

April 16, 2020

## DIAA Track and Field Committee - Conference Call

Attendees - Charlie Pollard, Gordon Thomson, Marnie Guinta, Kai Maull, George Pepper, Peg McCoy, Megan McClelland, Pat Castagno, Jim Fischer, Mark Armstrong, Rick Scheuder, Ralph Heiss

Also - Donna Polk, DIAA

Quorum present.

Agenda as proposed - approved

Minutes of February meeting - approved

C.Pollard - impact of Covid 19 - general discussion from all - impact on all activities, reaction of being patient to further developments

D.Polk - possibility that practice may begin by May 18th, and competition beginning week of May 26th - contingent on Governor's guidelines. No official decision has been made regarding competition or setting of the State Championship meets. Decision to be discussed at next month's board meeting. C.Pollard will be listed as Track and Field representative for public comment, and will forward information to our committee.

Discussion regarding input from Principals and Athletic Directors about participation in sports programs after May 15th - some schools may not continue with the academic year, some may choose to not participate even if still in session, others may consider modifications to plans.

C.Pollard - concern among coaches that one week of practice is not a realistic time frame to properly prepare athletes..Some teams are working out on their own, others are not.

Pat Castagno - concern about possible conflict with graduation ceremonies. D.Polk proposed checking through a survey of schools.

M. Guinta - consider holding events offering individual competition. P. Castagno - could be considered as preparation for a championship event. K. Maull - specific challenge for jumpers, needing access to facilities ( jump pits). C.Pollard - high level of challenge to sprinters and jumpers to properly prepare for competition.

D.Polk - surrounding states (PA,MD, also DC) have cancelled or are reviewing decisions.

J. Fischer - has athletes who are concerned about getting results to aid in recruiting potential. K. Maull - some athletes are being recruited already, but all are in the same situation.

C. Pollard - Delaware Governor makes the call to return. P. McCoy - Delaware, as a smaller state, could respond differently, lower travel requirements, adding that team competition may be difficult but individual events could be offered.

M. McClelland - food industry hit very hard with situation, deep challenge to become operational, reflects impact on any spectator gatherings. C. Pollard - restaurants can offer food to go, social distance plan, does not allow likely financial benefits.

D. Polk - Board will consider possible modified spring season. Factors - amount of schools continuing to participate, including non-conference schools, AD scheduling. Issues to be reviewed - impact on eligibility, physicals, start of Fall season, coaching in summer, availability of officials, availability of facilities, financial costs.

C. Pollard - Governor's announcement due by May 15th. J. Fischer - May 18th presents possible options. M. Guinta - team competition unlikely, but perhaps individual events could be presented. D. Polk - probably not team competition. C. Pollard, R. Heiss - consider individual competition, allows opportunity for athletes and coaches, perhaps open invitational - D. Polk - could this take place within four weeks - C. Pollard - yes. M. Guinta - should happen within that time span. M. Armstrong - USATF and other organizations may be conducting their events. P. Castagno - New Balance outdoor events scheduled - late June, may lower standards to promote entries.

M. Armstrong - contacted 50 officials, 20 said probably available, others possible.

C. Pollard - do we propose conducting some type of meet. D. Polk - support considered at DIAA meeting - possible formats needed from T & F committee. J. Fischer - would have to occur very soon after possible approval from the Board. C. Pollard - we can as a committee propose a celebration meet, without team points. Discussion regarding financing such a meet. We would consider this as a way of honoring seniors and allow participation. M. Guinta - could call it meet of champions, no team titles, all or some events, how many from each school would participate, T & F committee would develop entry standards. J. Fischer - individuals would choose entry through their own decisions. D. Polk - would be student athlete meet, not team championship. C. Pollard - T & F committee chooses events, matter of fairness if not all events allowed. D. Polk - date of championship possibly after June 20th, so perhaps June 27th. K. Maull - possible conflict with USATF meets, which would likely be preference of athletes. C. Pollard - no divisions proposed.

C. Pollard - Governor Carney may call off schools for the entire remainder of this school year. R. Heiss - motion - we should consider the opportunity to have a meet for all athletes. M. McClelland - seconded - approved - all.

C. Pollard - consider future championship dates and sites. D.Polk - will have an email about a proposed schedule. Kevin Charles has worked on a set up, as AD's were looking for a three to five year calendar. D.Polk - Board has formed a scheduling committee. D.Polk - Indoor meet again at PGSC, mid to late February. R.Heiss - Saturday needed. Possibly Feb. 20th. D. Polk - DIIA follows regulations regarding the 35th week to begin spring sports. C. Pollard - try to schedule final events before Memorial Day. Committee motion - accept proposed schedule - seconded - approved by all.

C.Pollard - updates to manual - three year evaluation of standards, consider the current season as having no impact. D.Polk - looking to update manuals for all sports.

C.Pollard - consider how other states are responding to the situation. G. Thomson - New Balance and Olympics not likely. R. Heiss - probably not practical to have any end of season meets this year. M.Guinta - could consider a virtual meet.

D. Polk - could provide a twitter message from committee. Expressed her thanks for our committee's efforts.

6:35 - Adjourned.

Submitted,

Ralph Heiss