

ARTICLE 1 NAME

The name of this corporation shall be USATF Inland Northwest Association, hereinafter referred to as “Association,” “this corporation,” or “INTF.”

ARTICLE 2 DEFINITIONS

As used in these Bylaws and the Operating Regulations:

A. Athlete:

- 1. Active athlete** means any individual who is actively engaged in Athletics or who has represented the United States in international competition held under IAAF jurisdiction in Athletics within the preceding ten (10) years or who has placed in the top half of specifically designated national open championship events within the preceding twenty-four (24) months. The Athletes Advisory Committee shall designate qualifying competitions; and
- 2. Eligible athlete** means any athlete who is actively engaged in Athletics or who is an International Athlete.

B. Athletics (when capitalized) means, inclusively, track & field, long distance running, cross country running, road running, race walking, and any other sport discipline recognized by the IAAF.

C. Athletics competition means a contest, game, meet, match, tournament, or other Athletics event in which Athletes compete.

D. Board (when capitalized) means the Association’s Board of Directors.

E. Club means an organization of athletes and others who participate in USATF programs as a team. There shall be various types of USATF clubs, based on the types of programs and purposes they serve. Clubs may have more than one purpose.

F. Coach means an individual who is currently a USATF-certified coach, or who was within the preceding ten (10) years actively engaged in training athletes, coaching school/college community Athletics, coaching club athletes, or coaching International Athletes.

G. IAAF means the International Association of Athletics Federations.

H. International Athletics Competition means any Athletics competition involving athletes representing two (2) or more countries.

I. IOC means the International Olympic Committee.

J. Past chair or past officer means the person (other than the current holder of the position) who served immediately prior to the present holder.

K. Sanction means the document which evidences the authority granted by USATF

and this Association to conduct a competition, and which also evidences that the recipient has complied with the requirements of Article 16 of these Bylaws and USATF Operating Regulation 23.

- L. **Sports Act** means the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (see exhibits section of this handbook), as amended.
- M. **Sports organization** means a non-profit corporation, club, federation, union, association, or other group organized in the United States that sponsors or arranges any Athletics competition.
- N. **USOPC** means the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.
- O. **USATF** means USA Track and Field

ARTICLE 3

PURPOSES AND DUTIES

This non-profit corporation shall act as the governing body for Athletics in this geographic area defined by USATF Bylaws.

- A. **Purposes:** This corporation shall have the following purposes:
 - 1. **Development:** Developing interest and participation in Athletics in this geographic area at all levels and developing opportunities for athletics development at the highest possible performance level;
 - 2. **Management:** Promoting Athletics and athletes by conducting competitions and other events, and cooperating with and encouraging other organizations that may do so;
 - 3. **Performance:** Fielding the most competent individuals and teams in this geographic area for all levels of competition in Athletics and providing support and conditions that ensure optimal performance to Athletes at all levels;
 - 4. **Marketing:** Generating public awareness, appreciation, and support for Athletics and for the Association and USATF, creating opportunities for athletes and Athletics events, and generating sponsorships to help fulfill its purposes and duties; and
 - 5. **Diversity:** Promoting diversity of representation at all levels of participation in its activities.
- B. **Duties:** This corporation shall have the following duties:
 - 1. **Responsibility to constituency:** Being responsible to persons and sports organizations active in Athletics;
 - 2. **Coordination of scheduling:** Minimizing, by coordinating with other sports organizations, conflicts in schedules for Athletics practices and

competitions;

3. **Communication with athletes:** Keeping Athletes informed of policy matters and reasonably reflecting the views of Athletes in policy decisions;
4. **Sanctioning of events:** Sanctioning Athletics competition under these Bylaws and the Operating Regulations;
5. **Participation in competition:** Providing for participation by Athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials in Athletics competition, under the provisions of these Bylaws and the Operating Regulations, and provide for protections guaranteed by the Sports Act, and as described elsewhere in these Bylaws;
6. **Support of women in Athletics:** Providing equitable support and encouragement for participation by women in Athletics;
7. **Support of the disabled in Athletics:** Encouraging and supporting sports programs in Athletics for disabled individuals;
8. **Coordination of technical information:** Coordinating and providing technical information on physical training, equipment design, coaching, and performance analysis in Athletics;
9. **Research:** Encouraging and supporting research, development, and dissemination of information in the areas of sports medicine and sports safety in Athletics;
10. **Coordination of certification and education:** Providing the means to certify coaches and officials throughout this geographic area in all disciplines and at all levels of Athletics;
11. **Registration and certification of athletes:** Registering athletes as members and certifying athletes as eligible for competition; and
12. **Maintaining athlete eligibility requirements:** Establishing eligibility criteria for participating or competing in Association events in Athletics; and
13. **Administration of Athletics:** Performing all other duties necessary for administering Athletics in this geographic area and for achieving this corporation's purposes.

ARTICLE 4

AUTHORITY

This corporation shall be the governing body for Athletics in this geographic area, and shall exercise the following powers:

- A. **Representation:** Representing this geographic area in USATF.
- B. **Establishment of Association goals:** Establishing Association goals and encouraging the attainment of those goals in Athletics.
- C. **Coordination of Athletics:** Serving as the coordinating body for activity in Athletics in this geographic area.
- D. **Jurisdiction:** Shall have jurisdiction over Athletics competition in this geographic area, including Association championships, with the exception that any sports organization which conducts closed Athletics competition (participation in which is restricted to a specific class of eligible athletes such as high school students, college students, members of the Armed Forces, or similar groups or categories) shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such competition.
- E. **Autonomy:** This Association shall be autonomous in governing Athletics in this geographic area. It shall independently determine and control all matters central to governing; shall not delegate its decisions or control; and shall be free from outside restraint. This provision shall not prevent this Association from contracting with third parties for administrative assistance and support in connection with its purposes and authority.

ARTICLE 5 CONSTITUENCY

- A. **Individuals:** Any person who meets the criteria for individual membership as determined by USATF shall be eligible for membership. This includes Athletes, Elite Athletes, disabled athletes, coaches, officials, trainers, managers, administrators, or any other individual.
- B. **Clubs/organizations:** Any club or organization that meets the criteria for group membership as determined by USATF shall be eligible for membership. This includes clubs, organizations administering competitions, and any other groups designated by USATF. Member groups must designate in writing who the voting members of the group are to be, and must make any changes to this in a timely manner before such individuals are recognized to vote.
- C. **Applications:** Application for membership shall be in accordance with the USATF and Association Bylaws and Operating Regulations.
- D. **Suspension and expulsion:** Any individual or group recognized by this Association which violates any of the provisions of these Bylaws or Regulations, USATF Bylaws or Operating Regulations, any operating policy approved by the USATF Board of Directors, or any operating policy approved by this Association may be suspended, after due notice and an opportunity to be heard by the body designated to conduct such hearings, until the next meeting of this Association, to which meeting action of suspension shall be reported by the Secretary. At such

meeting, the suspension may be rescinded by a majority vote of the members, or such individual or group may be expelled by a two-thirds

ARTICLE 6 VOTING MEMBERS

All members in good standing who are over the age of eighteen are entitled to participate in voting at meetings of this Association. No individual may cast more than one vote on any motion or in any election. All voters must be current members of this Association of USATF at the time that they are voting. *Except for renewals from the previous year, individuals must be members for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election (e.g., if the election is held on September 15, the membership must be paid in full by August 16).* (Regulation 7G, 5d)

