

**T.A.A.F. STATE TRACK & FIELD MEET
VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM
THURSDAY, JULY 27 – SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023**



Coach Information Packet

On behalf of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, City of Brownsville we would like to welcome you to the 2023 T.A.A.F. Games of Texas State Track and Field Meet.

Following you will find information that will be helpful to you and your team. Please make sure that you follow all guidelines established within this information packet. It is your responsibility as a coach to make sure your athletes, parents and team supporters understand and abide by the rules and regulations established for this meet. Please take the time to read through the information and share with all your assistant coaches.

Please inform your athletes where they will be entering the field to access the heating tent. We will only have one access point to control the infield for the safety of the participants.

No ice chests allowed in the stands, no personal tents or umbrellas in the stands, and no loitering or standing along the railing of the stands.

The most important roles you play as a Coach are those of leadership and example. I encourage you to read and follow the Coaches Code of Ethics & Oath.

Coaches Code of Ethics & Oath:

As a Coach, I shall be aware that I have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

As a Coach, I shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with athletes, coaches, parents, officials, event administrators, the media, and the public, I shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct throughout the duration of the event.

As a Coach, I shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to my athletes. I shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

As a Coach, I shall respect and support contest officials. I shall not indulge in conduct which would incite athletes or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

MEET SCHEDULE:

Please make sure that you have the “official” and most current meet schedule (attached). Copies of the meet schedule will be available at the packet pick up area for your athletes and at admission gates for spectators. Currently, we do not anticipate changes in the meet schedule: however, note that the **schedule is subject to change**. Weather often causes adjustments in the schedule. We will make every effort to alert athletes, coaches and parents of any changes or adjustments in the meet schedule. Always check with meet officials and note any announcements pertaining to the meet schedule.

It is the responsibility of the athlete and coach to check and verify their entries and be aware of the schedule of events. No race or event will be held up due to entry problems not addressed during the scheduled check and verification time as noted on the attached meet schedule.

WEATHER/RAIN DELAYS:

If it rains we will continue to conduct the meet. If it is determined that the conditions become a safety issue due to lightening, high winds, etc., we will stop the meet and delay. We will resume when safe. Our goal is to complete each day's activities. If it looks like we will not be able to restart the meet, we will roll the remaining events to the next day. We would bump the start of that day's events to a later time that same day. Announcements will be made concerning any changes in the schedule delays. Please pay attention to announcements. If weather does become an issue the meet and all events could be run as a timed final. All athletes should treat every event as a final.

PACKET PICK UP:

The participant packets (race numbers) will be available for pick up from 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2023. Packets may also be picked up on Friday and Saturday beginning at 7:00 a.m. and throughout the duration of the meet. Tables will be set up inside of the gym located at the south end of the stadium. Please allow your athletes to pick up only their packet/race numbers. It is important that they keep up with their race numbers. **Should an athlete lose a race number there will be a charge of \$5.00 for replacement.**

WARM UPS & WARM UP AREA:

The track will be available for warm-ups on Friday – Sunday at 7:00 a.m. The track will close 30 minutes prior to the start of the meet. Additional warm-ups will need to take place in the designated warm up areas. From the check-in tent, the athletes will be escorted to the infield at the appropriate time. Athletes will not be allowed to take bags, ice chests, phones, etc. into the heating tent or onto the field. Athletes will only be able to enter the infield area via the check-in tent for all competitions. Please ask the athletes to look for runners prior to crossing the track.

The field located next to the stadium will serve as the warm up area throughout the duration of the meet.

COACHES PASS:

Each team will receive two passes for coaches. **Each coach must have passed a criminal background check, must be on the approved coaches list posted at www.taaf.com and must provide a valid ID to pick up a pass.** The pass along with a wristband will be provided and both must be worn and will allow you free admission to the meet, allow you to file a protest, and allow coaches on the field as specified below. Any coach violating the rules and regulations of the meet will have their pass collected by Meet Officials. Lost passes will not be replaced. All background checks must be submitted by June 30th to be eligible for a coaches pass (passed background checks only)

COACHES ON THE FIELD:

We will allow coaches on the field on **Saturday only** to assist participants in the **(8U) and (10U) divisions** with the establishment of their marks for the long jump and high jump competitions. Prior to the start of competition all coaches must be off the field and back into approved spectator seating areas.

