

February 10, 2020

Coaches and gym owners,

We had our first meet weekend with background check verification and it was not perfect but for the greatest part, it worked. There were a few coaches who were not on the list and we are rectifying that immediately this week and they will be taking care of it. Please take this seriously and get it done right now. It is \$10 - nearly a trip to a fast food place! It takes less than three days. Inexpensive AND easy!

Now, just like USAG, **you will get a confirmation of your clearance and I am recommending that you either bring a copy of your USAG card or your TAAF clearance with you to show at sign in just in case a clerical error eliminated you from the list. Again, this is easy - slip it in your wallet and leave it there for the season.**

Meet directors will be receiving wrist bands from me for their meets and will hand you a wrist band when you check in and sign the coaches sheet. MEET DIRECTORS will send me a copy of the signed coaches sheet as a requirement of their meet reporting. I have also asked the scoremaster to place a score reporting template on our website so you can use this to turn in your scores OR if you are using proscore, follow his instructions as to how to export your meet data in a form that he can use efficiently for our score tracking. I will leave the mechanics of that process to him. I will need the meet directors to check our website for the proper procedures. I hope this will be up on our site for this weekend's meets.

COACHES - please be sure to use the resources on our website. All meet schedules, results, policies, documents and any important communications will be there. Although it is convenient to receive email reminders from me, I do not have any way to keep up with email address changes and during the course of the season there are always at least a few. Please check our page regularly as that remains the best method of communication.

JUDGES SHORTAGE is a serious problem this season and as a result we will have meets where we can only find one judge per event. I have asked the state judging director to communicate to all the judges and reiterate that TAAF athletes do not need inflated scores, they need realistic scores and that inflated scores are a strong detriment to the program. We will get through this season and then I have already spoken to the USAG people and to other entities who use the judging pool for their meets. We need to work together to make a Schedule that works for all groups. Coordination is going to be required. I am also encouraging you all to introduce the concept of judging to your older athletes 16 and up and even to your coaches. We could use judges who have had some experience in the sport and it is a great opportunity for the younger athletes to build a skill they can profit from later while enjoying a continuation of their love for the sport and an opportunity for coaches to enhance their coaching preparation by getting a handle of the judging aspect of the sport! WE NEED YOU!!!

Take care, be safe, and enjoy the season!

Jan

I will have a council meeting sometime in March to plan our summer meeting agenda and banquet. If you have any concerns that you would like addressed feel free to communicate those to me or to any of the council members.