



USATF Niagara Association

Board minutes

May 8, 2023

The Board meeting for the Niagara Association of the USATF was called to order by President Russ Ebbets at 7:32 pm EST on May 8, 2023. The following Board members were present: Izeal Bullock, Kraig Connor, Russ Ebbets, Rozanne Redlinski, Jacky Mendez, Mike Nier, Don Lawrence, Eric Boyce and Kathy McLymond. Absent was Michelle Bogdan and Matt Merrill. Fred Covelli joined the meeting at a later time.

1. Approval of the minutes from April 10, 2023.
Jacky Mendez made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Mike Nier and was approved.
2. President's report:
JO clubs have been invited to attend a Growth, Development and Talend Identification Zoom. Youth clubs will be contacted regarding the 2023 RJT program. Growth to Impact meeting will be this week. The Lions donations are up to \$2350 at this time.
3. Treasure's report:
Jacky's report is attached. Jacky is having some issues with getting the information she needs from the accounting firm. Financial growth has slowed.
4. VP reports:
Fred: Report was given by Russ.
Boy Scouts will be working in shift at the JO regional. The meet Passport (meet Information) is being written. Russ has been meeting with LaTonya about meet details. Prices for admission are still being discussed. The Cortland Regional Sports Council is working on housing for this meet.
Michelle Bogdan was not in attendance to report on the Newsletter.
5. LDR: Eric Boyce provided the following report.

On 5-6-23 the Niagara half marathon championships were hosted by Grand Island half. Since I was unavailable to attend, Don Lawrence did a great job representing. The Niagara membership attendance for participating was less than normal. I can contribute location, date, and a very busy half marathon/marathon spring schedule factoring in the less ideal membership participation.

It was also brought to my attention on Saturday that one of the race winners at some point in the race violated the rule 144 relating to headphones, Don and I were going to "DQ" them but after reviewing other photos numerous amounts of Niagara members were also violating this. We found it best to use this as an educating and teaching moment relating to following USATF rules at championships with the major clubs that participate. This opened up another dilemma when someone is claiming to have mental health issues and this is the reason why she wears headphones. Because of this I'm in the process of forming a games committee for the LDR series/events that currently have Merrill, Kathy, Don, Perry on it. I may add more. This games committee will handle any potential requests such as this person submitting documentation of why she can wear headphones at championship races. Having this games committee formed will create us having our ducks in a row and help us do a better job of keeping the integrity of USATF.

As unfortunate as this weekend was, At least, it's not what happened at the USATF trail marathon championships which was a world qualifier (breakneck marathon in Beacon, NY). Speaking to people and reading about this, a majority of the leaders ran a portion of the course the wrong way and it sounds like they didn't "DQ" anyone which seems problematic because they didn't run the correct course.

6. Jim Glinsky
Youth: 211-244
Open: 210-224
Master: 370-386
Total: 791-854 (+59 over 2022)

43[?]49 Niagara Clubs

7. High Performance:
Don Lawrence reported to the group that Russ Ebbets presentation on "longevity Strategies" was a success. These Clinics are being presented to all the USATF throught the Zoom links. Vicki Mitchell will be presenting on May 18th.
8. Youth Athletics:
Izeal reported there will be 5 meets scheduled for the City of Buffalo Youth. He hopes to get many of these youth to join USATF. Rozanne asked if other Youth Clubs in the area are included in these meets. Izeal stated that these were for inner city kids in buffalo and Niagara Falls, not the youth in the surrounding area because these are supported by Project Play. Registration for the JO meet has been posted.
9. Sanction:
Russ contacted Dave Rinehart and asked him to provide the Board with information. No report was provided.
10. Officials:
Kathy McLymond Explained that she is withdrawing from being the Officials Co-ordinator for the Region 2 meet. She is not resigning from the Officials Certification chair. She will still be co-ordinating officials for the June 24th meet.

Old Business:

Association JO/Open/ Master updates:

Rozanne asked about the location for the Implement inspectors for the meets.

Membership kits:

Don said that he is waiting for the Marketing kit.

Bylaw changes:

Rozanne stated that there was a copy of the new bylaws on the website. A Special meeting will be held on June 13th at 7:00pm (via Zoom) to allow all Association members to ask questions and vote on the passage of the changes.

New Business:

Rozanne asked about the location of various meets during the coming year. Fred joined the meeting at 8:12 and explained that officials to not have the implement inspection equipment. Rozanne emphasized that there is more to the inspection process than just weighing the implement.

We need to get a location for the XC and indoor meet. If we do not, we will be losing our accreditation. There will be NO throws pentathlon because no one stepped up to run the meet.

Izeal stated that he was not aware of these issues. Rozanne offered to send him the list of things that a meet director needs to do before the meet.

Adjournment:

Don Lawrence made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28. This motion was seconded by Kraig Connor and passed.