Executive Committee Meeting

Niagara USATF Association

April 21, 2025

The April Executive Committee meeting of the Niagara Association of USATF was called to order by President, Don Lawrence at 8:02 pm EST. The following Executive Committee members were present: Don Lawrence, Jacky Mendes, Eric Boyce, Matt Merrill, Sharon Gruttadauro, Kathy McLymond, Terry Eason, Lexi Lindamor, Kelsey Ryan Mike Nier, Danielle Anderson and Rozanne Redlinski.

Budget Approval and Meet Profitability

The board discussed and approved the budget presented by Treasurer Jacky. Mike raises concerns about indoor meets losing $2,000 each, and there is a discussion about the low entry fees set by national USATF, especially for youth events. The group considers ways to make meets profitable, including seeking sponsorships. Kelsey questioned the value provided by USATF membership fees for meet organizers. The budget is ultimately approved by majority vote, and Jacky shows two different formats of the budget, explaining that the less visually appealing QuickBooks version may be used for official purposes.

IRS Form Update and Meet Planning

Jacky updated the team on the status of the 1023 form with the IRS, which is now pending a letter from National to release them from their coverage. Jacky also

shared that the CD, which was due to term in December, was extended to provide a financial cushion. The team's bank accounts were updated to reflect the current situation. Jason reported that the Mercy Invitational meet is expected to have around 18 to 19 teams, and the Niagara Association plans to have a booth there to promote the organization. The team agreed to schedule a meeting for June 21st and to start preparing meet information for the website.

Upcoming Races and Sponsorship Opportunities

The group discusses the success of a recent running event and plans for upcoming races. Eric Boyce mentioned the next event on May 4th is the Mountain Goat in Syracuse, and praised the special room provided for athletes at the last race. Matt shared updates on secured dates for outdoor events on June 21st and 28th, emphasizing the need for quick action on sanctions, schedules, and registration sites. It was announced the Joe Whalen got 20th at the Boston Marathon and Sam Morris got 41st. Scott LaPort, and Jenny Kean also ran in the Marathon. The group also discussed potential sponsorship opportunities and the idea of creating a youth track series in 2026 and a cross country season in 2025. Kelsey suggested organizing a unified approach for taking kids to national competitions, which receives support from others.

Cross Country Event Scheduling Discussion

The group discussed the scheduling of cross country events for the upcoming season. Brett confirmed that Region 2 meets will be held this year, with 3 Rivers hosting both Track and Cross country events in the Pittsburgh area. The National Cross Country meet has been moved back to its original date in the second week of December, though the location is still undetermined. Mike raised concerns about scheduling the PGXC Cross Country Series in November, and suggested the possibility of including the Niagara championship as part of PGXC. The group also discussed the timing of the JO meet and its relation to other events like states and regionalals, considering potential conflicts and the need for waivers.

USATF Event Planning and Booth Discussion

The meeting involved discussions about various events and activities. The Niagara Association mentioned the need to fit in all the events and the possibility of meshing some of them. Sharon expressed her concern about the lack of kids from their area at a recent event and suggested potential communication with them. There was also a discussion about the Pico Evan series and its success. The team also discussed the upcoming events, including the USATF Booth at oNYS Outdoor Sectional for sections 4-6.. They agreed to identify someone to handle the booth and possibly give them an honorarium. The dates for these events were also discussed.

USATF Meeting Minutes and Upcoming Events

USATF discussed the format of meeting minutes and their approval. USATF also highlighted the achievements of athletes and officials from the Niagara region, particularly Tamara Spell's record-breaking performance at the World Masters. USATF also mentioned an upcoming event, Dick Sporting Goods Officials Recruitment Day, aimed at recruiting new officials. Additionally, Don shared plans for a trip to Warsaw, Poland, to support 10 race walkers competing in the Robert Krzanowski World Racewalk Invitational, funded by a $10,000 donation from George Pataki.

USATF Funding and Athlete Support

The meeting focused on the challenges faced by the USA Track and Field (USATF) organization, particularly in terms of funding and athlete support. The organization has been forced to cut its travel and camp budgets, and is struggling to provide uniforms for athletes representing the US. Despite these challenges, the organization is working to support the Freedom for America program and is seeking sponsorship opportunities. Kelsey Ryan expressed concerns about the long hours and grueling schedules faced by young athletes, and proposed the idea of hosting shorter, more enjoyable meets. The USATF is considering ways to support this initiative, including potential grant funding.

USATF Grant and Event Management

In the meeting, USATF discussed the receipt of a $1,400 grant for promoting Racewalk in 2020. Kelsey was assigned to write a grant application for up to $2,000, which would be reviewed in October. The team also discussed the potential for a Ralph Wilson Junior Foundation grant, but noted that it would require a nonprofit organization to facilitate. Kelsey suggested that USATF could help with this process. The team also discussed the idea of reducing the number of events in track meets to make them more manageable and efficient.

