

South Dakota Cross Country/Track & Field Officials Association (SDCCTFOA) Fall, 2023 Newsletter



SDCCTFOA

A small group of interested track & field/cross country officials met with SDHSAA officials in June 2023 to promote the idea of an association dedicated to the sports of track & field and cross country. The meeting gave rise to the creation of a statewide association.

Officers were selected, and an initial membership meeting was held on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 via Zoom. The minutes of that meeting are below:

President Tim Casper called the inaugural meeting of the SDCCTFOA to order at 7:00 pm CDT. President Casper noted that the meeting was being recorded, and it would be archived and posted on the SDHSAA Web Site.

President Casper called the roll for board members: President-Elect J.D. Evans; Secretary/Treasurer Dana Nelson; Regional Coordinators Randy Thomas, Steve Charron

and Larry Stevens. All were present. Additionally, 43 members (registered officials) were present via Zoom, facilitated by Randy Soma, SDHSAA.

The members recited the pledge of allegiance.

Bo Beck moved and Marc Murren seconded the approval of the agenda as distributed to the membership. Motion was approved.

President Casper opened the meeting to public comment, however there were no public comments from the membership.

Being no previous meeting, there were no minutes to approve.

Secretary Treasurer Dana Nelson reported that a checking account will be opened at the First Dakota National Bank (locations in Sioux Falls, Pierre, Yankton, Mitchell, Vermillion, Beresford, Chamberlain, Elk Point, Kimball, Parkston, Salem and Wagner) upon receipt of the initial membership fees from the SDHSAA. Based on the \$5.00 per official fee (84 officials) collected by the SDHSAA, an initial balance of \$420.00, will be deposited in the account. There being no bills to approve, Nelson did advise that there may be a modest cost for checks. It was noted that in addition to Nelson, President Casper, President-Elect Evans and Jo Auch from the SDHSAA would be signatories on the account.

Tom Parquet moved and Kevin Nelson seconded approval of the financial report. Motion was approved.

President Casper reviewed the Constitution for the membership, noting that the officers included a President, President-Elect and a Secretary/Treasurer, all elected for three year terms. With this structure, the President-Elect moves into the President position at the end of the current term. Nominations and elections would occur for President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer for a three year term at that time.

President Casper continued discussing the Constitution, and noted that it would be advisable to select replacements for himself and Secretary/Treasurer as Regional Coordinators for Regions 1 & 2. Discussion centered on expanding the involvement of more officials, thus assuring viability for the organization going forward. It was decided to accept nominations for the two positions, and further to identify what the responsibilities for regional coordinators. The SDHSAA will facilitate nominations and voting for the regional coordinator positions, and the current board will establish a list of responsibilities for the positions.

President Casper continued his discussion of the Constitution, and at the conclusion of his discussion, Marc Murren moved and Larry Stevens seconded the approval of the Constitution for the SDCCTFOA. Motion was approved.

There being no Old Business, the meeting proceeded to New Business.

Under New Business, President Casper, with assistance from Randy Soma with SDHSAA, reviewed the website for Cross Country, covering links for the Constitution, Agendas, Minutes, Newsletters, and what will become a link for interpretations and other information (Casper's Clarifications). President Casper also noted and covered the items in the Cross Country Guide.

President Casper noted that the web site may be capable of being used as a clearinghouse for officiating schedules and other items such as procuring shells. Secretary/Treasurer Nelson reported that his contact with the Iowa Association of Track Officials Secretary/Treasurer Bill Neal revealed that Winchester is unlikely to manufacture blanks in the future. In previous years Iowa had procured shells that it subsequently sold to its members—last year at the rate of \$40/box for 32 caliber. Nelson further noted that he had purchased a 9mm starter pistol, for which shells are available for about \$25/box. A 9mm is about the same as a 38 caliber.

Randy Soma, using the technology of Zoom, went to web page and opened the various links to show the membership how they might use the web site to find information, keep up on developments of the association, and view various items in the links.

