

T.A.A.F. STATE TRACK & FIELD MEET
MCALLEN, TX
THURSDAY, JULY 28 – JULY 31, 2016



MCALLEN VETERANS MEMORIAL STADIUM
2011 N. BICENTENNIAL BOULEVARD

Coach Information Packet

On behalf of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation and the City of McAllen we would like to welcome you to the 2016 T.A.A.F. Games of Texas State Track and Field Meet.

Following you will find information that will be helpful to you and your team. Please make sure that you follow all guidelines established within this information packet. It is your responsibility as a coach to make sure your athletes, parents and team supporters understand and abide by the rules and regulations established for this meet. Please take the time to read through the information and do share with all your assistant coaches.

Please inform your athletes as to where they will be entering the field to access the heating tent on the field. We will only have one access point in order to control the infield for the safety of the participants.

One of the most important roles you play as a Coach is one of leadership and example. I encourage you to read and follow the Coaches Code of Ethics & Oath.

Coaches Code of Ethics & Oath:

As a Coach, I shall be aware that I have a tremendous influence, for either good or ill, on the education of the athlete and, thus, shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character.

As a Coach, I shall uphold the honor and dignity of the profession. In all personal contact with athletes, coaches, parents, officials, event administrators, the media, and the public, I shall strive to set an example of the highest ethical and moral conduct throughout the duration of the event.

As a Coach, I shall master the contest rules and shall teach them to my athletes. I shall not seek an advantage by circumvention of the spirit or letter of the rules.

As a Coach, I shall respect and support contest officials. I shall not indulge in conduct which would incite athletes or spectators against the officials. Public criticism of officials or players is unethical.

MEET SCHEDULE:

Please make sure that you have the “official” and most current meet schedule (attached). Copies of the meet schedule will be available at the packet pick up area for your athletes and at admission gates for spectators. At this time we do not anticipate changes in the meet schedule however, note that the **schedule is subject to change**. Weather often causes adjustments in the schedule. We will make every effort to alert athletes, coaches and parents of any changes or adjustments in the meet schedule. Always check with meet officials and note any announcements pertaining to the meet schedule.

It is the responsibility of the athlete and coach to check and verify their entries, and be aware of the schedule of events; no race or event will be held up due to entry problems not addressed during the scheduled check and verification time as noted on the attached meet schedule.

WEATHER/RAIN DELAYS:

If it rains we will continue to conduct the meet. If it is determined that the conditions become such that it is determined to be a safety issue due to lightening, high winds, etc. we will stop the meet and take a delay. We will start up again when safe. Our goal is to complete each day's activities. If it looks like we will not be able to re-start the meet. We will roll the remaining events to the next day and begin again. We would bump the start of that day's events to a later time that same day. Announcements will be made concerning any changes in the schedule or announcements regarding delays. Please pay attention to announcements. If weather does become an issue the meet and all events could be run as a timed final. All athletes should treat every event as a final.

PACKET PICK UP:

The participant packets (race numbers) will be available for pick up from 9:00 AM – 6:00 pm on Thursday, July 28, 2016. Packets may also be picked up on Friday and Saturday beginning at 7:00 AM and throughout the duration of the meet. Tables will be set up outside of the main entrance of the stadium. Please allow your athlete's to pick up only their packet/race numbers. It is important that they keep up with their race numbers. **Should an athlete lose a race number there will be a charge of \$5.00 to replace it.**

WARM UPS & WARM UP AREA:

The four field baseball complex at Municipal Park directly south of the stadium is available to serve as a warmup area through the duration of the meet. Tamarack Avenue will be closed to traffic so athletes can cross the street freely at any time. A secondary warm-up track is available at the intersection of 23rd Street and La Vista which is located diagonally (NW) from Veterans Memorial Stadium.

COACHES PASS:

Each team will receive two passes for coaches. The pass will allow you free admission to the meet, allow you to file a protest, and allow coaches on the field as specified below. Any coach violating the rules and regulations of the meet will have their pass collected by Meet

Officials. Lost passes will not be replaced. There is simply no way for us to know how many coaches each team has so we will give the two which should go to the Head Coach and he or she may give the second pass to the coach he or she so desires. You may share the pass with other assistant coaches who may need to get onto the field to assist with marking steps in the field events or if they need to file a protest.

