

Association of Track Officials of Michigan

Minutes of April 18, 2010
Association of Track Officials of Michigan
East Lansing, MI

MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Babcock, Darlene Barber, Lyle Berry, Cecil Burch, Jan Burch, Lew Clingman, Jim, Gillis, Rudy Godefroidt, Dennis Hodges, Kathy Hutfilz, Geri Jackson, Lynn Ketelhut, George Kniola, Brian Macomber, John Raducha, Jill Sandro, Allen Wood, and Eric Zemper.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The March minutes were accepted with the following information added for reference. The wind gauge equipment approved last month will come from the following companies: \$99 for the gauge & \$14 for the clamp would come from Kestral, and \$18 for the tripod from Radio Shack.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. We are sitting well financially. The only expense that we will have over the next few months is the newsletter. Our membership is also in good standing.

ATOM NEWSLETTER:

Tom was not present for the meeting.

WEBMASTER:

George gave an update on the ATOM website. As of 12/06/2005, there have been 3,662 hits (665 per year) to the site. Portions of the March 2010 ATOM newsletter, ATOM award recipients for 2010, and minutes from 2/5/2010 and 3/14/2010 meetings all have been posted. George updated the website to show our Executive Committee meeting dates. Rule clarifications: March 18th e-mail of Five Finger Shoes, Arm Warmers, and Altius PV Poles; 2010 Major T/f Rules Notations; and other reminders: etching on Altius PV poles, no restrictions on arm & leg warmers, and wearing of boxer shorts as undergarments is not considered illegal were all posted to the webpage as well.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT:

Dan was not present for the meeting, but emailed Jill. He is trying to get a hold of his brother Rob about his clinic presentation for next year. As he indicated before, Rob has indicated that he has a power point presentation that he may allow us to use. Dan will continue working with him and keep everybody informed. What is the budget for the clinic gift? Dan has talked to a sales rep about an idea that he has, but really hasn't talked specifics with him yet, not knowing what he could spend. Also, how many gifts do we plan for? That will also factor into the price.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT:

Lynn was really looking forward to his first ATOM meeting since he has never been inside the MHSAA building, but since the meeting was held outdoors, he will have to wait until September. Lynn thanked everyone for letting him be apart of this group and said he is looking forward to meeting and working with everyone.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

ZONE 1: Al reported that the weather has been good and all is going well in Zone 1.

ZONE 2: Doug was in Singapore for our meeting, but emailed that since he has only done taxes and no track since the last meeting he has nothing to report. He has started discussions with MITCA regarding the 1 turn cut and will continue to do that after April 15th.

ZONE 3: Geri reported that there are a lot of meets scheduled in the Detroit area. There is also a shortage of officials. Geri pointed that when we are the only official at many of our meets, we need to make sure that the field event areas are going well. We need to continue to try and educate ourselves and others so we can improve officials

overall. She also mentioned a frustrating thing that is happening in Zone 3 is that coaches want only one official at the meet, but want that official to do everything. Darlene mentioned the Shumake Relays will be at Renascence this month, the Jr. Championships will be June 26th, and the Master's meet at Hillsdale will be June 12th. There are also a few new members from Zone 3.

ZONE 4: Dan was not present for the meeting, but emailed Jill. Like everybody, now that Easter is over, meets are really beginning to fly onto his schedule. Dan is scheduled to work between 3 and 5 meets every week. Last Saturday, he was head shot put official at the Bulldog Invitational (College) at Ferris, and yesterday, he was head high jump official at Northwood Invitational (College). Dan has had 4 HS outdoor meets so far, and every meet he has had to remind kids about the rule of contrasting colored stitching on their undergarments, and told them they had to take it off. Dan also had two HS indoor invitationals at SVSU. Otherwise, everything is off and running quite well. He did see one pair of "finger" shoes at the girls HS Invite at SVSU. Only pair he has seen so far.

ZONE 5: John is going to try to do some recruiting this spring by asking the timers and event workers he sees at track meets if they have ever thought about registering to be a track official.

ZONE 6: Other than the common issues with jewelry and uniforms, things are going well in Zone 6. Houseman Field is back up and running, so all are thankful in the Grand Rapids area. Lew described a meet that was 2 separate duals and 1 triangular scored as three duals all occurring simultaneously. He complimented Dennis Hodges and Al Owens for doing a great job of running the meet, but recommended not trying that type of meet again. The State Finals sites are all ready to go. Since expressways in Grand Rapids are under construction, giving directions on how to get to the sites will be tricky. The wind gauge equipment is in and will be taken to each State site. Someone asked Lew how long will the T&F finals be in the Grand Rapids area? He answered as long as no one else wants them. With that, the 2011 finals are in the beginning stages of planning.

ZONE 7: Lyle said he tried to go to a meet in Florida before coming back to Michigan, but it was cancelled due to snow. Lyle has a full schedule for this spring. Lyle has contact with Gordie Richardson in Gaylord who helps out a lot by taking the track meets that are north of Gaylord. Lyle said he might entertain the idea of splitting Zone 7 into an A and B just because the zone is so large.

ZONE 8: John was not present but emailed Jill. He said things are slow up here right now. After a month of warm weather, we had about 3 + inches of snow overnight. There has been/will be an indoor meet in Wisconsin and the NMU small school/large school indoor meets in the next week or so. After that, we should be in full swing as far as track is concerned. Best wishes for a successful season.

USATF: Eric reported that there are no scheduled trainings in the near future for USATF. Trainings will resume late summer, early fall. He has been working on getting officials for the Huron Relays at EMU and has had a good response. He had 30 officials there (7-USATF certified, 14 ATOM members, and 9 who are both). The meet went smoothly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brain brought in a picture of the lane marking in lanes 7 and 8 on Rockford's track to show a visual of the distance discrepancy that is being discussed in regards to the starting line of a two-turn staggered race. Doug has been in contact with MITCA to see who exactly he needs to talk to with regards to changing this rule. Eric mentioned that as long as we have a strong and solid argument, there shouldn't be any trouble.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jan Burch asked for a rule clarification in regards to athletes warming up for their field events. Does the athlete's coach need to be present for the athlete to warm-up or can another coach over see all athletes that want to warm-up? Much discussion followed, but it is up to meet management at that particular site to make that determination. Meet management decides when the competition circles are open/closed. As an official, we can't close down pits. If, as an official, you see a problem, then you need to go talk to your meet management.

Jim Gillis passed around a .32 caliber starter pistol that he found at GunXUSA.com. It is a stainless steel gun with an orange handle. They run \$171.00 each which includes a 1 year warranty, or for \$189.00 you can get a lifetime warranty. Jim has completed all the necessary paperwork for people to be able to order one if interested. He will put the necessary information in the next newsletter or you can contact Jim if you would like the information sooner.

~Meeting dates for 2010: September 12th, October 10th, November 7th, and December 12th. All meetings will be held at the MHSAA building in East Lansing.

~The next ATOM meeting will be on Monday, June 7, 2010. The meeting will start at 6:00 pm at the Spartan Cafe in East Lansing.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 05 a.m. Minutes submitted by Jill Sandro