



Lake Erie Association

USA Track & Field

**USA Track & Field drives competitive excellence
and popular engagement in our sport.**

Lake Erie Association: Includes state of Ohio Counties of Erie, Huron, Richland, Lorain, Ashland, Geauga, Cuyahoga, Lake, Medina, Summit, Wayne, Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas, Harrison, Jefferson, Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Trumbull, and Ashtabula.

2018 - 2020 Officers/Chairs

Officers

President: Larry Seifert (LNS1955@att.net)

Executive Vice President: Dave Woytek (dwoytek@lightningtiming.com or 216-744-8970)

Vice President: Chip Johnson (Chipluvs2run@aol.com)

Membership & Sanctions: JoAnn Kitchen (kitchgj@aol.com)

Secretary: Nancy Seifert (LNS1955@att.net)

Treasurer: Jeff Gerson (440-473-0636)

Local Association Committee Chairs

Men's LDR & Cross Country: Phil Pillin (pillin@zoominternet.net)

Women's LDR & Women's Track & Field: Anthony Longino-Thomas (ttonythecop@aol.com)

Race Walk Chair: Rick Marinelli (rmarinelli@sbcglobal.net)

Master's Track & Field: Jeff Gerson (440-473-0636)

Men's Track & Field: Frank Martinek (frank.92@gmail.com)

Master's LDR: Doug Glass (glassdgg@aol.com)

MUT: Joe Jurzyk (jurzyk@yahoo.com)

Associations: Larry Seifert (LNS1955@att.net)

Youth: Nancy Seifert (LNS1955@att.net)

Officials: Dave Woytek (dwoytek@lightningtiming.com or 216-744-8970)

From the USATF Lake Erie Association Newsletter Editor:

On behalf of the USATF Lake Erie Association Officers and Committee Chairpersons, I want to thank each and every one of you for deciding to become a member of USATF and especially our local Lake Erie Association! All of you should be familiar with our website address: www.lakeerie.org and at that website, you will find a lot of useful up to date information that this newsletter can't keep up with, including a calendar with up coming events, applications, results, etc.

The Lake Erie Association Bylaws have not been revised since 2010. The current Bylaws are in the process of being revised will need to be voted on at our local Annual Meeting by our members on August 25, 2019 at the Independence Library. Please feel free to check out the current and proposed bylaws on our website (located under "About" tab): <http://www.lakeerie.org>

Also on the website at the "About" tab is the Lake Erie Association's Budgets and I.R.S. 990 Forms so that you know how your local dues are being spent. Whether your role in our Association is as an athlete, parent, coach, official, or some combination of those categories, I am sure that you have some time and or talents that our Association can use (perhaps newsletter editor) to make our Association just that much better and stronger!

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and if you any questions or comments regarding a specific area of the sport, please contact the appropriate person form the list. If you have any information that you would like to see in future newsletters, please let me know via email.

Thanks,

Phillip Pillin
Newsletter Editor

Some important information for Individuals working with Youth in our Association:

Youth Club: Criminal Background Check Program – Overview

For the safety of our athletes, particularly our youth athletes, USA Track & Field has committed to providing a safe environment in which our athletes compete and train. We believe this is paramount to the success of all our programs.

As part of this commitment, USA Track & Field requires that all Youth Club coaches and Youth Club Volunteers who come in contact with athletes during registered club practices or other club-related track and field activities, must be SafeSport and Background Screening compliant.

This requirement has been implemented by USATF to:

1. Promote a safe, nurturing, and supportive athletic environment in which youth athletes can pursue their athletic goals;
2. Provide an environment where parents can feel good about allowing their child to participate in the sport of track and field; and
3. Maintain the sport of track and field as an environment that discourages the presence of those who would seek to harm youth athletes.

Effective January 2019 - New Education Standard for USATF Coaches Registry & Youth Coach Credentialing Protocol

To further elevate the professional credibility of the USATF Coaches Registry and its members, USATF has established a new Education Standard for qualification into the USATF Coaches Registry. The Education Standard provides for a baseline standard of professional education or coaching accomplishment in the sport of track and field for coaches seeking admission to the Registry.

By establishing a baseline standard of professional education or coaching experience, the Education Standard aligns with the best practices for professional certifications in other fields, within the coaching industry at large, and with licensing protocols of other Olympic family national governing bodies.

