

MSTCA Indoor Track Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday 10/14/13, Reggie Lewis Center, Boston

Present- Frank Mooney, Executive Director MSTCA, Rick Kates, Assistant Director, Jim Hoar, President, Lou Tozzi (non-voting), Lucia Carroll (non-voting), Charlie O'Rourke (non-voting), Steve Infascelli, Joe LeMar, Bill O'Connor, Bill Kane, Mike Miller, John Carroll, Linda Rowbotham, Phil Maia, Steve McChesney

1) Discussion of Committee purpose- Frank explained that the Indoor Track Committee is an opportunity for coaches to have more voices heard, explained history of MSTCA decision making process

2) Elections:

Chairman- Bill Kane

Vice Chairman- Steve Infascelli

Secretary- Mike Miller

3) Indoor Meet Previews (date, Meet Director):

Winter Festival (12/21-22/2013, John Carroll)-

- Discussion centered on Winter Festival and Freshman-Sophomore Meet alignments, since these have large and small school divisions
- E-board debated at Spring meeting that 1100 students per school created most even split between large and small schools
- After brief round of questions, coaches reasoned that without team competitions, the split of divisions in these two meets was unessential
- Christmas in the City- we started this at W/F last December and should make sure to continue this year (provides a gift to kid in need at Christmastime)
- Lou asked that Steve and Nicole help organize gifts on the day

Boston Holiday Challenge/ Team Pentathlon/ Holiday Qualifier (12/27-28/2013, Rick Kates & Jim Hoar)

- New this year, Rick explained that this is 3 meets in one
- Friday AM- Team Pentathlon will be coupled with an Individual Pentathlon (Team Entries to Jim Hoar, individual entries on Direct Athletics)
- Jim raised the question as to whether the Individual Pent. Would take away from the team aspect of the meet, Lucia brought up possible time constraints
- Discussion: rationalized that individuals might benefit from having this to qualify for national meet, likely there would be too few athletes in the individual competition to create a time crunch, with outdoor shift to multi-event at state meet, this would give kids another chance to prepare
- John Carroll adds that Team Pentathlon should be only open to Mass. Teams, \$40 entry per athlete or team in Pentathlon might detract some from attending
- Holiday Qualifier- Friday afternoon, no qualifying standards, unique entry (from Challenge) on direct athletics to avoid confusion
- Holiday Challenge- Saturday AM (unique entry from Qualifier on Direct Athletics), sanctioned by MIAA for neighboring states

- Rick- purpose of sanctioning both meets is to give out of state teams chance to bring whole teams and not just a few qualified individuals
- Sanctioning- list of schools participating has to be in within 20 days prior to meet, will go to MIAA for sanctioning, they can refuse a team at this time (team would be informed prior to)
- Teams must be declared 12/7, but entries are not due until 12/23- point of emphasis

Freshman-Sophomore Meet (1/4-5/2014, Lou Tozzi)

- Cutoff between large and small schools is 1100 students per school (Lou reports that this would distribute entries more evenly- 2013 large= 1450, small= 1200)
- Format is 1 running, 1 field, 1 relay (no change)
- Working w/ Direct Athletics to throw out entries marked ND or NT (60 phone calls were made to coaches in 2013 for this purpose)
- \$5 per athlete per event (changed from "per athlete")
- New qualifying standards: 2 mile (12:00 B, 14:00 G), mile (5:45 B, 6:45 G), 1000m (3:20 B, 3:55 G), 600m (1:50 B, 2:05 G), SP, LJ, HJ stay the same
- Discussion- Jim Hoar- is LJ standard too easy?- rationale, with meet so early, it might be difficult for frosh-soph kids to jump their best, decision to remain the same
- Discussion- why not create entry standards for 55, 55 HH, and 300 meters? Rationale- coaches have hard time explaining to non-qualified distance/ field athletes why they can't go if any sprinters are allowed to go
- Proposed change- 16 to 5 HH/ 55m semis with 8 to final (currently there is a two heat final)
- Discussion- Rick questioned need for developing athletes to race 3 times, possibly jmp and run a relay, when they don't do this at state meets)
- Proposal- run a two heat final, with first heat being "non-scoring" or "consolation" event. Rationale- would give 8 more athletes chance to race without creating two-heat final
- Vote: run one 8 person final in straightaway events (4 in favor, 4 opposed, 4 abstain)
- Vote: run one 8 person final and one 8 person consolation final (5 in favor, 7 opposed)
- Vote: keep 2 section final on time (unanimous)
- Motion- Charlie O'Rourke- to allow coaches to contact meet director if interested in entering 3rd athlete if all 3 have met the event standard
- Discussion- how many times does meet director get these calls at State Coaches? Charlie answered 5 at most, sometimes none. Any athletes this add should be offset by creating new entry standards.
- Vote: allow coaches to add a 3rd athlete if all athletes have made the entry standard as long as entry standards are applied to 55, 55 HH, and 300 meters (11 in favor, 1 opposed)
- Lou indicated that he would create standards based on research already completed

MSTCA Relays (1/10-11-12/2014, 1/18-19/2014 John Carroll)

- John Carroll produced a study of realigned divisions (DIV and DV have the most teams, with new DIV having the most entries from 2012 and 2013)
- Relay order (5-2-3-4-1) differs from MIAA meet order (discussion- coaches should have no difficulty determining differences in meet orders)
- HJ increments- 4th height will be that division's qualifying standard- to be determined after MIAA 12/6 meeting (discussion as to whether this should be the 3rd height centered around possible 5 inch jump from 4'6 to 4'11" or similar, decision made to use 4th height as Q standard)

- Discussion- Frank requested that paper entry replaced with online entry to Direct Athletics to avoid confusion of sending paper entries and P.O to different addresses (discussion- can D.A. handle a simple entry with no seed times- Frank: yes)

MSTCA Boys/ Girls/ Elite Meets (1/25-26/2014, Charlie O'Rourke)

- Proposed revision of order of events (girls 1 mile between 55 dash/ 55 HH trials and finals to create more time for athletes)
- Vote: in favor of revision (unanimous)
- Typo- order of relays (should read 4x200, 4x800, 4x400) approved for change
- Rick- change wording of relays will begin at completion of HJ to relays MAY be held until completion of HJ (rationale- if no athletes are affected, relays should be able to start before HJ ends)

Last Chance to Qualify Meet (2/2/2014, Steve Infascelli)

- Steve reminds the coaches that this meet has an extra challenge by being the day after the NB Grand Prix meet and that help would be appreciated
- Question- should meet directors have more input specifically in how their own meet is run- Frank: the committee exists to determine what is best for athletes

4) New Business

- John Carroll- importance of preservation of Reggie Lewis Center with building of New Balance facility right around the corner- all agreed
- Mike Miller- brought up possibility of making changes to clerking/ check-in procedure at MSTCA meets in the future to allow for more appropriate warming up for athletes (possibilities include clerking closer to the track to allow athletes to return immediately before their race, announcing heats over a PA system, using the gym as a warm up area, making athletes more responsible for their own check-in)
- Discussion- Frank explained the spatial challenges of this recommendation, including girls shot put area, need for all bleachers to be used, number of athletes who could miss races, coaches complaining about new procedure, and the fact that when given a chance to run a warm up on the track before a race, many athletes choose not to, while others argued that the athletes are not being allowed a proper warm up due to being lined up too early for races and corralled for a lengthy period before the race
- Decision- Mike Miller and Steve McChesney will go to an MSTCA meet this winter to monitor current procedures and see if there are possible solutions to this dilemma

5) Next Meeting- Monday, February 2, 2014 at Reggie Lewis Center, 6:30 PM