

MSTCA Outdoor Committee Postseason Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 5/28/19 Canton, MA 7:00 PM

Present: Mike Miller (chair), Lou Tozzi (observing), Paul Travato, Kevin Butera, Sotirios Pintzopoulos, Matt Carr, James Fletcher, Sotirios Pintzopoulos, Jay Sylvain, Mike Budd

1. MSTCA Meet reviews

A. Individual Pentathlon (North Andover 4/13)

Meet review-

- Folded this meet into the Haverhill Invitational for this year only, think that went okay (HHS track is being resurfaced).
- 20 boys & 22 girls competed

Recommended changes-

- Like to see more competitors - does the day or location need to be moved? (North Andover is more than happy to continue hosting, just throwing it out there)
- Add Decathlon to this meet in the future?

B. Relays Weekend (4/27-4/28)

1. Steele Relays (Saturday, West Springfield):

Meet review-

- The size of the 2019 Steele Relays increased from last year
- Team check in & packet pick up went very well. Recommendation to make emergency contact form available early online in the season
- The meet went very smoothly, no recommended changes in standards for next year.
- Coaches and officials were very happy with the meet. I have received numerous compliments directly and via email.
- No major concerns - minor concerns ended up being easy to resolve

Recommended changes-None

2. EMass Relays:

Recommended changes-

- Outdoor EMass Relays Director- existing director receives double stipend to oversee all relay entries
 - **Motion to create the Relay Director position**
 - **Vote - Unanimous**
 - The four meets should have continuity/all meets should be run the same
- Utilize laser measuring at all field events
 - Will the system actually make things move faster?
 - Our own for MSTCA
 - Who is going to teach the officials to use it?
 - **Motion: To purchase enough laser measuring systems to be able to work 2 relay meets (10 systems)**
 - **Vote - Unanimous**
- Add team standard for all field events (except HJ)
 - Sotirios suggests ramping up this level to the 10th-12th place finisher from the year before
 - Matt Carr counterpoint is that we do not need to worry about time
 - Real solution is efficiency from administrative perspective
- Better communication w/ field event officials

- Require timer of all MSTCA meets to send results within the hour
- DA individual field event entry method (Rick)
 - Athletes still should be grouped with their team
 - Seeding in flights could potentially help
 - **Motion: Initial entries are due on Sunday with all individual entries for field events. Running event seed times can be edited until 24 hours before. Field event changes can be made at the table at the beginning of the meet and therefore eliminates relay cards**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**
 - eliminates cards and reduces chances for errors
 - Increases coaches responsibility
- Take pictures of event sheets to reduce workload on Hytek?
- **Motion: Require timer in reasonable circumstances to post results within an hour after the completion of the event**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**
- **Motion: MSTCA should require all of their meets to post live results during the meet for free as part of the contract**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**

a. DI Relays (Sunday, Braintree):

Meet review-

- Field events ended at 4:30 (discus, javelin, triple jump)
- Braintree site needs work- 1 food truck overcrowded (2 hour lines)
- Results not up until next day (timer)
- 3 sets of field event flights caused confusion
- Mike Meagher acting as a line clerk, not a meet director
 - Responsibilities need to be allocated correctly

b. DII Relays (Saturday, Walpole):

Meet review-

- Meet results were not up until the next day (timer)
- Walpole had to move javelin area three times due to flooding of lower field

c. DIII Relays (Saturday, Pembroke):

Meet review-

d. DIV Relays (Sunday, Apponequet):

Meet review-

- D4 went very well. Rain arrived mid-meet, but never heavy and caused nothing more than a minor nuisance.
- Kent Taylor made a special trip down to interview some of the winning teams.
- Received compliments about the meet from coaches from CAL, SCC, DCL, SSL, CCC, ACL, & TVL.
- Biggest issue was HJ official deciding on his own to run flights, Referee supporting this decision, and neither notifying the meet director until 1 pm.
- Track and Shot done at 3 pm; High, Long, Triple, and Javelin by 3:20; Discus by 3:40.
- Post-meet email was sent to all coaches asking for feedback. Only request came from CAL squad who asked if the MSTCA could return up north since D4 has been in south 4 of last 5 years.

