



Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union

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Iowa High School Athletic Association

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March, 2013

Dear Track and Field Coaches and Officials,

As we looked at the first letter we sent to you last year, the opening paragraph couldn't be different. Last year's letter started with: "What a tremendous spring we have had so far. The conditions have been excellent for training outdoors." What a contrast. The late snow and cold temperatures and wind chills are making training very difficult. With that said, there have been some excellent boys and girls performances at indoor meets around the state. Those early performances point towards an excellent season with great performances.

Online Rules Meeting – A reminder that both head coaches and officials desiring to work at a qualifying meet or the state meet must view the online track and field rules meeting. The meeting has been available since March 1, 2013 and will continue to be available for attendance credit until April 1, 2013. 924 coaches and 173 officials have already viewed the meeting. Please make certain that you view the meeting.

Uniform Rule - We are only going to speak specifically about one rule change. The uniform rule has not changed. The change in the rule this year is that when a competitor is discovered wearing an illegal uniform he or she will receive a warning. Not a team warning, but a warning for each competitor. Once a competitor has been warned, a subsequent violation will result in disqualification from the event in progress. If an illegal uniform is observed the referee and coach need to be notified. However, if a second violation occurs before all of the process has been completed the competitor will still be disqualified. We are seeing uniforms with the waistband having a manufactures logo all the way around the waistband. These uniforms are illegal as the logo exceeds the number and size allowed.

Officials' Testing – Track and field officials registered with the Boys' Association and the Girls' Union are required to take a 50 question open book examination. The examination is administered online. Officials are required to receive a minimum score of 75% and may take the examinations three times. The exam is a random selection of questions, and the questions asked and the order will be different for each official. If you are a registered official, please make certain that you complete the examination by April 1.

Rule Books and Case Books – Both the IHSAA and the IGHSAA now provide rule books and case books to member schools and officials on an alternating year basis. What this means is that when you receive a rule book and case book it will be used for a two year period. This is a year when the Track and Field Rule Book and Case Book were provided to member schools and officials. We have also placed a copy of the Rule Book on the IHSAA website. This book cannot be printed or copied but is available for view.

IATO Manual – The Iowa Association of Track Officials has graciously edited their Recommended Procedures Manual. The manual is an excellent resource for officials and members schools regarding how to conduct track and field competition. There is some very concise but important information sheets that can be printed and provided to local meet officials. The IATO Manual has been posted online at www.iahxaa.org. Please look in the track and field section.

Iowa QuikStats – Coaches are required to make certain their teams performances are entered on Iowa QuikStats. Both the IHSAA and the IGHSAA have established policies about entering performances and consequences for failure to do so. These dates were discussed in the online rules meeting. Both organizations will be monitoring posting of performances and those member schools failing to do so will receive notice from our offices and the appropriate consequence will be applied. The required posting of performances will be used by our organizations and the Drake Relays. Please note that this year all running performances will appear as FAT times rather than manual times.

State Qualifying Meets and State Meet - Although the specific school assignments have not been made, the sites of the state qualifying meets are posted on our websites. The specific assignments will be posted some time the second week of April. The state qualifying meets will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2013, beginning at 4:00 pm. The rain date for the meet is the next day, excluding Sunday. The state meet schedule has rotated this year and is posted on our websites. The state meet will be May 16-18 and will be held at Drake Stadium in Des Moines.

Indoor Observations - Dented Batons - Several teams at the ISU meet needed to get another baton and advised them the dented baton was illegal. The rules clearly state that the bond “shall be smooth.” **Lowering the top or removing their shirt in the competitive area.** We have had reports from at least two indoor meets of this being a concern. Again the rule states: “Removing any part of the team uniform, excluding shoes, while in the area of competition, as defined by the games committee, is illegal.” This not part of the “uniform rule” and a warning will be given but if repeated the competitor “**will be disqualified from further competition in the meet.**” Let’s get these two items taken care of early.

We will be communicating with you again as issues and concerns are brought to our attention. Please do not hesitate as coaches and officials to contact us if you have questions throughout the season.

Sincerely,



John Overton
Assistant Director



David Anderson
Assistant Executive Director