

CIAC INDOOR TRACK COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 6, 2018

In attendance: Brian LaFontaine, Kurt Ogren, Anna Mahon, Yvonne Grimes, Doug Sharples, Dave Tetlow, Tom Haley, Brian Collins, Rich Kosta, Steve Wysowski, Betty Remigino-Knapp, Donn Friedman (Chair) and Joe Tonelli (CIAC staff).

Call to order – Donn called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes – On a motion by Rich Kosta the minutes of September 6, 2017 were approved.

Correspondence – Letter from Joe Sinacrope was discussed. It confirmed that the number of participants in Class M were very large. LL was small, but next year when the divisions are determined there will presumably be an “evening out” of the schools, because of this year’s imbalance. The enrollment figures are based on the number of students in the seats on October 1 of the previous year. It is these figures that will determine the divisions for 2018-19.

Pole vault standards were also discussed. While the numbers were high, Dave provided data from five previous years that support a “No Change” policy for 2019, since the number of seniors is expected to diminish this coming year. No desire on the part of the committee to change the pole vault standards.

An official delayed the start of the Class M event and that caused the meet to end much later. The running events concluded 35 to 40 minutes before the pole vault. The pole vault would have ended around the same time had it started on time. The warm-up time (30 minutes) was discussed. The meet director will be given discretion to adjust the time (more or less) depending on the number of competitors and other circumstances. Discussion continued when the packet was reviewed.

A.J. LaPlant submitted a request to consider an indoor decathlon, heptathlon, hammer for boys and girls at the end of the indoor track season between the New England meet and the State Open meets; no interest was offered by the committee.

A request was then made to consider the triple jump as an indoor track event. The committee feels that it is not possible at this time. It would be an extra event that logistically would cause problems in the length of the meet. No further action will take place on that event at this time.

Review of the State Meets – The issue of athletes not being scratched came up. While there is no doubt that the number is significant, it also seems that little can be done short of reseeding an event a little before it is run.

The committee will see if Jeremy can reseed events closer to their running in an effort to allow equitable competition for athletes who will be competing.

The issue of including alternates came up, since a few coaches did not list any alternates when filling out the declaration sheets. A suggestion was made to include an additional sentence on the declaration sheet reminding coaches to list alternates. Also, coaches will be asked to indicate the number of athletes they entered on the sheet. The committee feels that some coaches do not read directions, which are simplistic, and often cause their relay teams problems.

Officials – They did a great job. Yvonne mentioned the pole vault official who got a bit flustered before the event and had to be calmed down by another official. His actions caused the meet to extend longer.

The starters did a great job. Three were assigned because of prior allegations that there were many false starts allowed in past years. That was not the case this year.

Pole vaulters will still be allowed 30 minutes warm-up that the meet director may adjust (either allow more time or less) depending on the number of vaulters entered and other circumstances. Language will be included in the packet in the future.

Brian Collins asked who is allowed to call a false start. He noted a situation where an athlete clearly moved before the gun was fired and was not disqualified. The committee noted that the starter is responsible and this official can recall a start. The starter also may issue a restart as a result of many other factors such as, but not limited to, crowd noise, electronic problems or other possible distractions. It was noted that many times athletes are allowed a “no penalty” restart but the general public is not aware of the reason why.

Packet Review – Section I teams will be allowed entry into the facility no sooner than one hour before the start of the meet. Teams will not be allowed on the track until 30 minutes before the start of the meet. Weather and other factors may force a change to these times as determined by the meet directors. Page 10 – Note – The athletes entered in the pole vault will be allowed 30 minutes to warm-up. That time may be adjusted by the Meet Director depending on the number of entrants and other circumstances.

Financial Report – Joe said a more detailed report will be made in September, but that preliminary indications were favorable. He mentioned a need to increase entry fees next year to \$10 per athlete and \$100 per team, with no change to the maximum amount (\$250). The committee showed unanimous support for this minimal increase.

New Business – FAT and Hand Held Timing – Rich Kosta asked the committee to consider eliminating the use of hand held times to qualify for the state meets. He mentioned how few entries actually use hand held timing indoors. Some concern about hand held timing when a system fails at the last qualifying meet of the season. Members of the committee will question colleagues during the outdoor season. If a decision is made to eliminate hand held timing in September, it would be for the 2020 season, so that a one-year notice would be given. More discussion will take place in September.

Dates were presented – First practice – Thursday, November 29
First competition – Thursday, December 13
Last date to count – Monday, February 4
Class Meets – February 7, 8, 9
Open – February 16
New England – March 2

Meeting Dates – Wednesday, September 5, 2018 and March 5, 2019. A question arose about the New England Championship declaration policy. Concern about athletes who declare with the intention of never showing up. Little can be done to mandate attendance. While many share the concern, weather and other issues sometimes mitigate attendance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. Joe plans to poll the committee to see if we can start the meetings at 3:00 p.m.