

## USATF Illinois Race Walk Committee Update October 2016

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Many things have been moving along in Race Walking. I completed and posted on the USATF site for Event Directors; How to Organize an Event; Race Walk Hosting Guideline; *Planning Outline for Race Walk Championship and Trials Events* and the *Day of Event Race Walk Course Set-up Check List*. I have completed the new and revised Race Walking Officiating Handbook, and this along with the race walk officials judging forms should be now posted on the USATF Official Resources site.

In addition, I've been coordinating and compiling information from all Race Walk Chairs. This was finalized and a survey went out to all to garner information from all Associations and Regions whether they have race walk programs, master, and youth, number of officials and where there are areas which can be improved, need assistance, or are outstanding and can share their successes. The deadline was October 10, and the final survey results will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

My mission has always been to provide youth athletes, coaches, parents and officials the information, through clinics, the joy of the sport of race walking. I do this as well for masters athletes, and in May hosted a clinic at Dick Pond Athletic, with the assistance of my assistant coach and four of my young athletes. On May 7. I and my committee, and officials are dedicated and interested in hosting clinics for any club or group.

Through my coaching efforts of the Elgin Sharks we garnered the two top Junior Race Walk Athletes, male and female 2015, Anthony Peters and Anali Cisneros. These two qualified and competed at the World Team Race Walk Championships in Rome on May 7. Anthony Peters and Jennifer Lopez at the World Team Trials qualified, in their 2<sup>nd</sup> 20k, and competed in the Olympic Trials 20k on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Salem, Oregon. I was proud to be selected and officiate at the Olympic Trials 20k Race Walks.

The placement of Anthony and Jennifer at the Olympic Trials qualified them for the NACAC Under 23 Championships in El Salvador in early August. Anthony finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jennifer 6<sup>th</sup>.

As a serious coach I bit the bullet and was accepted to the Level 2 Coaches training. I spent three months rigorously studying for 11 exams, and spent one week at the training sessions in late July for my final four exams and week with Youth specialization (meaning we study all sports). I finished in the 96 percentile and it was so worth the time and effort. Happily the instructor in our division let me teach my fellow coaches race walking, and there was much interest. This may have been due to my announcing that day we started that my Junior female athlete broke the American High School and Junior record for the 10,000m and 10k at the World Under 20 Championships in Poland. Yes, our Elgin Shark Anali Cisneros is a true champion. She broke the record held by two-time Olympian Maria Michta-Coffey since 2005 with a finish of 49:31.88. This places her again as the top USATF Race Walk Junior for 2016.

The outcome of my session at Level 2... I am sending information to these coaches, and helping a group in Sacramento. Their coach was my roomie. I'll be going out in February to train the coaches, athletes, parents and officials. Also assisting a Wisconsin NAIA coach who now has added race walking, and has one of the top females from Texas.

At this time The Elgin Sharks race walkers are the largest and strongest of the clubs in the country. We now have 19 race walkers, ranging in age from 11 to 18. I took two qualifying female Sharks to the Junior Nationals in Clovis, CA. Anali Cisneros and Nayeli Cisneros. Both on the podium, with Anali in first qualifying for the Worlds in Poland.

The Sharks had a strong year and our largest group ever qualified at Regionals for the J.O.'s. We took 11 athletes and 9 were on the podium, and two were first place Champions. We can not be more proud of our Illinois athletes.

In addition, five of our older Sharks are now competing in race walking at NAIA colleges. Anthony Peters, Jennifer Lopez, Cassandra Delgado and Emilio Mancha are at St. Ambrose in Davenport, IA. And Anali Cisneros started her freshman year at Judson University in Elgin.

As mentioned prior the Pit Lane for the race walks is now in use for all events for Juniors at this time. It was used at the World Team Trials in St. Louis in the spring and used at the Junior Nationals in Clovis, California, and the J.O. Olympics in Sacramento for the 3000m races. To explain, this comes from IAAF and when an athlete receives three red cards, instead of being disqualified, they will spend 1-2 minutes in the pit lane (depending on the distance of the race). Once the time is up, they can return to the race. If a fourth red card comes in (before, during or after the pit lane) they will be disqualified. It's meant to give the athlete an extra chance.

I will not report my opinion on this here. I would be glad to speak with anyone on whether it works or has any value.

Once the new officials test are available, I will be hosting the Race Walk Officials clinic, which is required to officiate race walks. I will post that information on the USATF Illinois site once a date and time is confirmed.

AND... I am running again for Vice Chair of Race Walking at the Annual Meetings. I missed by three votes last time, but became Vice Chair in 2015 when the elected Vice Chair resigned.