

South Dakota Cross Country/Track & Field Officials Association (SDCCTFOA)

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:00 pm CDT via Zoom

President Tim Casper called the meeting of the SDCCTFOA to order at 7:00 pm CDT.

President Casper called the roll for board members: Secretary/Treasurer Dana Nelson; Regional Coordinators Steve Charron and Robert Kwasniewski were present. President-Elect J.D. Evans; Regional Coordinators Tony Waterman and Larry Stevens were absent. Attendees by Zoom included: Tim Casper, Dana Nelson, Randy Thomas, Steve Charron, Robert Kwasniewski, Eric Foss, Tina Baum, Al Koppinger, Mark Wendelgass, Harry Weller, Eric Foss, Terry Sudrla, Jim Aberle, Mike Schultz, Keith Kusler, Ben Bordeaux, Bob DeBoer, Jan Cain, Brian Sieh and Dan Wehde (registered officials). Bob Lowery was excused and SDHSAA Randy Soma was also not available. The members recited the pledge of allegiance.

Eric Foss moved approval of the agenda as distributed to the membership; Keith Kusler seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Items on the Consent Calendar (minutes, financial statement & payment of bills), with Secretary Treasurer Dana Nelson reporting a balance of \$3069.01 in the checking account, as follows:

- 3/18/26: Balance Forward
\$3044.01
- 4/27/26: Deposit from SDHSAA for 5 officials \$ 25.00
- 3/18/26: Balance Forward
\$3069.01

There are no outstanding bills. Nelson noted additional funds should be forthcoming from SDHSAA for 2026-27 registered officials, and from Dakota Sports for equipment sales.

Keith Kusler moved ,and Bob DeBoer seconded approval of the consent items, Motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

9. President Casper reported to the membership on the status of track & field/cross country in the state. It was reported that currently for the upcoming school year that we have 75 T&F officials, which includes 5 new officials (Riley Buus, Sioux Falls; Joe Frederiksen, Brookings; Chance Lester, Rapid City; Patrick Moriarity, Hill City and Jeff Siler, Milbank). Currently there are 64 officials registered for Cross Country. Dana Nelson noted 14 officials who were registered last year had yet to renew for this year, and noted the only known retirement was Tim Fjelstad, Sioux Falls. Nelson reached out to those officials who had not re-registered to remind them, and also

reached out to the T&F officials who had not included Cross Country registration to advise them they could add cross country without any additional fee.

With regard to the state track meet, Casper shared that 180 schools were represented, with 3062 athletes competing. There were 12 disqualifications. Casper reported that the use of two pole vault runways improved the efficiency of the pole vault event, and shared that Saturday events were delayed for an hour to let a storm pass through the area.

10. Casper reminded members that the Constitution for the SDCCTFOA is on the SDHSAA website. It was amended last July to reflect the consensus of the members wishes to provide for election of Regional Representatives by members of their geographical area.

11. Casper noted the SDHSAA website has an abundance of links to assist officials before and during the season, and noted the cross country page has been updated for 2027, He noted SDHSAA will no longer test for cross country, but the SDHSAA rules meeting is still required in the fall. Among the links on the website is the pre-meet Coaches meeting outline, rule changes for 2027, officials responsibilities, how to run field events, video clips, fee recommendations, sanctioned meet, Casper Clarifications and the on-line store. He noted that the use of red, yellow and green cards would be implemented in 2027, suggested that officials reach out to ADs prior to their meets to encourage the use of nonverbal announcement with flags for field events, rather than verbal announcements. a new link for coach's pre-meet information. Hall of Fame information is also on the SDHSAA website.

12. President Casper reported on efforts to recruit and train officials, which includes SDHSAA required clinics in February in Sioux Falls, Huron, Rapid City and Webster. There was no comment from the membership.

Casper asked Dana Nelson if he was going to attempt to do the officiating class at USD next year, to which Nelson said he was and that it would be on Monday evening at 7:00 pm if there are a sufficient number of registrations for the class. Nelson noted that part of the curriculum would be actually working at track meets in Vermillion, Yankton, Sioux City or in the area.

Steve Charron reported on the mentor program, which pays new officials (1 to 5 years of experience) \$50.00 for shadowing a more experienced official. It was suggested the fee could possibly be increased to \$75,00 and Casper said he would bring that up at the Sports Council, of which he is a member.

