**
 - Unanimous that the committee felt that this worked and served its purpose
 - Unanimous that we should continue this practice in all MSTCA meets

General concern - The javelin and discus are taking a long time to complete

 - The concern is not really about the length of the meet, but that the committee would like the meet to end with the 4x4
 - Do we start them earlier?
 - Create a recommended team standard?
 - If a standard is created, it is meant to discourage teams that are unlikely to hit the standard

Motion - Create a standard for a recommended team standard for field events that is appropriate for each divisional relay meet (Motion by Wilson, second by Carr)

 - **Vote 8-0**
- b) **DI MSTCA Relays- Zach Lankow**
- c) **DII Relays- Lou Tozzi-** no issues (new site needed 2018)
- d) **DIII Relays- Jim Hoar-** Boys Running Events were over at 3:15. Girls javelin and Discus were over at 4:15. Sandwich was extremely organized - Meet went smoothly – no problems of any kind. Sandwich provided golf carts for meet director – trainer - very helpful. Officials – were a tad slow (Javelin and discus). Referee was excellent kept the meet flowing . Plenty of Port a Potties . I would suggest the trainer move loser to the finish line and not on back side of the track – they had 2 trainers one was moved to the finish line area while 2nd trainer stayed at their tent.
 - Matt Carr notes that he was at the meet as well and adds that the High Jump was split into two flights. The committee agrees this is unacceptable.
 - Only 10 teams were entered in the first place
 - Need for clear expectations of officials from meet directors
- e) **DIV Relays- Jay Silvain-** "Issues with D4 relays mainly involved the officials. The referee (Kirkland) was late, so The initial PV official refused to judge the event because of a rip in the weather cover for the pads. He was removed and placed at another event and everything proceeded as normal. One of the clerks had no idea what to do, so the meet director and the MSTCA rep (Frank and I) had to clerk most of the meet. This kept Frank from seeing a bunch of his throwers and me from moving around the facility to make sure everything was running smoothly. Finally, one of the discus officials left with a flight sheet still on his clipboard. Therefore, I couldn't award the 2nd place plaque on

site until the sheet was recovered. I eventually got my hands on it later that evening, but had already sent all of the teams home and had to mail out a bunch of awards the next day. Otherwise, the meet seemed to go well. " - Silvain

- North Reading as a host site - "North Reading did a fantastic job hosting. They are on the short list of schools set to move from D4 to D3 next year. I've spoken to Sotirios about this already. He's looking to appeal, but if it is denied, then we will need a new site. One possible solution: D3 host Sandwich is set to move to D4. If both realignments do take place, then we can just swap sites for the two meets. If only one takes place, then we'll have to move a site." - Silvain

Steele Relays - Linda Rowbotham "3rd year of MSTCA sponsorship and participation continued to increase. Longmeadow Girls & Shrewsbury Boys were the 2017 Team Champions. West Springfield was a great host site & the meet ran very smoothly. I worked closely with the WMTFOA President to ensure all assignments for officials were filled and they did an outstanding job. The volunteers were amazing and handled every task effectively and efficiently. A major improvement from last year was award distribution which was done timely and completely. Hope is to get announcer from 2016 meet to announce future meets.

3) MSTCA Frosh-Soph Meets- 2017 Small Norwell, Large Acton-Boxboro

a) Large School- Brian Dunn- Acton-Boxboro-

- Issues relating to weather and timing system
 - The power cords went right across the main entrance to the track. While they were covered with a tarp, it may be worth getting a plastic covering and/or move the cords so to prevent any potential issues with the wires going forward.
- Officials
 - Two officials no showed so MSTCA rep Lou Tozzi and meet director Brian Dunn were pressed into extra service.
 - One official attempted to overrule meet director decisions in javelin
 - Official made executive decision to forbid competitors without cleats from competing. Stated that he would stop officiating if all athletes were allowed to compete
 - The same official polled coaches in the area to show that he was right and the meet director was wrong.

Recommendations for next year from Meet Director:

- A-B having a coach down at the field events announcing calls for running events was a great idea, continue this
- Move clerking tent from outside the track to the infield - it was too congested in that area
- Figure out a better solution for power cords
- Miller notes that there was almost a half mile walk to throwing events
 - Is this an appropriate venue for a freshman/sophomore meet?
 - Lack of coaches in proximity to throws events

- Motion - Ask each assigner of officials to send a list of officials and their assignments to meet directors. Then the meet director is responsible for communicating expectations with each official. (Motion Carr, second by Wilson)

Vote - 8-0

- a) **Small School- Jim Hoar-** Boys Running Events ended at 3:15. Girls Discus concluded at 4:15. Norwell – very organized – Chuck Martin and his crew did an awesome job. Javelin Officials –girls no final- officials cited slippery conditions because of rain. Rick and I agreed Frank disagreed but after the fact as he was down at the site. Problems with Hy-Tec because of the rain – shorted out

-Both FR/SO sites express concerns over HyTek equipment in the rain

- John Carroll notes need for a bigger tent to cover equipment (20x20?)