Overview

To be part of the [USATF Coaches Registry \(http://www.usatf.org/Resources-for---/Coaches/Coaches-Registry/Registered-Coaches-Program.aspx\)](http://www.usatf.org/Resources-for---/Coaches/Coaches-Registry/Registered-Coaches-Program.aspx), an individual must be a USATF member, undergo a background screen from approved screening agency, have completed [SafeSport compliance requirements \(http://www.usatf.org/About/SafeSport.aspx\)](http://www.usatf.org/About/SafeSport.aspx) and effective January 2019 fulfill the Education Standard.

Submission

All coaches seeking to complete verification of the required NEW Education Standard of the USATF Coaches Registry can access instructions and the online application at the link below. The online application is separate from the background screen application and allows for coaches to submit their profile and select one of the many professional coaching options which they have completed.

Some important information regarding SafeSport:

In a continued effort to create a safe and healthy environment for all USA Track & Field (USATF) athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and participants, USATF is pleased to announce it has published an updated SafeSport Handbook. As a leader in SafeSport among NGBs, this is an area USATF takes very seriously, and we are dedicated to working to end all forms of abuse in our sport.

This more robust, comprehensive handbook will provide additional information and support to our members. Changes from the older version to our newer version of the USATF SafeSport Handbook include:

- The addition of our Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies (many of those policies were including in the Athlete Protection section of our previous handbook, but we also added massage policies and other policies that limit one-on-one interactions between minor athletes and participating adults);
- The availability of minor athlete SafeSport training (which will be offered to USATF youth athletes with parental consent beginning June 12, 2019 from the U.S. Center for SafeSport); and,
- Changes that create an affirmative duty on USATF background screen applicants to disclose any convictions for, or pending dispositions of, any of the crimes or sanctions noted in USATF's background screening criteria between the applicant's renewal dates.

Codes of conduct, background screen information, reporting requirements, and education and training information are still available in this adapted SafeSport Handbook. Please remember that there is no statute of limitations on reporting, and members are encouraged to report any misconduct they see or hear to USATF or the U.S. Center for SafeSport.

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make our sport safe. The revised USATF SafeSport Handbook can be found at: <http://www.usatf.org/usatf/files/a3/a34f5545-dd0e-4573-86f0-0f11140e9421.pdf> Any questions or concerns should be directed to safesport@usatf.org.

Important information regarding the USATF Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program:

As you may know, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 requires youth sporting organizations to have mandatory prevention policies, prevention training, and reporting requirements regarding bullying, hazing, harassment, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse and misconduct. Those mandatory prevention policies dictate we must establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between minors and adults who:

- 1) Are in a position of authority;
- 2) Have regular contact with athletes; and,
- 3) Are not in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

At USATF, if a volunteer or any other individual checks one of those boxes (is in a position of authority, has regular contact, or who is not in an observable and interruptible distance), then we require USATF 3-step SafeSport compliance.

That means having:

- 1) a current USATF membership;
- 2) a current USATF background screen (and agreeing to acknowledgments therein); and,
- 3) SafeSport training.

Consequently, no individual shall be permitted to volunteer at any USATF Event who is not USATF SafeSport compliant and, therefore, listed on the USATF SafeSport Compliance List contained on the website.

However, we recognize that there may be some volunteer roles at Association and Regional events where the volunteer serves in a position without authority, without frequent contact with USATF athletes, or otherwise in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult. In those instances, USATF will allow the use of the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Application and Acknowledgment through its Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program.

As USATF works to implement its Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program, SafeSport at USATF is reaching out to ensure officials are best equipped to understand the program as well as to provide detail on what to look out for when an event the official is working is using the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program. Officials play a very important role in making events run smoothly, and we want to make sure communication is consistent and accurate on this front.

Volunteers working under the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program will be working at Association and Regional events only. This is not applicable at National Championships or third-party sanctioned events. These Restricted Volunteers will be easily identifiable, wearing a neon red wristband that reads "Temp Volunteer". These volunteers are not to have frequent contact with athletes, be in a position of authority over them, or otherwise not be in an interruptible and observable distance from another adult. These volunteers have not been vetted with the same rigor as officials, coaches, or other event workers, so it is imperative officials are aware of this program and these individuals when officiating Association and Regional events. An FAQ has been attached below with more information on the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program.

To be clear, USATF does not expect our officials to monitor or police the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program. The purpose of this communication is to make you aware of the program; **if you see something, say something**. For example, if an official notices that a volunteer wearing a neon red "Temp Volunteer" wristband is having one-on-one contact with an athlete, it should be reported to the nearest meet Referee, who should report it to the event director.

SafeSport at USATF thanks you for all your dedicated time and effort and appreciates your understanding in making our sport a safe one in which athletes can compete and train. Additional questions and concerns should be directed to safesport@usatf.org and copy Officials Committee Chair Mike Armstrong at usatf.officials.chair@gmail.com.

