

RECORDS COMMITTEE PRELIMINARY DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concerns have been expressed regarding the Masters' Track and Field record reporting process, including gaps in communication and the rejection of what appear to be legitimate marks. Gary Snyder is working with Jeff Brower to deal with the first. A records committee was created by Gary to address the second concern.

The records committee was made up of Stephen Robbins (chair), Peter Taylor, Liz Palmer, David Ortman, Nolan Shaheed, and Carol Finsrud.

We defined our task as: To improve the record process and insure that legitimate records get ratified. More specifically, our goals were to simplify the process and improve transparency, accountability, and timeliness.

Our recommendations include:

- (1) Revising the record application form
- (2) Creating a national list of approved competition sites
- (3) Clarifying meet directors' responsibility for processing records
- (4) Expanding the list of meets that would qualify for automatic approvals
- (5) Accepting e-mailed record applications with scanned back-up documentation
- (6) Supporting the creation of an online "status of application" site
- (7) Creating a timeline and appeals system for the processing of records
- (8) Creating a support committee to assist the Records Coordinator

COMMITTEE REPORT

A number of masters' athletes have concerns that their applications for national and/or world records have been rejected by the Records Coordinator. In many cases, no explanation was provided to the applicant or published for the rejection. Frequently expressed concerns have included an overly complex application process, ambiguity surrounding the necessary requirements for records, failure of meet directors to process applications, and lack of feedback to athletes when record applications have been rejected. In response to these concerns, the Masters' Executive Committee Chair, Gary Snyder, appointed a six-person

committee to review the records' process and recommend improvements. The committee members—made up of Stephen Robbins (chair), Peter Taylor, Liz Palmer, David Ortman, Nolan Shaheed, and Carol Finsrud—were appointed in early January 2013.

The committee began by clarifying its task: To improve the record process and insure that legitimate records get ratified. More specifically, its goals were to simplify the process and improve transparency, accountability, and timeliness. Importantly, concern was voiced that no recommendations should “water down” the standards for attaining records.

The committee reviewed and summarized a list of concerns by masters' athletes. The following highlights some of those concerns:

- Ambiguity surrounding what is implied when a meet is “sanctioned” by USATF
- Some items on the application form were difficult, if not impossible, for the athlete to complete
- Failure of meet officials to process application forms
- Rejection of applications without a timely explanation

A. The Change Process: Bylaws, Regulations, Procedures and Rules

USATF has *Bylaws, Operating Regulations, Operating Procedures, and Rules of Competition*. Amendments to the Bylaws and Operating Regulations can be approved at the next annual meeting in December 2013, or at any meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members. Rules of Competition can only be changed in even years so they can't be considered until December 2014 and to take effect in December 2015.

Given these constraints, we decided to organize any final recommendations into three categories:

- (1) Rules of Competition—to be presented at the December 2014 meeting;
- (2) Bylaws and Operating Regulations—to be presented at the December 2013 meeting
- (3) Changes that could be implemented immediately

B. The Committees' Specific Focus

After reviewing the concerns and criticisms by athletes, we narrowed our problem focus to five issues:

- (1) the record application form
- (2) site certification
- (3) the record application process
- (4) expanding the number of meets that qualify for automatic approvals
- (5) feedback to athletes

1. The record application form

The current form has several signature requirements that are difficult to acquire or unnecessary. For instance, a signature is needed to confirm that the track has been properly surveyed. Does anyone actually expect to find a surveyor to sign-off on this requirement? Similarly, while a starter's signature is required, has there ever been a starter who would admit that he/she let a competitor get away with a flyer? In addition, we found that USATF and WMA requirements differ.

After a careful review of the minimal requirements for both USATF and WMA records, it is recommended that the current application form be replaced by four dedicated forms—one each for USATF track marks; USATF field marks; WMA track marks; and WMA field marks. The resulting new forms (see addendum) are less complex and more logical in their requirements. Also note that, where appropriate, the requirement for a signature has been replaced by just the name of the official.

2. Site certification

No meet director or athlete should see a record rejected because of a failure to have or find a surveyor to sign the application form.

