

12/23/17

Annual Meeting Report  
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The Race Walk Executive committee meeting focused on the standards that will be used for USA team selections from standards in all major competitions between 2018 and the 2020 Olympics. These events include USA Indoor and outdoor nationals, WTC Trials, PAC Trials.

For events that determine the USA Team selections based on World IAAF standards including the World Championships, Pan Am Games, and the Olympic Games, the Executive committee determined the qualification standards for the individual athletes to complete in the selection Trials. I have attached the standards that resulted from several hours of consideration as part of this report.

The committee also discussed reports from site selection committee, which awarded the remaining bids for the Race Walk championship events for 2018. The 10K Race Walking Championship had been awarded to Spokane, WA but the city withdrew its offer to host the championship after it was awarded the USATF Masters Outdoor Championships for 2018. Bids are being accepted to host the 10K Outdoor championship race for the next 30 days and the award will be made before the end of January 2018 and reported out to the committee at its next meeting in February.

The Grand Prix Coordinator reported out the winners of the 2017 Grand Prix, which consisted of points accumulated for participation in up to 9 different events in the Open division, and 7 events for the Masters and the Junior divisions. Of note the Penn Relays 5,000m race for junior women is considered a very important race for providing national recognition of junior race walk athletes throughout the USA and always has more than 35 applicants for the maximum of 25 spots. Because race walking is part of the indoor high school track program in New York state, there continues to be significant participation of women athletes in all levels of race walking.

The development report included that the event is also well respected in Connecticut, Maine, and Northern New Jersey among female athletes. The men's division does not have a natural base for drawing interested new athletes because there are no state-wide high school athletic programs that include or mandate race walking. Participation by young men has less than half the number of active athletes as the women's program. The development report also included that there are more than 65 universities and colleges, mainly in the NAIA association that offer scholarships for high school athletes to continue race walking at the college level. However most of these schools are smaller in over-all size and are primarily located in the mid-west and southern regions of the USA. It is hoped that expanding collegiate participation and the number of scholarships offered will ultimately help attract more athletes interested in learning how to race walk, and the talent pool of successful athletes at the national and ultimately international level.

In the Open sessions an important issue surrounding the 50K race was discussed and resolved. This race, which is more than 31 miles in length, is the longest foot race of the Olympic games. The recovery between events is in the months meaning that the time needed to recover after competing in the trials races prior to international competition also needs to be months. To adjust the preparation to a more favorable time-line for athletes a decision was made to allow

athletes to have 2.5 years to achieve the standard for the 50K race, and so during the Trials race athletes would only need to achieve a finish place of 1-4 if they already achieved the selection time. In previous Trials years the athlete needed to achieve the selection time during the Trials race and often did not have sufficient time to recover and achieve a second peak for the actual Olympic games.

Also during the Open session meeting, awards were given out and the Mid Atlantic Association received the "Captain Mike Riban" award as the outstanding association for 2017. This is the most prestigious award presented once a year to a selected association, and it was the first such selection to go to the Mid Atlantic Association. The award was accepted by Sharnette Handy-Hall on behalf of the association. The national secretary of Race Walk, Edwin Richardson, received the Chairman's award for excellence and service during the 2017 year. At the end of the presentations of awards, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Richardson