1. What is the USATF Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program?

a. The USATF Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program was created by the National Office to allow for casual, event-support volunteers to serve in roles not considered positions of authority, without regular contact to athletes, and/or who otherwise are in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

2. How does it work?

a. A volunteer working in the abovementioned capacity will be able to volunteer up to three (3) times within a calendar year under this waiver program. Event directors/Association leadership will provide the application and waiver to the volunteer (along with an accompanying information sheet). The volunteer must complete the application and waiver and return it to the event director/Association leader before beginning his/her duties. When the application and waiver is returned to the event director/Association leader and verified against a state-issued ID for accuracy, the volunteer will be provided a wristband to be worn during the duration of the event. The event director/Association leader must designate on the waiver which wristband (by serial number) was distributed to the volunteer. The volunteer will be required to wear the wristband throughout the entirety of the meet. The volunteer will be permitted to work in positions listed in 1(a), above. Once the meet/event has concluded, event directors/Association leaders should upload the documents into USATF's volunteer management system, where they may be reviewed for compliance by the National Office.

3. What if my volunteer is working in a position of authority, has regular contact with athletes, or will be volunteering in a position that is not in an observable distance from another adult?

a. If your volunteer is working in a position of authority, has regular contact with athletes, or will be volunteering in a position that is not in an observable distance from another adult, then this volunteer is not permitted to work under the Restricted Volunteer Waiver Program, and would need to be USATF 3-Step SafeSport Compliant before volunteering. A compliant individual has: 1) obtained a current USATF membership; 2) completed and passed an annual USATF background screen (and agreed to acknowledgements therein); and, 3) completed SafeSport training.

4. Where do I get the waiver and wristbands?

- a. The waiver and wristbands will be mailed to Associations by the National Office. Volunteers will obtain waivers and wristbands from event directors/Association leaders.

5. What does it mean when a volunteer signs the application and the waiver?

- a. By signing the Restricted Volunteer waiver and accompanying application, the volunteer is acknowledging USATF's SafeSport policies and procedures, including the SafeSport Handbook and reporting requirements. Furthermore, the volunteer is agreeing to be subject to the jurisdiction of both USATF and the U.S. Center for SafeSport to resolve any alleged violations of such policies. The accompanying information sheet will also provide information on how/when to report, and other information related to SafeSport at USATF.

6. At what events can the program be used?

- a. This program can be used at USATF Regional and Association meets. It **cannot** be used at National Championships or third-party sanctioned events.

7. How many times can a volunteer work under this program?

- a. Volunteers are permitted to work under this program a maximum of three (3) times in a calendar year. If wishing to volunteer a fourth or more times, the volunteer must become USATF 3-Step SafeSport Compliant (meaning the volunteer must 1) obtain a USATF membership; 2) pass a USATF background screen (and agree to the acknowledgements therein); and 3) complete SafeSport training).

Important Upcoming USATF Lake Erie Association and other events:

1. June 22, 2019
USATF lake Erie Association Junior Olympic Championship
Bedford High School
481 Northfield Rd, Bedford, OH 44146
<http://www.lakeerie.org>
2. June 29, 2019
Over The Hill Track Club Cleveland Track Classic
Bedford High School
481 Northfield Rd, Bedford, OH 44146
<http://nebula.wsimg.com/d57f5fa670d31b4f6e112e0ca30b48ac?AccessKeyId=E018960B83404900DDCB&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>
3. July 18-21, 2019
North and Central America and Caribbean Region of World Masters Athletics Championships
Toronto, Canada
<https://nccwma2019.com>
4. July 27, 2019
USATF Lake Erie Association Open/Masters Track and Field Championships
Bedford High School
481 Northfield Rd, Bedford, OH 44146
<http://www.lakeerie.org>
5. August 25, 2019
Lake Erie Association Annual Meeting
2:00 PM
Independence Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library
6361 Selig Drive
Independence, OH 44131
<https://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Branches/Independence.aspx>
6. September 15, 2019
USATF Lake Erie Association Throws Pentathlon Championship / Norm Bower Memorial Throws Pentathlon
Kent State University
Located adjacent to the Ice Arena
More information to follow...
7. October 13, 2019
Youngstown Peace Race 10km Road Race is the third stop on the Lake Erie Association Road Race Championship Series
<https://www.peacerace.org>

8. November 9, 2019
USATF Lake Erie Association JO, Open, and Masters Association Cross Country
Championships
Columbiana High School
700 Columbiana-Waterford Rd, Columbiana, OH 44408
<http://www.lakeerie.org>