

Race Walk Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

7 p.m. Central Time

Diane called meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Emmanuel Corvera, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Mt. SAC Relays 20,000m Race Walk event and details (attachment)

- 20k athletes need their own race, so the 5k is afterwards
- Nick will check with international athletes, but being the same weekend as Pan Am we might not get many.

Events Update

Can we set next year's trial event by sept/oct of this year so athletes know in advance?

- We will try. Many hosts he contacted just didn't have enough time this year but he will touch base with them sooner to hopefully have them start the process with enough lead time to put on the event.

Penn Relays Update: Penn Relays will be the 5,000 championship this year. Still pending signature but approved by Michael Nussa. Still have status of Olympic Development Race. Next year it will be WA Bronze Status.

Pan Am Games: Would the 35k event at Pan Am change if the Olympics change to a separate format than 35k?

- Diane will ask Aretha

Outdoor National 2023: Still do not know if 20,000 will be on road or track. Waiting on LOC to determine.

Standards review (attachment)

When we voted as the large committee, we did not include the 2024 Olympic trials standards. Are we able to vote on them as the executive committee?

- Yes, we should. It wouldn't be fair to wait until December when the 35k OT is in January
- We need to set qualifying windows as well

Proposal

Nick: Motion to approve the proposed 35K Olympic Trials time standards with the qualifying window of February 28, 2021 to December 31, 2023

2nd- Miranda
Motion Passes

Katie: Motion to approve the proposed 20K Olympic Trials time standards with the qualifying window of January 1, 2023- TBD 2024 with the closing date as designated by USATF for other track and field events.

2nd- Ed
Motion Passes

Racewalk Officials List

We are not able to simply obtain a list of rw officials, but the new officials chair sent an email on behalf of Diane and the committee for officials to respond to. So far we have over 250 responses from officials across the country. We cannot publish the list, but if someone is seeking a rw official, they can ask Diane and she can provide contact information. We still have a lot of work to do with officials, but this is one step closer.

New Business

New Balance Indoor Nationals Judges

- An athlete was DQd and when she went to ask the head judge why she was DQd he just snapped at her to leave him alone. The issue isn't if she deserved the red cards or not, but that she can't learn from the situation in the head judge won't answer her questions. He was too hard on her and needed to be kinder and tell her about her cards. Can we please send a reminder to judges in the future to ensure our young athletes are taken care of and provided with the growth opportunities they need?

We aren't sure who the head judge was, but Diane will contact Justin just to check in and see what he thinks about the situation.

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn – Ed
2nd- Miranda
Motion Passes

Adjourned at 8:17 p.m. CST

June 13, 2023 Race Walk Executive Meeting

Diane called meeting to order at 6:07 PM

Roll call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Nick Christi, Emmanuel Corvera, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Guest: Michael Nussa

Absent: Solomiya Logan

Approval of March 14, 2023 Minutes

Jo: Motion to approve the March 14, 2023

Seconded by Janelle

Motion Passed

National 20k Field Sizes for 2023 on the track with both genders at the same time

8 men and 8 women have qualified with the 20k standard. How many to do we want to fill the field to due to having both genders on the track at the same time? In the past we have filled to USATF allowable amount, but this year it will likely be too many for sake of athletes getting lapped and logistics such as aid tables. This is ultimately the discretion of the chair, but she wants to know our thoughts.

Discussion followed about how to limit. Ultimately the committee decided to advise Diane to limit filling the field to 10 of each gender, but they must be close to the qualifying time.

WA Qualification Period

- All events except 10,000m, Combined Events, and Race Walk – July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- 10,000m, Combined Events, Race Walk – December 31, 2022 – June 30, 2024

I would suggest that we open our window on the same timeline as WA. I would close the window on Sunday, June 9, 2024 (day after NCAA Championships). This would be the same timeline we have this year, allowing us to use the week of June 10-14 to finalize the fields, then seed the first part of the meet on June 18 or 19 to start on June 21.

Proposed USATF Qualification Period

- All events except 10,000m, Combined Events, and Race Walk – July 1, 2023 – June 9, 2024
- 10,000m, Combined Events, Race Walk – December 31, 2022 – June 9, 2024

There was very little discussion about this topic as no one on the board had any objections to making our qualification period align with the WA qualification period.

The Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay

We had much discussion about the marathon mixed relay team and how we will qualify both individually and a team. Unfortunately, we don't have all the information regarding world athletics and how we will proceed. However we do have a few events in the works to give us our best opportunity for performing well in Paris.