Research by the committee found that there are no USATF criteria for track and field facilities. However, both the IAAF and NCAA do have criteria. Five classes of facilities exist. Classes 1 and 2 meet IAAF guidelines for international competition. Class 3 meets NCAA guidelines for collegiate competitions. While classes 1, 2, and 3 have track and event area slopes that are certified, this is not true for Classes 4 and 5. NCAA criteria for track and field facilities are also followed by the NAIA, NJCAA, NWAACC, and CCCAA. All specifically say that they adhere to NCAA rules and regulations for all varsity sports. Therefore, if a school is a member of any of these governing bodies and has either or both men's and women's track and field as a varsity sport, their facilities used for competitions would adhere to NCAA guidelines.

We propose a website that lists the more than 350 schools who meet these NCAA standards and whose facilities would therefore automatically be deemed as "certified" for record purposes. We also propose that additional facilities could be added to this list over time as they demonstrate that they meet the certified requirements. Meet directors and athletes would be encouraged to nominate additional facilities as long as they are accompanied by appropriate support documents.

[Under IAAF Class 1 standards, if a facility is resurfaced, resod, or renovated, it requires a new certification. We need to check NCAA rules to see if the same standard applies to their Class 1-3 facilities.]

For indoor facilities, the NCAA states that a standard indoor track is 200 meters in circumference. It also states that a track may be shorter or longer than this length. Longer tracks, however, might provide advantages. We recommend,

therefore, that indoor tracks must be 200m or shorter to be eligible for record-setting performances.

The list of approved facilities is meant only as a guideline for meet directors. The directors are still expected to perform due diligence by inspecting the facility to insure that maintenance or other issues do not compromise the integrity of the facility for record-setting purposes.

The above stated list would be a guide for both meet directors and athletes. Meet directors would be encouraged to host meets on one of the approved sites. Similarly, any athlete seeking a record-attempt would be advised to make that effort at an approved site.

3. The record application process

Many athletes believe that any record set at a USATF sanctioned meet will be automatically approved. So one of the earliest surprises for the committee was the finding that the term “sanctioned” means little when it comes to assessing the quality or standards of a meet. Importantly, the fact that a competition is a USATF sanctioned meet in no way assures that conditions and procedures meet the requirements for record approval. Many record applications have correctly been rejected even though the meet was sanctioned. Athletes need to be aware of this fact.

Given that sanctioning provides no guarantees to athletes, the committee looked at the application process itself to assess areas where problems might arise. This led us to focus on where responsibility lies for completing and processing record applications.

USATF Rule 139.3 specifies that meets are to appoint a Recorder of Records who is responsible for properly completing applications for records. It is not the athlete’s responsibility to have the form, get the required signatures, or submit the form to the Records Coordinator. This is the responsibility of meet officials. It is clear, from our investigation, that many meet directors are unaware of this requirement.

Unfortunately, while the rules require a Recorder of Records and requires meet officials to submit record applications, the By-Law Regulations (23.B.3b) exempts any “general sanctioned” meet from meeting 23.A.4 record validation requirement. It appears this By-Law Regulation needs to be amended. At this point, however, we recommend that until the By-Laws are amended, the USATF Application for Sanctions form add a Section 13: Submittal of National Records: “The USATF Rules of Competition shall apply to all events sanctioned by USATF. Organizer shall comply with Rule 139.3 (Recorder of Records) and Rules 261-266 regarding National Records. The meet Recorder of Records will take all necessary steps on behalf of an athlete to apply for any National Record(s) achieved (Rule 261.2) within 30 days of the event.”

To facilitate rapid posting of record submissions, Recorder of Records should be allowed to e-mail applications with appropriate supporting documentation to the Records Coordinator.

4. Meets qualifying for automatic approvals

Currently, records set at USATF indoor and outdoor championships as well as WMA championships qualify for automatic approval. That is, such marks do not require submission of a record application.

