

USATF Racewalk Committee General Session
Friday, December 1, 2023
Orlando, Florida

Meeting Called to Order at 2:04 pm

Roll Call

Voting Delegates: Pamela Allie-Nornil (Athlete), Melissa Aquino (PNW), Scott Avery (Inland NW), Janelle Branch (Athlete), Lisa Bruening (Wisconsin), Katie Burnett (Athlete), Jo Burrows (Executive Committee), David Clark (Kentucky), Ron Clarke(PVA), Curt Clausen (Athlete), Rosie Cullins (Gulf), Maryanne Daniel (Athlete), Ron Daniel (Connecticut), Mark Dennett (Maine), Ryan Elsbernd (Iowa), Kristin Erickson (Athlete), Dave Friedman (Athlete), Ray Funkhouser (Virginia), Araina Graham (Three Rivers), Diane Graham-Henry (Exec. Comm), Roger Hall (Oregon), Barb Hensley (Ohio), Daniel Koch (Florida), , Pamela Lee (Long Island), Solomiya Login (Executive Committee), John Martin (Arizona), Katherine Miale (Athlete), Jennifer Nanista (Imperial),), Evita Lopez (Southern), Ajay Padgaonkar (Pacific), George Papacalos (Athlete), Dan Pierce (Exec. Comm), Larry Powell (Nevada), Ed Richardson (Exec. Comm), Rich Robert (Exec. Comm), John Cody Risch (Athlete),Latonya Salley-Sarif (Athlete) Cathrine Salvio (Athlete), Ron Salvio (NJ), Liz Shepard (Athlete), Tracy Sundlun (San Diego), Eboni Thompkins-Webber (South Carolina), Chiffon Vaughn (KY), Ken Voght (Lake Erie),

Non-Voting Attendees: Lanera Ballew-Holt, Willie Banks, Shane Briscusco, Loubina Hasseine-Silva, Dee Jensen, Diane Kinney (West Virginia)Diane Martin, Donna Taylor-Iles, Steve Vaitones, Josh Winchenbach

Intro from Vin Lananna- 20 minutes

Discussion about USATF Website with Vin. He acknowledges the website needs work. Ed will create a list of those with skills to help with IT/Web development to join working group to help with website organization and user experience.

He is creating focus groups across the organization to help with youth, officials, and the NCAA. Those who are interested in serving on a focus group should reach out. All other ideas can go to bigidea@usatf.org.

Willie Banks World Athletics Update- 5 minutes

- The 35k is back in the world champs for Tokyo 2025.
- The Racewalk Marathon Mixed Relay will be Men, Women, Men, Women format.

Approval of 2022 Minutes

Liz Shepard: Motion to approve 2022 general session meeting minutes.

Seconded by Cody Risch.

Motion Passed

Reports

Diane Graham-Henry: Reports will not be read in entirety, but available on documents library after the annual meeting.

Chair Report Highlights: The Mixed relay, which was implemented by World Athletics following our 35k nationals/selection event in January, and most of the year was spent without much guidance for the new event from World Athletics. However, our athletes have had more experience than other federations due to Gary Westerfield's October race and the Pan Am Games. Our next race is scheduled for January 21, 2024 in Santee, CA.

Vice Chair – Ed Richardson

Events: With the new World Athletics athlete ranking system, athletes need to race more domestically and internationally than ever before. In setting the calendar and searching for race directors and locations, the schedule is planned around these major races to best allow the athletes the races they need where they need them in the distances they need. For example, looking at 2024, we are front loaded in our domestic races because the big races in Europe tend to be in the late spring/early summer and we want our athletes to be able to train and perform well throughout the full year.

2024 Race Calendar (on documents library): Some races are still TBD, meaning we know about where they need to fit in the year, but do not have a set date, location, or solid meet director. Pending races have a commitment with a date and location, but is missing something such as the formal bid or something else to solidify before it come be an official event.