- Oct 1st: Gary Westerfield is working on putting on a mixed marathon relay race as a test event for us to try the event for the first time.
- January or February: Trials race in Santee hosted by Tracy Sundlun. We do not yet know if this will be all individuals competing or pre-determined teams but, those who want to compete in the event in Turkey must compete in this trials race. More information about format will be forthcoming.
- April: Team race in Turkey. As far as we know, this event will qualify 1-2 US teams to the Olympics in Paris. However, we are not 100% certain if it will have to be the individuals who qualified the team or if it will be just getting the US a team (or two) in the Olympics.
- June: Olympic Trails. Michael Nussa will look to see if we can add a trials event for the relay 6 days prior to the 20k Olympic trials to mirror the Olympic schedule. Makeup of this event is not yet determined (ie, individual qualifier or pre-determined teams). It is important to start looking into this now with the LOC to ensure we can add it before its too close to the trials.

Other considerations

- Can the 35k money be used to support the marathon relay event?
 - Unknown at this time.
- Can internationals compete in our Olympic Trials to ensure they count for WA?
 - Unknown but Michael Nussa will look into it to ensure they will be invited if needed to fulfil WA requirements.
- Will the 2023 Pan American Games change to include the mixed marathon relay?
 - As of now they have not added the event. Will continue to monitor the international chatter.

The Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay: see two items posted by World Athletics.

Questions asked of Willie Banks and David Katz regarding The Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay.

How is the course designed? Road course layout?

Where will be the location and size of the holding pen for the athletes who are between their session. And what can they do while there?

Will there be a Red Card Posting Board for the athletes to see? And will the Red Cards for both (male and female team member) appear on the board during the whole event?

The understanding I have is the time addition would not begin until three red cards are posted (the number it takes to end up in the penalty zone for 1 minute in a 10k). Three red cards (for either athlete) will add one minute. A fourth adds one minute more, etc.

Is this correct?

What is the time given for the event? I've heard 3 hours, but of course there is information out that states longer.

There was mention from World Athletics that there will be a preview of the event at the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championship in Antalya, Turkey, in April of 2024. This would be the Olympic selection event. BUT, it is listed to be held at the Pan Am Games in October.

Also, since this event is new and not truly tested, the athletes would want to know from which ranking points would they be listed for possible inclusion.

With a close time frame until these events, many federations are not prepared to host an event to test the athletes. I believe a missive from World Athletics stated anyone wanting to host an event to contact competitions@worldathletics.org. Not sure if this would produce more information and format to host. Is this correct information?

Some further information:

Via Willie Banks: The course would be male 11.45k, female 10k, male 10k, female 10.745k.

3:20 time limit. Team position at time cut off will produce finish position.

From David Katz: Has to check what World Athletics will agree to him sharing at this time.

No further information was provided by Willie or David. They are currently traveling.

New Business

Katie: Do we know if the racewalk paperwork will be submitted to WA?

Diane: National office must have racewalk put on the
Michael will double check with them tomorrow.

Dan: Should we ask to have a national champion in mixed marathon?

Diane: Why not?

Dan will get working on getting it done.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14 PM CST.

**Race Walk Executive Committee Meeting
September 18, 2023**

Diane Called to Order at 7:04 pm CT

Roll call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Nick Christie, Emmanuel Corvera, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Ed Richardson

Guest: Michael Nussa

Absent: Rich Robert, Dan Pierce

Agenda

Miranda: Motion to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes

Seconded by Maria

Motion Passed

Pan Am Games Selection

Ranking list will come out tomorrow (Tuesday, September 19)

Teams decided on Friday (September 22)

Michael Nussa explained that the selection for the Relay for Pan Ams is based on the finish of the 35k in January, because those who thought they made the team for the 35k would be given the opportunity and because we don't have time for another selection race.

Review of 2024 event schedule.

See attachment for confirmed/unconfirmed dates

Dates of Feb 16—17 for Indoor Nationals in Albuquerque confirmed by Michael Nussa

2024 Standards, See 2023 Standards.

Mostly stayed consistent with what we have done in the past for qualifying.

Will keep 20k standard for Indoor Nationals qualifying.

Will only use 20k standard for Olympic Trials 20k qualifying.

Big issue: Mixed Relay

You have to compete in Santee on January 21 to qualify for the mixed relay in Turkey.

Three issues to work through

- How to qualify for the selection race in Santee
- Format/selection of team from Santee to Turkey
- If we qualify a team for the Olympics, how do we select the individuals who represent Team USA at the Games?

Santee Qualification:

Do we leave entry open to everyone or have entry standards?

