



New England Athletics Congress

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MINUTES --- N.E.A.C. MEETING, SEPTEMBER 28, 1980

Before the meeting, in the West Lounge of the M.I.T. Student Center, sports committees met at 2 PM to elect chairmen. For 1980-81, these are Bill Clark, men's track and field; Fred Brown, men's long distance; Steve Vaitones and Richard Childs, race-walking; Jeff Hennessy, youth athletics. For women's L.D.R., Jan Koltun and Diane McLaughlin will remain as co-chairmen until their annual meeting is held. Appointed chairmen are John Babington, women's track and field; and Carl Genovese, masters' athletics.

It was voted to dispense with the roll call and minutes. The treasurer's report showed a balance on hand of \$10,731.08. Paul Schell explained that this does not reflect the final accounting with the AAU, which includes monies owed us and insurance fees owed them, or office expenses for the remainder of the year, a time when registrations are normally light. It was voted to accept the treasurer's report.

Bill Clark reported that the indoor men's and women's track championships will be at Harvard Jan. 25. World-class outside runners may come to the meet and there will be standards for participation. A throwing meet also is coming up, and there will be men's and women's outdoor track championships next year. Help is welcomed for all forthcoming meets. Bill also announced that Greater Boston Track Club has an indoor track (surface and support) which needs housing.

Jan Koltun reported that the women's long-distance committee found clubs to sponsor and manage a modest schedule of championships for 1980, at the 10K, 15K, 20K, 25K, and marathon distances, and that about the same number of championships is seen for next year. It was suggested that the New England championships should not be held during the collegiate season that begins about the third week in September, that road-racing championships could well end in September. The possibility of a major national sponsor for next year's 25K championship was mentioned.

Reporting on Youth Athletics, Jeff Hennessy said that a focus of his committee has been to increase communication among clubs about Youth Athletics. The number of youth meets has doubled from five years ago. He also wants to set up guidelines for people who want to put on youth events. It was suggested that there should be family rates for kids, that the adult registration fee may be excessive for youths. Also, it was stated that there are too many August championships for the young athletes. Jeff said he would look into these suggestions at the national meetings in December. Paul pointed out that the youth committee has not previously had New England representation at the national level, and that we should be able to give more information

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after the national meetings.

For men's long-distance running, Fred Brown Sr. reported that there are 38 men's championships possible, but that all 38 have never been held in New England. It is up to the clubs to start holding some, he said, and sponsors are needed for many championships between now and the end of the year, particularly masters' championships.

It was pointed out that master's running now is a separate committee with a chairman of its own, and no longer within the jurisdiction of the men's LDR committee. There was consensus that there are too many championships and that the numbers should be pruned down in the interest of obtaining a unified schedule that could be issued early enough in the year to attract good fields. It was stated that, with planning and early work, a list of all the year's championships could be done for 1981 in November and December, 1980 and sent to the clubs early in 1981. Paul Schell said that for 1982 he would like to see the bids for championships come in and be voted on at the fall, 1981 meeting. A major objective of NEAC is to inform members and if championships are lined up a year in advance we could do a better job of informing than at present.

Paul reported that Don Spittle has been elected chairman of the Registration Committee. Our Association is one of five (out of 60) bodies reporting directly to the national Athletics Congress on registration procedures. National has taken our experience into account in trying to simplify registration procedures and make them responsive to diverse groups. One of the chief changes for next year has been to simplify the registration forms so that they can be processed easily by limited personnel. Insurance, optional at \$1.25 above the \$5 fee this year, will be part of the total registration fee next year. It will be uniform nationally and be \$6 for 1981. Of that, \$3 will go to the national and include the above-mentioned insurance fee. The remaining \$3 will remain with the local Association to be used for office expenses including a paid secretary (not the board secretary), rent, supplies, production of schedules, newsletters, guidelines, questionnaires and other informational materials, and sports-committee expenses such as, it is hoped, sending athletes to meets and holding meetings.

Reporting on registration procedures, Paul explained that the registrant will, for 1981, fill out a form of which the third part will be his or her own card. Validation of the form and card will be made by stickers bearing the registration number, and the cards will not be valid unless the stickers are affixed.

Regarding sites and dates for the 1981 meetings, Paul mentioned that so far the meetings have all been in the Boston area, but that they could be held anywhere reasonable that is offered. After some discussion of the best time of the week for meetings, it was voted to continue to hold them on Sunday afternoons. At the January meeting, a schedule of the remaining 1981 meetings will be provided. It was suggested that since it is always difficult for the roadracing crowd to get to Sunday meetings, holding them near a major running event might help the runners.

Introducing the subject of sanction fees, Paul explained that they have been the same for many years and this is despite the fact that sanctions now give automatic liability insurance. Clubs and charities now pay nothing for sanctions; others pay \$5 for road races and \$10 for track meets. Road races now make more money than track meets and fees may be too low. Discussion included the suggestion that additional monies from increased sanction fees could well go into athletes' travel funds. A motion that all races have a \$20 sanction fee without exception for clubs or charities was greeted with much discussion resulting in amendments. It was pointed out that many clubs get sponsors for races, and therefore could afford the higher sanction fee. The amended motion that was voted was that there be a \$25 sanction fee, that charitable organizations no longer be exempt, and that member clubs be exempt from the fee unless they have a sponsor, in which case the fee would be applicable.

In unfinished business, it was reported that about six people will go to Atlanta for the national Athletics Congress convention in December, all paying their own way in line with NEAC's adopted policy not to pay anybody's convention expenses this first year. Delegates include Tom Dowling (added by appointment since the summer meeting, as NEAC needed an additional athlete's representative), Jeff Hennessy, Bob Campbell, Bill Clark, Paul Schell, and possibly Bob Sevane.

In a discussion of NEAC medals, which must be struck for 1981 championships, several names were suggested for possible artists. It was also suggested that clubs hosting championships should not have to pay for medals. A motion to have NEAC, rather than clubs or sponsoring organizations, pay the cost of all championship medals, was tabled until the next meeting, by which time research will have been done and costs projected as a realistic basis for voting. It will be voted on at the January meeting.

Regarding this years' fundings of athletes' travel costs, it was reported that funds will be very limited, that all requests should be in writing, and that no final decisions will be made until near the end of the year.

It was suggested that NEAC prepare a questionnaire to obtain better information from those seeking race sanctions, and Paul Schell said that is underway.

He announced that NEAC is trying to form a pool of clubs willing to officiate at a few races a year in their areas, a way for clubs to earn some funds. It was reported that there also is a list of those who participated in the course for novice officials put on by the women's LDR committee at the Boston Center for Adult Education last winter.

It was voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Koltun
Jan Koltun, Secretary