



Winding Down!!!!

By Don Harris

Cross Country season is winding down while most of the long distance running events commenced in October and will continue through the winter months. On September 26, the Kentucky Association annual meeting took place in Lexington. As evidenced in the November USATF Officials Newsletter there is a flurry of activities that are transpiring as the year closes out. In this issue, there are four congratulatory honors for Kentucky officials, an interview with Patricia Rouse, USATF Annual Meeting information, a year-end checklist, link to the summary of the official's survey conducted in September, an appeal for new officials, and the year culminating with the USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships in Paris, Ky.

Congratulations



It's now official. The induction of Kenny Morton into the USATF National Officials Hall of Fame will take place at the annual meeting in December.

Congratulations to Kentucky officials selected as finalists for awards that recognize outstanding officials: Andy Bakjian Award (Outstanding Service) -- Kenny Morton and nine other nominees; Charles Ruter Award (Outstanding Running Event Official) -- David Clark and four others; and the Horace Crow Award (Outstanding Field Event Official) -- Frank Newton and four others.

Introduction

Allow me to introduce . . .

Question: What are your current responsibilities in the USATF Kentucky Association?

Patricia “Patty” Rouse: My current responsibilities in the USATF KY Association is Certification Chair, Clubs, and currently finishing out Sanctioning Races.

Question: What is the number of certified officials and how many clubs do we have in Kentucky?

PR: There are 100+ certified officials and 40+ clubs currently.

Question: As you think ahead to 2022, do you have new goals for your areas of responsibility?

PR: I have a goal of having 150-175 certified officials in our association.

Question: Are there any new expectations for USATF Kentucky certified officials?

PR: Possibly, setting up mini-official meetings for questions and answers. Virtual or in-person options.

Question: What are some areas in your position that have been challenging?

PR: The most challenging part of my position is trying to help people, but the national office took rights away from associations. I believe this makes it harder on us, because we can't immediately help our association members.

Question: What do you find most gratifying as the Officials and Club chairs?

PR: The most gratifying moment as the officials chair is when a new official can see on their profile that they are a certified track and field official. As the Club Chair, seeing the coaches in person after speaking with them numerous times trying to get their clubs sanctioned.

Question: How can USATF members assist with recruiting new officials?

PR: If there is someone who is always volunteering at local meets, ask if they would like to be an official. Our officials are mainly recruited by word of mouth. If someone sees us enjoying the meets, they may want to join our team.

Question: As an athlete, coach and official, how long have you been involved in track and field?

PR: I have been involved in Track and Cross Country in the state of Kentucky for 40 years. I was an athlete in elementary, middle, high school and at the University of Louisville. I coached for 10 years at Taylor County High school. Boys and girls cross country and track and field. Coached one year at Campbellsville University. I have been an official for 24 years.

Question: What would you consider as your top accomplishment as an athlete, official and coach?

PR: Athlete: My greatest accomplishment was winning XC Nationals my senior year under my high school coaches Dick Stidom and Woodie Jamison as well as my post-season coaches Gordon Bockock, Frank Miklvacic, Bob Stacey, and Barry Binkley. As a Division 1 athlete, being all-conference in cross country my four years.

Coach: My greatest accomplishment as a coach is watching my student-athletes grow into successful adults.

Official: My greatest accomplishment as an official is setting goals as a young inspiring official and working to achieve those goals.

Question: What do you like to do when you are away from the track?

PR: When I am away from the track, I spend my time as an athletic director and middle school girls' basketball coach.

Question: If you could have lunch with anyone, who would that be?

PR: Michael Jordan.

Question: What is something that you try to live your life by?

PR: Don't ask others to do something that you would not be willing to do. Always remember where you started.

Question: What is a recent book, movie or podcast that you have enjoyed recently?

PR: I am usually working for USATF-KY, teaching or coaching. What I enjoy most is going to the University of Louisville women's basketball games with my family and friends.

Question: What would you like your legacy to be?

PR: Always finding a teachable moment, whether in my special education classroom, on the basketball court or as an official.

ANNUAL MEETING

For the second year in a row, unless you are a member of an Executive Committee, we are relegated to attend virtually. Registration closed on November 15. However, event documents are posted on the NOC website.

Year-End Checklist



1. Renew your USATF Membership: [Register Here](#) . Consider saving some time by participating in auto renewal.
 2. Safe Sport training.
 3. Background check.
 4. Verify your officiating resume is up to date.
 5. Print or download and begin reviewing the 2021-2022 rule books and best practices documents.
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Survey Results



Robert Kern, NOC Secretary, noted 1,458 certified officials (40% of all certified officials) completed the September survey. A summary of the responses is available [here](#).

Officials Certification/Recertification/New Officials

If you are interested in becoming an official, recertifying or know of someone that would like to become a certified official, contact Patricia Rouse, Kentucky Association Certification Chair at coachpattyrouse@gmail.com or 270-872-8257.

Kentucky Association Hosted National Championship Meet

12/11/2021 – USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships in Paris, Ky.

If you have suggestions, comments, would like to submit an article, or if you want to unsubscribe, email me at: harrisdon3807@gmail.com