C. Freshman-Sophomore Large (Franklin, 5/4)

Meet review-

- Field referee arbitrarily decided to create no measure lines (overruled by meet director through committee chair)
- **Motion: MSTCA Meet Directors provide the format by printout or email to the officials in advance of the meet**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**
- Franklin an excellent host site, many parents/ athletes helped
- Meet was very long, nearly 4:00 PM ending
- There was confusion with the meet records (Rick Kates cleared up), but at the meet there was different information on the programs and the sheets the announcer was getting

Recommended changes-

- Standards need tightening- boys particularly (1.5x boys over girls)
- Can we move some large schools to small to even numbers?
- Add language that coach may add more than 3 per event if all competitors make standard (MD permission)

2020 Standards Recommended:

- Girls 100 - 14.5 change to 14.2 - 107 entries to 84 this year
- Girls LJ - 14'0" change to 14'3" (cut from 66 to 54)
- Girls TJ - 27' change to 28' (cut from 62 to 50)
- Girls HJ - 4'4" change to 4'5" = 59 to 39
- Boys 100 - 12.5 change to 12.2 would cut it from 85 to 57
- Boys 200 - 27.5 change to 26.2 would cut it from 117 to 75
- Boys LJ - 17'0" change to 17'6" would cut from 60 to 41 athletes
- Boys TJ - 32' to 33' would have cut it from 50 to 45 athletes
- Boys mile - 5:25 change to 5:20 - cuts the field from 99 to 84
- Boys 2 mile - 11:40 change to 11:25 cuts the field from 53 to 40
- Boys Shot - change from 30' to 32' cuts entries down to 49
- Boys Disc - change from 80' to 83" would cut 62 to 51 (so one flight)
- Boys Jav - change from 100' to 102' cuts from 52 to 37
- **Motion: Pass these standards**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**

D. Freshman-Sophomore Small (Norwell, 5/4)

Meet review-

Recommended changes-

Perfect, no complaints

E. MSTCA Coaches Invitational (Sharon, 5/11)

Meet review-

- 2400 athletes registered, largest meet ever, despite incredible efforts from Sharon meet ended at 5:30
 - It was a great meet
 - Is the time really an issue?
- 2018- boys/ girls meets combined for 1500 athletes, didn't anticipate need for good weather meet
- Membership stepped up to help all day, officials were excellent, key was great referee (Morris) and clerks (Meehan and Kiley)

- Pole vault Friday was cancelled for weather that never came (try to keep vault at site day of in future)

Recommended changes-

- Remove freshman 100 meters, frosh-soph 4x100
- Keep mixed 4x400 meter relay, freshman mile
- Consider adding SMR, 800 medley for nationals qualifying
- Pole vault on site, 8 lane track
- 2020 Co-meet directors Mike Miller and Tim Cimeno (this meet is large enough that it requires the work of two people- it used to be two meets)
- Sites to consider- Norwell, Plymouth South, others?
- **Motion: Approve all of these suggestions**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**

2020 Standards Recommended:

- Girls- 100 (13.50), 200 (28.00), 400 (64.00), 800 (2:32.00), Mile (5:45.00), 2 mile (12:45.00- no change), 100 hurdles (18.00- no change), 400 hurdles (75.00), 4x100 (55.00), 4x400 (4:30.00), 4x800 (11:00.00), long jump (15'9"), triple jump (32'6"), High jump (4'10), pole vault (7'0- no change), shot put (29'- no change), discus (83'- no change), javelin (87'- no change), frosh mile (6:10.00- no change)
- Boys- 100 (11.40), 200 (23.50), 400 (54.00), 800 (2:05.00), Mile (4:45.00), 2 mile (10:30.00), 100 hurdles (17.50- no change), 400 hurdles (63.00), 4x100 (48.00), 4x400 (3:50.00), 4x800 (9:10.00- no change), long jump (19'6"), triple jump (39'0"), High jump (5'9), pole vault (8'6- no change), shot put (40'), discus (110'), javelin (135'), frosh mile (5:10.00)