ARTICLE 7 MEETINGS

- A. **Annual meeting:** The annual meeting of this Association shall be held at such date, time, and place as determined by the President, with input from the Board, and announced by requisite notice of such meeting.
- B. **Regular meetings:** This Association shall hold two additional meetings OF THE BOARD at such time and place as the Association President shall determine with input from the Board.
- C. **Special meetings:** Special meetings of this Association shall be held upon call by the Association President.
- D. **Meeting procedures:** The following shall govern the conduct of all meetings of this Association;
 - 1. **Notification of meetings:**
 - a. **Distribution:** Notice of the meeting must be distributed by mail, newsletter, local Association web site, and/or the National Office's web site;
 - b. **Web site use:** If a web site is to be used to inform members of the meeting, then members must be informed where to find information on the web site through a mailing (or emailing) or newsletter;
 - c. **Prior arrival:** The initial meeting notice must be sent by means under which it will arrive at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the elections process; and
 - d. **Changes:** Any notice of a meeting change must be disseminated at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting;
 - 2. **Publication of agenda:** The proposed agenda shall be included along with

the meeting notice. Agendas should also be available at the time of the meeting; additional items added to the agenda shall not include any item where action of the committee is necessary, unless seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the group then present agree to such action;

3. **Open conduct of business:** All meetings of this Association shall be open to all individual members of the Association except as otherwise provided. There shall be a specified time period in the meeting where any member may give input or make a brief statement;

4. **Closed or executive sessions:** No part of any meeting shall be closed unless seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the group then present agree to close the session; and (NOTE: IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONNEL AND LITIGATION MATTERS BE ALLOWED FOR THE PURPOSES OF A CLOSED SESSION.)

5. **Record of a meeting:** The Association and all its committees shall have a recording secretary. Within thirty (30) days of the meeting, draft minutes should be posted on the Internet. All written reports or a summary of such reports shall be distributed with the draft minutes.

E. **Agenda:** Prior to each meeting of this Association, the Secretary shall consult with the President and any Association staff members on the agenda. The Secretary shall prepare an agenda to be presented to the members at the start of the meeting as one of the first orders of business. Such agenda items shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. **Attendance:** Consideration of the eligibility of members through acceptance of the registrar's report or roll call;
2. **Credentials:** Consideration of credentials and challenges;
3. **Minutes:** Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting;
4. **Financial report:** Treasurer's report and approval of the budget;
5. **Reports:** Reports from the President and those officers and committee chairs which have business to come before the delegates;
6. **Introductions:** Group introduction of other officers and committee chairs (without reports);
7. **Amendments:** Action on proposed amendments;
8. **Elections:** Nominations (without speeches except for officer positions) and elections as scheduled, including special elections;
9. **Site selections:** Report on site selections by each sport committee;
10. **Awards:** Appropriate awards presentations; and
11. **Other business:** New or old business as scheduled.

- F. Rules of order:** Questions of order shall be decided by the chair in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised), unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. Decisions by the chair may be appealed to the Association parliamentarian. The President shall designate a qualified parliamentarian for all meetings of this Association.

ARTICLE 8 VOTING

The following guidelines shall apply to all elections for officers and sport committee and other chairs in this Association:

- A. Association elections:** All Association elections for officers and any other elected positions shall follow common guidelines and procedures to ensure fairness and openness. These provisions shall include:

1. Election notice:

- a. Distribution:** Notice must be distributed by e-mail. In addition, notice may be distributed by either mail, newsletter, local Association web site, and/or the USATF web site.
 - i.** Notice must be sent by email to the Association's current membership list provided by the National Office. The Association must also comply with state law requirements for not-for-profit corporations; and
 - ii.** Notice must be sent by mail to any member making a written request for notice by mail within one year of an election.
- c. Prior arrival:** The initial meeting notice must be distributed at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the election or nominations.
- d. Changes:** Any notice of a meeting change or a change in the election process, not previously publicized, must be distributed at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting. **NOTE: A CHANGE OF LOCATION, WITHIN THE SAME COMMUNITY, MAY BE MADE AT ANY TIME PROVIDED THAT NOTICE IS POSTED AT THE FORMER LOCATION REGARDING THE NEW LOCATION, AND TIME FOR TRAVEL IS ALLOWED BEFORE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING AT THE NEW LOCATION.**

B. Nominating process:

- 1. Nominating committee option:** Use of a nominating committee is optional; A nominating committee appointed by the President, with the

approval of the Board, shall solicit nominations to be presented at the annual meeting;

2. **In-person meeting nominations:** Nominations must be allowed from the floor at an in-person election meeting;
3. **E-mail nominations:** An opportunity to nominate candidates for all elected positions must be allowed via e-mail prior to finalizing the ballot.
4. **Membership and age criteria:** A candidate must be a member of the Association who is at least 18 years of age at the start of the term of office;
5. **Diversity criteria:** To the extent possible, considering demographics, officers and committee chairs should be a racially and gender diverse group. Additionally, to the extent possible:
 - a. gender-specific committees must include 50% of that gender;
 - b. age-specific committees must include 50% of that age;
 - c. members from one club may not make up more than 25% of one committee; and
 - d. a member may only be an officer and/or committee chair of two (2) committees at any given time.
6. **Nominations and seconds:** A candidate needs one (1) nominator and one (1) seconder who are both members of the Association.

C. Voter criteria:

1. **One person-one ballot:** One (1) person shall cast only one (1) ballot worth a maximum of one vote, regardless of how many positions in the Association the person occupies;
2. **Proxies:** There shall be no proxy voting;
3. **Minimum age:** Voters must be a minimum of age eighteen (18) on the day of the election;
4. **Voting membership deadline:** Except for renewals from the previous year, individuals must be members for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election (e.g., if the election is held on September 15, the membership must be paid in full by August 16);
5. **Appointees:** An appointed committee chair or Board member may not vote in elections in that capacity, but may otherwise qualify for a vote;
6. **Organizations:** Organizations shall have a minimum of one (1) vote, unless the balanced-meeting ballot in USATF Regulation 7-G-6-c is used. The Association may grant an organization additional votes based on its size. If

an organization has more than one (1) vote, a different representative must cast each ballot. Organizations and any person representing an organization in Association voting matters must be USATF (and Association) members in order to vote.

D. Conduct of voting: This Association shall use an open meeting ballot where all members of the Association are eligible to attend and vote, but for members unable to attend, electronic means of attendance and voting shall be mandatory.

1. Credential disputes must be resolved before the election process is started (i.e. before taking nominations and/or before the report of the nominating committee);
2. Uncontested elections may be voted by acclamation; and
3. A secret ballot must be used for contested elections; and
4. Any ballot opened outside the presence of the entire voting panel shall not be counted.

E. Counting of ballots:

1. **Voting Panel:** A panel of at least three (3) individuals, at least one (1) of whom must be an Active Athlete, shall count the ballots and sign the vote tally. All panel members shall be at least 18 years old. The panel shall not include any individual who is a candidate for an office.
2. **Consultation:** The panel may consult with the Association's president, secretary, or parliamentarian – so long as they are not candidates for offices – on procedural matters.
3. **Electronic ballots:** Electronic ballots must remain unopened/not accessed until the voting panel is assembled, and be counted together by the voting panel.