TRACK ENTRY GATE FOR PARTICIPANTS BEING CALLED FOR COMPETITION:

All athletes and coaches must enter through the gate located by the check-in tent. Participants will be escorted onto the field when an announcement calls them to the heating tent or field event area. No participant will be allowed onto the field without a participant number. Field event participants are asked to report at the check-in tent and will then be released to report directly to the field event site when a first call has been made.

SPECTATORS:

Spectators are not allowed on the field at any time. Any spectator wishing to observe field events must do so from the stadium or from outside of the fence areas. Non authorized personnel on the field may result in the disqualification of their competitor. ***No ice chests allowed in the stands, no personal tents or umbrellas in the stands, and no loitering or standing along the railing of the stands.***

THROWING IMPLEMENTS (Shot & Disc):

We **WILL** be weighing in the throwing implements. The weigh station will be located at each individual pit. The implements will be weighed, marked and then they will be pooled for use by all competitors. Implements which do not meet official weight requirements will be tagged and cannot be returned until after the completion of the competition. Implements must remain available throughout the duration of the competition to athletes. **All implements are the responsibility of the athlete.**

POLE VAULT:

Athletes will NOT be weighed in the pole vault; instead, each coach is required to complete a waiver that ensures that they are using the correct size pole. The competitor's weight shall be at or below the manufacturer's pole rating. The manufacturer's pole rating sticker must be on the pole. There will be a designated **coach's** area away from the crowd and outside of the competition for coaches to confer with their pole vaulters.

BIB NUMBERS:

Bib numbers must be worn on the front of the uniform.

On the front of each bib number you will find a label listing athlete's name and events. If there is a mistake on the event(s) they are entered in, have them report to the TAAF Officials problem area.

Athletes should only wear the number assigned to them. If athletes are found trading numbers and running under another athlete's name, they will be immediately disqualified from the meet in all events. If a Coach/team makes continuous violations of this rule, the coach and all members of the team will be subject to disqualification from the entire meet and further disciplinary action to be determined by the Games Committee.

PROTESTS:

A protest must be filed within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event, or the announcement/posting of the results. Only a team representative with a coach's pass may file a formal protest. A **\$75.00 deposit fee** is required per protest. The fee is refundable should your protest be up-held by the meet referee or the jury of appeals.

Protests may only be lodged for errors in the recording of data/scoring and **NON-JUDGEMENT** errors. The Meet Referee will rule upon all protests. All protests and appeals must be made in writing on official forms. All decisions made by the Meet Referee should be considered final; however, coaches may appeal the decision of the Meet Referee to the Jury of Appeals. The ruling by the Jury of Appeals will be the final ruling. Protests will be filed at the TAAF protest table.

TRAINERS:

Trainers and first aid will be available throughout the duration of the meet. The medical staff will be available for emergency type situations and are not available for rub downs or other type of "non-emergency" situations.

RADIOS / JAM BOXES: None are allowed in the stadium while the meet is in progress.

STAGING / HEATING AREAS:

We will have two heating areas (male and female). Athletes will be called to the staging area with a first call, second call and final call status. It is the responsibility of the athlete to get to

the staging area by the third and final call. **No races will be held up for “late arrivals”.** We may combine heats if there is sufficient time to make the changes with the finish line crew. No one will be allowed to run without a bib number clearly shown on his or her uniform.

MARKING TAKE OFF MARKS FOR RELAYS, LONG JUMP, TRIPLE JUMP & HIGH JUMP:

Relay team members may use tape, split tennis balls, plastic tabs, etc. to mark take off steps for relays. We ask that you remove any marking devices after the completion of the race. Officials have been informed to remove all marking type devices from the track after races are complete. Exchange judges will indicate the “zone” area to the athletes but will not tell the runner where to set their take off marks. We will have two exchange judges per exchange during relays.

Tape will be allowed for marking steps in the long jump, triple jump and high jump. Please ask your athletes to remove the tape upon completion of the event.

LONG JUMP:

A second board, if needed, made of tape will be added for the younger age division. Each athlete must designate which board they will jump from prior to the start of competition, and ***NOTIFICATION GIVEN TO THE HEAD OFFICIAL.*** Once the athlete has declared which board they will jump from, they will be judged for fair or foul jumps by the official based on that board. If they choose to change to a different board once the competition has started they **MUST** notify the head official and the change should be noted in writing on the official entry form where event recordings are kept. Multiple changes will not be allowed, only **one** change will be allowed once competition has started.