- The big question is if we have to have entry standards per travel/prize money allocation or other stipulations from the national office
 - Michael Nussa currently does not know, but will ask at his meeting later in the week. It's tricky because its selection for a relay, which doesn't happen this way for other relays
 - Possible funding from relay sources such as relay camps, etc?
- Nick: motion to leave entry for Santee selection race open, unless prize/travel money OR national office necessitates we have standards. Then we will establish a standard at that time.

Seconded by Maria, Miranda

Motion Passed

Format/selection of team from Santee to Turkey

Selection for team: 2 teams to Turkey

David: top 3 men and women (2 teams, one alternate of each gender)

- No teams, just follow format for race, but with all men starting first, then all women when the first man comes through, then all men, etc.
 - maybe set time, i.e. 50 min after the gun, all women go, then 50 min later all men, etc.
- We have to follow World Athletics procedures (pre-determined teams)
 - but what if one partner is sick that day, it takes the other American out of the running for Turkey and the Olympics
 - Other issue: Not enough participants of one gender or the other. Gary's race on Oct 1st is having the issue of too many men and not enough women to create teams.
 - Could we partner with international athletes? This would cause a problem if we were going off team performances to make the team to Turkey, but if we are sure it is "top American on the day of the selection race" this might not be a problem?
 - Also hypothetically, someone could partner with a super slow teammate so they would know what time they had to walk to make the team because the other team would be done faster
 - Random draw of partners on day of the race?
 - Doesn't make it any better, we still need to find out the best on the day, and doing mass starts for men and women instead of teams will eliminate advantage/disadvantage of teams
- Other considerations:
 - Is more rest or less rest best?
 - We don't know because we haven't done it

- Depends on conditions. Cool weather more rest might not be beneficial.
 - Will circle back to this after the October 1 race in NY.
- Tracy's ability to shelter all the athletes for any conditions (hot, cold, rain) during the down time in the race
 - He has said he can do it.

Qualifying Individuals for the Olympics

- Once we get to Turkey, if the team qualifies for the Olympics, is it automatically those two individuals who will represent at the Olympics?
 - Example: If team A qualifies, but the man on team B was actually faster than that man on Team A, would he go, or the original man on team A?
- We still need to discuss and decide this.

Due to time, we tabled this discussion and will have another meeting following the Oct 1 race and before Diane's high-performance meeting.

- **Janelle will schedule and requests proposals for each point in writing so we can all review them prior to the discussion.**

Annual Meeting: 11/30/23 – 12/3/23:

Subcommittee reports to Janelle Branch to be posted to the Documents Library.

Team Staff Selection Committee:

World Athletics Race Walk Team Championships in Antalya, Turkey, April 21, 2024. NOTE: Currently no information listed for this event at worldathletics.org as of 9/16/23. US vs Canada Dual meet in Canada. Hopefully to occur in 2024. (usually in August).

New Business

Officials- World Athletics Silver- Alex Price

Thanks for support in ensuring he was nominated

Miranda: Motion to close

Seconded by Ed

Motion passes

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm CT

October 5th Special Race Walk Executive Meeting To Discuss Mixed Marathon Relay

Diane called meeting to order at 7:04 PM

Roll Call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Nick Christie, Emmanuel Corvera, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Guest: Tracy Sundlun

Reflections and Suggestions from those who raced in NY race on Oct 1:

- Maria The race went well for the first time.
 - Need a place to change clothes
 - More porta potties- at least three in Santee on Jan 21, maybe more
 - A shelter for athletes while they are waiting
 - Smaller baton for female race in team setting. Chips would work better instead of a wrist band
 - It would be very helpful to know where you are in relation to your competitors. Everyone gets spaced out and its hard to know how you are doing compared to your competitors
- Diane- We could implement a board of some sort with splits and what lap everyone is on.
- Nick After racing last weekend, I think it might be better to do Santee as a mass start rather than a relay so everyone is racing head to head instead of getting split up and racing by themselves.
- Ed- in the relay, athletes have to cross the finish line for their laps to count. NOT hand off and get off the course.
 - Dimitry stood near the finish line so Olivia could cross to hand off. That way she crossed the line as she was handing off instead of having to complete the last few meters after she handed of
- Jo-Do lap counters count one team?
 - yes that's the way it could be if its just mixed relays. Got a bit complicated with other racing occurring at the same time, but it was our first time doing it and we learned some lessons.

Section 1: Do we remove the relay aspect of the SELECTION race (Santee, Jan 21, 2024) and do a mass start for all those wishing to be selected to the team to Turkey?