F. Committee and council chairs:

1. **Age and terms:** All committee and council chairs, whether elected or appointed, must be at least 18 years old and members (*In order to participate in a USATF Committee, an individual must be at USATF member, Reg 11, 1A- Governance Handbook*) of the Association. Chairs shall be elected or appointed for specific terms that are determined prior to the appointment or voting for the position.
2. **Election:** When requested by two (2) or more member organizations of the Association, Sport Committee or council chairs shall be elected. When a sport chair is elected, the election shall take place at a meeting held separately from the general elections, either by time or location. The election shall, at a minimum, be advertised to all member organizations in the Association active in the discipline. The election may also be conducted

by mail or electronic ballot using the procedures stated above.

3. **Format:** A convention format may be used for the Association's annual meeting, at which all elections for Sport Committee or council chairs may be held.
4. **Division elections:** Joint election meetings may be held by committees and councils in the same divisions delineated by USATF at the national level: high performance (men's track & field, women's track & field, and race walking), long distance running (men's, women's, masters, cross country, and Mountain/Ultra/Trail), Youth Athletics, and general competition (masters track & field and Associations).

G. National delegates:

1. **Local option:** Delegates to the USATF Annual Meeting may be elected or appointed, according to the Association Bylaws.
2. **Plurality:** When delegates are elected, a plurality vote (the individual receiving the most votes) may be accepted for election.

H. Majority requirement:

1. **Officers:** Regardless of whether a mail ballot is used, the president and secretary of the Association must be elected by a majority of the ballots cast.
2. **In-person majority:** In elections conducted at meetings, a plurality vote (the individual receiving the most votes) may not be accepted in the first round, except for the election of delegates to the USATF Annual Meeting.
3. **Run-off candidates:** In run-off elections, the number of candidates shall be equal to twice the remaining positions on the ballot.

I. Election protests:

1. **USATF Regulation 21:** Except as indicated below, USATF Regulation 21 shall apply to election disputes. Protests may only be made after the election process is concluded;
2. **Panel composition:** An NABR panel from a different USATF Association whose election is disputed shall be appointed to conduct the hearing. All hearings shall be by conference call. The procedures in USATF Regulation 21 shall apply.
3. **Invalidation:** The NABR panel shall invalidate an election if it is found that one or more infractions occurred that were likely to have changed the outcome of an election.
4. **Further action:** The NABR panel may recommend changes for future elections in the Association;

- J. Employees and elections:** Current Association employees (working within the past ninety days) shall not participate in any part of the elections process, including nominations or campaigning, but may, at the Association's discretion, be permitted to vote if they are members and otherwise eligible. Current Association employees may, at the Association's discretion, seek election by the Association as a national delegate, or any other representative position at the national level.

ARTICLE 9

OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

- A. Positions:** The officers of this Association shall be: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Membership Chair. No individual may be an officer of this Association who is also an officer of another sport governing body at the local or national level.
- B. Duties:** The officers shall perform the following duties as well as any other duties prescribed by these Bylaws, the USATF Bylaws, or the Board of this Association:
- 1. President:** The President shall:
 - a. Preside** at all meetings of this Association and its Board;
 - b. Be an *ex officio non-voting member*** of all committees;
 - c. Manage and supervise the affairs of the Association,** subject to the direction of the Board of this Association.
 - d. Select committee chairs** and name other such members to fill positions that he or she is entitled to appoint pursuant to these Bylaws, after consultation with the other officers. The President may likewise terminate such appointments for good cause upon written notice to such appointees and the other officers;
 - 2. Vice President:** The Vice President shall perform duties assigned by the President and Board. In the temporary absence of the President from a meeting, the Vice President shall serve as acting chair;
 - 3. Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept all records of this Association, and all minutes of meetings of this Association and its Board, and, in general shall perform all duties normally pertaining to the office of secretary;
 - 4. Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall keep or cause to be kept a correct and complete record of account, showing accurately at all times the financial condition of this Association, and, in general, shall perform all duties normally pertaining to the office of treasurer; and

5. **Membership Chair:** The Membership Chair shall collect or cause to be collected all memberships for individuals and groups within the Association and provide liaison to the USATF National Office in all matters of membership, including reporting and disbursement of benefits.
- C. **Election:** All officers are to be elected for 2 years at the annual meeting of the Association. No person may contest more than one (1) officer position during an election. A person may not hold the office of President and any other officer position; however, a person may be named in other dual capacities to fill a vacancy. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT TO THE EXTENT THE ASSOCIATION HOLDS MULTIPLE ELECTIONS IN A SEQUENTIAL ORDER, AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE FOR ONE POSITION IS STILL ELIGIBLE TO RUN FOR ANOTHER POSITION WHOSE RUNNING IS HELD SUBSEQUENTLY, SO LONG AS THE PERSON DOES NOT HOLD MORE THAN ONE POSITION.
 - D. **Succession and vacancies:** In the event the Board determines that an officer is temporarily unable to serve, it may, in its sole discretion, name another officer to fill the vacancy temporarily. In the event an officer resigns or is permanently unable to serve, the Board shall name a successor until the following annual meeting, subject to the limitation in paragraph C above, at which time a special election shall be held for the unexpired portion of the term.
 - E. **Removal from office:** Any officer of this Association may be removed for good cause by a two-thirds vote of those members of the Association present and voting at an annual meeting or a special meeting called for this purpose, and provided the requisite notice for such meeting (see Article 8) shall properly set forth the removal vote on its agenda.
 - F. **Dispute resolution:** The following shall be the policy of the Board (guided by USATF Regulation 21):
 1. **Arbitrators:** Selecting an impartial three-person arbitration panel, to include at least one Active Athlete, to hear and decide grievance and disciplinary matters. The arbitrators shall not be members of the Association Board or Executive Committee;
 2. **Challenge:** The opportunity for a party to a grievance or disciplinary proceeding to object to an arbitrator due to an established or apparent conflict of interest;
 3. **Filing:** Special procedures for filing and handling grievances against an officer of the Association, which exclude the officer from the grievance administration process;
 4. **Dates:** Grievance or disciplinary hearing to be held within 30 days of filing the proceeding;

5. **Delay:** The opportunity for the arbitrators to dismiss or rule against any party who delays the proceedings, is uncooperative, or is unprepared to present evidence or a defense at the grievance or disciplinary hearing, provided that proper advance notice of the hearing has been given to the party; and
6. **Appeals:** The decision of the arbitrators is to be appealed under USATF Regulation 21-R.

ARTICLE 10

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. **Composition:** The Board of Directors shall be composed as follows:
 1. **Voting members:** The voting membership of the Board shall be as follows:
 - a. The **officers** of this Association (5 persons);
 - b. The **immediate past president** (1 person);
 - c. The **chairs** of the following committees:
 - 1 Men' and Women's Track & Field
 - 2 Master's Track & Field
 - 3 Men's and Women's LDR/MUT
 - 4 Racewalking
 - 5 Youth Athletics
 - 6 Para Athletics
 - 7 Sports Medicine
 - 8 Officials
 - 9 Records
 - 10 SafeSport
 - 11 Coaches Education
 - 12 Communications/Marketing
 - d. Three (3) athlete representatives
 - e. Three (3) parent representatives of age group athletes
 - f. At least that number of **eligible athletes** which shall constitute twenty percent (20%) of the Board, all of whom must be of voting age and at least one of whom must have participated in international competition for the USA within the last ten (10) years, where available.

