TRACK & FIELD

Call to Order: Division III Track & Field President, Brian Cole, called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM CST and announced agendas and 2005 minutes were available.

Presentations

Legal Advice for Hosting Track & Field Meets
Shelby Sharpe, General Counselor for the USTFCCCA, spoke to our group on the subject of, “Avoiding Liability as a Meet Host”. Mr. Sharpe is not only an attorney but also a Track & Field Official. He had arranged for a document titled, “Protocols to Minimize Injury, Death and Bad Results at the Courthouse”, to be distributed to the coaches present. Mr. Sharpe emphasized the importance of coaches documenting that all track and field event venues have been checked for safety before hosting each meet.

Mr. Sharpe concluded his remarks by providing his email address: utlawman@aol.com should anyone need advice or additional information.

Reports

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the 2005 meeting were approved and accepted as posted on the web site and distributed.

Treasurer and Web Master Reports: There were no reports from Treasurer Jeff Wettach and Web Master Steve Mathre. President Cole reported that the treasury would be transferred to the USTFCCCA national office now that the organization appears viable. It was also noted that the Division III USTFCCCA website would be disbanded as the national USTFCCCA office has a website that includes all the pertinent information.

USTFCCCA Summer Meeting Report: Fred Barends reported on the USTFCCCA Summer Meetings where items discussed included: Law and Legislation, Budget, Web Page, Awards, CEO, Sam Seemes, meetings with NCAA Officials and Representatives, and a slate of nominations for the USTFCCCA Executive Board.

Historians Report: Historian John Zupanc was recognized and reported that he was somewhat behind in updating the historical data stating his duties as the USTFCCCA Cross Country President had taken a majority of his time.

Hall of Fame Report: As his last responsibility Ted Bulling, Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee, announced the names of those who will entering the Hall of Fame at the 2007 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Athletes: Steph Resch, UW Oshkosh; Jacqui Dent, Occidental; Bill Schroeder, UW La Crosse; and Doug Porter, Occidental. The Coach to be recognized this year will be John Homan, Mount Union.

Ted concluded his remarks by announcing that Janey Arnold, Bluffton College will be assuming the role of Chair of the Hall of Fame committee and that Mahesh Narayanan, North Central; and Felix Mareno, Frostburg State, are new members of the Committee. *In January 2007, Felix Mareno accepted a NCAA Division I coaching position, so was removed from the committee.

Business Meeting (Please note: it was decided that all of the business motions would be voted on when the Division III coaches reconvened on Tuesday, December 12.)

TRACK & FIELD:
2) Wind Gauges Required in 2008 for NCAA Qualifying
A motion regarding wind gauges for Combined events was withdrawn because its application was determined at the Executive Committee Meeting. The concern was with wind gages being recommended in 2007 and required in 2008. How would they affect NCAA Qualifying in the Combined Events (Heptathlon and Decathlon)? Although this information is not included in the NCAA Track & Field Rule Book it is available in the NCAA Championships Handbook. Wind is NOT factored into NCAA qualifying marks for the Combined Events, however, a mark achieved within a Combined Event competition that meets a
qualifying standard for the NCAA Outdoor Championships must be accompanied with a legal wind reading beginning with the 2008 season.

Motions from the floor:

3) Recognize 9 Finalist at Awards for NCAA Championships
   MOTION: At the NCAA Championships all nine (9) Field Event Finalists and all nine (9) Track Event Finalists (when nine (9) lanes are available) would be introduced on the awards stand.
   SECONDED: MOTION DEFEATED BY VOICE VOTE

4) Request Lower Ratio of Coach to Athlete Per Diem from NCAA.
   MOTION: Request that the NCAA Division III Track & Field Sub-Committee and the Championships Committee approve a better ratio of coaches to athletes for the NCAA Championships. A ratio of one (1) coach to four (4) athletes was suggested.
   RATIONALE: At present the NCAA pays for one coach to eight athletes in Track & Field and one coach to seven athletes in Cross Country. The concern is based on the fact that many car rental companies are no longer renting fifteen passenger vans and twelve passenger vans are not always easy to obtain which forces teams to use more than one minivan or smaller vehicle. In many cases underage drivers (under 25 years old) are not allowed by rental car companies. Thus, a second adult (over age 25) is needed for transportation.
   SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

5) Add the 200 Meters to the NCAA Indoor Championship
   MOTION: Add the 200 Meters event to the NCAA Indoor Championships without increasing numbers.
   RATIONALE: Since most of the athletes would already be qualified in other events the addition of the 200 Meters would not add athletes to the meet.
   DISCUSSION: The motion brought about a great deal of discussion both on Monday when the motion was made, as well as Tuesday when the voting was done. Most of the discussion was based on the fact that the motion, if passed, could not be accomplished without having additional athletes in the meet.
   On Tuesday morning the motion was tabled until the next motion was either passed or failed. After the next motion was passed, the Indoor 200 Meter motion to remove from the table followed by a vote.
   SECONDED: MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY PADDLE VOTE Y-23;N-80,A-0

6) Increase in NCAA Indoor Championship Numbers
   MOTION: Request that the NCAA Division III Track & Field Sub-Committee and the Championships Committee expand the number of qualifying athletes for the Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships.
   DISCUSSION: The feeling was to request additional athletes, then if passed, determine a preference for adding events and/or numbers to the fields at a future meeting.
   SECONDED: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