- If we stay smaller, there needs to be sides to the tent. Clear in the front, dark in the back

- Matt Carr asks if we can find a vender to find these tents for a good rate

- 4) MSTCA Girls Invitational- attached report from Mike Miller below

- a) Mike Miller- Sharon High School

- There were no major incidents, but a few small complaints
- Discus set-up was a concern for officials and others
- Gate set-up caused athletes to go across the track/ finish line during races
- Recommendations for 2018:
- We need to take a long look at Sharon High School as a venue. The discus sector, despite some short lacrosse fencing, was deemed very dangerous by several officials, and a discus did go backwards over a poorly constructed cage. I asked Tim if the discus could be thrown on the upper field, and he seemed to think it could be arranged. In general, having the throwing areas be as far apart as they are is somewhat detrimental.
- Jumping pits are not conducive to big jumps, as they are very full. This isn't a complaint, just an observation. Although, it may convince teams to go elsewhere in the future if they feel they aren't getting qualifying marks.
- Another gate should be put in a different spot, so athletes do not need to cross by the finish line when called to the infield.
- I will brainstorm ways to get numbers up without reducing talent in the field. Andover has grown somewhat in the past 5 years, adding some relays that help qualifying for nationals. However, I also think there is something to be said for a small, fast meet. We had some of the state's best athletes and there was virtually no weak event. Getting people out by 2:30, at a centralized location like Sharon, reduces complaints, and makes them more likely to come back. We all spend enough time at tracks to appreciate a shorter meet.
- Tim Cimeno says all of Mike's concerns have already been taken care of
- John Carroll recommends Attleboro as a potential site in the future if an alternative is needed

- 5) MSTCA Boys Invitational- 2017 site BC High
- a) Jim Kelley- BC High- reports
The meet went well, ran smoothly, and only received one call for a late entry
 - b) BC High wants to host a relay meet in the future
- General Girls and Boys Invite notes
- Meet size is good as is
 - Question whether to continue with Freshman and Sophomore races as separate entities
 - Carroll notes the separate races may still be a draw for extra runners
 - No changes for next year

6) **MSTCA Multi-Meets**

- **Girls South Heptathlon- 2017 site NDA- Rick Kates**
- **Girls North Heptathlon- 2017 site North Reading**
- **Boys South Decathlon- 2017 site Bishop Feehan**
- **Boys North Decathlon- 2017 site Burlington**
- **Western Mass Multis- site Hampshire**
 - Only note regarding MSTCA multi-meets was addressed in earlier motion to make sure there is at least one MTFOA official at each meet
 - Low key atmosphere of meets is a highlight

7) 2017 MIAA Meet Recommendations:

- Increase amount of time between entry deadline and performance list being posted. Should close entries at 11:59 PM Monday to give directors time to actually check entries. Performance lists should be posted as soon as possible.
 - **Motion: To make a recommendation to the MIAA we return to standards created by a games committee consisting of current coaches of boys and girls team in that division (Motion by Carr, second by Wilson)**

Vote - 8.0

 - Matt Carr notes that Direct Athletics parameters need to be reset for entry into MIAA meets so that no previous marks are automatically entered. This would alleviate entries from previous seasons as coaches would be accountable for entering every detail
 - Matt Wilson notes that when coaches list where a mark was achieved, they should do more than list their school. For example, if a Westborough athlete achieves a mark, the location needs more info than "Westborough High School" or "Dual meet". The location AND opponent should be listed if a dual meet, or the location and name of the meet if an invitational
- Issues of hand times going unchecked. There should be a Games Committee for MIAA to help check on entries
 - Motion listed above would take the burden off of MIAA meet directors and place it on the games committee that creates the standards
- Discussion on finding a way to standardize jumping pits.
 - Some pits are filled to the top, some drop off by a foot or so.

- These differences drastically affect the number of Divisional qualifiers
- Under the current format, there should be a “Z” Standard set to eliminate possibility of non-state caliber entries to get in when fields are not full to 24 or 32.
- **Issues for 2018- NFHS order problems- we do not run 400/ 400h trials or 4x200m making our order of events very different**
 - Reason for returning to NFHS order is to reduce arguments over event order. Unfortunately, this causes more concerns than solutions.
 - Issue is that Massachusetts does not do 400 and 400H trials or the 4x200.
 - Just removing these trials does not fix the problem because it causes limited rest and ruins natural doubles
 - We do 200m trials in Massachusetts. Is this being removed?
 - MSTCA polled the coaches on the 4x800 being first and 80% of coaches disagreed with it. Why are we going back to it?
 - Why are we not doing "Day 1" of our meet on the Friday instead of Thursday?
 - What if rain postpones pentathlon to the Saturday meet? Is MIAA okay with an athlete potentially doing as many as 9 events (Pent, 2 trials, 2 finals) in a single day? Safety concerns
- **New New England qualifying procedure**
 - New process means qualifying can happen any time during the season
 - issues: jumping pit discrepancies, hand times early season, injured athletes blocking healthy ones.
 - Marks should be required to be achieved at a meet with FAT timing
 - This could include jumps as these sites are generally approved neutral sites
 - Matt Carr notes that the opportunity to advance to New Englands should only be offered athletes that run at All-State meet
 - DA could still be used to do this
 - Miller notes that at the very least the Top 6 (or 8 under current format) at All-State should still be given priority before going to DA
- MIAA Pentathlon
 - John Carroll brings up problem with reseeding hurdles
 - This year we had heats of 2-1-1-4-3, it needs to be 4-4-3 in that situation
 - Reseed if you know you have entries that are scratches.
- MIAA All State Meet Presentation
 - needs to be more of an event
 - 2 announcers (avoid announcing awards while races are happening)
 - posting of results efficiently, results apps always in use, or use MSTCA Twitter to keep updates, use scoreboard as running clock, designate time in between races for awards, use field event boards to signify distance.

- Why not project HyTek times on a screen like during indoor?

8) General MSTCA Business

- **Coach of the Year Voting**
 - **EMass boys coach –**
 - **EMass girls coach –**
 - **CMass boys coach –**
 - **CMass Girls coach –**
 - **WMass boys coach -**
 - **WMass girls coach –**
 - **Assistant –**
- Discussion that spring coach awards should be awarded in the year they are received
 - Mike Miller notes he will mention this at E-Board meeting on Tuesday June 13th

Meeting adjourned - 1:15 PM