Discussion:

Removing the relay format will forgo an opportunity for USA to qualify a team based on ranking position. However, the athletes believe putting together the strongest possible teams

in Turkey will give us our best opportunity to qualify a team at all, and doing a mass start race instead of a pre-selected team format will help us put together the best team possible. Entering as a pre-selected team is much more difficult logistically and leads to individuals walking by themselves and not knowing where they are in relation to their competitors.

Motion

Nick Motion the Santee Selection Race format will be the mass start model outlined in attached proposal

Seconded by Maria

Motion passed.

Section 2: Qualification for World Team Race Walking Championships

Discussion: The idea behind the penalty for red cards is although teams are allowed 7 red cards total before disqualification, we don't want to send someone who utilizes all 7 as an individual. Getting three as an individual leaves more than half to their partner on race day, to reduce the chance of a team disqualification in Turkey. Otherwise, this section makes it clear that anyone wishing to make the team in the mixed marathon relay **MUST** compete in the event in Santee and only those who have completed the event with fewer than 4 red cards will be eligible for the World team championships and the Olympic Games in the MMR.

Team selection will be based on rank order finish at the **Santee selection event. Rank order is calculated by an individual's final aggregated time.** Final aggregated time is based off the addition of the Individual Aggregate time plus the addition of an individual's red cards time penalty. Red cards received will apply penalties in the following format:

- Two red cards accrued by an individual will result in a **TWO** minute penalty to the athlete's aggregate time
- Each additional red card after two by an individual will add **One** minute to the athlete's aggregate time.

A fourth red card by an individual will result in a disqualification from the World Team Championships and Olympic Qualifying consideration **for the mixed marathon relay (MMR)**

If an athlete does not finish or is disqualified at The Selection Event January 21st they are not eligible **for the MMR** at the World Team Championships or Olympics.

The Mixed Marathon Relay Teams for World Race Walking Team Championships will be determined by the Top two finishers with the third finisher being named as an alternate. The First ranked male and first ranked female will compose the USA Team 1 and the second ranked male and second ranked female will compose USA Team 2. The Alternate will be the third ranked male and female. Should one of these athletes decline a position on the World Race Walking Team Championships Mixed Marathon Relay Team the teams will follow rank order finish at the Selection Event to fill the teams. (Example, 1st Male declines, USA Team 1 is 1st female, 2nd male, USA Team 2 is 2nd Female 3rd Male, etc.)

Motion

Diane: Motion to approve qualification for team racewalk championship in the Mixed Marathon Relay as outlined above.

Seconded by Dan

Motion Passed

Section 3: Olympic Qualifying at World Race Walking Team Championships

At The World Race Walking Team Championships should a team finish in the Team Qualifying position (top 22 teams with a maximum of 5 teams from the same country) and both male and female are the fastest American Aggregate times then those individuals will self-select to the Olympic Team.

Should a Team that finishes inside the Team Qualifying position (top 22 with maximum of 5 teams from the same country) but has an individual who was slower than the other USA Athlete at World Team Championships they will need to race head-to-head to self-select at the 20km Olympic Trials in a two person trial via place order finish. *(The reason this exists, the athletes who raced in the World Race Walking Team Championships did not get to select their teammate so should their partner have a poor performance the fastest USA Athlete at the WRWTC is still in contention for a Paris berth in the Mixed Marathon Relay).*

If two teams qualify at the WRWTC, the individuals comprising those teams will represent the USA at the Olympics. If an athlete declines their position, it will be filled by the next place finisher at the Santee Selection Event in January.

Should no team Qualify as a Team in the World Race Walking Team Championships then the fastest USA Team composed of individuals who finished fastest at the Santee Selection Event January 21st will be eligible to qualify based on World Athletics performance list should a team qualify via performance list. Eligible marks extend from December 22nd 2022 to June 30th 2024. In this method a team will qualify on its own merit (The individuals on that team qualify).

Should an athlete decline a position on the team who qualified via performance list then the finishers from World Race Walking Team Championships will qualify via head-to-head performance at Olympic 20km Trials.

Should any of the athletes who finished in WRWTC decline their position on the Olympic team then any **athletes** who did not finish in WRWTC **(But did compete at the selection event in Santee in January)** will be offered the position.

Should all athletes from the **Santee selection race** decline a position then the vacant Mixed Marathon Relay position will be made via head-to-head performance and rank order finish at the 20km Olympic Trials.