2. **Chair and Secretary:** The President of the Association shall serve as chair and the Secretary as secretary; and
- B. General provisions:**
1. **Fiduciary responsibility:** The Board shall manage and supervise the affairs of the Association and perform those duties specified in these Bylaws; and
 2. **Meetings of the Board:** The Board may conduct its affairs either at in-person meetings or by a conference call. It shall hold three (3) in-person meetings during each year as called by the President. By written request, the President or any three (3) members of the Board may call additional meetings. Board members intending to call a meeting must give at least five (5) days' notice to the President of their intent by phone call or electronic mail. After the members of the Board have called for a meeting, the President shall have twenty-four (24) hours to determine the venue and give appropriate notice to the Board. All board members shall receive at least fourteen (14) days' notice of any in-person meeting and at least forty-eight (48) hours' notice of any conference call. Written notice shall include the minutes of the previous meeting. Notice for any meeting may be waived by unanimous consent. Individuals who cannot attend in-person meetings may participate fully by conference call.
- C. Election or selection of members:** All members of the Board are elected by their constituencies and shall serve at the discretion of those constituencies, unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws.
- D. Terms:** The term for Board members which is not otherwise set by their terms of office shall be the four (4) years of the Olympiad.
- E. Quorum:** A quorum for meetings of the Board shall consist of a majority of the members of the Board.
- F. Voting:** Except as otherwise provided herein, all matters shall be decided by majority vote of those present and voting. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- G. Board committees:** The Board may have committees including, but not limited to, budget, audit, compensation, insurance, and grants. Each Board committee will have no more than five (5) members, at least one (1) of whom must be a Board member. The President shall appoint the members with the approval of the Board.

ARTICLE 12

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- A. Committees:** The following committees of this Association are established with such duties, responsibilities, and make-up as outlined here and in Articles reserved for each type of committee:

1. Men's and Women's Track & Field
 2. Master's Track & Field
 3. Men's and Women's LDR/MUT
 4. Racewalking
 5. Youth Athletics
 6. Para Athletics
 7. SafeSport
 8. Sports Medicine
 9. Officials
 10. Event Sanctions
 11. Coaches Education
 12. Records
 13. Communications/Marketing
 14. Substance Abuse
 15. Equipment
- B. Committee Chairs:** Committee chairs shall be appointed by and serve terms as determined by the President with the approval of the Board. Committee chairs shall serve as liaison to their respective committees.
- C. Removal of Committee Chairs:** Any committee chair for the Association may be removed for good cause from their appointment upon written notice.

ARTICLE 13

DISCIPLINARY AUTHORITY

This Association shall have the authority to discipline any member, delegate, athlete, coach, manager, official, trainer, member of any committee, and any other person or entity participating in Athletics who, by neglect or by conduct, (i) acts in a manner detrimental to the purposes of USATF, this Association, or Athletics, or (ii) has violated any of the Bylaws, Operating Regulations, or Rules of Competition of USATF, or of the Association, or (iii) has violated the rules of eligibility.

ARTICLE 14

REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES

- A. Redress of grievances:** A grievance may be any matter within the cognizance of this Association other than doping offenses described in USATF Operating Regulation 20. A Grievance Complaint shall state that a party (i) has violated the Association's Bylaws, USATF's Bylaws or Operating Regulations, USATF policies, or the Sports Act, or (ii) has violated the IAAF eligibility rules, or (iii) has engaged in conduct detrimental to the best interests of Athletics, the Association or USATF. Grievance Complaints may be filed only by and against individuals or entities that were, at the time that the conduct complained of occurred, and at the time the Complaint is filed, members, directors, or officers of

USATF and this Association or otherwise subject to the Association's jurisdiction. (To the extent that a grievance does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Association, then the matter needs to be referred to USATF pursuant to USATF Operating Regulation 21.) A non-member, former director, or former officer of the Association shall be subject to the Association's jurisdiction to defend against a Grievance Complaint for an incident that occurred while he or she was a member, a director, or officer of the Association or otherwise subject to the Association's jurisdiction. A Grievance Complaint may only be filed by a person or entity affected by the issues raised in the complaint. Grievance Complaints must be filed within one (1) year from the time the complaining party knew or should have known of the act giving rise to the Complaint.

B. Grievance Complaints: Grievance Complaints shall

1. be filed with the Association Secretary;
2. be signed, sworn to, and notarized, and
3. clearly allege the nature of the dispute and, where appropriate, the USATF Rule, IAAF Rule, Sports Act provision, or USATF policy allegedly violated. The complaint shall separately state factual allegations in concise, numbered paragraphs. An improperly filed complaint shall be returned to the sender with instructions explaining the deficiency. A party may file an amended complaint within thirty (30) days after the original complaint is returned. The amended complaint shall be deemed filed on the filing date of the original complaint. If a party does not timely file an amended complaint, the complaint shall be deemed abandoned. The Association Office shall forward a copy of each Grievance Complaint to the President.

C. Informal resolution of grievances: Upon receipt of a Grievance Complaint, the President or his/her designee shall use every effort to resolve the grievance through informal means, and, in the case of grievances pertaining to a specific athlete or a specific sport discipline, the Executive Director shall also confer with the chair of the sport committee for the discipline involved. As part of the informal resolution process, all respondents named in the Grievance Complaint shall be served with a copy.

D. Formal resolution of grievances: If the informal resolution of the Grievance Complaint is unsatisfactory to any party, such party may file a formal grievance proceeding within the Association in accordance with the Association Bylaws.

NOTE: PROCEDURES AND APPEALS: THE PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEEDINGS AND APPEALS ARE SET FORTH IN USATF REGULATION 21.

ARTICLE 15

SANCTIONS

The general sanction provisions of USATF which affect local Associations appear in this Article. Additional regulations appear in USATF Operating Regulation 23.

- A. **International Competition Definition:** If applicable, in this article and the corresponding USATF Operating Regulation 23, International Competition means an Athletics competition between one or more athletes representing the United States, individually or as a team, and one or more athletes representing a foreign country (i.e., competitions between national teams).
- B. **Domestic Sanctions:** USATF or its Associations shall have authority to grant sanctions to sports organizations or persons otherwise wishing to host Athletic competitions that are not international in nature within the United States.
- C. **Sanctioning policy:** Unless USATF or an Association determines by clear and convincing evidence that holding or sponsoring an Athletics competition (international or domestic) would be detrimental to the best interests of the sport, USATF or the appropriate Association shall promptly grant a sanction requested by a sports organization or person, provided all the requirements of USATF Operating Regulation 23 have been satisfied. The decision whether a proposed competition would be detrimental to the best interests of the sport shall be made in the first instance by either USATF or an Association, as appropriate, taking into consideration the requirements of USATF Operating Regulation 23. Approval of sanctions shall not be unreasonably denied or delayed. The decision to deny a sanction may be appealed:
 - 1. In the case of an Association's denial, to USATF, or
 - 2. In the case of USATF's denial, to the NABR.
- D. **Sanction requirements:** Sanctions are issued, withheld, or withdrawn under the authority granted to USATF by, and subject to the requirements of, the Sports Act.