The committee recognizes that there are additional meets that have a long-standing reputation for quality and meeting all requirements for record certification. Those meets would include, but are not limited to, the Penn Relays, Drake Relays, Mt. Sac Relays, the Hayward Classic, and the SC Striders Meet of Champions. We recommend that these meets be approved for automatic record acceptance. Athletes would know that any records set at these meets would require no formal submission of paperwork and would receive automatic approval.

5. Feedback to athletes

The current process provides no feedback to athletes when records are rejected. In fact, athletes typically only learn if their record has been approved when it is announced (or not announced) at the annual USATF meeting in December.

Athletes deserve to know the ongoing status of any record application. As such, the committee recommends the establishment of a website that lists all record submissions, their pending status, and an explanation if that application has been rejected. We further recommend all record submissions be posted and reviewed within 90 days of receipt. If rejected or in question, a specific explanation must be posted. In cases of rejected applications, the athlete should have 45 days from the date of posting to appeal the decision to a 3-person review panel.

C. Summary and Recommendations

In response to concerns regarding the current masters' record application process, a committee was formed to review procedures and rules. The goals were to simplify the process and improve transparency, accountability, and timeliness. Whatever changes were to be offered should not diminish the standards for record achievement.

The committee found the application form overly complicated; ambiguity surrounding what meet sites qualified as "certified;" misunderstandings as to where responsibility lies for initiating and processing of application forms; long-held, quality meets, beyond Nationals and Worlds, that appear to meet the highest standards for automatic record approval; and poor feedback to athletes on the status of their record application.

1. Recommendations for immediate action

The committee believes the following recommendations can be implemented immediately:

- (1) Offer a site certification list
- (2) Provide a document to remind meet directors, at least one month prior to a competition, that they are responsible for designating a record official, completing record forms, and processing the forms
- (3) Accept e-mailed record applications with scanned back-up documentation
- (4) Encourage the creation of an online "status of application" site.

2. Recommendations for changes in bylaws and operating regulations

We propose:

- (1) Dedicated record application forms that are simpler to complete
- (2) Establishment of a records committee to assist the Records Coordinator
- (3) Establishment of an appeal's review panel.

3. Recommendations for changes in rules of competition

Any changes in rules require citing of the original rules, how it is modified, and rationale for the changes. For future consideration, we suggest:

- (1) Expanding the list of meets qualifying for automatic approval
- (2) Reconsidering the need for date-of-birth verification on the application form
- (3) Amending By-Law (23.B.3.b) as follows: "For general competition sanctions, complied with subparagraphs A-1, A-4, A-7, and A-8 above."

ADDENDUM

Track Record Application A (2-17-13)

APPLICATION FOR US MASTERS RECORD – TRACK EVENT*

Mail or email the completed form to Sandy Pashkin, 2888 Elysium Ave, Eugene OR 97401 or spashkin@q.com.

Event: _____ Indoor _____ Outdoor _____ Height of hurdles: _____.

Competition name: _____ Date: _____ Time of day: _____ Facility name: _____ City: _____ State: _____.

Certification no. for the track (see list at [http://www.list_of_certified tracks](http://www.list_of_certified_tracks)) : _____.

Full name of competitor (print): _____ Competitor’s city and state: _____.

If relay, list members in order: _____, _____, _____, _____.

1. Category: Male: __ Female: __ 5-Year Age Group: __

2. Date of birth (month-day-year): _____. Confirmed by: (a) Attached document (birth certificate or passport) _____, (b) on file with USATF Masters Records Committee _____, or (c) on file with USATF National Office (Indianapolis) _____.

3. Referee’s section part I (to be filled out by the meet’s Recorder of Records or another official designated by the meet referee):

3A. Record claimed [**fully automatic time (FAT)**]**: _____. Website where shown: _____.

3B. Name of chief of FAT: _____. Device used (including manufacturer): _____.

3C. Starter’s name _____. USATF/NCAA Cert. No. _____.

3D. Wind reading (meters/sec): ____ Name of wind gauge operator: ____ USATF cert. no.: _____.

