

# *Association of Track Officials of Michigan*

Minutes of September 11, 2011  
Association of Track Officials of Michigan  
East Lansing, MI

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Darlene Barber, Lew Clingman, Jim Gillis, Rudy Godefroidt, John Greathouse, Blake Hagman, Dennis Hodges, Geri Jackson, Dan Johnson, George Kniola, John Meyer, John Raducha, Gordie Richardson, Jill Sandro, and Eric Zemper.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The June minutes summarizing each division's STATE Final were accepted as presented.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report for September was approved. Dennis is now the official treasurer. As of this report, we had one membership for 2012 paid and one 2012 clinic fee paid. The membership for 2011 was 228.

## ATOM NEWSLETTER:

Tom was not present. The next newsletter will go out October 1<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, you can do so for the December issue, which will go out December 1<sup>st</sup>. The deadline for that publication is November 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send all information to Tom at [eschmann.tom@gmail.com](mailto:eschmann.tom@gmail.com).

WEBMASTER: As of 09/10/11, the ATOM website had 4,865 hits. On Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>, George was able to post the new ruling on feather(s) in athletes' hair being illegal because it is considered an adornment and jewelry. He also posted 5 suggestions for officials to consider announcing prior to the start of a race: 1. Watches are legal, 2. Feathers are illegal, 3. Jewelry remains illegal along with wristbands, 4. Contrasting stitching on undergarments remains illegal, and 5. Jerseys need to be tucked in at the start of the race. On Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, he was able to post a notice of on-line rules meetings for Cross Country being available on the MHSAA website. He also posted the MHSAA document "2011 XS Rules Information and Update." He tried to post the May 1, 2011, meeting minutes, but the website was not responding. He will try again and try to post the June 6, 2011 minutes after their approval as well.

George also went over an analytical site report that the company that we have our site through provides for us. It shares which site persons tend to go to find the ATOM website, which search engine is most used to find our site, which Internet browser our website is viewed in most often, and the most frequently accessed pages on our website.

1<sup>st</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: Lynn was not present at the meeting, but did ask that anyone who would like to speak at the ATOM clinic to please send him a write-up summary of the topic you would like to present. He will get back to in November. Dan Johnson is checking to see if Dimmer, a supplier that was at our clinic last year, will be a vendor at the clinic again. Nate is set for our clinic date to lead a Rules meeting for Track and Field.

2<sup>nd</sup> VICE-PRESIDENT: no report

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS:

ZONE 1: Al was not at the meeting, but reported that he is just getting started and things are going well.

ZONE 2: no report

ZONE 3: The ladies shared that a new person, who does not have a great deal of Cross Country background, is now organizing many of the meets in Zone 3 which poses some concern. Otherwise, they continue to actively recruit new officials to the group.

ZONE 4: Dan reported all is quiet.

ZONE 5: John reported he took the online Cross Country test and found it to be relatively easy for those with experience, but those without may prefer/need a more face-to-face meeting. John also mentioned that Rudy's article on "How to Make Your Track & Field Meet Run Smoothly" might be a good article for the March newsletter, just before track season starts.

ZONE 6: Lew reported CC is in full swing in Zone 6. Feathers are really the only major/minor problem/concern. Some coaches are receptive, while others are defensive. For track season, the State Finals' sites are tentatively set for D1 at East Kentwood, D2 at Houseman, D3 at Comstock Park, and D4 at Jenison. Jenison is not confirmed yet. Comstock Park has gone through a face-lift. They have a new track and football field. A few things were restructured at Houseman to help with crowd movement and E. Kentwood has had their track realigned. Lew would like to put in our next newsletter an article explaining how important having registered officials at all jobs (field events, umpires not just starters, referees) are at the State Finals meet. He asked if we could offer a small compensation of lunch and a shirt for those that volunteered. Please encourage all officials you work with throughout the season to consider working the State meets. Lew suggested making the volunteer form in the newsletter larger. He also suggested not putting starter or referee as a job option, but explain that these two positions are appointed by the MHSAA. GVSU is also working on a new facility so it may be another site meets can be held in the future.

ZONE 7: Gordie reported that he was involved in the Annual Mudd Run that occurs in Cheboygan and Lyle was involved in the Fox & Hound Run. Feathers have really been the only issue when it comes to rules that he has had to deal with so far this CC season.

ZONE 8: John stated that the cross season is moving along up in the U.P. Other than that, things are pretty quiet and there was no snow when he left.

USATF: Eric has been to Jamaica and Oregon this summer. He was a starter/referee for the Prefontaine meet. He has been a horizontal jump and race walk judge as well. New this year, he will work as a safety judge. This job involves watching competitions to see if all athletes look ready to compete. If an athlete doesn't look ready, then the safety judge would request that the athlete not compete. There is a Level 1 USATF training on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at the U of M indoor track in Ann Arbor from 9-4:30.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Dan is still looking for suggestions for ways to collect names of ATOM members that have passed away. It was suggested that maybe a line be put on our membership form, it be mentioned on the website, and something put in the newsletter. A motion was approved for Dan to address the membership in the next newsletter regarding helping us gather names of those officials that have passed to please contact Dan or Tom Eschmann so we can get an accurate list and those individuals can be properly recognized at the 2012 clinic.

Jim Gillis would like to have ATOM recommend to the Rep. Council that there be a mandate of 5 officials at a Regional meet (2 starters, 2 referees, and 1 clerk). Lew will take this idea/request to the Rules & Rec. committee in January to hear their thoughts. The R&R committee must approve this mandate before it can go to the Rep. Council.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Rule clarifications: A watch may be worn around the wrist. Mark Uyl describes a watch as something that can be strapped around the wrist.

A sweatband that is a single, solid color, no more than 2", and has no logo is okay as long as it is worn at the wrist. If band is any higher, like at elbow, not okay.

Blake passed out the 2012 NFHS rule changes. He pointed out rule 4-3-1b (8) that contrasting stitching will be legal in 2012. Also rule 4-3-3 PEN – a jewelry warning can now be done in writing at the pre-meet coaches' meeting.

The next ATOM meeting will be on October 9, 2011, at the MHSAA Building in East Lansing. The October meeting will be in two parts: the Past Presidents' meeting will begin at 9:30 with the regular business meeting beginning at 10:30am.

Future ATOM meeting dates: November 13, December 11, 2011, and the ATOM Clinic in Clare February 3-4, 2012.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.  
Minutes submitted by Jill Sandro.