COACHES ON THE FIELD:

We will allow coaches on the field on **Saturday only** to assist participants in the **Pee Wee (8 & U) and Bantam (9 & 10) divisions** with the establishment of their marks for the long jump and high jump competitions. Coaches will not be allowed in the competition area. Prior to the start of completion all Coaches must be off the field and back into approved spectator seating areas.

TRACK ENTRY GATE FOR PARTICIPANTS BEING CALLED FOR COMPETITION:

All athletes and coaches must enter through the gate located by the check-in tent. Participants will be escorted onto the field when an announcement calling them to either the heating tent area or field event area. No participant will be allowed onto the field without a participant number. Field event participants are asked to report at the check-in tent and will then be released to report directly to the field event site when first call has been made.

SPECTATORS:

Spectators are not allowed on the field at any time. Any spectator wishing to observe field events must do so from the stadium or from outside of the fence areas. Non authorized personnel on the field may result in the disqualification of their competitor.

THROWING IMPLEMENTS (Shot & Disc):

We **WILL** be weighing in the throwing implements. The weigh station will be located at each individual pit. The implements will be weighed, marked and then they will be pooled for use by all competitors. Coaches or athletes are required to sign in all implements left to be certified for competition. Implements which do not meet official weight requirements will be tagged and cannot be returned until after the completion of the competition. All implements must remain available throughout the duration of the competition to all athletes. **All implements are the responsibility of the athlete.**

POLE VAULT:

Athletes will NOT be weighed in the pole vault; instead, each coach is required to complete a waiver that ensures that they are using the correct size pole. The competitor's weight shall be at or below the manufacturer's pole rating. The manufacturer's pole rating sticker must be on the pole. A Pole Vault Coach will be allowed on the field during completion but must remain in the designated area of the field by the pole vault competition only.

RACE NUMBERS:

Race numbers must be worn on the front of the uniform. Lost numbers will be replaced with a \$5.00 fee. Please have them keep up with their number.

On the front of each race number you will find a label listing athlete's name and what events they are entered in. If there is a mistake on the event(s) they are entered in, have them report to the TAAF Officials problem area.

Athletes should only wear the number assigned to them. If athletes are found trading numbers and running under another athlete's name they will be immediately disqualified from the meet in all events. If a Coach/team makes continuous violations of this rule, the coach and all members of the team will be subject to disqualification from the entire meet and further disciplinary action to be determined by the Games Committee.

PROTESTS:

A protest must be filed within 30 minutes after the conclusion of the event, or the announcement/posting of the results. Only a team representative with a coach's pass may file a formal protest. A **\$25.00 deposit fee** is required per protest. The fee is refundable should your protest be up-held by the meet referee or the jury of appeals.

Protests may only be lodged for errors in the recording of data/scoring and **NON-JUDGEMENT** errors. The Meet Referee will rule upon all protests. All protests and appeals must be made in writing on official forms. All decisions made by the Meet Referee should be considered final; however, coaches may appeal the decision of the Meet Referee to the Jury of Appeals. The ruling by the Jury of Appeals will be the final ruling. Protests will be filed at the TAAF protest table.

TRAINERS:

Trainers and first aid will be available throughout the duration of the meet. The medical staff will be available for emergency type situation and are not available for rub downs or other type of "non-emergency" situations.

RADIOS / JAM BOXES: None are allowed in the stadium while the meet is in progress.

STAGING / HEATING AREAS:

We will have two heating areas (male and female). Athletes will be called to the staging area with a first call, second call and final call status. It is the responsibility of the athlete to get to the staging area by the third and final call. **No races will be held up for "late arrivals"**. We may combine heats if there is sufficient time to make the changes with the finish line crew. No one will be allowed to run without a race number clearly shown on his or her uniform.

HIP NUMBERS:

Hip numbers will be used. Please tell your athletes that they are not to pull the number off of their hip until they have completed their race. They will be issued new numbers in the heating tent area for each race.

