



## **Goodbye 2020, We Will Miss You!**

By Don Harris

Welcome to the first USATF Kentucky Association newsletter for 2021!

I am so excited to launch this communication piece and look forward to sharing information with you on a regular basis that is pertinent to our association and to the sport of track and field.

I have been a youth track and field coach and a certified USATF official for 20-plus years, and now I am honored to serve as the Communication Chair for our association. I am an economics major and don't have a journalism or communications background, so please be patient and kind as you read these communication briefs. I whole heartedly welcome comments, feedback, suggestions on future content that would be of interest to you. Also, please share any stories, best practices, and experiences that could benefit members of our association.

These newsletters will include various USATF member spotlights (officials, coaches, athletes), important calendar events, reports from other Kentucky association committees, coaches and officials clinics and trainings, meets needing officials, etc. I'm hopeful that the information equips and inspires you to be a better official, coach and athlete from youth to the master's level.

Although 2020 caught us off guard, we have all learned to do things in a different way that requires patience, flexibility and gratitude for things that perhaps we took for granted. With that, 2021 is a new year. As meets are being scheduled, the vaccine becomes available, and we learn new ways to be safe, there is a renewed energy that comes with knowing we may be able to get back to the sport of track and field in the winter, spring, and summer. We undoubtedly will be doing a lot of things differently, but that's okay because we have certainly been learning to adapt to these changing times.

The first issue will focus primarily on the recertification/certification process for officials, educational resources available on the National Officials Committee (NOC) website and several beneficial website links for other useful materials like rules books. Stay safe, and hope you enjoy this publication.

## 2021-2024 Recertification Details



### **What must I do to RECERTIFY/CERTIFY for the 2021-2024 Olympiad?**

This seems to be a common question these days. One thing for certain is that USATF is moving the majority of the certification/recertification process on-line. Just as many other organizations have been doing, paper is going away and the efficiency of processing and automating manual processes is moving forward. For example, many of the manual tasks and paperwork that Association Certification Chairs had to submit to the USATF National Office is going away, which has streamlined the certification/recertification process.

I recently completed the Basic Rules Review and received my grade immediately. Likewise, I completed the Advanced Rules Review and submitted my responses to the situational questions on-line as well. It was so nice not having to wait for results or having to e-mail, scan or snail-mail information and wonder if all the paperwork was received and arrived in the hands of the correct person at the USATF National Office.

So, welcome to 2021 and the new on-line platform developed by USATF. Has the transformation to on-line been flawless? Of course not! However, based on user feedback, changes continue to be made. As we all continue to learn and navigate through this new process, we have to be patient and flexible. I have heard it said, "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape."

Again, one of the primary areas of focus of this month's newsletter is to provide you with the tools to complete the certification/recertification process on-line. If you are still experiencing Non-Informational Technology issues after reviewing the website links, watching the videos and referencing the resources developed by the NOC, please contact Patricia Rouse, Kentucky Association Certification Chair at [coachpattyrouse@gmail.com](mailto:coachpattyrouse@gmail.com) or 270-872-8257, who can assist with issues that might arise during this process.

## Top Things to Do Right Now



### 1. RECERTIFICATION STEPS

Complete the six steps for Recertification on the National Officials Committee Dashboard:  
[Recertification Information for 2021-2024 Olympiad](#)

**The recertification process must be completed no later than March 31, 2021**

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### 2. BECOME FAMILIAR WITH USATF CONNECT

USATF Connect Website: [Sign-In](#)

USATF Connect: [Tutorial Videos](#)

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**KNOW THE RULES!**



### 3. IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, KNOW THE RULES

Purchase or download and begin reviewing the current NCAA and USATF rule books: [Rule Books](#)



#### 4. IMPORTANT RESOURCES FOR OFFICIATING

Review Resource documents: [Best Practices Reports](#)



#### 5. GET THE SCOOP AND LATEST INFORMATION FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Read through the 2020 USATF Annual Meeting Document Library materials for meeting highlights, committee reports and presentations, particularly the “Officials Committee” section: [2020 USATF Annual Meeting Document Library](#)



#### 6. COMMIT TO PERSONAL GROWTH

For 2021, establish some officiating goals (e.g., officiate a new event, apply for a championship meet, consider mentoring or being a mentee for another official, work at meet(s) outside of the Kentucky association, strive to learn 1-2 things in the meets you work). You get the point, it’s our responsibility to be professional and to strive to continually learn.

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## CONGRATULATIONS



7. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ASHLEY NEWTON WHO WAS A RECIPIENT OF A NATIONAL CHAIR AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICIALS COMMITTEE AT THE 2020 USATF ANNUAL MEETING IN DECEMBER 2020.**
8. **CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIC SMITH AS AN INDUCTEE TO THE NATIONAL OFFICIALS COMMITTEE HALL OF FAME.**
9. **CONGRATULATIONS TO KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS SELECTED FOR THE FOUR MAJOR USATF CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2021: [List of Selected Officials](#).**

Please reach out and congratulate the award recipients and those selected to work championship meets during 2021.

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Well, this concludes the first issue and I hope you have found this information helpful. If you have any suggestions, comments, would like to submit an article, or If you want to unsubscribe, email me at: [harrisdon3807@gmail.com](mailto:harrisdon3807@gmail.com)