



ACCREDITATION STANDARDS TASK FORCE REPORT

Linda Bommicino, Pam Fales, Ed Koch, Herb Nicholls,
Members

Bill Roe, Secretary • Andy Martin and Sherry Quack, Staff



History

- **Prior to 1978 – AAU and its 58 Associations’ structure**
- **1978 – Amateur Sports Act 1 (Sports Act 2 1998)**
- **1979-80 – Formation of TAC/USA (became USATF in 1992)**
- **Minimal standards – have 200 members, hold democratic elections, and file forms with National Office**
- **1998-99 – Restructuring Task Force – original accreditation standards and awards structure put in place**
- **2011 – Associations Committee and Organizational Services Committee form Accreditation Standards Task Force**
- **2012 (June-November) – Conference calls with Task Force, invited guests, and staff to formulate report**
- **2012 (November) – Report released**

OLD REQUIRED STANDARDS

- **Individual members – 200 or 400 or 600, based on population**
- **Individual members per 100,000 population – 16 minimum**
- **Club members – 6 or 12 or 16, based on population**
- **Club members per 100,000 population – 0.4 minimum**
- **Certified officials – 30 or 40 or 50, based on population**
- **Association documents – all filed**
- **Association annual meeting – timely held**
- **Financial report – 990 form timely submitted**
- **Fiscal solvency – a positive net worth**
- **Association bylaws – current on file and in compliance**

OLD ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

- **Association championships – all nine disciplines**
- **Sanctions – 10 or 15 or 20, based on population**
- **Sanctions per 100,000 population – 0.5 minimum**
- **National delegates – 4 or 6 or 8, based on population**
- **Associations Committee attendance – at USATF Annual Meeting**
- **Website – meet established criteria**
- **Newsletter – print and/or electronic every year to every member**
- **Coaches Ed – Level 1 school every 4 or 8 years, based on population, with no requirement for small Associations**
- **Association Workshop – attendance once every two years**

discussion 1 • members

- **Prior to 1999, merely 200 individual members**
- **Original 600 members and minimum 20 members per 100,000 population.**
- **The Alaska proposal – 200 - 400 - 600 levels**
- **Modest reduction of 20 to 16 per 100,000**
- **Several factors have helped membership back over 100,000:**
- **On-line system**
- **Membership benefits program**
- **Youth program growth**
- **Adults memberships assisted mainly by LDR efforts**

discussion 1 • members

- Member publication upgraded to a magazine
- Modest marketing efforts
- Late-year renewal specials
- Substantial membership fee increase in 2007
- Membership now about 114,000
- Task Force proposes that the standard go back to its original 20 per 100,000.
- Task Force proposes a single fixed minimum at 400 members

discussion 2 • clubs

- **Prior to 1999, no standard**
- **Original standards a minimum of 16 clubs and 0.4 clubs per 100,000 population**
- **Alaska legislation set the fixed minimum to 6 - 12 - 16 levels**
- **In 2011, the number of member clubs had increased to 2860, or an average of about 50 clubs per Association**
- **Clubs seem to belong to one of three categories with some overlap: (1) Youth, (2) Adult LDR, (3) Adult Track & Field**
- **Task Force proposes a minimum standard of 12 clubs**
- **Task Force recommends a minimum standard of 50% membership in clubs**

discussion 3 • sanctions

- **In 1999, there were about 3,000 sanctions, an average of 54 per Association and about 1.2 per 100,000 population**
- **Standards were approved of a minimum of 20 sanctions and 0.5 sanctions per 100,000 population**
- **Alaska legislation set the minimums to 10 - 15 - 20 levels**
- **In 2011, the number of sanctions has reached 5,902, which is an average of about 104 per Association and about 1.8 per 100,000 population**
- **Task Force proposes 1.0 sanctions per 100,000 population, with a minimum of at least 20 sanctions for all Associations**

discussion 4 • championships

- **Original standard at least 1 championship in 8 disciplines**
- **Cross-country was later split from LDR in the standard**
- **Task Force recommends three LDR championships at the open and masters levels**
- **Task Force proposes increase to 21 different championships which could be held in as few as five competitions:**