4. Referee’s section part II: I (print name), _____, was the referee of the meet named above. I certify that all the information recorded on this form is accurate, that the officials conducting the meet were duly qualified, and that all USATF Rules of Competition were followed.

Signature of referee: _____ USATF or NCAA certification no. _____ Date: _____

* If ratification as *both* a world and American record is desired, **Track record app. B** should be used.

** FAT is preferred in all cases and is *mandatory* for races of 880 yards or less. If applicant is seeking record approval for a race of 1500 meters or longer timed by hand, she/he should attach form 12B to this application.

Form 12B (Hand Timing)

I, an official timekeeper of this event, certify that the time set forth next to my name is the exact time recorded by my watch and that my watch has been certified and approved by USATF.

Time:_____Printed Name: _____. Signature: _____ USATF Cert no.

Time:_____Printed Name:_____. Signature_____USATF Cert no.____

Time:_____Printed Name:_____. Signature:_____USATF Cert no.

I, as Chief Timekeeper or Referee, confirm that the three timekeepers above exhibited their watches to me and that the times were as stated.

Printed Name: _____Signature:_____ USATF Cert No.: _____

APPLICATION FOR US MASTERS RECORD - FIELD EVENT*

Field

Record Application A 2-17-13

Mail or email the completed form to Sandy Pashkin, 2888 Elysium Ave, Eugene OR 97401 or spashkin@q.com.

Event _____ Indoor ____ Outdoor ____ Competition name: _____ Date: _____
Time of day: _____ Facility name: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Country: USA.

Certification no. for the competition area (see list at http://www.list_of_certified_field_areas) _____.

Full name of competitor (print): _____ City and state: _____.

1. Category: Male _____ Female _____ 5-Year Age Group _____.

2. Date of birth (month-day-year): _____ Confirmed by: _____ (a) _____ attached document (birth certificate or passport), (b) _____ on file with USATF Masters Records Committee, or (c) _____ on file with USATF national office (Indianapolis).

3A. Record claimed (distance/ height in meters and centimeters): _____ Website where shown: _____.

3B. Measurement of the claimed record throw or jump (using [circle one] certified steel tape, certified graduated bar, or approved scientific measuring device). Must be completed by Chief Field Judge (CFJ) and two other officials.

Mark: _____. Printed name of CFJ: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert. no: _____

Mark: _____. Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert no. _____

Mark: _____. Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert no. _____

4. (For throws) Certification of the implement: The implement used for the claimed record weighed _____ kg and conformed to USATF specifications.

Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF cert no.: _____.

5. Chief Field Judge's guarantee : (For throws): The circle, sector, and landing area complied with USATF rules. (For jumps): The runway and jumping area complied with USATF rules. (signed) _____.

6. Wind speed (following wind) in meters/sec (for long jump and triple jump): _____ Name of wind gauge operator: _____. USATF cert. no. _____.

7. Referee's guarantee. I certify that all information recorded on this form is accurate, that the officials conducting the meet were duly qualified, and that all USATF Rules of Competition were followed. Name: _____.

Signature: _____ USATF or NCAA certification no. _____
Date: _____.

* If ratification as *both* a world and American record is desired, **Field record app. B** should be used.

APPLICATION FOR WORLD MASTERS RECORD - TRACK EVENT*

Mail or email the completed form to Sandy Pashkin, 2888 Elysium Ave, Eugene OR 97401 or spashkin@q.com.

Event: _____ Indoor _____ Outdoor _____ Height of hurdles: _____.
Competition name:_____. Date: _____. Time of day: _____ Facility name:
_____. City: _____State:_____. Country: USA.

Certification no. for the track (see list at http://www.list_of_certified_tracks):
_____.

Record claimed (time): _____. Website where displayed:
_____.

Full name of competitor (print): _____. City and state:
_____.

If relay, list members in order: _____, _____, _____, _____.

2. Category: ___ Male ___ Female ___ 5-Year Age Group ___

3. Date of birth (month-day-year): _____. Confirmed by: (a) attached document (birth certificate or passport) _____, (b) on file with USATF Masters Records Committee _____, or (c) on file with USATF National Office (Indianapolis) _____.

