

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

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 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: President-Elect J.D. Evans; Secretary/Treasurer Dana Nelson; Regional Coordinators Randy Thomas, Steve Charron, Tony Waterman, Robert Kwasniewski and Larry Stevens were present. Attendees by Zoom included: Tim Casper, JD Evans, Dana Nelson, Randy Thomas, Steve Charron, Tony Waterman, Robert Kwasniewski, Larry Stevens, Eric Foss, Tina Baum, Tom Parquet, Al Koppinger, Mark Wendelgass, Tim Fjelstad, Kevin Nelson, Jay Larsen, Brian Ryken, Brian Sieh, Bob DeBoer, and Kent Penny (registered officials). The members recited the pledge of allegiance.

Tony Waterman moved, and Randy Thomas seconded approval of the agenda as distributed, with the subject of fees added. Motion was approved.

Items on the Consent Calendar (minutes, financial statement & payment of bills), with Secretary Treasurer Dana Nelson reporting a balance of \$1824.81 in the checking account, as follows:

- 3/19/25 Balance Forward from March meeting: \$1,739.81
- 4/14.25 Deposit for fees received from official registrations: \$ 85.00
- 7/16/25: Balance \$1,824.81

There are no outstanding bills. Nelson noted additional funds will be forthcoming from Dakota Sports in the amount of \$183.86 for our portion of sales from the Referee Store.

JD Evsns moved ,and Tom Parquet seconded approval of the consent items, Motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Discussion opened as to how the organization proceeds after 2026, when all terms of office (President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer and Regional Representatives) expire. There was general discussion about creating 1, 2 and 3 year terms for Regional Representatives, expiring in different years for more continuity for the organization.

President Casper surveyed existing officers asking whether they were inclined to stay in their position going forward. All board members agreed to continue, but all offered to step aside if there were new or additional association members that wanted to be involved. Two board members noted that they are not getting younger and the organization needs to grow itself. JD Evans recommended Tim Casper continue for an additional term as he is not prepared to take the

reins, given his work requirements. Randy Thomas suggested there only be one Regional Rep in the western region, and offered to step aside.

Briah Sieh explained how the volleyball association board selection works through appointing members, and offered that regional officials should be allowed to vote for regional representative they want to lead them. Steve Charron, Larry Stevens, Tim Fjelstad and Tim Casper all supported the idea. Although there was no formal vote for the election idea, it was clearly the preference of the membership.

The current process for selection of officers outlined in the Constitution includes election of the President, President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer every three years at the summer meeting, which is one year from this July. Interested members for those positions would express interest to the current board, and the board would prepare an election ballot for the July 26 meeting, and an election would be held. The election winners would immediately assume their positions for a three-year term.

Current selection of Regional Representatives is by appointment by the association's officers.

Dana Nelson offered to draft amendments to the constitution to implement the election of regional representatives as outlined in Brian's recommendation, and to establish staggered terms for regional representatives in order to maintain continuity. Nelson will submit the amendment to President Casper and the board for approval at a meeting this fall.

9. We discussed the Constitution, and other than the above amendment, it is serving the association as intended.

10. We reviewed the SDHSAA website officials link, with President Casper noting this was strictly an informational topic, but reminded officials this is a great resource with tons of good information (Constitution, meeting agendas and minutes, current and previous newsletters, Casper's Clarifications, extensive information for meet directors, guidelines for running field events, and U-Tube videos for running the HJ, LJ/TJ and SP/DT). Nelson noted the three videos were courtesy of the Iowa Association of Track Officials.

11. For information only, we discussed the current official's recognition efforts by the SDHSAA, including 15, 25, 40 and 50 year recognition, and an annual NFOA Official of the Year award. President Casper also mentioned under New Business we would discuss and approve some of the criteria for the establishment of a Track & Field/Cross Country Officials Hall of Fame.

12. President Casper reported that an additional four (4) assistant umpires have been requested for the State Track Meet, which increase the number of officials from 15 to 19.

13. Efforts are continuing to develop a video library for track and field officiating, in addition to the Iowa videos. Whether those are existing videos currently on-line or developing new videos this will continue to be the goal to have "how to video" for officiating field events, starting and working with FAT, umpiring (exchange zones, illegal hurdling, lane running, jostling, etc) and

assistance for proper set-up, administration and safety for T&F events. JD Evans is lead for this activity.

14. Dana Nelson has been the primary developer of the newsletter, and is always looking for topics that are interesting and timely. Any member who has a topic, and wants to submit it for the newsletter, or simply has a topic that needs development, please advise Nelson.

15. Tentative sites for the 2026 clinics are as follows: Pierre, Rapid City, Watertown and Mitchell. Dana Nelson and Tony Waterman are working to secure the DWU indoor track for the Mitchell clinic, where officials could experience hands-on starting opportunities. Nelson reported he is close to securing the facility for Wednesday, February 25. More to come.

16. President Casper noted additional efforts which the association could help facilitate, including an "Equipment needed/availability" exchange for new officials to find equipment or retiring officials to off-load equipment. Casper suggested it be referred to Dana Nelson to provide information to officials and include it in the newsletter. He also described a "Schedule Clearinghouse" effort, which generally can be fulfilled by checking the SDHSAA sanctioned meet schedule, which lists officials hired for those meets.

