

MSTCA XC Committee Meeting - 12/2/18

Attendance: Scott Ouellett, Mike Glennon, Don Hennigar, Chuck Martin, Jayson Sylvain, Jeremy Nute, James Fletcher

1. Scott called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. Frank Mooney Award Nominees - XC 2018
 - a. Boys: Ryan Oosting (Arlington), Lucas Aramburu (Brookline), Sam Acquaviva (Newburyport)
 - b. Girls: Grace Connolly (Natick), Margaret Donahue (Wellesley), Sarah Roffman (Littleton)
3. Coaches of the Year - XC 2018
 - a. Many more nominees due to MSTCA social media posts
 - b. Unfortunately, a bunch of the nominees were not members as of 12/2/18 and therefore ineligible for the award
 - c. Eastern Mass Boys: Don Hennigar (Newburyport)
 - d. Eastern Mass Girls: Joe Schroeder (Martha's Vineyard)
 - e. Central Mass Boys: Nick Uttaro (Algonquin)
 - f. Central Mass Girls: Patrick Galvin (Algonquin)
 - g. Western Mass Girls: Elena Betke-Brunswick (Amherst-Pelham)
 - h. Western Mass Boys: Chris Gould (Amherst-Pelham)
4. Review of 2018 Frank Kelley Invitational
 - a. 99 schools entered; 98 competed; 3255 athletes entered; 2362 competed;
 - b. Middle School races were added this year to the docket; numbers were lower than expected; can we acquire the USATF list middle school xc schools and leagues?; also need to alter the entry form to better explain to coaches on how to enter middle school athletes;
 - c. Coaches and officials continue to offer positive feedback regarding the meet's format; continue with 3K races as well as Open 5Ks; continue with Championship races in the middle of the meet; can we post online teams which intend to enter championship races?; swap large and small schools for morning and afternoon;
 - d. Changes to the medals: 1) remove the places as runners often cross the line almost simultaneously and are handed the incorrect medal; 2) add lanyards to the medals so the athletes can wear them around their neck
 - e. Schedule the 2019 Kelley Invite for September 28th, 2019; it will go head-to-head with the Ocean State Invitational
 - f. Jayson Sylvain has resigned as meet director; James Fletcher offered to become the new meet director;

5. Review of 2018 Bay State Invitational
 - a. 83 schools entered and competed; 1274 athletes entered; 1026 competed;
 - b. Poor weather caused for deep mud in parts of the opening field;
 - c. Meet ran smoothly overall;
 - d. 2019 MIAA State Meet is scheduled for Gardner; MSTCA should make every effort to hold Bay State Invitational on the golf course sometime in early-October just like 2016;

6. Review of 2018 Twilight Invitational
 - a. 122 schools entered; 121 schools competed; 3775 athletes entered; 2995 competed
 - b. 1st year of new two-day format; small schools competed on Friday and large schools on Saturday; weather was decent for both; definitely more room for spectators with split; double the costs for officials, meet workers, some equipment; for 2019 swap the days for large and small;
 - c. Starting line is still an issue; any attempt at starting boxes is quickly kicked away in the sand; can we make group starting blocks so teams know they are in a section instead of having kids stand on line "holding" a spot for 20 minutes which ends up being moved by MTFOA clerks anyway?
 - d. MSTCA's \$5,000 investment to improve the fence width at the 200m mark made a remarkable improvement to all of the races;

7. Review of 2018 Frank Mooney Coaches Invitational
 - a. 127 schools entered; 110 schools competed; 3983 athletes entered; 2178 athletes competed
 - b. Poor weather caused the meet to be postponed to Sunday; therefore, 17 schools were unable to attend
 - c. 1st year of split for Large Schools Grade 11/12 races; the boys races were much safer and less crowded due to the split; numbers in girls 11 & 12 races were low;
 - d. Meet ran very smoothly overall

8. Weather
 - a. Like terrain, weather is an integral part of cross country
 - b. Committee feels the MSTCA should have some type of official weather postponement policy in place;
 - c. What forecast(s) should be cause for postponement?
 - d. What if forecast is bad, but not dangerous, and Sunday's forecast is for much better weather (like this year)?
 - e. The safety for athletes/spectators needs to be the top priority;
 - f. First preference should be to run the meet on the scheduled day;
 - g. MSTCA should purchase bags of QuickDry and store in POD at Wrentham to help dry the parts of the course where water accumulates

9. XC Venues

- a. Weather this season really shines the light on the lack of XC venues in the state which can hold a large-scale meet.
- b. Committee called Bob L'Homme to hear more about a possible site in Attleboro on an old golf course now owned by the city and designated as a recreation area; Bob is investigating further and will keep the Executive Committee updated
- c. What other sites in WMass could be used besides Northfield and Stanley?
- d. What other sites in CMass could be used besides Gardner?
- e. What sites could be used in the northern half of EMass?
- f. If more sites could be found, should the MSTCA consider holding a meet simultaneously at multiple sites (example: FM Coaches Large at Wrentham in morning while FM Coaches Small at Attleboro)

10. MIAA Concerns

- a. Delay of State Meet from Saturday to Sunday was a huge issue; especially when another site could have held the meet on the originally scheduled day;
- b. State Meet Course needed better flagging/marking
- c. State Meet Awards Ceremony was grossly inadequate
- d. Why can't XC's biggest meet of the year be celebrated, covered, and advertised like the biggest games of the year for other sports?
- e. MSTCA should push MIAA Committee to have place in the Tournament Format that the Wrentham site should be the default backup site in case of any issues with the other MIAA sites in the state

11. Technology

- a. We need to investigate technology which will allow for better communication of data at meets;
- b. How can we improve result posting at all meets? Rent/purchase a video scoreboard?
- c. Can we meet with lynx, millenium, lancer, and other area timers to learn which scoreboards, software, and mats they use to offer a better experience for athletes and spectators?
- d. A technology committee should be formed to guide the MSTCA through this process;

12. Next XC Committee Meeting scheduled for February 23 at 8:30 am in RLTAAC (prior to the Indoor Track & Field All-State Meet)