2) 2020 MSTCA Schedule/ general recommendations

- Use of Lynx electronic display boards at meets
 - **Motion: MSTCA Purchase a modular electronic display board**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**
- Laser measurement for 5 field events over 2 sites (need 10 devices)
- MSTCA needs to communicate all meet formats to MTFOA/ officials
- May 2- Frosh-Soph (SAT weekend)
- May 9- MSTCA Invitational
- May 16- Relays Weekend
- May 23- League meets
- May 30/31- Divisionals

3) MIAA Meet Reviews/ recommendations

DI East-

- DA set up incorrectly- best entry button NEEDS to be removed
- No communication to coaches from TD
- No seeding committee (when asked, TD said "call Mike Miller")
- No jury of appeals (team 4x800 interfered with, appealed, was told it'd be taken care of, stretcher crossed the track twice during race- leads to more stretchers!)
- When this coach contacted TD, he never returned call. Team was never added on MIAA site, although kids were informed they were competing
- Day of- good awards ceremony, Norwell excellent host site (Chuck Martin)

DII East-

- DA set up incorrectly- see DI/ DIII east
- Anything Kent shares about D3 can also be put here.

- Performance list prior to meet was last to be posted (24 hours late)
- No real communication or ownership of the meet by Irwin Cohen.
- North Andover coaches & team did a lot of work behind the scenes to prevent the day (weekend) from being a disaster
- Facility (Merrimack College) is a top notch facility with 8 lanes. Merrimack stated that they are willing to host something like this annually, however we need to make sure we keep them as an ally.

DIII East-

- DA set up incorrectly
- Direct Athletics was set up less than two weeks before the tournament began.
- DA included best performance mark that often comes from a previous season--it should not be there.
- It was not until 2 days before the entry deadline (and the same day as the pentathlon deadline) and only after Matt Carr's prompting, that a comment box was added for the mandatory site and date of performance notes.
- No notice was given to coaches that the comment box had been added, so coaches who had done entries early, had no opportunity to add the mandatory information.
- No seeding committee, as required by the format, was ever set up for Division 3 (and perhaps not for other divisions).
- We were notified that Merrimack was our meet site one week before the tournament. We were never notified about site specific information: for example, is javelin thrown from grass or a composite runway and onto grass or turf?
- The format states that performance lists would be posted by 5pm on Tuesday. They were not posted until 15 hours later. They have rarely, if ever, been posted on time. Division II was almost 24 hours late.
- Some tournament directors added .24 to hand times (the track and field standard) while some added .40 to hand times (the MIAA standard) a major difference when determining who does and doesn't make the tournament.
- Adding .4 to distance races is unnecessary and unfair.
- The "fill-the-field" standards result in some athletes getting unfairly left out due to data entry and conversion mistakes by coaches and MIAA staff. Those athletes also practiced an extra week only to be told a few days before the tournament, "sorry, you didn't end up making it."
- The MIAA is holding their coaches of the year awards banquet on the same night as the track and field tournament.
- Some divisions filled the field in pole vault, though format said that would not happen. Many coaches didn't enter vaulters below the standard thus missing a chance to be included.
- Some pole vault divisions started below the qual height some started at the qual height
- THEY DID ONE THING RIGHT- With three flights of boys discus and only two of the girls shot, they held the start of the boys shot put until the discus concluded--we need more logical and common-sense decision making like this.
- Kent implored Irwin Cohen to get the seedings out more expeditiously. Twice.
 - Irwin's response: "I am sure parents and athletes have plenty of time to prepare."
 - Concerns could have been alleviated with communication
 - E-mail coaches through Direct Athletics to notify when there are issues in the future
 - Level of apathy is disappointing
 - Principals, ADs, coaches, parents, buses, all impacted