TRIPLE JUMP:

Triple Jump take-off boards on all runways will be at distances of 24’, 32’ and 38’. Athletes will need to declare which take off board they are using when they check-in for their event, and they may not change boards during their competition. No other take-off distances will be permitted, so athletes should practice using these distances prior to arriving at State.

OFFICIAL TIMING SYSTEM:

The official timing system of the meet will be the LYNX’S SYSTEM. Each race is videotaped and the times recorded are the “official times”. Hand held times would only serve as back up. As per Federation Rules home videos, pictures or any other “non-official” device **will not be considered** for the results of the race.

POSTING AREA:

Heat Sheets and results of all races will be posted on boards affixed to the fencing on the home side of the stadium. We ask that you do not remove any papers posted and always recheck for **“REVISED”** copies. There are occasions due to protests or errors, that heat sheets and final results sheets will be corrected. If any race has been corrected the words “REVISED,” with a time will, appear in the upper right hand corner of the new copy.

TENTS:

Personal tents will not be allowed in the stadium. Tents will be in place on the top rows of the visitor’s side of the stadium and the top row of the home side in designated areas. In addition personal/team tents may be placed in tent city. **NO TENTS WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE STADIUM.**

We ask that everyone be considerate of others and if using large golf or beach umbrellas please move to the top of the bleachers.

TEAM ICE CHESTS:

Teams will be allowed to bring in ice chests within tent city only. No ice chests will be allowed in the bleachers.

BAG POLICY

Clear tote bags may be plastic, vinyl or pvc. They may not exceed 12 inches by 12 inches by 6 inches. A small clutch bag no larger than 5.5 inches by 8.5 inches— approximately the size of a hand— (with or without a handle or strap) is approved. Other bags such as backpacks, diaper bags and camera bags, etc. will not be allowed in the stadium.

Prohibited Bags	Approved Bags
<p>PROHIBITED ITEMS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All purses, bags or containers larger than a small clutch bag • Backpacks • Binocular case – Binoculars may be worn around the neck • Briefcases • Camera bags • Cinch bags • Computer bags • Coolers • Fanny packs • Luggage of any kind 	<p>CLEAR TOTE Plastic, vinyl or PVC – not exceeding 12" x 6" x 12"</p> <p>PLASTIC STORAGE BAG Clear, one (1) gallon, re-sealable</p> <p>SMALL CLUTCH PURSE Approximately the size of your hand, but absolutely no larger than 5.5" x 8.5" (see our small guide sheet) with or without a handle or strap. Can be carried separately or within an approved plastic bag shown above.</p>

To enhance public safety, BISD Police Department has modified it security policy by limiting the size and style of bags allowed into events.

An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at a gate designated for this purpose. Please limit the number of items you bring to the stadium on event days.

STADIUM BLEACHERS & CLEAN UP:

Please encourage your parents and athletes not to throw items over the bleachers. Items falling from the bleachers can cause severe injury to those walking around and behind the bleachers. Likewise, please ask your parents and athletes to clean up the “team area” during and after each day’s competition. It will be appreciated.

ZERO TOLERANCE RULE:

TAUNTING & UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT - There will be a **zero tolerance** rule in effect throughout the duration of the meet for spectators, coaches and participants. **Should any “taunting” on the part of a participant be observed by meet officials they will be disqualified from the event. Likewise, if “taunting” on the part of any spectator or coach is observed by meet officials or security personnel, that action may result in expulsion from the stadium.** Please inform your athletes that if they utilize **any unsportsmanlike conduct** they will be asked to leave the stadium and disqualified from the meet. This will also be the rule for coaches and spectators alike.

Again, you as a Coach/Parent are setting examples for the athletes. Your actions and leadership have great impact on these young people. Make sure you set the right example and lead by example. We would ask that you report any actions that are considered unacceptable to security personnel or meet officials so that immediate action can be taken.

FLUIDS & SHADE: Don’t let your athletes become dehydrated. Encourage them to seek shade and stay cool between competitions and drink plenty of water or appropriate fluids throughout the meet! There will be plenty of water on the field and at the field events.

Best of luck to you and your athletes!