

# MSTCA ANNUAL CLINIC MEMBERSHIP MEETING

## MINUTES

3-16-13

1. **Jewelry Rule:** Jim Hoar informed the membership that a survey has been going around to see if coaches are in favor of eliminating this rule. So far the sentiment seems to be in favor of recommending to the National Federation to consider this action.
2. **Multi-Event at the State Meet:** Jim informed members that in order to qualify for this competition at the State Meet an athlete will have to have qualified in three (3) individual events.
3. **Cross-Country State Meet @ Gardner in 2013:** Frank Mooney informed members that there will be a different starting line on the course this year to better accommodate the field vis-a-vis the current one with the hairpin turn 500m out. Also, the possibility of a major cross-country course across the street at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro is still very much a possibility for the near future.
4. **Winter Divisions:** Frank informed the members that next year there will be five (5) divisions in the MIAA State Meet. That puts pressure on us with these five division and our Fr-So and Winter Festival weekends. With five divisions where does the split come between Large and Small school divisional assignments? Also, this spring Central & Western MA have big changes with a combined D1 meet at Fitchburg State and the D2 meet at Westfield State, and they will swap locations each year.
5. **Team Sportsmanship Awards:** Nominations are needed for these awards by MSTCA & MIAA.
6. **4x200 Indoor Relay:** We reduced the number of competing teams on the track from 6 to 5, then to 4, and this worked out really well in providing much safer conditions for all competitors.
7. **MIAA 2-1 Rule Possible:** The MIAA is considering changing the rule at their championship meets so that an athlete could compete in any 3 or 4 events vice the current 2-1. Some states allow any 4, and this will be taken up at their annual summer meeting.
8. **New England Meet Complaints:** Many coaches have complained that only the top 8 can go forward. Those who wish to make their concerns known should contact the New England Council with their point of view.
9. **Pole Vault Re-Certification:** Coaches are reminded that they must be re-certified every ten years, and that the next ten year cycle is within the year.
10. **Executive Board:** The EB is still looking for young coaches who would like to become more involved in the MSTCA's activities. Interested coaches should contact Jim Hoar, Frank Mooney or any of the current EB members with their interest.
11. **MSTCA BY-LAWS:** Steve Infascelli gave an informative power point explanation of the recently updated by-laws and how the MSTCA is re-organizing itself to better meet the needs of the membership. Some key points are: A) The establishment of a XC Committee, an Indoor Committee, and a Spring Outdoor Committee. Each will have 12 members plus 2 EB members. Interested coaches must apply for committee assignment and those who serve will do so for a two year period. Each committee will elect their own Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. B) The Executive Board will have 3 members from each District plus 2 At-Large members who will be elected to serve three year terms. Duties of the EB include the following: Hall of Fame, Coach of the Year, Student Athlete Adversity Awards, Scholarship & Campership programs, Newsletter, Do-It Clinics, XC Clinic, the annual New England Clinic each March, serving as Meet Directors, Coaches Scholarships. C) The officers of the MSTCA, which are the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer serve 3 year terms. The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director will be appointed by the Executive Board.
12. **Question and Answer Period - Members Raised the Following Points:**
  - A) How will EB elections be established? The EB elections will be rotated so that the entire Board will not be wiped out in a single election year. This will provide continuity from year to year in addressing the needs of the organization.
    - A. It was asked how many meetings each of these committees are expected to schedule. The answer was typically three (3) each season.

- B. A question was asked how the Board of Governors voted on the Jewelry Rule? They voted against it. It was further asked where this rule came from to begin with? It came from the National Federation.
  - C. The false start rule was discussed. Many said they thought it was too harsh. It is a Federation Rule, but Frank said our officials are really good about it and try to be as fair as possible whenever possible. He also advised everyone that anyone can make a request to the National Federation concerning the rules.
  - D. The issue of athletes competing in two events at the MIAA meets and why they can't stagger the flights so a kid doesn't have to be literally running back and forth for both events at the same time? Frank explained how we've tried to address the big picture where this issue comes in. It is discussed at the Tournament Committee level, but it seems that there are always some complaints with any adjustment in the meet schedule.
  - E. It was asked why we can't have conversions established to address the indoor differences in tracks? Frank said what we need to do is have teams go to the Reggie Lewis Center to gain qualifying times. Because of the differences in tracks the indoor season is a strange animal. It is hard and controversial to get conversions that are fair, equitable and acceptable to all. The sport has exploded and this issue is constantly being looked at, but the best solution is to get on a track like the Lewis Center.
  - F. A question was asked about any update on access to Franklin Park. Mike Glennon said he was told that it will be available in the fall. Frank reminded everyone that while access will be available, it is still very limited. Parking is a big issue, the park rangers have the right to call off a meet even if all the teams are present, and they can call off a meet once it is underway if they decide to. It can be a very difficult situation at this venue that we have limited to no control over.
1. **Hall of Fame & Coach of the Year Voting:** At the conclusion of the General Meeting, the Dwight Estey passed out ballots to the EB concerning this year's nominees. A few Board members spoke up on behalf of particular nominees.
  2. **MIAA Alignments:** John Carroll passed out info on the impact of the coming realignments, showing how the numbers will be distributed.
  3. **Distinguished Service Awards:** A discussion took place concerning this year's awards. Both Chuck Martin, who has picked-up the Mile Split site and made great strides with it benefitting our sport and state, and Dom Finelli, who has done yeoman work on advising and providing legal support throughout the entire process of updating our by-laws were supported for this recognition.
  4. **Adversity Award Nominees:** Jim informed us that there are nine (9) candidates this year. The sentiment was that we recognize all nine.
  5. **Next Meeting:** April 21st @ NDA, Hingham.

Submitted by:  
Kevin Maloney  
Secretary