Katie Miale: How does the bidding process work for these races? It would be nice to have more East Coast races.

Ed: The bid application is online <https://www.usatf.org/bids> The problem is with the domestic and international race schedule, its usually too cold in the NE to host a meet when we need it.

Millrose 1 Mile Racewalk Championships- Bill Pollinger is the sponsor for the 1-mile racewalk championships at the Millrose Games. This is a huge accomplishment, and we are very thankful. In our executive committee we discussed ways to thank him. He will receive a full-page ad in meet program, racewalk bibs with his name, highlight on center cube, finish line tape, and announcement of him being a sponsor. He will also hold the tape and pass out awards for the men's and women's racewalks.

Coaches Ed Report- Janelle Branch

As of this morning, the racewalk curriculum designed by Ian Whatley will be used in Level 1's in place of the few slides they currently have. The Coaching Ed committee welcomed it with open arms because now they do not have to try to know anything about racewalk and it will actually add a little time to the endurance curriculum, which they also wanted to balance with other events. It's a win for them and a win for us.

High Performance Report- Diane

- Tier and TPP Programs have shrunk even more, with Tier being about the top 15 in the world.
 - Development is still for those in around the top 50 in the world with increasingly better marks.
- Our two athletes who are approved to remain in development are Emmanuel Corvera and Dan Nehnevaj.
- New coming down the pipe is the funds will not be restricted to travel, but may also be used for other needs such as massage, recovery tools, etc. More to come as development finalizes this piece of the program.

Officials Report- Maryanne Daniel

- Jeff Salvage and David Harriman created training for judges by using races that are already judged to see the int'l judges results to train judges.
 - Full training and answers are available on racewalk.com website.
- The US just got four silver level judges certified this year.

Masters Report- Jo Burrows

- Jo gave report about master's competitions in 2023 and 2024
- May 5th master's 20,000m on track in Ohio. More info to come.
- Her full report will be available on the documents library and there is also more information such as masters award winners available in the masters committee documents library.

Rules Report- Dan Pierce

- As of January 1st, we will be able to host the marathon relay and have American records and national championship.
- Referee will add racewalk referee to list of possible referees for meets. Can also pick non stadia and road racing referee. We will work on educating running referees on the little they need to know about racewalk.
- Rules Reviews: We don't have rules review updated for next Olympiad because WA hasn't written their rules. We should have them updated by about Feb. We are trying to match our format to theirs.

Law and Legislation- Curt Clausen

Items to be voted on by full body on Sunday, all available in the L&L documents library.

- Term limits to affect committees.

- Active athlete involvement
- Some youth issues-mostly tabled.

2024 Standards- *available on documents library*

Cody Risch: Motion to approve 2024 standards

Seconded by Liz Shepard

Motion Passes

New Business:

Ron Daniel

Plan to tighten standards for entry to Olympic Standards, Nationals, and making the USA travel teams to international competition. This will ensure we are sending a team of athletes who will place near the top of the competition instead of the back.

Tracy Sundlun

San Diego has been awarded the 2025 World Athletics Road Running Championships. Each race (road mile, road 5k, and road half marathon) will have a racewalk division. Should be a very fun race and he hopes to attract not only US racewalkers to the race, but also international walkers.

Awards

Mike Riban Individual Contributor Lifetime Award Winner: Tish Hanna

Mike Riban Outstanding Association Award Winner: San Diego Association

Henry Laskau U20 Male Athlete of the Year: Ryan Allan

Henry Laskau U20 Female Athlete of the Year: Heather Durrant

Captain Ron Zinn Male Athlete of the Year: Nick Christie

Captain Ron Zinn Female Athlete of the Year: Miranda Melville

Chair Awards:

- David Harriman
- Jeff Salvage
- Gary Westerfield
- Tracy Sundlun

Adjourn

Katie Burnett Motioned to Adjourn

Seconded by Liz Shepard

Motion Passes

Meeting Adjourned at 5:11 pm