7) Supervised Out-of-Season Pole Vault Practice
   MOTION: Ask that “Supervised out-of-season Pole Vault practice” be included as one of the “Safety Exceptions” within the NCAA rules.
   SECONDED: MOTION PASSED BY PADDLE VOTE, Y-64,N-53,A-9

8) Ban Pyro-Flash Timing System
   MOTION: Disallow “Pyro-Flash” timing systems for National Qualifying marks.
   DISCUSSION: During the discussion of this motion, data was presented which showed although the “pyro-flash” times did not always agree to the one-hundredth of a second with FinishLynx times. However, the data showed that the Pyro-Flash times were, if properly recorded, certainly within acceptable limits.
9) Re-Evaluate Indexing for Banked Tracks
   MOTION: Request that the NCAA Division III Track & Field Sub-Committee research to determine a
   more scientific method for indexing banked tracks and possibly implemented.
   SECONDED:  
   MOTION PASSED BY PADDLE VOTE, Y-95,N-3,A-6

Election of Officers
2nd Vice President for the Division III Track & Field Coaches Association.

Two coaches were nominated from the floor on Monday, December 11:
James Williams Cabrini College
Kari Kluckhohn, North Central College

On Tuesday, December 12, during the VOTING Session Kari Kluckhohn was elected by a paddle vote.

Secretary of the Division III Track & Field Coaches Association

After twenty-seven years of serving as Secretary of the Division III Track & Field Coaches Association
(1979-2006) Bill Thornton decided to resign the position of secretary. Prior to resigning, however, he had
contacted a possible new candidate for the position who had graciously said, “if nominated and elected I
would very gladly serve.”

Nominations:
Garrick Larson, Concordia College (MN) was brought forth as a nominee.
Paul Thornton, Washington University, St Louis was nominated from the floor

On Tuesday, December 12, during the VOTING Session Garrick Larson was elected by paddle vote.

Adjournment: On Monday, December 11, the Track & Field portion of the meeting adjourned at 5:17 PM CST

Reconvene: On Tuesday, December 12, the meeting reconvened with President Brian Cole calling the meeting to
order at 8:00 AM CST.

Presentations

2) NCAA Championships Travel
Juanita Sheely, the NCAA Travel Manager promptly distributed a document entitled “NCAA
Championships Travel” Division III- Things You Should Know. She then spoke to and answered questions
regarding travel to the NCAA Championships. She concluded her remarks by announcing beginning in
2006-07 the per diem has been increased to $75.00 per day.

3) NCAA Track & Field/Cross Country New Rules Highlights
Bob Podkaminer, the NCAA Secretary/Rules Editor presented a rules review and clarification, with reasons
and rationale for most of the rule changes in the 2007 Rule Book. Bob spent a majority of his time with
hammer, discus, and weight throw cage changes, and the new “Failure to Participate” rule, which formerly
was the “Honest Effort Rule”. Bob then surprised most everyone in the room when he noted the 2007 Rule
Book Rule 4, Article 6, b. that now allows an athlete (competitor) to protest a mark.

4) Para Olympics
President Cole then relinquished the floor to one of our own, Troy Engle, formerly the coach at Occidental
College, now with the USOC as the Director of Para Olympic Athletics (Track & Field). Troy attended the
convention to briefly meet with each division asking for help with the “Para Olympians”. He asked for two
favors; 1) the possibility of providing training time for these athletes on our facilities, and most
importantly, 2) to help identifying possible Para Olympic athletes. Troy can be reached via email at:
troy.engle@usoc.org should you have questions.
The remainder of the meeting was spent with voting on the motions and Election of Officers for both Track & Field and Cross Country issues, the results of which are noted and listed above with the various motions.

Although Division III had times and meeting rooms (2:30-4:00 PM & 5:30-6:30 PM for Cross Country and 12:45 - 2:15 PM & 4:15 to 5:15 PM for Track & Field) on Wednesday, December 13, it was deemed that the USTFCCCA Division III Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Associations had covered all of the agenda items and elections.

President Brian Cole, who had served as the Division III President from 2004 through 2006, presented the President’s gavel to Barbara Hartwig of University of Rochester, who will serve as the Division III Track & Field President through the conclusion of the 2009 Convention.

Likewise, John Zupanc, who had served as the Division III Cross Country Coaches President since 2005 presented the President’s gavel to Jim Pennington of Springfield College, who will serve as the NCAA Division III Cross Country President until the conclusion of the 2008 Convention.

It should be noted three members of the Division III Rules Subcommittee were in attendance at the Convention: Josh Payne, Hanover College (Chair), Jennifer Potter, Ithaca College, and Chuck Wilcoxen, Principia College. Also in attendance was the NCAA Division III Track & Field/Cross Country Liaison Kristin Steckmesser.

Please know how important it is to have these people attending the Convention. The NCAA Division III Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches are very appreciative and grateful that you would take the time to attend and listen to the discussions of the coaches at the Convention. The NCAA Division III has been particularly “blessed” to have the subcommittee members we have had during the past three years. That group certainly ‘raised the bar’ for future committee members.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS:
A synopsis of the 2006 Convention in San Antonio:

Division III had over ninety (90) Coaches in attendance, which is the most the Division has ever had. The presentations on Legal Liabilities, NCAA Travel, Rules Interpretation, and Para Olympics were valuable, informational and very educational.

I would very strongly recommend that every Division III Coach of Track & Field and Cross Country make an effort to attend the 2008 Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Thornton, Secretary
Edited by: Garrick Larson