Casper reported the Advisory Committee had approved the transition of the girls hurdle distance back to the NFHS would be in 2029, at which time the reversal of the 200 would also be eliminated. This is subject to the final approval of the SDHSAA Board of Directors.

SDCCTFOA produces two newsletters a year, and Casper solicited assistance with new topics or articles for the document. He also announced that the newsletter would carry information of uniforms or equipment available or wanted.

13. SDHSAA and SDCCTFOA attempts to recognize officials for their contributions. We noted that Steve Charron, Rock Rockafellow and Dean Mann are the inaugural inductees into our Hall of Fame, Official of the Year was Eric Foss; Region 5 Official of the Year was Tim Casper; Distinguished Service Award was presented to Tim Casper and Harry Weller. Tim Fjelstad is the only know retiree at this time. SDHSAA recognizes years of service at 15 years; 25 years; 40 years and 50 years. Jim Aberle hit the 50 year mark in 2026; and Randy Thomas and Dana Nelson will hit that mark in 2027.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Three years ago the SDCCTFOA was formed and initial terms of offices were established at three years. This is the year to select officers going forward. The office of President; President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer are open for a three year term. One of the changes to the Constitution was the election of Regional Representatives by members of their respective region, and a staggering of terms so that not all of them expire in the same year.

Nomination were opened for President. Dana Nelson nominated, and Robert Kwasniewski seconded the nomination of Tim Casper. Steve Chrraon moved that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Casper. The motion passed, and Tim Casper was re-elected President.

Nomination were opened for President-Elect. J.D. Evans, the current President-Elect indicated he did not want to continue in that role. Jim Aberle nominated Steve Charron, who declined the nomination. Keith Kusler nominated Tina Baum, who also declined. Robert Kwasniewski nominated, and Tina Baum seconded the nomination of Bob DeBoer. Dana Nelson moved that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for DeBoer. The motion passed, and Bob DeBoer was elected President-Elect.

Nominations were opened for Secretary/Treasurer. Randy Thomas nominated and Bob DeBoer seconded the nomination of Dana Nelson. Jim Aberle moved and Eric Foss seconded that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Nelson. The motion passed, and Dana Nelson was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Nominations were opened Region 1 Representative (Northeast SD). This is a three year term. Bob DeBoer nominated and Tina Baum seconded the nomination of Robert Kwasniewski. Dana Nelson moved and Keith Kusler seconded that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Kwasniewski. The motion passed, and Robert Kwasniewski was elected Regional Representative for Region 1.

Nominations were opened Region 2 Representative (Southeast SD). This is a two year term. Keith Kusler nominated and Jim Aberle seconded the nomination of Kevin Nelson. Keith Kusler moved and Eric Foss seconded that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Nelson. The motion passed, and Kevin Nelson was elected Regional Representative for Region 2.

Nominations were opened Region 3 Representative (Central SD). This is a three year term. Steve Charron nominated and Bob DeBoer seconded the nomination of Tina Baum. Eric Foss moved and Jim Aberle seconded that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Baum. The motion passed, and Tina Baum was elected Regional Representative for Region 3.

Nominations were opened Region 4 Representative (Western SD). This is a one year term. Randy Thomas nominated and Al Koppinger seconded the nomination of Jim Aberle. Dana Nelson moved and Bob DeBoer seconded that nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for Aberle. The motion passed, and Jim Aberle was elected Regional Representative for Region 4.

16. Hall of Fame: Committee Member Tina Baum reported on the activities of the Hall of Fame Committee. She briefly explained they are working on Medallion for inductees molded from brass casings for expended shells, but do not have a cost for that as yet. She also reported that there is a possibility of displaying the members of the HOF at Howard Wood Stadium, provided SDCCTFOA can fulfill the guidelines that the Sioux Falls School District has set out. The Committee is working toward that goal.

17. Public comments: President Casper ask the group what they are receiving for the cross country meet. He indicated that he is asking for \$200 and seems to be getting it. Most indicated that they get \$150, and that is the fee recommended in the SDCCTFOA Fee Recommendation document. There was some discussion that \$150 was about right for most meets, but bigger meets with lots of schools or more than four races may be \$200 or more.

Jim Aberle moved and Steve Charron seconded that the SDCCTFOA Adjourn. President Casper adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer SDCCTFOA