(Remove chart at the bottom, no longer necessary)

Motion

**Ed Motion to approve this section.
Seconded by Dan
Motion Passed**

Other points of discussion

- Since we are not competing as pre-determined relay teams, we do not have to follow the World Athletics format for the Selection Event. This will not count as our “Mixed Marathon Relay National Championships” and will *probably* not be eligible for prize money or travel funding.
 - a. Because we are not tied to WA format, we are suggesting legs of 10k, 10k, 12k (or 12.195), 10k. With Men going first and women following etc. If possible, we would like to have the first legs of each gender be included in the Silver (or gold if possible) label races for the day. All males competing in the 10k would start together, and then when the first man finishes (or is close to finishing, depending on how it logistically works out) all women competing in the 10k or the MMR would start. This way we can gain WA points while competing in the mixed marathon.
 - i. Is this legal?
 - ii. Could we make the race our “10K National Championships” to ensure the most points possible for our walkers?
- Removing the pre-selected teams does eliminate an opportunity for our team to be selected for the Olympics based on rankings. However, we had the race on Oct 1, will have pan-ams, and WRWTC. If necessary, we can host another race to try to solidify our ranking closer to the Olympics
 - a. Has to be on the calendar at least 60 days prior to the event
 - b. Will revisit this topic later.
- Course limits? Do we set up a separate event for masters athletes? Will the course be too crowded with masters included?
 - a. No real consensus. Will circle back in next week’s meeting.

Topics for Diane in HP Meeting:

- Is there any reason our plan wont work?
- What has happened to the 35k money? Is there any money we can use for the MMR selection event? How are tiered athletes determined for this event?

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

October 10th Special Race Walk Executive Meeting To Discuss Mixed Marathon Relay

Diane called meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Roll Call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Nick Christie, Emmanuel Corvera, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Guest: Michael Nussa, Tracy Sundlun

We do not believe the option to hold a time trial instead of relay is feasible.

- Time trial event is not a championship event
- Will not get WA gold, silver, or bronze designation
- MMR is record eligible starting in January. Doing the mass start format will not be record eligible.

We don't need that to select a team to Turkey. We are trying to send the best American team, as we discussed last week.

Gold status isn't really possible in the US, but silver is.

Tracy: We have the prize money and could get more international judges if the funding was there. The biggest concern is that our athletes need to experience walking by themselves. We will likely be walking dispersed in Turkey and need the experience here to do our best there.

We still need to have a fair playing field. Everyone needs the same conditions and walking together will ensure that.

Did HP actually reject the proposal we agreed on last week?

No, they don't make that decision.

Michael: No reason it's not allowed, but it would be a time trial, not a recognized competition. It would be hard (ie not possible) for HP to fund it in any way since its not an official event in the Olympic program.

Could the 10k component be the championship portion of the event?

Michael: Major (funded) National Championships are based on events in the Olympic/world program for the year. If we do the 10k we can look at it as a Journey to Gold type of event, but it probably won't be supported as a "National Championship" type of event (like OT, USATF Nationals, etc.). It could be a Silver level opportunity and receive WA funding and not HP funding, but the argument for HP funding would be much stronger if it follows the Relay format and not the TT proposal.

What happens to the 35k funding?

Michael: We support events in that year’s Olympic/World schedule with National Championship level prize money and travel allocation. This year it is for the relay, but if they go back to the 35k for worlds in 2025 and not the relay, the funding would go back to the 35k. We are not sure which would receive the funding in the off year as of now.

Are athletes who compete in the relay eligible for tier status based on world ranking?

Michael: Tier status for relays is based on performance at the Olympic/world Championships, not on ranking. The MMR therefore would not be eligible for tier status until after the Olympics this summer.

How will travel funding be paid if we do go valid relay format and it is designated as a national championship?

We will have to have that discussion.

Summary and **Pros** and **Cons** of the two formats (Valid relay vs Mass Start format)

Relay Format	Mass Start Format
Race Execution	Race Execution
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives athletes experience with the true format of the race they will face in Turkey and the Olympics. • Every leg after the first would be dispersed and athletes would likely walk alone. • Reliant on teammate. If teammate DNF’s, DNS’s or DQs the team, the other athlete loses their opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows athletes to compete head-to-head to choose the best on the day for selection to Turkey. • Likely easier logistics since everyone will know where they are in the race and compared to their competitors. • Would allow for participants to take part in the 10k silver level/national championships and earn points towards their 20k rankings • Does not provide opportunity to practice format for international races
Funding	Funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be eligible for USATF national championship funding as well as WA silver funding (Michael will confirm ASAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eligible for USATF HP funding • Santee event would still be eligible for WA funding
Other	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible for USATF National Championship Designation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10K National Championships for the first leg of the race could help 20k rankings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American record eligible starting January 1. This would be our first shot at a record. • Female athletes can't double dip and compete in 10k because its not a mass start (men still can) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would remove an opportunity for Olympic qualifying based on ranking. • Not record eligible or National Championship eligible
--	---

Speculating times needed for the 5k/10k to qualify for the Olympics are around 22:20/46:00 for women and 19:30/40:40 for men to be in the top 48 IF points are in WA Silver level. If only national championships, probably 15-30 seconds faster.

