

Members Present: Ed Colona (South 1-4 Sectional Director, Group 1-4-B Meet Director), Lou Fraulo (former coach, assistant tournament director), Bill Milone (recently retired coach, North 2, 2-3 Meet Director), Rich Refi (active coach - Hillsborough and Central 1-4 Meet Director), Carl Rickershauser (State Rules Interpreter and State Meet Referee), John Schwartz (North 2 1-4 Co-director), John Tonerio (Principal and North 2 1-4 Co-director), Pam Willson (active coach – Hackettstown), Len Pietrewicz (active coach and Meet Director North 1 1-4-NA), Al Stumpf (former coach, Athletic Director), Jared Wexler (new North 1 2-3 Director), Robert Byrnes (State Chief Clerk), and Don Danser (NJSIAA Staff)
Guests: Pat Montferrat , Robert Kellert (NJRunners)

Members Absent: Jay Demarest (Central 2-3 Director) Brian Zatorski (active coach – Southern Regional), Shemayne Williams (active coach - Immaculate Heart Academy) Bill DePonte (Executive Committee Representative)

First, a big thank you to Brian Rodak, the retiring Meet Director of the North 1, Group 2 and 3 Sectional which has been held at Mahwah for the last several years. We wish Brian the best for whatever he does in the future.

Welcome aboard to Jared Wexler as Brian's replacement. Jared has been working in track and field for many years in many capacities and is more than capable of taking over the meet.

As Tournament Director, I would like to thank the more than 340 schools, 18,000 athletes and their coaches, and nearly 600 officials who put up with rain and wind and heat and nice weather throughout the tournament to make the tournament run as smoothly as possible under the conditions that varied all over the place. While there were some errors on the part of officials, coaches, and athletes, as many as possible were addressed and corrected where possible. We ran 864 events through the course of the tournament with very few problems. Congratulations again to so many who work so hard for the student/athletes of New Jersey.

I. Order of Business

The first order of business was the one year pilot scoring program for the Group Meet. Everyone present felt through feedback they received during the meet and e-mails we received after the meet that the program was either hated or loved. That being the case we looked at what it did to the meet.

- A. Both days were lengthened by an hour. All suggestions for tweaking the program, like a two-heat final, or bringing the entire team into the Group Meet would add even more time to the meet.
- B. High Jump and pole vault were lengthened because of the lower starting heights. This also made management raise bars higher than normal (like 4" increments in high jump and 12" in pole vault) which shouldn't happen at this level.
- C. Scoring the trials in the 100 and hurdles sounded ok on paper, but when performances dropped or places changed in the final, many coaches did not like that. Running two-heat finals again should not happen on an 8-lane track at the group meet level. Nor is it possible under Hy-Tek to go back and rescore the team points in the trials if the finals showed different results, which was another suggested tweak.
- D. The public address system had to announce all 108 events twice – assuming we could flash the results does not mean everyone could keep up with results to eliminate the double announcing.
- E. Adding the two relays (4x100 and 4x800) as scoring events strengthen the team concept a lot more with a lot less confusion than the new scoring system did.

The committee asked this question: Did the scoring system make a significant difference? Would tweaking the process make any difference? The answer was no. Therefore we will not ask for a continuance of the pilot.

That being said, we all realized that on paper the program had promise, that is why we approved it last year for a one year trial, but we could not say that the end results were something we wanted to see again next year.

Correspondence

II. Sectional Meets

- A. Central Group IV – Normally Javelin is held in a field completely on the other side of the complex, because of

weather it was held on same field as shot and discus. Writer asks that this be its permanent location. *This will be addressed by the site manager. They may have a good reason for not doing it, but I am sure they will take this under advisement.*

- B. South Group IV Record of 46-10.25 for girls shot put (1997) is for 8 pounds and should be an "old record" *As soon as I can I will research that and fix it.*
- C. Central Girls Group IV – A coach from Marlboro, "My girl wasn't announced as a finalist in the 100. I was told it was a Hy-tek error. She found out only minutes before the race that she had made the finals."
The same coach from Marlboro wants to know why the results of the first events took so long to be announced. *According to the meet director and the timing people, several schools were using incorrect computer numbers from rosters from their county meets. That meant a lot of results had to be changed which slowed the announcing.*
Another concern of the Marlboro coach was the number of false starts at the sectionals. *According to the CJ 4 Meet Director, based on a review of the results, there were only 2 FS disqualifications at this Sectional.*
- D. South Section (and Group) at Egg Harbor – The coach from Schalick would like the javelin runway to be grass. Also one of the Pole Vault landing systems is showing its age. *After the weather at the sectionals, that is not going to happen. Egg Harbor may put in a 2nd all-weather javelin runway, but the committee does not see the point in giving up the use of an all-weather javelin runway. Egg Harbor has promised to remedy that situation.*
- E. All NJSIAA Sectional meets should be held on 8-lane tracks – *That is our goal, but we need to have those schools with 8-lane tracks to step up. On the sectional level – not having double field events is doable so that is not a requirement. Just convince the athletic directors with 8-lane tracks to host these meets over Memorial Day weekend.*
- F. All Starting Heights in the PV and HJ need to be normalized per gender per group. *The opening heights should be decided by the meet director in conjunction with the Field Referee based on number of entries and seed height Reinforce rule regarding progression of height increases.*
- G. *One meet had the police called to the school with the complaint that the Meet Director was being cruel and mean to children by making them run in the rain on Friday. The police did come. They saw a track meet in progress, they saw that it was raining, and left.*

