



**June 2009**

**A NOTE FROM RHONDA BLANFORD-GREEN**

I would like to sincerely “Thank” all the officials who assisted with the success of the 2009 CHSAA State Track and Field Championships. This was one of the most professional and knowledgeable officiating crews “including the Assistant Umpires (smile)” that I have had the honor to work along-side. There were many changes and the officials just dug in and performed their duties to the highest of standards. I share all accolades for the success of the Championships with you because without your support and commitment the event doesn’t go. We are meeting to review the event so please note that some of your suggestions on schedule and meet management will be taken into consideration. Thanks again and I look forward to working with you again at the State Cross Country Meet and / or the 2010 State Track and Field Championships.

**DEADLINE FOR OFFICIAL’S DUES**

In order for you to be recognized as a “Certified Official” for the cross country season in the Fall of 2009 and a Track and Field Official in the Spring of 2010, you must have paid your dues by June 22, 2009 (\$38.00). If you did not pay your dues by this date, you may pay them at any time prior to working as a certified official in the fall and spring. The cost for late dues is \$48.00.

**Note:** There is a simple and easy way to pay your dues and save yourself the cost of an envelope and a stamp. You can pay your dues on-line. You will need your account number (that is on your check) and you will need your routing number before you go on line to pay your dues. There is a 15 cent charge for doing this and it is paid for by CHSAA. Go to the CHSAA website.

As of June 9, 2009, we had ninety five (95) officials who have paid their dues. This past year, we had 266 registered officials, 255 in 07-08, 275 in 06-07, and 255 in 05-06.

**FEE INCREASE FOR MILEAGE**

For the 2009 cross country season and the 2010 track season, mileage has been increased from .28 cents per mile to .36 cents per mile (round trip) for any official who travels more than 20 miles one way. The exception is that officials in the Metro Denver or Colorado Springs Metro area will receive a \$2.00 stipend for travel to a site to officiate. A \$4.00 travel stipend reimbursement for the Metro Denver and Colorado Springs area was rescinded at the CHSAA April Board of Control Meeting.

### **TRACK OFFICIATING FEES REMAIN THE SAME FOR 2009/2010**

Cross Country fees for the fall of 2009 and track officiating fees for the spring of 2010 will remain the same. There is no increase in officiating fees for next year.

### **JEWELRY AND UNIFORM VIOLATIONS EXIST IN OTHER SPORTS**

At our Partner's meeting that was held at the CHSAA office on June 9, 2009 from 6-9 p.m., a discussion was held regarding jewelry and uniform issues in sports including track. Just when I thought track was the only sport that experienced this problem, I now know differently.

Gymnastics reported that they have been having an issue with jewelry and undergarments being exposed during competition and the inconsistency that exists in the rules being enforced by officials early in the season. Athletes are saying that officials are not enforcing the uniform/jewelry rule in the early season and then they are getting hammered in the late season.

In soccer, the officials require coaches to verify before a game that their athletes are properly equipped. This means that athletes are wearing the required uniform and no jewelry. If an athlete is found to be in violation after that, the athlete is escorted to the sidelines by the official and the coach is "yellow carded". It never happens twice in one game.

In swimming, jewelry and uniform issues exist as well. It was interesting to know that their uniform issue has to do with swimmers wearing multiple suits to compress their bodies in order to make their bodies more streamlined to achieve faster times. Some suits that can be worn cost as much as \$600.00 and if you don't have one, you are not in the race due to the advanced technology in today's suits. Colorado has said you can only wear one suit while competing.

It was reported by the volleyball president that, she has received reports that the jewelry rule is hardly ever enforced in some parts of the state and when these teams travel to other parts of the state, they are being penalized. The first word from those coaches and athletes is "how come the rule is being enforced now when it hasn't been all year? It was also reported that one team arrived at the state play-offs with illegal uniforms that they had played in all year. The officials in that area were contacted and asked why.

In softball, when the jewelry rule is violated, the first offense is a warning and on the second offense, the coach is restricted to the dug-out. Athletes who are found with jewelry are asked to remove it.

THEREFORE, it goes without saying "rules are to be enforced from the first meet of the season to the last meet of the season."

### **DISABLED TRACK & FIELD OFFICIATING – THOMAS SOUTHALL**

For the past 3 years, I have spent part of early June in Edmond, OK., working as a track official at the Endeavor Games – a sports festival for physically disabled athletes sponsored by the University of Central Oklahoma. The opportunity to work with these courageous athletes of all ages has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my officiating career. I encourage all of

you to seek out opportunities to get involved with disabled track and field. Plans are being made to have a Paralympic officiating certification class as part of the track clinic on February 5 – 6, 2010. This class will discuss the track and field rules modifications made for disabled competition and show some of the equipment used by competitors in various events.

I hope you will join me in this opportunity to broaden your officiating skills and develop a greater appreciation for this tremendous group of athletes.

### **THANK YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

On behalf of Thomas Southall, Jim Gjerde, KC. Logan, Bob Blair, Rhonda Blanford-Green and myself, we thank you for another great season and for your commitment to making this sport a fun, exciting and rewarding experience for the student-athletes of our state. We look forward to seeing you next year.

### **YOUR QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

Over the course of the season, we were either e-mailed or called by officials, coaches, or athletic directors who had questions or needed clarification on numerous issues. As always, we welcome your questions and we attempt to get back with you in a timely manner. Please continue contacting us with all of your questions, concerns, and/or praises

### **INSURANCE YOU GET WITH YOUR CTFOA MEMBERSHIP**

When you pay your dues (\$38.00) \$12.00 of your dues goes toward insurance for you. You can access [www.BollingerNFHS.com](http://www.BollingerNFHS.com) for valuable information on what your policy covers.

NASO insurance (National Association of Sports Officials) is NOT covered under this policy. If you are interested in NASO Insurance, please contact NASO on-line at [www.naso-on.org](http://www.naso-on.org). This policy covers accident medical expenses, hospital, injuries, total disability, etc.

The CHSAA Partners (presidents of all sports) meet twice per year at the CHSAA offices.

### **OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED AT THE 2009 STATE T&F CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Every year the CTFOA recognizes officials that have made major contributions to the sports of cross country and track and field for thousands of student athletes across our state over the years.

This year's recipients were:

Sherry Kimball, Bayfield

DeWayne Crumb, Colorado Springs

Don Miller, Glenwood Springs

Dennis Teeters, Grand Junction

Joe Shields, West Grand

**IT HAS BEEN GREAT SERVING YOU AS PRESIDENT OF CTFOA**

Having served two terms as President of the CTFOA, I will be turning over the reins of this office to Thomas Southall in August of 2009. Thomas is an outstanding individual and one who will carry the torch for cross country and track and field for the next two years. I will be moving to the office of Past-President on the Executive Board and serve the CTFOA in that capacity. Having served in public education for 36 years as a teacher, coach and administrator, it has been a rewarding experience to have met and worked with wonderful and exciting individuals such as you. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity and for your commitment to the sports of cross country and track and field. I would like to thank my officiating colleagues, the CTFOA Executive Board, the coaches and the student athletes that we serve for making this a great run. I would also like to thank Rhonda Blanford Green and Tom Robinson for their guidance and support and for the work they do at CHSAA on our behalf.

**OFFICE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT (CTFOA)**

If you or someone you know is interested in serving as President-Elect of CTFOA for the next two years, you may contact any one of us below and we will make sure their name is placed on the ballot for this office in the near future.

Sincerely,

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