Tracy: for the race if we are going to have the men's first leg or the women's last leg do the extra 195 meters?

Should we decide this week? Or wait until Michael comes back with the answer about funding?
Athletes agree we should wait to find out about funding.

Maria to Michael: Still haven't received Mt. Sac payments

Michael: They're still in process, along with several other payments across the board.

Can the Oct 1 race or Pan Ams count retroactively as an American record?

Michael and Dan: no. records will not count in the MMR until January 1, 2024. Anything this year doesn't count because the event isn't recognized by USATF yet.

Action items:

Janelle will start a communication email to discuss details for if we do decide to go to the relay format ahead of time

Michael will ask about prize money/travel allocation and get it to us ASAP

Committee will meet on Tuesday, Oct 17 at 7:00 pm Central. Miranda will take minutes because Janelle will be unavailable.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

October 17th Special Race Walk Executive Meeting To Discuss Mixed Marathon Relay

Diane called meeting to order at 7:08 PM CT

Roll Call

Present: Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Nick Christie, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Maria Michta- Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert, Miranda Melville

Guest: Tracy Sundlun

Miranda substituting for Janelle as Secretary as Janelle was traveling.

- Rene Washington has approved the Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay as a national championship for the race on January 21st.
- Prize money will be available for the individual's finish. It will be awarded same as in previous national championships (\$8000, \$6000, \$4000, \$3000, \$2000, \$1000, \$1000).
- Travel allocation will be offered based off the previous 35km top 3 times from the national championship.
- Will be eligible for a record setting event.

Tracy- There will also be prize money for the top three teams (this included international teams).

- 1st place team - \$2000
- 2nd place team - \$1500
- 3rd place team - \$1000

Open events will have prize money available as well, which will be based off world athletics points table across all events. Money totals \$10,000 and will go 5 athletes deep.

Based on our previous meeting and this new information, the committee needs to rescind the vote based on what Dan said previously.

Tracy- What happens if a teammate DNF's or gets DQ'ed? Believes we should allow the other teammate to continue. Also, would like to have period of time allocated towards each leg to effectively know when the next person can start their leg if their partner is no longer in the race.

What happens if you know your teammate is sick in advanced and cannot get on the start line? Are they not eligible for prize money?

- Follow the same rules as in the past for other distances such as the 20km, 35km, and 50km – If the athlete does not start the race, then they do not make the team.

- Still have the person compete. Solution to put person in the race. We can't negatively impact the athletes for things that are out of their control. We just need to ensure it follows the relay concept.

New information that an athlete will go into the penalty zone after a team accrues their third red card. Time will not just be added to the result.

- There is no penalty zone mentioned in the world athletics documents, however in a recent meeting to clarify this, federations were made aware of the penalty zone.

How does this effect times and qualifying for Turkey. Ex: say one athlete A has 2 cards and their teammate athlete B gets the third red card and will be put in the penalty zone. Does the time penalty that Athlete B accrues penalize their splits when trying to decide for Turkey.

Point of order- motion to return to comment about rescinding our decision based on the prize money for the championship, then after we can address the hurdle just mentioned.

Solomiya – motion- to rescind the initial proposal.

- Dan Second
- In Favor- 11
- Opposed the motion- 0
- Abstentions- 0

Motion passes

Diane– Motion – acceptance of the Marathon Race Walk Mixed Relay (based on what is currently written on the World Athletics procedures) as a national championship, and to include the prize money that goes to the top individual 7 athletes deep, and travel allocations to the top 3 from the 35km championship held in 2023.

- Solomiya second
- In favor - 11
- Opposed - 0
- Abstentions – 0

Motion Passes

Based on previous points and examples about selection we don't have enough information to decide at this time for Turkey team selection for the relay. Perhaps we should wait to see how things are done with Pan Am's

Will the penalty zone be added to the rules? If it is in the rules, then we must do it. If it is not in the written rules, then we don't need to change what we are currently doing. Hold off on calling Pierce about what the rules will be.

