Iowa USATF Association Annual Meeting Summary

December 18, 2025

Meeting Type: Virtual Annual Meeting **Host:** Jim Walczyk **Document Date:** December 18, 2025

Attendees: Jay Gruenwald, Al Geiger, Jeff Richards, Curt Broek, Ryan Elsbernd, Britta Wey, Jordan Andrews, Eric Pingel, Steve Bobenhouse, and others

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2025 Year in Review

Competition & Participation

- **Indoor Meet:** 78 youth + 22 open/masters athletes — trending upward but still below the pre-COVID high of approximately 200
- **Outdoor Meet:** 651 youth + 50 open/masters — youth numbers are back to pre-COVID levels
- **Cross-Country:** 164 participants — a strong showing compared to recent years
- **Records:** 22 youth and 28 masters records were set at the outdoor meet
- **Regional Meet (Iowa-hosted):** Nearly 1,300 participants; Minnesota and Nebraska out-entered the host state

Membership & Accreditation

- **Membership:** At an all-time high, surpassing even pre-COVID levels — driven largely by youth membership growth
- **Accreditation:** Officials numbers and event sanctions are in good standing

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National Meeting Highlights

- Fewer attendees this year; no subcommittee meetings held — general and regular sessions only
- Official training is expanding and improving in the coming year
- **World Athletics certification** discussed as a pathway for younger officials (especially bronze level) to eventually work international meets
- **Para athletics** was a recurring theme — strong encouragement for all officials to get involved
- **Meeting format going forward:** Hybrid annual meetings, alternating between in-person and hybrid years
- **Next annual meeting:** Portland, OR — likely first weekend of December 2026

Grants for Officials

Multiple grant programs are available through USATF. Applications were due the Sunday of the national meeting. Programs and contacts are listed below.

Grant Program	Contact
Young Officials Grant	Don Berry
New Officials Grant	Don Berry
Rising Technical Manager	Robert Kern
Rising Implement Inspector	Robert Kern
Apprentice Referee	Dolores Murray

2026 Plans & Upcoming Events

Event Calendar

Event	Date	Location
Officials Training (EDM, Weights & Measures)	January 11	TBD
Officials Training (All Other Events)	January 25	TBD

Event	Date	Location
Youth Awards Ceremony + Clubs Workshop	February 1	Johnston or West Des Moines
Indoor Meet	March 22	Central College
Outdoor Meet	June 20–21	Iowa State
Combined Events Meet	June 27–28	Central College, Pella

Additional Planning Notes

- **Indoor Pentathlon:** May be added to the indoor meet program
- **Combined Events Meet:** Will be actively marketed to high school athletes and Division III college recruits; a Saturday morning clinic is planned
- **Road Races:** Jim plans to expand partnerships with Steve, Dan, and Jordan
- **Para Events:** Ryan Elsbernd and the team will push to include para athletes at the June JO Association meet, coordinating with Hannah Bowman at Adaptive Sports Iowa

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Operational Topics

Infrastructure & Administration

- **Timing System:** The shared system with Waukee has broken down. Options under consideration include borrowing from Pella or North Polk, or renting from Josh
- **Website:** Consolidating to the national USATF platform; the old site may be retained for file storage only
- **Newsletter:** Jim wants to launch a regular monthly or bi-monthly newsletter
- **Monthly Meetings:** Jordan Andrews will help organize short monthly check-in meetings
- **Bylaws:** Updated and approved; further refinement is planned
- **Voting/Elections:** Jim wants to formalize board positions and hold actual elections going forward

- **SafeSport:** Mixed signals on enforcement requirements; Jim is actively monitoring

Officials Pipeline

- Curt B noted frustration with prospective officials not completing certification
- Suggestions made to survey prospective officials and better communicate the value of certification
- Jim wants to advocate for reducing the association's cut of membership fees to make certification more affordable for officials

> **Action Item — Officials Outreach**
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> Survey prospective officials who did not complete certification to understand barriers; develop clearer messaging around the value and benefits of becoming a certified USATF official.

Youth Awards

- Nominations are open with a strong response — more clubs participating than in prior years
- Voting is planned for the following week, open for approximately two weeks
- **Awards Ceremony:** February 1 — location TBD (Johnston or West Des Moines)

Financials

Item	Detail
Current Reserves	**~$20,000+ in the bank**

Item	Detail
2025 Year-End Projection	Slightly in the black
2026 Budget Projection (Net Gain)	**$7,000–$8,000** — not counting any Iowa State contribution for hosting the outdoor meet

> **Note**
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> The 2026 projected net gain of $7,000–$8,000 does not include any potential contribution from Iowa State University for hosting the outdoor meet. Final figures may be higher depending on that arrangement.