ARTICLE 16

FISCAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

- A. **Fiscal year:** The fiscal year of this Association is January 1 through December 31.
- B. **Depositories:** The Association shall, from time to time as necessary, designate depositories for funds, property, and assets belonging to or under the control of the Association
 - 1. **Signatories:** Funds on deposit in banks may be withdrawn only by voucher check upon the signatures of the (NAME(S) OF THE OFFICERS WHO ARE SIGNATORS). Other assets or property of this Association may be

transferred from one depository to another by action of the Board; and

- 2. Imprest accounts:** The Association may establish separate accounts employing the imprest system for the liquidation of obligations requiring prompt payment and for payroll obligations requiring prompt payment, and it may authorize checks to be drawn thereon upon the facsimile of any one (1) officer or employee.
- C. Bonding:** The Association may obtain corporate fidelity bonds in a form and amount approved by the Board, indemnifying USATF and this Association against losses resulting from infidelity, defalcation, or misappropriation by officers, employees, or agents of funds, property, or assets owned or controlled by this Association.
- D. Indemnification:** This Association shall immediately indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, administrative, or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a director, officer, employee, or official representative of this Association against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and amounts actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding. To qualify for indemnity, he or she must have acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, USATF's and this Association's best interests. In any criminal action or proceedings, the indemnitee must have had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit, or proceeding by judgement, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of USATF and this Association.
 - 1. Standards of conduct:** Any indemnification under this article shall be made by this Association after the Board determines that the officer, director, employee, or official representative has met the applicable standard of conduct. The Board shall make its determination by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of members of the Board who are not parties to the action, suit, or proceeding. If such a quorum is not obtainable, such determination shall be made either (1) by a majority vote of the full Board pursuant to opinion of independent legal counsel or (2) by the members of this Association at the next meeting;
 - 2. Expenses:** Expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred in defending a civil action, suit, or proceeding may be paid by this Association in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit, or proceeding as authorized in the manner provided above upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee, or official representative to repay the

amount unless it is ultimately determined that he or she is entitled to be indemnified by this Association; and

3. **Applicability:** The indemnification provided by this section shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the director, officer, employee, or official representative may be entitled under bylaw, agreement, vote of the membership, or disinterested directors or otherwise. The indemnification provided by this section shall continue for a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, or official representative and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person.
- E. **Liability insurance:** This Association shall secure comprehensive liability insurance coverage, including insurance for athlete/participant injury liability.
- F. **Audit schedule:** The Board, effective at the beginning of each fiscal year, shall select a Certified Public Accountant to audit the books and financial records of this Association for the ensuing year. After completing the audit, the auditor shall submit his or her report to the Board, and as soon after as reasonably possible, copies of the audit report shall be available for Association members and sent to the USATF National Office before the next annual meeting.
- G. **Legal counsel:**
1. **Counsel to the Board:** To the extent the Association has counsel, the President may appoint the Counsel to the Board, with the Board's approval. The Counsel to the Board shall be responsible for overseeing the legal affairs of this Association and shall be available to advise and consult with the officers, the Executive Director, and other agents of this Association, render legal advice and assistance, and perform other duties as the President or the Board may request. The files, records, and documents created by the Counsel to the Board during the course of duties for the Association shall belong to the Association; and
 2. **Special Legal Counsel:** If a matter cannot be adequately dealt with in the ordinary course by the counsel for the Association, if applicable, and it appears to be in the Association's best interests, the Board may authorize the President to retain Special Legal Counsel. All agreements with Special Legal Counsel about legal services to be rendered and the fees and compensation to be paid shall be in writing and executed under this paragraph.
- H. **Arbitration:** This Association agrees to submit to binding arbitration conducted under the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association, in any controversy involving its recognition as a national governing body, as provided in the Sports Act, or in any controversy involving the opportunity of any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in Athletics competition, as provided for in the constitution and bylaws of the USOC.

- I. Conflict of interest:** Any individual representing this Association, or who has a financial arrangement with USATF or this Association, or who is an employee of this Association, or who is a member of any of its committees, shall not participate in evaluating or approving any contract with a supplier to furnish goods or provide services to USATF or this Association, if that individual directly or indirectly benefits financially, or otherwise receives any form of compensation from, or has any interest in, any supplier under consideration. The Board may require that individuals disclose all financial interests that may influence the performance of their duties for USATF or this Association. Each individual referred to in the first sentence of this paragraph shall, upon learning that this Association is proposing to enter into an arrangement in which he or she has financial interest, promptly notify the Executive Director in writing of the existence of the interest, and the Executive Director shall, in turn, promptly disclose the interest to those bodies of USATF or this Association involved in considering entry into the arrangement. If this provision is violated, the Association shall have the right to recover the benefit or payment and to void the contract or transaction. The Board may authorize the Association to enter into a contract with a person described in the first sentence of this paragraph if the Board finds that special circumstances exist under which USATF's and this Association's interests would best be served by entering into the contract, and the Board adopts a resolution by an affirmative vote by at least 60% of its members identifying those special circumstances. All persons directly or indirectly interested in the proposed contract shall recuse themselves from deliberations related to the contract.

ARTICLE 17

DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for paying all of the corporation's liabilities, dispose of all the corporation's assets exclusively in a manner to carry out the corporation's purposes, or transfer the assets to an organization(s), organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes, which at the time qualify as exempt organization(s) under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board determines.

ARTICLE 18

SAVING CLAUSE

At any meeting, any failure to comply with Bylaw provisions, literally or completely, regarding dates, times, sending or receipt of notice, or errors in phraseology of notice of proposals shall not invalidate the proceedings, if the failure or error, in the judgment of the members present, has not substantially prejudiced members' rights.

ARTICLE 20
AMENDMENTS

- A. General provisions:** Amendments shall be considered by this Association as follows:
1. **Bylaws:** Amendments to the Bylaws shall require for passage a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the members of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Emergency approval of bylaw amendments may be done at the request of the President and proper notice is given to the voting body of the association.
 2. **Other Regulations:** Amendments to the other regulations shall require a majority vote of members present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the members of the Association at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
- B. Exceptions:** Notwithstanding paragraph A above, amendments may be considered at any Association meeting in any of the following circumstances:
1. **Tabled amendments:** To act on a tabled amendment proposal;
 2. **Conformity with the law:** To make the Bylaws or other regulations conform with federal or local law **or regulation;**
 3. **Conformity with USATF:** To make the Bylaws or other regulations conform with USATF requirements; and
 4. **Uniformity:** To make the Bylaws and other regulations conform with each other;
- Such items need not meet the time requirement of subparagraphs A-3 above and D-1 below.
- C. Emergency circumstances:** In emergency circumstances, this Association or its Board may adopt changes as follows:
1. **Vote of the membership:** Upon a ninety percent (90%) vote at any meeting of this Association; and
 2. **Vote of the Board:** Where immediate relief is deemed necessary, the Bylaws and other regulations may be amended upon vote of ninety percent (90%) of the total membership of the entire Board, such amendment to be effective only until the next meeting of the Association.
- D. Submissions:** The following provisions shall govern submissions of amending legislation:
1. **Deadline to submit:** Amendments shall be submitted at least

ninety (90) days prior to the meeting at which they are to be considered, to allow proper review and submission to Association members. This ninety (90) day requirement may be waived, in emergency circumstances, upon a ninety percent (90%) vote at any meeting of this Association;

2. **Submitters:** Amendments may be submitted only by Association members;
 3. **Persons receiving submissions:** Amendments to the Bylaws and other regulations shall be submitted to the Secretary.
 4. **Form of submission:** The proposed amendments shall be in a form that shows the entire section, subsection, or paragraph, as the case may be, as it will read if adopted, with all proposed additional language underlined or shaded, and all proposed deleted language containing a line striking through the deleted language. Each submission shall be accompanied by a brief statement of the rationale for the submission. If there is a budgetary impact, it shall be estimated with the submission. If an estimation is lacking it shall be provided by the Treasurer; and
 5. **Approval of submissions:** All proposed amendments must first be recommended for approval at the time of submission by someone other than the submitter who shall be another member of the Association.
- E. **Effective date:** Unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption, amendments to the Bylaws and other regulations shall be effective immediately.