Dan- While athletes do need to know procedures, and he recognizes the frustration of an athlete waiting on this information, it is not critical currently to make the decision and it does not impact it being a silver label event. We can wait and see how things play out at Pan Am's and if any other information becomes available, so we can figure out the right way to handle this. We should leave things as they are and if we find out more information later then we can change it if we need to.

Original proposal had 4 red cards meaning a DQ of the athlete being selected for Turkey- when focusing on individual selection.

Dan- motion- based on creating a team for Turkey the selection will be based on fastest individual cumulative times.

- Ed Second
- In Favor- 11
- Opposed – 1
- Abstentions- 0

Motion Passes

Waiting on decisions with red cards until further information and time for the committee to think on it.

Relay Legs:

The cleanest way to add the additional 195m is to add it at the beginning with the Men's first leg.

Those in the relay lap counting sheet should include extra piece for 195m as a time, so that they can create two clean 10km splits for the athletes.

Dan- Motion- {A} Add 195m to the 1st men's leg on the relay. {B} We start the 195m at the front of the race (behind the start line).

- Ed second
- In Favor – 12
- Opposed- 0
- Abstentions -0

Nick- Motion- If an athlete doesn't finish or does not start at the Marathon Mixed Relay national championship, they cannot be selected for World Team Championship Marathon Mixed Relay or the Olympics.

- Solomiya Second
- Dan moved to table this topic for our next meeting as there are many caveats to consider.

Meeting Wrap up-

November 21st is the 60-day deadline for our procedures to be published. We need to meet before then and have everything ironed out. Wording needs to be very clear.

Based on travel plans for many of the committee members, we will have our next meeting after Pan Am's, aiming for the week of Nov. 6th.

Tracy will send out a draft on his thoughts of everything

Diane – encourages the committee to share ideas before the next meeting, so our meetings can move more efficiently, and we can make final decisions.

Dan – Motion to end the meeting

- Maria Second

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm CT

**November 7, 2023 Special Race Walk Executive Meeting
To Discuss Mixed Marathon Relay**

Diane called meeting to order at 7:20 PM Central

Roll Call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Nick Christie, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, David Harriman, Solomiya Login, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Absent: Jo Burrows, Emmanuel Corvera

Agenda

Ed: Motion to approve the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes
Seconded by Dan
Motion Passed

2024 Entry Standards:

Some dates have come out. Diane will clean up and re-send. U20 location and dates have not been decided by USATF.

Michael Nussa has suggested an entry date of two weeks prior to the Santee selection race. There is no standard of entry, so why do we need to have a cut off?

Diane will check with Michael to determine if we have to have an early cut off or if Tracy/ the committee can set it.

Topic One: Red Cards

Nick: Motion that If an athlete has 3 red cards they will not be selected to the 2024 World Team Championship Mixed Marathon Relay
Seconded by Dan
Motion Passed

Note: very little discussion was necessary for this vote. A motion was presented stating that if an athlete received more than 3 red cards in their portion of the race, it would seriously jeopardize the team's success in Turkey and at the OG.

Topic Two: Red Card Time Penalties Impact on Self-Selection to Team

Maria: Team selection for the World Team Racewalk Championships Mixed Marathon Relay (WTRWCMMR) will be based on rank order finish at the Santee selection event. Rank order is calculated by an individual's final aggregated time. Final aggregated time is based off the addition of the Individual Aggregate time plus the addition of an individual's red cards time penalty. Red cards received will apply penalties in the following format:

- Two red cards accrued by an individual will result in a TWO-minute penalty to the athlete's aggregate time
- A third red card would result in non-selection to the World Team Championships Mixed Marathon Relay

Seconded by Nick
3 in favor, 8 oppose

Motion Failed

Would we be in violation of the Ted Stevens act by making it harder to qualify for the team than the Olympic qualification protocol?

- No. I talked to USOPC Ombudsman at Pan Ams and this is an ok circumstance as long as we are very clear on the qualification protocols.

We should not enact a time penalty until after 3 red cards as per the precedent of the three red cards in the non-relay events (20k, 35k, 50k etc).

This helps us put the right people on the team who will be fast without incurring marks and penalties for our team in Turkey, therefore giving us the best opportunities for qualifying a team for the Olympics.

