

IATO Board Meeting

June 7, 2026 – 9:00 AM

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by President Jim Nichols.

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

Former members Joe Toot and Bill Neal were also there.

Moved by John Z, second by Jeff C to approve the minutes from the December 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Membership:

Currently there are 160 members on our active roster.

New members that have joined during the recent season: Noah McCleary-Muscatine, Lisa Langerman-Cedar Rapids, Mike Johnson-Calmar, April Wilson-Denver, Jeremy Bolluyt-Spirit Lake, Justin Parson-LaPorte City, Tracy Nuss-West Union.

The following have requested information about IATO: Tony Jones, Gary Hanson, Mike Trujillo.

Four officials have been dropped from the list for nonpayment of dues.

Two officials have indicated they have or will be moving out of state.

Honorary Membership:

These officials have more than 45 years of officiating experience and are no longer active:

Carl Cochran, Richard Leutzinger, Gail Young, Timm Lamb.

Motion by Dave T, second by Tom H to move them to the Honorary List. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report:

The current account balance is \$28,609.11. There will be a major expenditure in the coming weeks as we prepare to replenish our supply of 9mm blanks. More on that in a later item.

114 pounds of blank shell cartridges have been collected throughout the past season.

The recycling program resulted in \$430 being deposited into the IATO account. You may continue to save and return your empty blanks.

IGHSAU/IHSAA Updates: Jared Chizek and Jim Duea

Jared and Jim spoke very positively about the state track meet. They also expressed their appreciation for the work provided by all the officials and volunteers.

Throughout the state meet there were a total of 48 DQ's, 28 of which were lane line violations. The shuttle hurdle races were much improved from past years.

Regular season facility feedback form: 41 officials provided feedback on 182 sites.

Jared emphasized to the officials the importance of those site surveys and the desire to have a higher return. That data will be used in the future when assigning SQM sites.

3A/4A SQM Assistant Starter: they are looking for feedback--positive and negative.

OLD BUSINESS

Track and Field Advisory: Jim Nichols is our representative on this committee

Their annual meeting will be held later this month. Many of these issues were a part of the discussion with Jared and Jim.

Here is a list of some of the topics we discussed for inclusion in this meeting:

Electronics: Responsibility and Enforcement. This is a safety issue.

Metric Measurement for field events.

Absence from competition procedures

Field Event check-in

Distance races– waterfall vs. stagger for 800, seeding, placement on the waterfall, etc

Shuttle hurdle guidelines – exchange line, hurdle crew, etc

Wheelchair/Ambulatory guidelines

Cross-Country Advisory: nothing new, meeting following the CC season.

Contact Fran Long if you have any questions or concerns.

Volunteer Certificates:

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

Blank Shells/Ammo: Fran Long is the Ammo Chairperson

The IATO currently has an inventory of .22 (130 boxes), .32 (120 boxes), and 9mm (500 boxes) blank shells. After discussion, it was decided to move forward with the purchase of additional 9mm shells to get ahead of a probable price increase. Fran will check with our supplier to determine pricing. We will sell the 32s until they are gone. Motion by

Terry F, second by Dave H. Carried. An order form to request blank shells for next year will be sent out in the fall along with the membership renewals and clinic registration.

JH State Meet:

A big thank you to the 8 starters and 7 field event officials that worked the meet. If anyone else is interested in being a part of the team next year, please contact Mark Tigges.

NEW BUSINESS

2026 Season Comments and/or Questions:

Umpiring (lack of?) at regular season meets
Field event safety

Combined Coach/Official Award:

Dave Tapps presented an idea for a new award, in collaboration with the IATC, be presented to those individuals with a specific number of combined years of service. Details are being worked out, with a verification form to be included in the fall information packet.

IATO December Clinic/Banquet:

The clinic and banquet will be held in Ames on Saturday, December 5. The clinic will be in the morning with the banquet to follow at around 12:00. More information in the fall. Jeff Cook and Jim Nichols are in the process of identifying and scheduling the clinic speakers.

State Indoor Meet:

Jim Nichols is the person to contact if interested in helping here.
The tentative dates are March 11/12, 2027. With the state BB tournament being held in Ames next year, those dates and the site may change.

New Apparel Options:

Many of you continue to ask about new caps, shirts, jackets, etc. We are looking into those (and other items?), potentially from different suppliers. Again, more information to come in the fall.

Other Items:

Terry Fischer reported on a liability lawsuit in a neighboring state that included a track official. We will monitor the situation and check with the governing bodies in Iowa and nationally to determine the extent of our coverage.

Rule Books: We will not receive a rule book/case book from the IHSAA or IGHSAA.

Those are all on-line now. They are available for purchase on an individual basis. Dave Tapps is working on a mass order for NCAA rule books to alleviate the shipping charges. That will be another option on the fall forms.

2028 and beyond calendar books. During the upcoming year many of you will start to work on your 2028 schedules. A new calendar book will be printed and available this fall.

IATO AWARDS:

Lowry-Wassink Distinguished Service:	Jared Chizek	Boone
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Hall of Fame:	Jan Grenko-Lehman	Iowa City
	Jim Walczyk	West Des Moines

Friend of Track:	Marcia Munger	Des Moines
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The three awards above were nominated by the Executive Committee, subject to board approval. Motion by Dan K, second by Jeff C, motion carried.

The Girls' and Boys' S-O-T-Y were voted on by the track coaches from a list of starters who submitted their season schedules.

Girls' Starter of the Year	Jeff Cook	Pleasantville
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Boys' Starter of the Year	Mike Gruver	Pella
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JH Starter of the Year	Mark Watts	New Sharon
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Field Event Official	Morris Jones	Waukee
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Track Official	Steve Roth	Washington
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Regional Starters of the Year:	NW	Ron Baack	Spirit Lake
	NE	John Zietlow	Manchester
	Cen	OPEN	

SE
SW

Roger Poage
Dave Huff

Fort Madison
Greenfield

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 PM. Motion Jeff C, second Mike G, carried.

Submitted 6/10/2026

Mark Tigges

IATO Sec/Treas