Track & field including race walking – Youth, Men's, Women's, Masters

Cross Country – Youth, Men's, Women's, Masters

Road running (5 km to 5 miles) – Men's, Women's, Masters

Road running (10 km to 10 miles) – Mens, Women's, Masters

Road running (20 km to Marathon) – Men's, Women's, Masters

discussion 5 • OFFICIALS

- **Originally minimum 50 certified officials in each Association**
- **Alaska legislation set the minimum to 30 - 40 - 50 levels**
- **USATF has moved toward national uniformity of certification requirements**
- **Certified officials are required to maintain USATF membership – the Task Force recommends this number be used for the accreditation standard**
- **Given current levels, the Task Force recommends not raising the 30 official minimum for the Associations under 1 million at this time, but setting the minimum at 50 officials for all other Associations**

discussion 6 • SOLVENCY

- **This standard was added in 2009 as a simple test of whether each Association has a positive net worth**
- **Task Force considered making this standard even more stringent by requiring that an Association have a net worth over a certain minimum, for example, \$10,000.**
- **Task Force recommends keeping this standard as it is currently stated.**

discussion 7 • COMMUNICATION

- **Currently, two Association communications standards: (1) website and (2) newsletter at least once a year**
- **Task Force believes the website criteria to be sufficient**
- **Traditional newsletters have changed with advent of e-mail**
- **Task Force believes that e-mail communications should be more frequent**
- **Task Force recommends that Associations send out 2 e-mails to its full membership (at least 90-days apart) and also to membership segments in each calendar quarter**
- **Task Force believes the subject matter in the various e-mail communications should cover a wide range of the USATF sport disciplines and other information**
- **There is still a snail mail proviso, although less stringent**

discussion 8 • DOCUMENTS

- **Currently three different standards deal with documents**
- **Task Force recommends combining current standards that require Associations to provide documents into one new “Documents” standard**
- **These documents include:**
 - **the Association organic documents**
 - **the annual financial report**
 - **the Association’s bylaws**
 - **minutes of the Association’s annual meeting**

discussion 9 • REPRESENTATION

- **Currently, Associations are only required to attend a USATF Association workshop every two years, even though adequate funding is available on an annual basis**
- **Current standard for delegates at the Annual Meeting depend on the Association's population, but it seems the vast majority of Associations are able to send at least eight delegates**
- **Task Force recommends combining 3 current standards into one new "Representation" standard: (1) attend Associations Committee annual meeting, (2) attend annual Association workshop, and (3) have a minimum 8 delegates attend the USATF annual meeting**
- **Proposal includes an exception for financial hardship clause**

discussion 10 • coaches ed

- Originally each Association host a Level 1 school every four years.
- The Alaska legislation set this standard to 4 - 8 - never
- Coaches Ed has adopted its own policy to have a Level One school in every Association every four years
- Task Force proposes creating uniformity by requiring a school during each four-year Olympiad

NEW REQUIRED STANDARDS

- **Individual members – 20 per 100k population, minimum 400**
- **Club members – 50% of membership, minimum 12 clubs**
- **Sanctions – 1.0 per 100k population, minimum 20**
- **Championships – 21 minimum in minimum 5 events**
- **Officials – minimum 50, except 30 in small Associations**
- **Fiscal solvency – a positive net worth**
- **Communications – web site and e-mail standards revised**
- **Association documents – all filed**
- **Representation – Workshop, Committee, USA TF Annual Mtg**
- **Coaches Ed – one Level 1 school each Olympiad**

THE CYCLE

- **Original question was should the cycle be 1, 2, or 4 years**
- **Four-year cycle did not make sense**
- **One-year cycle was thought to create a huge workload**
- **The RTF compromised and proposed a two-year cycle**
- **Now felt that the workload is significant no matter what the year of the cycle**
- **The task force recommends that – to simplify the timeline and to create a better understanding of the process – the cycle should become an annual cycle**

THE AWARDS

- **Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards established in 1999**
- **Association needed to meet all standards and also perform at a higher level in members, clubs, and sanctions**
- **Task Force recommends the following awards structure:**

REQUIRED:	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Members per 100,000 population	35.0	50.0	60.0
Sanctions per 100,000 population	2.0	3.0	4.0
TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:	BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD
Membership % belonging to clubs	60.0%	66.7%	75.0%
Hosting championships	1	2	3
Officials per 100,000 population	3.0	4.0	5.0
Amount of Net Worth	\$25K	\$50K	\$100K
Delegates at Annual Meeting	10	12	Max*

**The Gold standard for USATF Annual Meeting delegates is met by having at least the maximum number permitted for your Association based on your individual membership.*

SUPPORT FOR ASSOCIATIONS

- **A number of initiatives during the past thirteen years**
- **Still, much more could be done**
- **It is no accident that the USATF Associations with the largest memberships are also the Associations with offices with at least one paid staffer**
- **Little progress in 13 years concerning Association offices**
- **How to create more Association offices?**
- **A rising tide of memberships lifts all boats**
- **More national programs tie-in regional or local competition**
- **Direct efforts to start-up pilot offices**

SUMMARY STEPS

- **Approval by Associations Committee**
- ***APPROVED* by Organizational Services Committee**
- **Forward to Board for their approval**
- **Let's keep the momentum on Association improvement going forward!**

Linda Bommicino

Ed Koch

Pam Fales

Herb Nicholls

Bill Roe, Secretary

Assistance and input from Karen Krsak, Andy Martin, Sherry Quack, Pat Pretty, Jim McKee, and Len Krsak