REGULATION 1

PURPOSE OF REGULATIONS

These Operating Regulations supplement USATF's Bylaws. If a regulation conflicts with a bylaw, the bylaw shall control.

REGULATION 2 (USATF Regulation 3)

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

Athlete eligibility shall be governed by IAAF and IOC rules, except when those rules conflict with United States Law.

A. General:

1. **Domestic championships:** Athletes who compete in a national, regional or Association championships must be a USATF members and eligible to compete. Associations may require USATF membership to participate in other events they conduct.
2. **International eligibility:** Athletes representing the United States in international events must be USATF members and eligible to compete.

- B. Membership:** All athletes competing in events conducted by USATF must be USATF members.
- C. Collegiate and Armed Forces eligibility:** At open Association Championships, Associations may accept, in lieu of individual member entries, rosters of athletes signed by coaches or designated officials of recognized educational institutions or branches of the armed forces certifying that the athletes are eligible to compete for the institution or branch under USATF and IAAF rules. The rosters shall only be in effect for the date(s) of the championship, although the Association may at its discretion accept the same certified rosters in other championships. The certified rosters shall subject any certified collegiate or armed forces athlete to all the anti-doping rules, regulations, and protocols of USATF, the IAAF, the USOC, USADA, and/or the IOC.

REGULATION 3 (USATF Regulation 4)

REPRESENTATION

- A. General:** An athlete shall be considered a member of the Association in which the athlete is a bona fide resident except as otherwise provided **in Regulation 4-B:**
 - 1. Athlete Affiliation:** An athlete may compete as a representative of a local club, educational institution, or other organization, and additionally may be listed as competing for the club and/or a sponsor, subject to USOC regulations. The club and athlete must be USATF members in good standing.
 - 2. Unattached athletes:** An unattached competitor is an athlete member who represents no club, educational institution, or other organization. An unattached athlete may compete in the Association in which the athlete is a member.
 - 3. Notification of changes:** Only an athlete, or his/her legal guardian, may give notice of a change of representation. An athlete member who wishes to change representation shall notify the Association, in writing or online, prior to the effective date of the change.
 - 4. Fees for changes:** All applications for changes of representation must be accompanied by a fee, if any, to be determined by the local membership committee and/or local Sport Committee.
- B. Residency exceptions:**
 - 1. Residency exceptions:** Except as provided in the USATF Competition Rules governing Youth Athletics, USATF shall permit an athlete to transfer membership to an Association other than the one in which the athlete resides.
 - 2. Team scoring:** Sport Committees and Councils may establish athlete

eligibility and residency requirements for team scoring at their respective championships. These requirements shall be reflected in the competition rules.

C. Transfers:

- 1. Between Associations:** In order to transfer membership from one Association to another, an adult athlete age 19 years and older shall send a request in writing or by email to membership@usatf.org. USATF shall notify the affected associations and the athlete.
- 2. Between clubs/organizations:** To transfer representation from one club /organization to another, an athlete must not have competed for the first club in sanctioned competition for the previous ninety (90) days regardless of residency, unless the athlete falls within one of the exceptions below.
- 3. Exceptions:**
 - a. Student:** An athlete who is a member of a club or organization who wishes to compete as an undergraduate student for a college or university (two- or four-year institution) shall be automatically released without notice by the club or organization when the college season begins, to compete for that college or university in open competition if the collegiate team is a member of USATF. The athlete shall similarly be automatically released without notice to the school immediately after the academic eligibility period ends, to represent the club or organization of the athlete's choice. The athlete must verify the college's academic eligibility period start and end dates if requested by either the local committee or Association membership committee involved.
 - b. Armed Forces:** An athlete member on active duty in the United States Armed Forces may, upon receiving permission from the local membership committee, represent in open competition the military organization or the Athletics club to which the athlete belongs, or both. Any points scored by that athlete shall count for the Athletics club, except where a point trophy is advertised to be contested by a military organization.
 - c. Race Walker:** An athlete may compete as a member of a club or organization in race walking and for another club or organization in another Athletics discipline, provided the two clubs or organizations involved do not both participate in race walking. For example, an athlete may race walk for one club which may or may not have a running program, and run for another club that has no race walking program.

- d. **Waiver:** The local or national membership committee may waive the ninety (90) day unattached period required by paragraph C-2 if it determines that the change in organization was caused by events outside the athlete's control and is in the best interests of Athletics or the athlete.

D. Resolution of disputes: The athlete shall have responsibility for giving proper notice of a change of representation. In the event of a dispute among clubs, educational institutions, organizations, and an athlete regarding a transfer of representation, the athlete's written designation of representation shall be determinative.

REGULATION 4 (USATF Regulation 5) CONSTITUENT MEMBERSHIP

Qualifications, application procedures, and fees for membership shall be as follows:

- A. **Individual membership:** Individuals may apply for membership in USATF through an Association or the USATF website – www.usatf.org.
- B. **Club/organization membership:** Clubs or organizations may apply for membership by submitting the appropriate application to the Association in their geographic area.
- C. **Association membership:** Associations defined by Article 6 shall have no dues or fixed membership term.
- D. **National sports organizations membership:** An organization seeking to become a member of USATF as a national sports organization under Article 5-C shall apply in writing to the Organizational Service Committee chair for recognition by USATF. The application shall state the applicant's qualifications for membership. The Organizational Services Committee shall promptly review the application and forward it to the Board, together with its assessment of the applicant's qualifications and the committee's recommendation. The Board shall decide membership applications. The Organizational Services Committee shall review all national sports organization memberships biennially.
- E. **Other constituencies' membership:** National athletics organizations, national coaching organizations, sports for the disabled organizations, and other organizations seeking membership under Article 5-D shall send a letter requesting membership to National Office Management. The application shall state the applicant's qualifications for membership. The application shall be referred to the Organizational Services Committee, which shall promptly review it and make a recommendation for action to the Board. The Board shall decide membership applications. Applications for all other classes of national organization membership shall be made to National Office Management, or, if permitted, to the

membership chair in the Association where the applicant resides or has its headquarters. The Organizational Services Committee shall review all memberships under this regulation biennially.

- F. **Dues and fees:** The Board shall set dues and fees for all membership categories. National Office Management shall propose dues and fees after soliciting input from USATF's committees and Associations regarding individual members and club organizations, and from the Organizational Services Committee regarding national sports organizations.
- G. **Suspension and expulsion:** USATF may suspend or expel any Association or member sports organization that violates any Bylaw or Operating Regulation, or any Board-approved USATF operating policy, or whose officers are not current members, in good standing, of USATF, or which by definition or practice no longer fulfills the criteria of its membership category, after notice and an opportunity to be heard by a three (3) person panel of the Board, appointed by the Board Chair, including a least one (1) Active Athlete. The Board shall vote on the panel's recommendation at its next meeting. An Association or sports organization may be expelled only upon a two-thirds vote of the Board. If an Association is expelled, its geographic area shall be reorganized or assigned to one or more USATF Associations, consistent with the Bylaws and Operating Regulations. This paragraph shall operate in addition to and independently of the accreditation process in Regulation 7.
- H. **Delinquency:** Any USATF member listed in Article 5 failing to pay its fees or dues on time shall forfeit the right to representation and to vote, upon thirty (30) days' written notice. The member must successfully reapply for membership to regain its voice or vote in USATF's affairs.

