

IATO Board Meeting/Annual Clinic

December 6, 2025

Iowa City West HS, 2901 Melrose Ave, Iowa City Iowa

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 AM by President Jim Nichols. There were 63 IATO members present.

The following board members were in attendance: Jim Nichols, Jeff Cook (VP), Mark Tigges (S/T), Joel Grabinoski, Tom Hartigan, Fran Long, Dave Tapps, Randy Thoren, Ray Wilden, John Zietlow, and Terry Fischer.

Moved by John Z, second by Dave T to approve the minutes from the November board meeting. Motion carried.

Membership:

Currently there are 135 paid members on our roster. That includes 6 new members this fall. Three more names were added to the Honorary Membership list (Darrell Brand, James Patterson, and Tim Thomas). During the current 2026 registration time frame, three officials have indicated they are retiring. There are 20-25 members that have not yet renewed their membership.

Treasurers Report:

The current account balance is \$23,877.91. We are in the process of renewing memberships. Income from dues, the purchase of shells, as well as clinic and banquet fees have been coming in regularly. We expect expenses related to the clinic and banquet to be paid soon.

IGHSAU/IHSAA Updates: Jared Chizek and Jim Duea

SQM site visits – both related positive reactions and hoped they would continue.

There are discussions regarding the assignment of an assistant starter at the 3A and 4A qualifying meets. That person would only be present to assist the assigned starter/referee. The NFHS is reviewing the wording in the rule book about starting devices. How restrictive or open should it be?

There was also discussion about the starting process, i.e. fair versus false start.

Madison expressed her appreciation to the officials as she prepares to leave the IGHSAU for a different job.

OLD BUSINESS

Volunteer Certificates:

If you have someone deserving at your regular season meets, Jim Nichols has certificates to recognize their contributions.

2025 Award Recipients:

The list of officials to be honored at the banquet later in the day were identified.

New IATC website:

www.iatrackcoaches.org

**The officials' website can be found as a link on this site.

NEW BUSINESS

25/50 Year Officials

We have been working on getting caught up with presenting these awards to officials. With the current records, we don't have anyone reaching either year of service level during the 2026 season. If you know of someone who should be recognized, please provide that name to Mark Tigges.

Blank Shells – Fran Long

Fran presented a chart showing how many boxes of shells were sold this fall and what we have on hand. There is still sufficient inventory of all three calibers for the upcoming 2026 season. Currently, we have about 600 boxes of 9mm and 180 boxes of .32's on hand. The board will monitor the supply throughout the spring.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the comparison of the .32 and 9mm pistols. A large contingent of the members present are still using the .32 pistol and shells, but more are making the switch to 9mm. One of the main concerns will be the availability and cost of .32 ammo in the future.

Procedures Manual – Bill Neal and Greg Blank

The Procedures Manual is in the process of being revised. Rule changes, points of emphasis, and editorial corrections will be updated as needed. All current members will receive updated pages when they are completed. New members will be emailed the entire document.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Jeff C, seconded by Terry F to adjourn the business meeting. Motion carried.

IHSAA/IGHSAU UPDATES:

Jared Chizek (IHSAA) and Jim Duea (IGHSAU) presented information on multiple topics:

**Site visits for the SQM were well received and will continue

-some form of this will also be used in cross country

**Starter/Referees will be asked to complete a checklist for their regular season meets

**3A and 4A SQM meets will have an assistant starter

**Rule Changes: the rules video will discuss these in more detail

- placement of the takeoff board for the long jump
- any closed-barrel starter's pistol may be used to start a meet
- an appropriate health care professional may evaluate without disqualification
- athletes are not permitted to wear any audio or video devices in restricted areas
- clarified warm up times and consecutive attempts time limits in the high jump
- padding is required for surfaces that are elevated relative to the ground
- establish a 20m exchange zone for indoor relays on 200m tracks

COMMON ISSUES FOR THE STARTER/REFEREE – TERRY FISCHER

Terry Fischer and Ray Armel produced a series of short video segments illustrating many different scenarios that may be encountered at the start of a race. After watching each video an explanation was provided, and an opportunity for group discussion followed.

DRAKE RELAYS UPDATE – TRE STANTON

The dates for the Drake Relays are April 22-25, 2026. The Jim Duncan meet will be held on April 10-11. Many other track and field events will be competed in the week before the relays. The officials' recognition ceremony will be on Sunday, April 5. Also, there will be an officials' training session on two different Sunday afternoons: Jan 11 and Jan 25. Expect more information as those dates approach.

Mark Tigges will be the high school guest starter. Bill Neal and Jim Nichols will be the high school referees.

WORKING THE LONG JUMP – JAN GRENKO-LEHMAN and RONDA POPE

Jan and Ronda presented an outline of preparing for and running a long jump event.

Some points of emphasis:

- the level of the sand
- safety considerations
- necessary equipment
- a brief job description of each position
- athlete check-in and warm-up
- competition procedures

IATC STATE INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS -JIM NICHOLS

The IATC state indoor championships will be held in Ames on March 12 and 13, 2026. Jim Nichols is the person to contact if interested in helping here. The main difference from past years is that boys and girls in the same class will compete on the same day and time.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS -

President Jim Nichols ended the meeting by stressing the importance of recruiting new officials. He challenged all officials to find someone to bring to one of your meets this year.

Meeting adjourned with the awards banquet to follow.

Submitted 12/9/2025

Mark Tigges

IATO Sec/Treas