4. Referee’s section part I (to be processed by the meet’s Recorder of Records)

4A. **Automatic Timing** A fully automatic timing (FAT) device was used, manufactured by: _____.*

4B. As Chief of FAT, I certify the time was: _____.

Name (print):_____ Signature:_____. USATF Cert no.:_____.

4C. Finish photo is attached (yes/no)_____. Note: A photo is mandatory for world records.

4D. Starter’s certification: I certify that the start was in accordance with USATF Rules of Competition. Printed name: _____Signature _____. USATF/NCAA Cert. No. _____.

4E. Wind reading (meters/sec): _____Name of wind gauge operator (please print):_____. Signature:_____. USATF cert. no.____.

5. Referee’s section part II: I, _____, the meet referee, certify that all the information recorded on this form is accurate, that the officials conducting the meet were duly qualified, and that all USATF Rules of Competition were followed.

Signature of referee:_____ USATF or NCAA certification no. _____
Date:_____

Note: The printed program and the complete results of the event must be attached to this form.

* For 400 meters or less, FAT is required. FAT is preferred for all events, but those seeking ratification of a mark in an event longer than 400 meters must submit a Hand Timing Certificate (Form 12B) :

Form 12B

I, an official timekeeper for this event, certify that the time set forth next to my name is the exact time recorded by my watch and that my watch has been certified and approved by USATF.

Time:_____Printed Name:_____Signature:_____. USATF Cert. no._____

Time:_____Printed Name:_____ Signature:_____. USATF Cert. no._____

Time:_____Printed Name:_____ Signature:_____. USATF Cert. no._____

I, as Chief Timekeeper or Referee, confirm that the three timekeepers above exhibited their watches to me and that the times were as stated.

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____ USATF Cert no. _____

APPLICATION FOR WORLD MASTERS RECORD – FIELD EVENT* Field Record Application B (2-17-13)

Mail or email the completed form to Sandy Pashkin, 2888 Elysium Ave, Eugene OR 97401 or spashkin@q.com.

Event _____ Indoor ___ Outdoor ___ Competition name: _____ Date: _____
Time of day: _____ Facility name: ___ City: _____ State: _____

Certification no. for the competition area (see list at http://www.list_of_certified_field_areas) _____.

Full name of competitor (print): _____ Competitor's city and state: _____.

1. Category: Male _____ Female _____ 5-Year Age Group _____.

2. Date of birth (month-day-year): _____ Confirmed by: _____ (a) _____ attached document (birth certificate or passport), (b) _____ on file with USATF Masters Records Committee, or (c) _____ on file with USATF national office (Indianapolis).

3A. Record claimed (distance/ height in meters and centimeters): ___ Website where shown: _____.

3B. Measurement of the claimed record throw or jump (using [circle one] certified steel tape, certified graduated bar, or approved scientific measuring device). Must be completed by Chief Field Judge (CFJ) and two other officials.

Mark: _____. Printed name of CFJ: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert. no: _____

Mark: _____. Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert no. _____

Mark: _____. Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF Cert no. _____

4. (For throws) Certification of the implement: The implement used for the claimed record weighed ____kg and conformed to USATF specifications.

Printed name: _____. Signature: _____. USATF cert no.: _____.

5. Chief Field Judge's guarantee : (For throws): The circle, sector, and landing area complied with USATF rules. (For jumps): The runway and jumping area complied with USATF rules. (signed) _____.

6. Wind speed (following wind) in meters/sec (for long jump and triple jump): _____ Name of wind gauge operator: _____. Signature: _____. USATF cert. no. _____.

7. Referee's guarantee. I certify that all information recorded on this form is accurate, that the officials conducting the meet were duly qualified, and that all USATF Rules of Competition were followed. Name: _____.

Signature: _____ USATF or NCAA certification no. _____
Date: _____.

* If ratification as an American record only is desired, **field record app. form A** should be used.

Note: The printed program for the competition and a copy of the field event sheet must be attached.

- Athletes applying for both an American and world record should use Track Record Application B.