REGULATION 5 (USATF Regulation 6)

CLUBS

- A. **Definition:** Clubs are organizations of athletes and others who participate in USATF programs as teams or individuals representing clubs. There shall be various types of USATF clubs, based on the types of programs and purposes they serve. Clubs may have more than one purpose. All clubs shall be considered Association clubs and shall become members by joining the Association in which they are located.
- B. **Club classifications:** Clubs are classified as follows:
 - 1. **Competitive:** Clubs that primarily prepare athletes for competitive opportunities shall be referred to as competitive clubs.
 - 2. **Affiliated:** Clubs that primarily stage events or provide competitive opportunities to the public shall be referred to as affiliated clubs.

3. **Training:** Clubs that exist to provide non-collegiate athletes insurance coverage when training at an educational institution's facilities shall be referred to as training clubs.
 4. **Elite development clubs:** USATF may designate member clubs as Elite Development Clubs. These clubs may provide coaching, training groups, facilities, travel to events, financial assistance, stipends, or other forms of assistance. Elite development clubs shall receive additional benefits and information from USATF to assist them with elite development and may be charged additional dues and fees for the additional benefits.
- C. **Club names:** Disputes over club names shall be resolved through USATF's grievance process. USATF or involved parties may institute these proceedings when:
1. **Duplication:** Two (2) clubs choose the same or confusingly similar names (except if both clubs concur);
 2. **National team:** A club uses a name that could reasonably be interpreted to refer to a national team;
 3. **Sponsorship:** A club uses a name that causes public confusion with USATF-related sponsorship or advertising; or
 4. **Trademark:** A club uses a trademark or service mark of USATF or the USOC.
- D. **Conflicts of interest:** No club shall represent a member athlete in any transaction if it is a conflict of interest.

REGULATION 6 (USATF Regulation 7)

ASSOCIATION MATTERS

General association matters, including bylaws, shall be governed by USATF Operating Regulation 7.

REGULATION 7 (USATF Regulation 18)

CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. **General:** USATF's national championships shall be conducted in open, junior, youth (including Junior Olympics), and masters classes. USATF and its sports committees shall award bids for and conduct national championship competition.

NOTE: Rules governing age groups, eligibility, entries, protests, and competition are contained in the Rules of Competition.

- B. **Title:** Proposed titles of all national championships must be submitted to the CEO for approval, not to be unreasonably withheld.

- C. **Dates:** The CEO and National Office Management shall coordinate dates of all national championships, after consulting with the affected sport committee chairs.
- D. **Notice:** At least sixty (60) days' notice of the time and place of each national championship shall be given to the Association Sport Committee chairs, who shall forward the information to the members of their Association.
- E. **Special criteria:** A bidder for a national championship event must meet the following sport committee specifications:
1. **Youth Athletics:** All national Youth and Junior Olympic competition national bids are subject to review by a site evaluation team assigned by the chair, in conjunction with National Office Management. Bids beyond the next two (2) calendar years shall not be considered. In track & field, a national meet site must have at least eight (8) lanes, a raised curb under USATF Rule 160.1, and fully automatic timing.
 2. **Long Distance Running and Race Walking:** All road courses must have prior certification before a bid will be considered. The certification number provided through the Road Running Technical Council (RRTC) must be on the bid form.
 3. **Men's and Women's Track & Field:** In awarding the USA Outdoor Track & Field Championships, primary consideration should be given to facilities where all field events may be conducted within the stadium or arena and to facilities that have competition surfaces that comply with applicable IAAF standards.
 4. **Cross-Country Championships:**
 - a. **The Masters Long Distance Running Committee** shall have the right of approval of masters' championship bids recommended by the Cross-Country Running Council.
 - b. A joint **Site Selection Subcommittee** consisting of three members selected by the Cross-Country Running Council, three members selected by the Club Council, and one member selected by the Masters Long Distance Running Committee shall select the site for the national Club Cross-Country Championships. The Masters LDR representative shall be the chairperson of this joint sub-committee.
 - c. All appropriate National Cross-Country Championship events shall be subject to review by the **Cross-Country Council**.
 5. **Club Council:** All national club championship events shall be subject to review by the Club Council.

F. Awarding procedure: USATF national championships may be conducted by the Sport Committees concerned, by USATF, or by a sponsoring organization under these Regulations and a contract between the organization and USATF. USATF championships shall be awarded at annual meetings, when feasible.

- 1. Distribution of application:** National Office Management shall prepare and provide application forms to prospective bidders and all Associations for championships to be awarded to a sponsoring organization. The application form shall include the necessary information to assure National Office Management and the Sport Committees concerned that the championships will be efficiently administered and safe for the competitors. The application shall further require information (i) whether the competition will be staffed by competition officials who are USATF-certified at the level of “national” and/or “master”; (ii) whether the applicant will invite and accept a proportionately representative number of national and/or master officials from outside the Association, to ensure a national character of the championship; and (iii) what provision will be made for assisting officials with transportation, food and/or lodging. The form shall encourage assistance with officials’ expenses. The part of the form related to officials shall be forwarded to the chair of the Officials Committee before consideration of the bid.
- 2. Notification of championships available:** By May 1 of each year, National Office Management shall compile from the Sport Committees a list of all championships available to be awarded at the annual meeting and circulate the list to appropriate parties, including the media, and include it in appropriate publications. The awarding procedure in this Regulation shall also apply for international team selection events.
- 3. Formulation of bid details:** The individuals, names of committee members, or legal entity submitting the bid shall be clearly identified in the bid application, and the bidder shall submit any additional information requested by USATF to verify his, her or its legal authority to assume responsibility for conducting a USATF national championship. The application shall clearly state the local Association’s role. If a bidder intends to assign part of its responsibilities for conducting the championships to another entity, the bidder shall provide USATF with a copy of the document assigning these responsibilities. Assigning responsibilities shall not absolve the bidder from its obligations to USATF related to conducting the championships. When the bid provides for profit sharing or minimum guarantees, an itemized budget shall be submitted with the application. Bids involving one or more championship categories or more than one Sport Committee (joint bids) shall state whether they are contingent upon approval of all parties.

4. **Association sign-off:** The part of the application that states the Association's role shall be furnished to the Association prior to the submission of the bid. An acknowledgment of the Association's receipt of the part of the application pertaining to the Association's role shall be submitted with the bid. The sport committee(s) presented with the bid shall not consider the bid without such an acknowledgment unless the bidder furnishes a satisfactory explanation for the absence.
5. **Submission of bid:** Copies of the completed application shall be returned to National Office Management and to the chair(s) of concerned Sport Committee(s) or their designees not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the Sport Committee considers the application. Youth Athletics bids must be returned no later than August 30. Race walking bids are due sixty (60) days prior to the start of the annual meeting.
6. **Screening and qualification of bid:** National Office Management shall review completed bid applications in a timely manner, and may require that a bid include additional provisions that it reasonably deems to be in the best interests of USATF. National Office Management may disqualify a bid that it reasonably deems to be detrimental to the best interests of USATF.
7. **Presentation at meetings:** Presentation by or on behalf of each qualified applicant shall be made at a regular meeting of the Sport Committee or a duly appointed subcommittee. The role of the local Association, any assignment of responsibilities to another entity, and any provisions for profit sharing or minimum guarantees shall be stated as part of the **presentation.**
8. **Approval of bids:** The concerned Sport Committees, after consulting with National Office Management, and verifying the bidder's qualifications and legal authority, shall award bids for national championships. The award of a championship shall be to USATF, an Association, to a member in good standing of that Association, or to a competent third party within the Association's geographic area. Awardees shall assume all financial and operating responsibilities required by the bid applications and all applicable agreements. Joint bids shall not be contingent upon approval of all parties unless specified by the applicant.
9. **Unawarded championships:** Championship events that remain unawarded after the annual meeting may be recommended to National Office Management under a process formulated by the particular Sport Committee in consultation with National Office **Management.**
10. **Contract:** The championship contract shall include the legal and financial