MARKING TAKE OFF MARKS FOR RELAYS, LONG JUMP & HIGH JUMP:

Relay team members may use tape, split tennis balls, plastic tabs, etc. to mark take off steps for relays. We ask that you remove any marking devices after the completion of the race. Officials have been informed to remove all marking type devices from the track after races are complete. Exchange judges will indicate the “zone” area to the athletes but will not tell the runner where to set their take off marks. We will have two exchange judges per exchange during relays.

Tape will be allowed for marking steps in the long jump and high jump. Please ask your athletes to remove the tape upon completion of the event.

LONG JUMP:

A second board, if needed, made of tape will be added for the younger age division. Each athlete must designate which board they will jump from prior to the start of competition, and ***NOTIFICATION GIVEN TO THE HEAD OFFICIAL.*** Once the athlete has declared which board they will jump from, they will be judged for fair or foul jumps by the official based on that board. If they choose to change to a different board once the competition has started they **MUST** notify the head official and the change should be noted in writing on the official entry form where event recordings are kept. Multiple changes will not be allowed, only one change will be allowed once competition has started.

TRIPLE JUMP:

Triple Jump Take-off boards on all runways will be at distances of 24’, 32’ and 38’. Athletes will need to declare which take off board they are using when they check-in for their event and they may not change boards during their competition. No other take-off distances will be permitted so athletes should practice using these distances prior to arriving at State.

OFFICIAL TIMING SYSTEM:

The official timing system of the meet will be the LYNX’S SYSTEM. Each race is videotaped and the times recorded are the “official times”. Hand held times would only serve as back up. As per Federation Rules, home videos, pictures or any other “non-official” device will not be considered for the results of the race.

POSTING AREA:

Heat sheets and results of all races will be posted on boards affixed to the fencing on the northwest side of the stadium adjacent to the awards area. Please refrain from removing any papers posted, and always re-check for **“REVISED”** copies. There are occasions where, due to protests or errors, heat sheets, and final results sheets will be corrected. If any race has been corrected, the words “REVISED” and a time will appear in the upper right hand corner of the new copy.

TENTS:

Tents will only be allowed inside the stadium on the top row only of the home side (West) of the stadium. On the visitor's side, (East), tents may be used anywhere above row 20. No other tents will be allowed at any point inside the stadium areas. Tent City will be located across Tamarack Avenue on the south end of the Stadium at areas clearly marked for such purpose. Traffic across Tamarack Avenue will be blocked for the purpose of providing a safe walkway for pedestrians.

We ask everyone to be considerate of others and if using large golf or beach umbrellas, please move to the top of the bleachers.

NO TENTS, SEATING UNDER GRANDSTANDS:

No tents or seating of any kind is permitted under either side of the grandstands. These areas must be kept clear for everyone's convenience to allow access to restrooms and concession areas. Motorized carts will be utilized in these areas, so caution must be used.

TEAM ICE CHESTS:

Teams will be allowed to bring in ice chests inside tent city only. No ice chests will be allowed in the bleachers.

STADIUM BLEACHERS & CLEAN UP:

Please encourage your parents and athletes to not throw items over the bleachers. Items falling from the bleachers can cause severe injury to those walking around and behind the bleachers. Likewise, please ask your parents and athletes to clean up the "team area" during and after each day's competition. It will be appreciated.

ZERO TOLERANCE RULE:

TAUNTING & UN-SPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT - There will be a **zero tolerance** rule in effect through the duration of the meet for spectators, coaches and participants. **Should any "taunting" on the part of a participant be observed by meet officials they will be disqualified from the event. Likewise, if "taunting" on the part of any spectator or coach is observed by meet officials or security personnel, may result in being expelled from the stadium.** Please inform your athletes that if they utilize **any un-sportsmanlike conduct** they will be asked to leave the stadium and will be disqualified from the meet. This will also be the rule for coaches and spectators alike.

Again, you as a Coach / Parent are setting examples for the athletes. Your actions and leadership have a great impact on these young people. Make sure you set the right example and lead by example. We would ask that you report any actions that are considered unacceptable to security personnel or meet officials so that immediate action can be taken.

FLUIDS & SHADE: Don't let your athletes become dehydrated. Encourage them to seek shade and stay cool between competitions, and drink plenty of water, or appropriate fluids, throughout the meet! There will be plenty of water on the field and at the field events.

Best of luck to you and your athletes!