There being no Reports at this time, President Casper indicated the next meeting would be at the call of the President. Larry Stevens moved that the meeting be Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm CDT.

This is the first of several newsletters of the newly created South Dakota Cross Country/Track and Field Officials Association. The purpose of the SDCCTFOA is as follows: a. To promote the sport of cross country/track & field. b. To unite all high school cross country/track & field officials. c. To promote consistency in the interpretation of the rules according to the NFHS rule book. d. To maintain a high standard of cross country/track & field officiating. The Constitution for the association may be found at the following website:

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Officials/XCTF-Constitution.pdf>

The following links will take you directly to Cross Country Officials and Track/Field Officials pages.

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/cross-country-officials/>

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/track-field-officials/>

The following individuals are the initial officers for the association:

President: Tim Casper, Lake Preston

President-Elect: J.D. Evans, Salem

Secretary/Treasurer: Dana Nelson, Sioux Falls

The following individuals were selected as Regional Representatives for the 4 Regions. As Regional Representatives, they are also members of the Association's Board:

Region 1 (Northeast) Robert Kwasniewski, Webster = Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Day, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Marshall, McPherson, Roberts, Spink, Stanley

Region 2 (Southeast) Tony Waterman, Tea = Aurora, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, Moody, Sanborn, Turner, Union, Yankton

Region 3 (Central) Steve Charron, Huron = Beadle, Brule, Buffalo, Campbell, Corson, Dewey, Gregory, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Potter, Sully, Todd, Tripp, Walworth

Region 4 (West) Larry Stevens, Rapid City and Randy Thomas, Faith = Bennett, Butte, Custer, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, Perkins, Ziebach

As Regional Representatives, these individuals are expected to:

Regional Representatives shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for a three- year term, consistent with the provisions of the SDCCTFOA Constitution.

Regional Representatives are members of the Board of Directors for the SDCCTFOA.

A SDCCTFOA Regional Representative is responsible for all the territory and officials listed within their regional boundaries and identified in the SDCCTFOA Constitution. Regional Reps will interact with and communicate with the officials in their region and are responsible for their inquiries and requests.

Regional Reps are responsible for conducting one in person meeting in their region for the purpose of conducting an in-person clinic. Topics for the clinic will be identified by the Board of Directors of the SDCCTFOA and a lesson plan will be developed by the board. The clinic will be conducted by either a designated clinician or by the Regional Rep, as appropriate.

Regional Reps may be tasked with additional duties or responsibilities by the Board of Directors as needed.

Casper's Clarifications

President Tim Casper will be initiating a new feature to the Track & Field and Cross Country pages on the SDHSAA website to address various issues and provide rulings or interpretations on situations which may arise during the course of the season. This could include uniform issues, and often may include photos of legal and illegal uniforms. Tim may also address points

of emphasis, or comment on problems which officials bring to his attention. This feature is available at:

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/caspers-clarifications>

Cross Country/Track & Field Advisory Committee Meeting

The Cross Country/Track and Field Advisory meeting will be held on **September 27, 10:30 AM CT SDHSAA via Zoom**. Below is a link to the agenda. Minutes of this meeting will be posted in the next newsletter.

<https://www.sdhsaa.com/Advisory/XCTF-Agenda.pdf>

President Tim Casper is a member of the committee. The committee also includes the following:

- Paul Hendry, Rapid City Stevens Coach
- Jason Bohl, Garretson Coach
- Todd Thorson, Ipswich Coach
- Kelcy Nash, Arlington AD
- Paul Nepodal, Lead-Deadwood Administrator
- Lema Leader Charge, Todd County Native American Representative

Tim intends to discuss the following topics with the committee:

- Newly created SDCCTFOA
- Official's Proposals
 - Fee Structure for both sports
 - Waterfall starts for T&F
 - Certified Assistant Starter for Cross Country

The potential fee structure recommendation that will be presented is below:

Potential Track & Field/Cross Country Meet Fee Recommendations

For Meet Referee, Starter, Assistant Starter, Head Field Judge

	Recommended	Minimum
Dual, triangular, quad (approx. 4 hours)	\$225	\$200
5 to 8 schools (approx. 4 to 6 hours)	\$250	\$225
9 to 16 schools or more (approx. 6+ hours)	\$300	\$250
More than 16 schools	\$350	\$300

Regional Relay/Conference/Last Chance Meets (full day or long meets with large numbers of schools, ie Howard Wood, ESD, Metro, DAC, BH Conference, Queen City Invite, Huron Invite, First Dakota Relays, Track O’Rama, Pierre Legion Relays, etc)	\$350	\$300
If middle school races are included (extra fee)	\$100	\$100
Middle School Meet only (4 to 12 schools)	\$230	\$200
Cross Country Meet (up to six races)	\$175	\$150
• Additional races	\$50	\$50

For Shells

Shells (32 caliber for outdoor/22 caliber for indoor) must either be provided by the school or purchased from the starter at a rate acceptable to the starter, generally shells at retail:

32 caliber box (50 shells) Winchester blanks:	\$60.00 to \$80.00/box
22 caliber box (50 shells) Winchester blanks:	\$30.00 to \$45.00/box

For Mileage

State rate for driver, with rider mileage to second & third official. If officials travel from different directions or cannot coordinate, each official should receive mileage.

Contingencies

If meets add additional schools after an initial contract is agreed to, because of inclement weather, the cancelling of meets, or schools from outside the area attending because facilities in their area are not available, Athletic Directors should make adjustments to the contracted fee consistent with the guidance above. Officials anticipating a 4-5 hour meet, suddenly are booked for 6-10 hours need to be compensated accordingly.

2023 Region Cross Country Sites and Dates

1A	Webster	2023 - Oct 12
2A	Sioux Falls (Yankton Trail)	2023 - Oct 11
3A	Canton	2023 - Oct 12
4A	Chamberlain	2023 - Oct 12
5A	Rapid City (Hart Ranch)	2023 - Oct 12
1B	Webster	2023 - Oct 11
2B	Arlington	2023 - Oct 11
3B	Burke	2023 - Oct 11
4B	Gettysburg	2023 - Oct 11
5B	Philip	2023 - Oct 11

State Cross Country Meet, October 21, 2023

Class AA - Sioux Falls - Yankton Trail

AA – Boys 12:00 Noon

AA – Girls 1:30 PM

Class A - Sioux Falls - Yankton Trail

A – Boys 1:00 PM

A – Girls 2:30 PM

Class B - Sioux Falls - Yankton Trail

B – Boys 12:30 PM

B – Girls 2:00 PM

Officials for the State Cross Country Meet are:

Meet Referee – Tim Casper, Lake Preston

Starter – Steve Charron, Huron

Starter – Marc Murren, Sioux Falls

Any SDHSAA register track & field or cross country official who may be interested in assisting at the SDHSAA State Cross Country Meet in Sioux Falls, as a volunteer umpire/marshal, or other capacity should reach out to Tim Casper as soon as possible. Additional knowledgeable officials or individuals can do much to enhance the athletic experience for these high school athletes.

Iowa Association of Track Officials Starter's Clinic

This "hands on starters clinic" sponsored by the Iowa Association of Track Officials is for new and experienced starters who want to take an opportunity to improve their skill and knowledge of starting track races. A major purpose of the clinic is to provide each starter a "hands on" segment to do live starts.

Ammo will be provided and high school athletes will be available for demonstration.

Each starter attending the clinic will need to bring their own .22 starting gun/ear protection.

Another purpose of the starter's clinic is to explain the new National Federation of High School false start rules for track and field in 2024 and how to call these new starting violations.