III Group Meets

- A. Egg Harbor Discus – Girls Group 4 Discus of 24 was split into 3 flights – I would have preferred two flights of 12 mainly because the last flight of 8 was just like the finals, therefore seeds 9-12 did not compete against their closest competitors, making it more difficult for them to get to the finals. *We tell our field officials that flights in the field should be between 5 and 12, so 12 would have been ok. We advise coaches who have problems with the way an event is being run to seek out the field referee or the meet referee.*
- B. Special thank you for returning the State Group I, IV, NP-B to Egg Harbor. Their facility is top notch. They have plenty of space for teams and spectators. They have ample parking for busses and cars. Their student-athletes do a great job helping run the meet. The concession stand provides a nice variety of food and it is efficiently run. I know that it is a long way to travel for many teams, but I think that is one of the best facilities in the state. They are a worthy host of such an important meet.
- C. South Plainfield Group Meet: Why wasn't this Mount Olive missing girl in the 200 addressed at the meet, and if it was, why then wasn't it fixed until the next day (Sunday)? *The Marlboro coach is referring to the Morris County Timing system missing a Mt Olive girl in the 1st heat of the Group 3 200. The 200 being the next to the last event*

of the day, the coach of Mt Olive did not notice (she did not expect the girl to win a medal) that the girl was missing from the results. She e-mailed me Sunday saying she is sure her girl won her race in a very good time. I first checked the cards, found the missing Mt Olive girl. No dq on the card. Checked the results, she was not in the results. I immediately called the Morris County timers who went back and checked the Finishlynx photo for that event. The Mt. Olive girl did indeed win her race in a time fast enough to take the 6th wild card away from the Marlboro runner. He demands that the system should have a major revision but fails to suggest how or what needs to be done.

- D. Wild Cards – The Coach from North Brunswick wanted wildcards for the events with trials to be based on the trials and not the finals. *The field for wild cards in the 100 and hurdles is a maximum of 12, therefore if you make the finals in either of these two events, you have a 50% chance of making it to the finals .. The committee decided to advance wildcards using both trial and final times in the 100m Dash and the 110/100 High Hurdles.*
- D. Advance only the top 36 times in each event from the sections, regardless of sections. *Presented, no discussion on the issue.*
- E. Relay teams for all levels should be able to use their season best times for seeding in the next level because a coach may possibly not use his/her best runners in the sectionals but might in the Group Championships. Using the section time is not fair. *Regulations allow section/group winners to do this, but not everyone, as this coach is requesting. Given the time frame and the logistics, this seemed to the committee not to be practical or necessary.*
- F. Would it be possible to have “flash” results. *Two representatives of two timing companies said it is possible but would require additional personnel and therefore additional expenses. Not viewed as necessary and therefore not authorized.*

IV. Meet of Champions

- A. The Javelin roped off area for spectators was bad. Fans were 70 feet behind the toe board. It didn't used to be that way. *We will ask site manger to look into this. Having not observed the situation first hand, we not sure why this was done. Again, don't just “put up” with a bad situation – seek out meet management in this case for a possible solution.*
- B. Would we consider having the Meet of Champions at Egg Harbor on a Saturday starting mid-afternoon (4 or 5 pm)? *A quick survey showed that coaches and athletic directors are against a Saturday MOC and most of North Jersey would object going to Egg Harbor two weeks in a row.*
- C. Put the trials back in the MOC for 100 and hurdles –*We will start the meet earlier and therefore will add the trials. The order of events will look like this:*
 - 1. *Girls 400m Hurdles*
 - 2. *Boys 400m Hurdles*
 - 3. *1600m Wheelchair*
 - 4. *Girls 100 meter Dash Trials*
 - 5. *Boys 100 meter Dash Trials*
 - 6. *Girls 100 meter Hurdles Trials*
 - 7. *Boys 110 meter Hurdles Trials*
 - 8. *Girls 1600 meter Run*
 - 9. *Boys 1600 meter Run*
 - 10. *Girls 4x100 Relay*
 - 11. *Boys 4x100 Relay*
 - 12. *400 meter Wheelchair*
 - 13. *Girls 400 meter Dash*
 - 14. *Boys 400 meter Dash*

- 16. Boys 110 Hurdle Finals*
- 17. Girls 100 Hurdle Finals*
- 18. Girls 100 meter Dash Finals*
- 19. Boys 100 meter Dash Finals*
- 20. 100 meter Wheelchair*
- Rest same as last year*

Start time for the meet will be 2:30 pm with busses arriving no earlier than 1:30 pm

- D. *Bring 10 back to the finals in the shot, discus, javelin, long jump, and triple jumps. Lengthens the meets and since there is no team scoring, not seen as needed.*
- E. *South Plainfield is not the appropriate site to host the MOC. Yes they are accommodating, but the facility itself does not truly represent the high quality athletes that participate in the meet. I am referring to the (a) neatness of the grounds (dirt and unkempt grass on the outside of the track), b) so-so throwing areas and c) just the overall feel. There must be a suitable venue somewhere in central New Jersey that could/would host this meet. We are always open to suggestions. This weekday meet must have an 8-lane track, and must have double venues for pole vault, discus and Javelin – the site must have lights (am I describing Egg Harbor? That’s right, it’s not in Central Jersey) parking, concessions, good student and faculty workers, etc. Point them out and we will ask. We did ask in the Fall of this year. Only the present sites and one new North I site applied for the meets (Not counting Old Bridge who did apply but whose fees for security and fire marshals just could not be met.)*

In the final minutes, a page by page description of changes made to the regulations will appear. Because of the interest in these minutes, this version is being published now.