obligations and responsibilities of all parties and shall be approved and signed by USATF and the awardee. The contract shall include provisions containing a list of the parties responsible for equipment, facilities, personnel, volunteer recruitment, clerical work, and other matters relating to conducting the championship. If the awardee is not an Association, the services to be provided by the Association, together with the fees to be paid by the awardee to the Association for providing these services and sanctioning the event shall also be included in the contract. The CEO may require that changes to the championship contract necessary to protect USATF be made before the contract is finalized.

11. **Withdrawal and/or reassignment:** Unless the championship contract and operating addendum have been executed at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the championships, or as otherwise determined by USATF, the award may be withdrawn upon the request of the appropriate Sport Committees by the USATF Board. The Board may cancel an award of a championship, for good cause, and transfer the award to another party.

G. Finances:

1. **Media rights fees:** USATF reserves for itself exclusive rights in the receipts from radio, television, motion picture, the Internet, and all other media involving USATF national championships and international team events. These receipts shall be included, in detail, in the financial report and shall be available upon demand to each member of the Board before its next meeting.
2. **Other revenues:** USATF shall receive from its national championships:
 - a. **Media:** The receipts stated in subparagraph G-1; and
 - b. **Other:** Fixed fees, profit sharing, or other revenues designated in the championship contract.
3. **Entry fees:** All entry fees and late entry fees shall be retained by the organization that conducts a championship, or as otherwise agreed between the applicable Sport Committee and National Office Management.
4. **Reports:** The organizations conducting a championship shall furnish to USATF within sixty (60) days following the event a detailed financial report showing all receipts and disbursements. Failure to comply without good cause within the time specified shall bar the contracted sponsor and/or Association involved from being awarded any national championship in that sport for the next five (5) years.
5. **Prohibited expenses:** Except for those championships that are either awarded on a fixed-fee basis or whose budgets, including all

expenses and purchases, are approved in advance by USATF:

- a. **Bidding:** The expense of any persons traveling to or attending any meeting for the purpose of securing the award of any national championship shall not be charged against the cost of conducting the event; and
- b. **Equipment:** The expense of purchasing equipment for use in a national championship shall not be charged against the cost of conducting the event unless title to the equipment is placed in the USATF's name and it is delivered to USATF immediately following the event.
- c. **Defending champion:** If any athlete expense allowance is to be made in any USATF championship, the defending champion, if fit, shall receive first consideration.

H. Championship meet management: At least ninety (90) days prior to a championship event, the involved Sports Committee chairs and organizations conducting the event shall provide National Office Management a list of individuals who will oversee the competition or serve in managerial capacities (including referees, jurors of appeals, and NTOs.)

I. Competition officials staffing: Prior to the assignment of competition officials and meet management referees to a track and field championship event, the chairs of the Officials and Men's and Women's Track and Field Committees shall adopt a plan specifying the titles and numbers of competition officials, referees, NTOs, jurors of appeal, and others in a managerial capacity.

J. Selection of officials: Competition officials shall be selected for the events below as follows:

1. USA Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Junior Track & Field Championships, and Olympic Track & Field Trials:

- a. **Applications:** No later than September 15 of each year, provided location and dates of championships have been determined, application forms shall be mailed (or emailed, and posted on the USATF website) to all competition officials certified at the national or master level. If the location and/or dates of championships have not been determined by September 15, the application forms shall be mailed (or emailed, and posted on the USATF website) immediately following the determination. The application form shall apply to the USA Open Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships, the USA Junior Outdoor Track & Field Championships, and the Olympic Track and Field Trials. Every official to be invited to these championships must be certified as an official at a master or national level, and be a USATF member.

Applications must be postmarked by an October 15 deadline and sent to the address specified in the application.

- b. Selection:** Competition officials for these championships shall be selected at the USATF annual meeting. A list of recommendations for referees and members of the juries of appeals may be submitted from the chair of the Officials Committee to the Men's and Women's Track & Field or Race Walk committees through National Office Management by November 15. Referees and NTOs must be USATF members, in good standing, preferably certified as a competition official at the national or master level, who shall be selected by the chairs of the two Track & Field Committees, or their designees. Members of jury of appeals must be USATF members in good standing, preferably certified as a competition official at the national or master level, who shall be selected by the chairs of the two Track & Field committees, or their designees. Other competition officials (excluding race walk judges and race walk referees) shall be recommended by a joint subcommittee after a review of the applications and approved by the chairs of each of the two Track & Field Committees, or their designees. The chairs shall not unreasonably withhold their approval. The Sports Committee chairs shall provide National Office Management a final list of individuals selected as competition officials. The officials selected shall be notified as soon as possible.
- c. Makeup:** The recommending subcommittee shall consist of the following:

 - i. From the Officials Committee:**

 - a.** The Officials Committee chair or designee; and
 - b.** One (1) additional member selected by the executive committee.
 - ii. From the championship sites:**

 - a.** The certification chair of the Association where the championships take place, or the certification chair's designee; and
 - b.** The event's meet director, or the meet director's designee.

NOTE: For subsections ii (a) and (b), all persons shall have voice, but only the appropriate persons from that site under consideration jointly shall have one vote, and if unable to decide, the person designated in (b) shall cast that vote.

The organization must first notify the host Association and the appropriate USATF sports committees, which shall be provided with the opportunity to evaluate the bid. After being awarded a world or area championship, the host organization shall provide periodic reports at least quarterly on the progress of the event preparations, including funding, to National Office Management.

REGULATION 8 (USATF Regulation 19)

RECORDS

A. Submission:

- 1. Form:** All applications for records shall be submitted on an official record application form and shall contain all pertinent information requested on the form.
- 2. Responsibility:** The host Association Sport Committee, or of the member club or affiliate organization sponsoring or conducting the competition shall be responsible for applying for the record on the form, which shall be properly completed and forwarded to National Office Management without delay.
- 3. Processing:** Upon receiving a record application form and any accompanying documentation, National Office Management shall forward it to the individual designated by the appropriate Sport Committee. That individual shall review the form, gather any needed additional information, and make a recommendation regarding the application to the Records Committee, which shall, in turn, make its recommendation to the appropriate Sport Committee.
- 4. Ratification:** Each Sport Committee shall have the responsibility of ratifying records in its events.
- 5. Report to USATF:** At the second general session of the annual meeting, the Records Committee shall report the actions of all Sport Committees regarding records.

- B. Certificates:** Every holder of an American record or of an all-comers record, as the case may be, shall receive a certificate to that effect signed by the President and the chair of the Records Committee.

Historical amendment:

Association Bylaws Adopted Sept 2001

Amended Sept 2003, September 2004, September 2008, September 2009, September 2019, October 2021