Janelle: motion that team selection for the WTRWCMMR will be based on rank order finish at the Santee selection event. Rank order is calculated by an individual's final aggregated time. Final aggregated time is based off the addition of the Individual Aggregate time plus the addition of an individual's red cards time penalty. Red cards received will apply penalties in the following format:

- **Two red cards accrued by an individual will result in a ONE-minute penalty to the athlete's aggregate time**
- **A third red card would result in non-selection to the World Team Championships Mixed Marathon Relay**

Seconded by Maria
6 in favor, 5 against, 1 abstain

Motion Passed

Topic 3: Penalty Zone

Dan: motions the Penalty Zone will be used In accordance with WA standards. Time in PZ will not count towards athletes aggregate time for team selection to the 2024 World Team Racewalking Championships Mixed Marathon Relay

Seconded by Maria

Motion Passed

Topic 4: Road to Paris

Nick motions if a US team qualifies for the Paris Olympics in WTRWCMMR, it will be made up of the fastest individuals in WTRWCMMR (with the same aggregate time procedures as selection race). If no team qualifies for the Paris Games in WTRWCMMR, the fastest team by WA Performance list (Dec 22, 2022-June 30, 2024) will qualify for the Games, as long as both individuals competed in the Santee 2024 selection race.

Seconded by Maria

Motion passed

Legal Disclaimer

Written as an example of what we need to add to the race entry to ensure there is no confusion or problems arising from circumstances out of our control:

Neither the Race Walk Executive Committee, LOC, USATF or USOPC shall be liable in the event circumstances beyond their respective control, including but not by way of limitation of war (whether declared or not), strikes or other industrial action, act of God, abnormal weather conditions, pandemic, or other unavoidable accident or circumstances. In the event such unforeseen circumstances arise which prohibit complete implementation of the above outlined agreed upon selection criteria for the Race Walk Mixed Marathon Relay, USATF under the guidance of the Race Walk Executive Committee reserves the right to determinant modifications, changes or new selection criteria.

Annual Meeting Attendees:

Attending: Janelle, Diane, Solomiya, Ed, Maryanne, Dan, Rich, Jo?

Not Attending: Maria, Nick, Miranda, David, Natos?

Katie- May attend part of the meeting but has NAIA Marathon that weekend in California

Diane Motion to Dismiss

Seconded by Ed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:53 PM Central

**Race Walk Executive Meeting
USATF Annual Meeting
Orlando, FL
November 30, 2023**

Diane called meeting to order at 10:07 AM EST

Roll Call

Present: Janelle Branch, Katie Burnett, Jo Burrows, Maryanne Daniel, Diane Graham-Henry, Solomiya Login, , Dan Pierce, Ed Richardson, Rich Robert

Absent: Nick Christie, David Harriman, Miranda Melville, Maria Michta-Coffey, Emmanuel Corvera

Guest: Michael Nussa

Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Maryanne: motion to approve the September 18, 2023 minutes

Seconded by Jo

Motion Passed

Records

Diane: As of now we do not have any records to ratify, but we should have a U20 3,000m record from Junior Olympics. However, this has not made it to Justin Kuo from the meet management.

Diane has tried to contact them, but appointed Dan to continue to look into it until its solved.

Millrose Games

Diane and Ed: As of last night, we have a full sponsor for Millrose, thanks to Bill Pollinger. With sponsorship we will make it the 1-mile national championship. Millrose is very particular, so this is a big deal.

Dan: There is now a championship task force who is looking into making it easier for groups like racewalk and MUT to host championships. Currently the process is designed for big meets like the Olympic Trials, but it is one size fits all and it doesn't work for everyone. Hopefully the task force can make it easier moving forward.

Maryanne: Can we do something to thank Bill?

Conversation about ideas more than a card from the committee. Suggestions include:

- A big banner at the race (may not be allowed at Millrose per their particularities)
- His name/logo on the finish line tape
- A thank you message on the jumbo-tron in the middle of the arena

- **Standards**

Per Michael Nussa, we have removed travel allocation information for the standards document. This will be available in meet info, but does not belong in standards document.

Standards have been recommended by executive committee in previous meeting.

Note: As of now we will not be sending a team to Lima for World U20 Championships due to safety concerns in Lima.

We will be hosting a U20 Nationals, likely the week before the Olympic Trials, but the date and specifics still need to be nailed down. However, it will only be a national championships and not a selection race.

Posting of Relay Race Info

Michael Nussa: We don't have final World Athletics selection procedures. We are nearly ready to post them our race details, and the event should be on the World Athletics Website in the next week. He has been going back and forth with them trying to solidify everything.

New Business

Maryanne will be presenting on Jeffs new education materials in general session. We should integrate into other channels including officials newsletter and USATF website. More info to come in general session

Janelle: Motion to adjourn

Seconded by Solomiya

Meeting Adjourned at 10:37