Starters will receive instruction in:

- * starting commands
- * starting mechanics
- * starting violations
- * hurdle rules
- * exchange zone violations
- * basic track umpiring

Instruction will be provided by the following:

*Terry Thompson- NCAA starter, Drake Relays starter, Iowa High School State meet track referee, Iowa High School State cross country starter/referee

*Mike Stanley- Iowa High School State track/cross country starter, NCAA starter, Iowa High School State cross country referee

*Bill Neal- Iowa High School State track/cross country starter, NCAA starter, Iowa High School State cross country referee, Drake Relays High School track referee

*Jim Nichols - Iowa High School State meet referee, NCAA meet referee

Clinic will be capped off at 20 starters per session at each site. This will allow each starter more opportunities to start races. Get signed up today to reserve a spot at the clinic.

Clinic dates:

_____ Jan. 7, 2024-Spirit Lake High School

_____ Feb. 11, 2024-Williamsburg High School

Clinic Fee: \$40.00 (Includes t-shirt, ammo and clinic handouts)

T-Shirt Size: _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL

Clinic Session: 9 am to 12 noon (Possible 2nd session if numbers warrant)

Send check to Bill Neal, 828 Oxen Lane, Iowa City, IA 52240 by Wednesday, Nov 1st.

Contact Information in case of inclement weather.

Starter's Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email address _____

32 Caliber Starting Shells

The Iowa Association of Track Officials (IATO) recently advised its membership that the Winchester company has no plans to make .32 Winchester blanks for the 2024 track

season. They were advised Winchester was having trouble getting all the components for making blanks. Plus, Winchester makes more money selling live ammo, since there isn't a large market for starter blanks.

Winchester will be communicating with its ammo vendors on their plans for the 2025 season later this fall.

The National Federation is aware of this situation, with the hope they may have some answers.

The Iowa association has been contacting vendors and searching to find replacement shells. In previous years IATO has made bulk purchases of shells for officials, but has determined they will not be able to do so for the 2024 season. While this is something that has been discussed for the SDCCTFOA to do in the future, we will likely wait to see how Iowa comes out on their efforts.

So, be aware, schools may not be able to secure shells for next spring. Check the number of track meets you have against your inventory of .32 blanks. If you're short get on the internet to look for an alternative. Soon starters from other states will be looking for .32 blanks.

One alternative may be to buy a 9mm starter pistol. Currently 9mm pistols are available, and shells are about \$25 for a box of 50. Several area officials have already acquired a 9mm gun.

Join USATF??

Are you interested in building your track & field and cross country officiating resume? Consider joining USATF. USATF sponsors and sanctions racing at all levels, including cross country, track & field, road racing and recently extreme racing competitions. They sponsor competitions at youth, adult and master's levels, throughout the country. You have probably seen ads for USATF if you have watched track & field meets on television.

Check it out at <https://www.usatf.org>

South Dakota is part of the Dakotas Region, which includes both South and North Dakota. In July 2024, the Region 8 (South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa & Nebraska) youth meet will be held in Aberdeen. That meet has divisions for 8 & under; 9-10 year olds; 11-12 year olds; 13-14 year olds; 15-16 year olds and 17-18 year olds. The meet covers four days, and will require a considerable number of officials for all or part of the event.

The Dakota's Region Website is: <https://dakotas.usatf.org>

If you have any interest, check out the web site, and reach out to Dee Jensen in Wahpeton, ND. Dee is the secretary for the region and handles officials. Dee can be reached as follows:

Dee Jensen
USATF Dakotas
1621 N. 5th Street
Wahpeton, ND 58075
701-642-4801
Deejensen2004@yahoo.com

New Officials

Do you know someone who may be interested in becoming a track & field and/or a cross country official? The SDHSAA is always looking for new officials. Be on the lookout for someone to succeed you when you retire. Have them contact the SDHSAA and register.

[Become An Official – SDHSAA](#)

Next Newsletter & Contributions to it

The SDCCTFOA plans to produce additional newsletters prior to and during track season. Anyone with a topic for the newsletter is encouraged to reach out to J.D. Evans, Dana Nelson or Tim Casper. We need additional input and ideas, and many of you have things you may like to share. Thank you and best of luck in track & field and cross country.