- not just about the meet and who is attending, it is about parents picking kids up from practice, who is actually going to practice going forward, etc. etc. These are just a few of the concerns I was receiving.
- "If I wanted to enter an athlete LATE on Wednesday before they published the seeding list, which was supposed to be (15) hours ago, would they still charge me the \$300.00 to get that athlete in? Is there an exorbitant fee or penalty for the MIAA for being late as well? Is that not a double standard?"
- Not enough workers at the long jump pit
 - Official's solution was to ask COMPETING ATHLETES to rake. Unacceptable.
- The D3 results very late in getting posted
- **Motion: Pass on to our board a vote of no confidence in Irwin Cohen**
 - **Vote: Unanimous**

DIV East-

- DA set up incorrectly- see DI/DIII East
- Pentathlon (along w/ DI) a mess- 1 high jump pit for 47 total athletes, event went nearly 6 hours (over 2 hours for girls HJ)
- This cut way into warmup/ rest time in between events, which seemed to be arbitrarily doled out
- At Norwell, site director did an excellent job on Sunday, MIAA should be using Norwell site every year
- Ed Hitchborn made an excellent program for coaches, athletes, spectators

C/W DI-

- DA not set up correctly
- In the Pentathlon, this issue impacted who competed in the event. 3 entries from one team had questionable marks, all got into the competition. All 3 performed somewhere between 200-500 points below their projected points. Entries with verifiable seeds were left at home. Repercussions necessary
- Pole Vault/High Jump entry wording. Inconsistent following of the format
 - Limited vault entries
 - Filling field high jump entries

C/W DII-

- DA set up incorrectly- see DI/DIII East

4) Coach of the Year Nominations

1. Eastern Mass. Boys- Steve Nugent (North Andover), Dave Casey (Lowell), DJ Brock (Acton-Boxboro), Dave Dickerson (Somerville), Joe Colbert (Triton), Peter Molloy (Tewksbury), Shawn Wallace (Newton North), Samnang Ross (Revere), Brandon Delano (Dighton-Rehoboth)
2. Eastern Mass. Girls- Mike Russo (Natick), Soitirios Pintzopulous (North Reading), Maura Bennett (Dover-Sherborn), Fran Cusick (Tewksbury), Ernie Bissailion (Amesbury)
3. Central Mass. Boys- Anthony Findley (Murdock), Chris Donovan (Ayer-Shirley- 2018 IT**), John Nicol (Worcester Tech.)
4. Central Mass. Girls- Mike Seguin(Ayer-Shirley), Colleen Nabiocheck (Groton-Dunstable), Steve Kyajohnian (Lunenburg), Sarah Lamey (Fitchburg), Mike O'Malley (Wachusett)
5. Western Mass. Boys- John Pantuosco (Longmeadow)
6. Western Mass. Girls- Linda Rowbotham (Northampton), Graham Raymond (Chicopee Comp), Chris Gould (Amherst)

7. Assistant- Ashley Davidson-Sloane (Natick), Nick Sharon (Northampton), Kevin Johnston (Amesbury), Doug Lang (Westborough), Many Alves (Holliston), John King (Bishop Feehan), James Fletcher (Woburn)

5) Mooney Athlete of the Year Nominations

1. Boys- Jordan Williams (Brockton), Rishabh Prakash (Burlington), Cameron Rodgers (Durfee)
2. Girls- Cameron Garabian (Seekonk), Mackenzie Condon (MV), Jada Johnson (Sharon)

6) New Business

- How to get more officials
 - Two levels of officials
 - Tier 1 - MTFOA
 - Tier 2 - People within your town/building/etc who can officiate meets
 - Meet Directors
 - Their responsibility to make sure officials know proper protocol at that particular meet
 - Meet Directors should have a say in who they want as officials
 - This is on meet directors to reach out to the official assignor to do so