2025 Budget Presentation and Discussion

Jacky Menes presented the 2025 budget for the organization, which includes income and expenses. The total income goal is set at $67,500, with a focus on membership dues, sanction fees, and interest. The expenses are categorized into various buckets, including membership supplies, official supplies, committee supplies, storage, annual meeting expenses, and more. The total expense goal is set at $64,000, leaving some wiggle room for unexpected expenses. The budget also includes a $7,000 allocation for the annual meeting, which may be reduced as only one or two representatives from each association are expected to attend. The

team expressed appreciation for Jacky's work on the budget and raised no further questions.

Tentative Meeting for Outdoor Track

The group discusses scheduling a meeting for outdoor track, settling on Monday, April 7th as the tentative date. They plan to include Matt, Tom, Kathy, Jason, and Lexi in the meeting. Tom mentioned that Youth Race Walkers will receive USA gift bags at an upcoming event on April 12th, and Matt offered to provide these bags. They also briefly touch on their busy upcoming schedules for track meets and events.

Next steps

Danielle: Send out sponsorship outline to the team for feedback and then get it on USATF letterhead to start reaching out to potential sponsors
Kelsey: Work with USATF to submit grant application for youth track meets by October 1st
Matt: Set up sanction, schedule, and registration sites for June 21st and 28th meets within next 10 days
Eric/Mike: Coordinate on potentially combining PGXC Cross Country Series with Niagara championship meet in November
Jackie: Update bank accounts and financial reports with March cycle data
Jackie: Obtain letter from Greg releasing Niagara from National coverage for IRS 1023 form
Youth Coaches: Plan coordination meeting to discuss shared coaching resources for Nationals and Region 2 meets
Matt: Research and prepare 6 gift bags for top 3 boys and top 3 girls race walkers for the Mercy Invite on April 12th
Kelsey/Youth Coaches: Draft a letter to youth clubs requesting volunteer commitments for the June track meets
Eric/Jonathan: Coordinate USATF booth setup at Mercy Invitational on April 12th
USATF Team: Identify volunteers to manage USATF booths at outdoor Sectionals for sections 4, 5, and 6
Andy: Prepare meet logo for June events
Eric: Coordinate USATF presence at Mountain Goat Race in Syracuse on May 4th
Matt/Brett/Jason/Kelsey/Lexi: Meet to finalize scheduling details for June 21st meet
Matt: Send out initial communication to coordinate April 7th meeting at 8 PM to discuss outdoor track meets
Matt & Tom: Develop a volunteer framework identifying 3-4 specific areas where youth clubs can provide assistance during the meet

Matt: Follow up with Rick and Mark regarding the elite vault event and throws pentathlon possibilities for the upcoming meet
Matt: Coordinate with facility management for separate staging areas for different age groups
Matt: Arrange for necessary porta-johns and facilities for both JO and open masters events
USATF/Matt: Plan early for cross country meet organization to maximize potential revenue
Matt: Follow up with Dave and Aaron regarding race walk officials and timing requirements

Membership report by Jim Glinsky:

Niagara Membership Report 16 APR 25

	Male	Female	Total	
Youth	134	109	243	28%
Open	145	83	228	26%
Masters	266	134	400	46%
total	545	326	871	

We increased by 37 Individual and 5 club members since the last report.

Treasurer's report by Jacky Mendes:

1. We are roughly $2,000 behind in revenue compared to this time last year and $500 ahead compared to 2023.
2. Final paperwork for 1023 has been submitted. Should have an answer soon.
3. **As of 04.01.2025 our financial standing is:**

Checking:	11,825.91
Savings:	28,729.11
CD:	50,000.00
Total:	90,555.02

4. Summary of all deposits

	Individual	Club	Sanctions	Total
2025	$5,982	$651	$5,025	$11,658
2024	$22,499	$4,475	$15,986	$42,960
2023	$19,256	$3,700	$11,559	$34,569
2022	$20,754	$2,350	$14,221	$37,234
2021	$9,235	$1,100	$8,882	$19,217
2020	$6,664	$850	$5,640	$13,154
2019	$13,650	$2,725	$20,577	$36,952
2018	$17,455	$2,450	$22,101	$42,006
2017	$17,205	$3,000	$19,033	$39,238

5. Summary of Sanctions Deposits

Month	Association Fees	Post Fees	Refunded	Refunded Post	National	Late Fee	Total
01/01/2024	48	1	4	0	0	0	$4,464
2/1/2024	17	0	6	0	0	0	$1,393
3/1/2024	13	1	1	1	0	0	$820
4/1/2024	10	1	1	0	0	0	$563
5/1/2024	19	4	0	0	1	1	$1,309
6/1/2024	8	4	0	2	0	$0	$160
7/1/2024	20	3	0	0	0	$0	$1,267
8/1/2024	12	1	0	1	0	$0	$581
9/1/2024	16	3	4	0	0	$0	$933
10/1/2024	10	1	0	0	0	$0	$653
11/01/2024	16	5	0	2	0	$0	$1,324
12/01/2024	37	2	0	2	0	$0	$2,519
1/1/2025	27	1	0	5	0	$0	$2,732
02/01/2025	18	2	3	0	0	$0	$1,407
03/01/2025	17	1	0	1	0	$0	$1,246