17. President Casper noted that we have a mentor program for new officials and referenced the document and voucher, and encouraged officials to utilize the process.

17A. (added agenda topic) The topic of fees was discussed, with Dana Nelson asking if the recommended fees the association adopted a year ago were being utilized by schools, and whether there were problem areas. Officials reported many ADs did not read through the recommendation included in the annual information packet provided by SDHSAA. President Casper noted it is on our website, and if a school was not paying that amount, it would not be wrong with sending them that listing or referencing the website.

Kevin Nelson asked if the fee structure envisioned a single event meet, which may occur when a school hosts a conference meet but does not have a pole vault venue, hosting the PV at an alternate site on a different day. A single official is usually hired and sometimes can be there a long time. President Casper suggested a fee of \$150, similar to a Cross Country meet would be reasonable. Others noted that there could be throws or field event only meets as well.

NEW BUSINESS

18. President Casper noted the success of the Dakota Sports on-line referee store, noting the association will received \$183.86 for sales through the on-line store for track & field/cross country equipment. Dana Nelson will visit Dakota Sports to check on the status of the payment.

19. HOF Committee Chairman Kevin Nelson reported on progress of the committee in the development and approval of items for its implementation. The committee has developed a rubric for judging the level of contribution officials made and a scoring system for calculating that contribution. They would like the board and membership to approve. The committee has

further work to establish eligibility and a few other items, but wanted to move forward with what have. Those documents and a posthumous award form were previously distributed to the meeting to the entire membership prior to the meeting.

Committee Member Tina Baum described the rubric, which will consider five general areas; Excellence and Impact in Officiating; Mentorship and Leadership; Professional Contribution; Community Engagement and Representation; and, Knowledge and Application of Rules. Additionally, the rubric added a non-scoring consideration for unique contributions.

Each general area could be scored on a four point scale (4 to 1), as Exceptional; Proficient; Developing; and Limited Evidence.

Kevin then explained the scoring (How to use the rubric), which would be scored by the HOF committee, all of them, individually without discussion among the group. The five reviews would then be totaled and averaged to give every candidate an overall score. Based on the overall score nominations for the HOF could be made.

Kevin also noted the committee developed Evaluator Tips and Evaluator Discretion guidance to assist the members. The Committee also carved out a “Legacy Contributor” category for an official who was even more extraordinary.

Finally, Kevin noted that for living candidates, once nominated, they would need to play an active role in bringing together such information as may be necessary to provide for a good review of that candidacy. For the posthumous award, rather than the extensive review through the rubric, it would be more of a story.

There was considerable discussion, and plenty of positive comments shared with the committee members. Several members lauded the committee for the excellent work, noting that they too had been involved with HOF efforts, and none measured up to this effort. President Casper said he bragged to the SDHSAA that they would be very impressed with the effort and process.

Kevin noted further work is necessary, but he would like to have the rubric and the scoring system adopted at this meeting.

Brian Sieh moved and Steve Charron seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

20. Officials uniform was discussed. President Casper reminded officials next year the black coat is required. However, he encouraged officials to keep the putty coats, especially if they work multi-day meets. Gray pants were added as a uniform option, and blue pants deleted. He asked for input for an orange bucket hat, which the group agreed should be optional. He also asked about an alternate colored shirt, such as orange. There was discussion, some wanting white only, and others opting for red, tan, blue and tangerine (not sure that is much different than orange). The biggest complaint about the white shirt is it gets dirty and sweat stained. There being no consensus, Casper said he would ask Randy Soma to see if SDHSAA would allow a change.

Not surprisingly the subject of uniforms carried into athletes' uniforms. While the term "school approved" as opposed to only "school issued" solved some problems, it has raised others. We discussed what school approved really meant. We determined football jerseys from a school were not track and field jerseys, however, would a simple white pair of trunks be OK. The answer was yes, if approved by the school.

The question was who actually makes the school approval? The Board, the Superintendent, the AD, the Coach the day of the meet, when he sees what his athletes are wearing? It was questioned whether or not it would be believable for Huron athletes (orange & black) to wear a Kelly green shirt as "school approved". President Casper said it is something the T&F Advisory Committee should try to narrow down.

21. The topic "track ledgers" was discussed. It would be ideal if every track had a ledger, located at each curve, describing the markings/colors for start and finish lines; hurdle placement lines; exchange zone colors. Standard colors are not always available due to the color of tracks, but more consistency would be wonderful. See rule 5-2, pages 29-30 of the rule book for recommended colors.

We discussed utilizing Pheasantland Industries (South Dakota State Penitentiary) for printing signs. Pheasantland prints street and highway signs for the state. JD Evans noted the National Guard also prints vinyl signs that could be an option. This is a project that we would like to encourage.

22. President Casper shared general information as follows: State Track Meet 180 schools, 3062 athletes, 11 disqualifications. He also noted several Advisory Committee agenda items, such as two runways for the state meet pole vault; maintaining the formula for starting heights for the PV and HJ; impounding non-certified poles; better verbiage for competing in multiple meets the same days and the allowable number of events (4 events at every meet); and more on school approved uniforms.

23. On Public Comments, Kevin Nelson alerted the membership that this school year would be the initial induction into the HOF.

24. President Casper announced he would call a meeting during the Cross Country season, and Larry Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. President Casper declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer SDCCTFOA