IATO Board Meeting
November 7, 2026 9:00am
Waukee NW H.S., Waukee IA

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by President Jim Nichols.

Board members and other IATO members in attendance: Jeff Cook (VP), Mark Tigges (Sec/Treas), Joel Grabinoski, Dave Huff, Dave Tapps, Randy Thoren, Mike Gruver, Ray Wilden, Terry Fischer, John Zietlow, Fran Long, Ray Armel, Dan Kruse, Tom Hartigan, Bill Neal (former Sec/Treas), Joe Toot.
Also present at the meeting: Jim Duea, Tyler Lown, Blake Boldon (Drake)

Motion - John Z, second – Terry Fischer to approve the minutes of the June meeting, passed.

Membership Report:
Currently, we have 160 active members. As of Saturday, there are still 43 members who haven't paid their 2027 dues. Membership renewals are continuing to come in. That number includes 4 new members: Jeff Gustason (Marion), Randy Kibbee (Mason City), Brian Roberts (Bloomfield), and Mike Trujillo (Davenport). I have dropped 5 individuals due to their request, moving, or no response.
With a 2027 membership renewal, these members will be scheduled to receive a years-of-service plaque at the state meet: Rich Choponis (25), Terry Thompson (50), Bob Saunders (50). If you know of anyone else that might be eligible, please contact me.
2027-2030 Calendar books will be available for all members. Pick yours up at the clinic, the IATC State Indoor Meet, or make arrangement with another member.

Treasurer's Report:
As of Friday 11/6, there was $40,505 in the IATO account. We have not had any major expenses this summer. Upcoming expenditures include blank shell purchase, room rental for the clinic, banquet tickets, and a per member payment to IATC for awards.
Motion – Terry Fischer, second – Bill Neal, passed.

Jim Duea (IGHSAU) and Tyler Lown (IHSAA) presented their thoughts on the CC season.
There were many weather issues (heat and rain) throughout the season. They were complimentary regarding the athletes, coaches, and officials as we went through the season.
There were a few 8th graders at the state meet. They are still developing the final plan for 8th graders as HS athletes.
There was some discussion about some logistics of the state meet course: width, lines defining the course, etc.
The Cross-Country Advisory committee will be meeting in December. If you have any thoughts or questions, Fran Long is our representative to this group.

OLD BUSINESS

Jim Nichols presented a review of topics discussed at the track and field advisory meeting that took place in June.

--Electronics will be a point of emphasis this year
--Metric measurement in the field events –no change
--Absence from Competition –this will be a games committee decision
Check In- by event or by flight- when must the athlete check in
Motion-Dave Tapps, Second-Dave Huff – motion passed
The IATO will recommend check-in by event
--Athlete and Coach conduct—the difference between unacceptable and unsportsmanlike
--Throws Safety
--Proposals for additional field events – Pole Vault, Javelin, Triple Jump –no changes
--Double waterfall seeding for distance races
--Shuttle Hurdles –break lines and safety while resetting displaced hurdles
--Site Reports—disappointed with the participation from starters
-only 41 of 114 registered officials returned a report
--Plans are being developed to produce a video on wheelchair and ambulatory participation

Review of 2026 IATO Awards

Here is the list of our Officials who will be recognized at the banquet on December 5.

- Boys' Starter of the Year: Mike Gruver, Pella
- Girls' Starter of the Year: Jeff Cook, Pleasantville
- Junior High Starter of the Year: Mark Watts, New Sharon
- Field Event Official: Morris Jones, Waukee
- Track Official: Steve Roth, Washington
- Cross Country Starter of the Year: Mark Tigges, Clive
- Regional Starter of the Year:
    - NW: Ron Baack, Spirit Lake
    - NE: John Zietlow, Manchester
    - Central: OPEN
    - SW: David Huff, Greenfield
    - SE: Roger Poage, Fort Madison
- Friend of Track: Marcia Munger, Des Moines
- Hall of Fame: Jan Grenko-Lehman, Iowa City and Jim Walczyk, West Des Moines
- Lowry-Wassink Distinguished Service: Jared Chizek, Boone

Blank Shell Update: Fran Long

Current shells on hand: 32s – 112, 22s – 129, 9mm – 535
Boxes sold this fall (11/6): 32s -- 89, 22s -- 31, 9mm – 166

We will continue to sell boxes of shells at the current price until they are gone. We will no longer purchase 32s when these are gone.

IATC STATE INDOOR
Jim Nichols gave an update on the State Indoor Championship Meet.
Due to the state BB tournament being in Ames, the indoor meet has been moved to Friday and Saturday March 12/13.

NEW BUSINESS
Mark Tigges was recognized as the Cross Counter Starter of the Year. He will receive his award at the Awards Banquet on December 5.

Clinic Speakers:
VP Jeff Cook reviewed the lineup of speakers for the December clinic.
Doug Johanson, Jay Gruenwald, Sharon Plants, and Dave Tapps will discuss some important issues from their main event.
Bill Neal and Terry Fischer --the 2-person start team.
Joe Toot and Jeff Cook –pistol safety and maintenance.
Tre Stanton –Drake Relays update

Clinic SWAG:
Everyone attending the clinic will receive 2 collapsible cones for their use at track meets.

Officials' Apparel:
We are working with a different vendor to provide polo and long-sleeved shirts for the membership. A new, multicolor logo has been designed. Officials will be able to access the website and order on an individual basis. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Drake Relays-Stadium Update:
Blake Boldon spoke briefly regarding the upcoming Drake Stadium renovation proposal. It is still in the early stages of planning, with hopes of becoming eligible to host national level meets.

Closing Comments:
--Recruitment of new officials. We must continue to find more officials.
--What is the "value" of a registered official?
--Stress the need to meet management for more help – zone judges, umpires, etc.

Motion – Dave Tapps, second – Joel Grabinoski, passed to adjourn at 11:31 AM
Lunch was provided by the track coaches association.

Submitted 11/10/26
Mark Tigges
IATO Sec/Treas