

NEW ENGLAND PREPARATORY SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD ASSOCIATION

Fall Executive Meeting
Sunday, September 27, 2009
Noble & Greenough School

NEPSTA Executive Board

President: Steve Klots (klotss@southkentschool.net)

Vice President: Hilary Coder (on sabbatical) (hcoder@exeter.edu)

Treasurer: Livingston Carroll (livingston.carroll@roxburylatin.org)

Secretary: Bob Kern (kern@nobles.edu)

Annual Spring Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 4:00 pm in Sturbridge, MA

Minutes

Meeting began at 11:30 A.M.

In Attendance: *John Bourgault, Jeff Browne, Donald Cameron, Livingston Carroll, Dennis Cullinane, Jon Davie, Fritz Goodman, Fran Kirby, Paul Karasch, Bob Kern, Steve Klots, Bob Moore, Dan McDonough, Moriah Musto, Steve Polikoff, Rachel Powers, Gretchen Schimelpfenig*

NEPSTA/NEPSAC Liaison: Bob Moore, Noble and Greenough School athletic director, was introduced as the first liaison between NEPSTA and NEPSAC. His willingness to serve in this capacity is appreciated.

Treasurer's Report: see attached pdf file for complete report presented by Liv Carroll. NEPSTA finances are healthy, and a surplus of funds was reported. This report instigated a flood of ideas about how to make use of this surplus such as reduction of entry fees, reduction of annual dues, NEPSTA funding of an all-star XC meet, and use of chip timing for XC championship races. All of these ideas were discussed as the meeting unfolded.

Divisions List for XC Championships: All requests for division changes must be submitted to the four-person NEPSTA Executive Board by June 15. Several changes in the five XC divisions were approved. Wheeler withdrew petition to switch to D5, and Chapel Hill Chauncy Hall was welcomed as a new NEPSTA member among other changes. The attached pdf file lists the current XC division designations for the NEPSTA member schools. Note that D5 has become quite large.

Dues and Entry Fees for XC and Track: NEPSTA Annual Dues is \$40 per school. Entry Fees for XC Championships are \$150 per varsity team. For Track and Field Championships, it was decided to institute a new flat rate entry fee system. The flat rate fees per varsity team are: \$225 for D1, \$200 for D2, and \$175 for D3. The treasurer has the right to "pro rate" the fee for a small team. The flat rate fee system will be reviewed after one year to monitor its effectiveness and fairness.

Please Note: All fees and dues should be sent to Liv Carroll at the Roxbury Latin School. **Checks:** Checks should be made payable to **Roxbury Latin - NEPSTA or NEPSTA- Roxbury Latin**.

Mailing Entry Information for XC and Track Championships: For XC Championships, a mailing with race and entry information should be sent out by Columbus Day weekend. XC race directors should attend the Fall Board Meeting. It was also recommended that race information be posted on the host school's website. For Track and Field Championships, a mailing with meet and entry information should be sent out by April 15. Directors of Track and Field Championships should attend the Annual Spring Meeting. NEPSAC encourages the use of the NEPSAC website (www.nepsac.org) to report scores, records, and other information about our XC and Track teams. The moderator of the website is Laurie Sachs (l.sachs@rivers.org).

Liaison Bob Moore will convey information about Entry Fees and Entry Information to NEPSAC.

Spring 2009 Track & Field Championships Recap:

See page one of these Minutes for information about Track & Field entry fees and entry information.

D1 at Andover: There was no representative from Andover at the Fall Meeting, but it was reported that the Spring Championships went well. It was also reported that Corbin Lang at Andover (clang@andover.edu) has compiled a manual for running Track & Field Championships much like the one Donald Cameron at Brooks has assembled for XC Championships. The 2010 D1 Track & Field Championships will be held at Deerfield. Please contact Dennis Cullinane (dcullinane@deerfield.edu).

Site Rotation for D1 Track: **Deerfield (2010, 2011)**, Choate (2012, 2013), NMH (2014, 2015), Exeter (2016, 2017), Loomis-Chaffee (2018, 2019), St. Paul's (2020, 2021).

D2 at Williston (Thayer meet directors): It was reported that the D2 Championships went smoothly despite the arrival of rain toward the end. It is hoped that the new flat rate entry fee system will facilitate the timely payment of these fees. The 2010 D2 Track & Field Championships will be held at Governor's Academy. Please contact Steven Suomi (ssuomi@govsacademy.org).

Site Rotation for D2 Track: **Governor's (2010)**, Williston (2011). The two schools will alternate as hosts.

D3 at Portsmouth Abbey (assisted by St. George's): Problems were reported in the long jump and pole vault at the D3 Championships. D3 continues to be plagued by an excessive number of participants, lack of track facilities and potential hosts, and inexperienced coaches who are unable to serve as judges/timers of events. To address the numbers issue, it was suggested that guidelines be tightened for entrants in all events. It was also suggested that we explore the possibility of creating a D4 for Track & Field or consider realigning the three existing divisions. The lack of track facilities is a more difficult problem. Portsmouth Abbey/St. George's has hosted the D3 championships for eight consecutive years. Fortunately, Hyde (CT) has just built a new track which will be used for the Spring 2010 D3 Championships. However, there are no solid plans for future sites. Loomis (D1) as well as other "outside" track facilities were mentioned as possible alternative D3 championship sites. It was also suggested that Hyde (ME) be queried about future track plans. Finding officials to judge/time our meets is difficult according to President Steve Klots. There was some mention of using parents to judge/time certain events, but it was cautioned that parents should not judge events in which their own child is competing. **It was generally agreed that all these issues be discussed at the Spring Meeting and that any school participating in the D3 Championships should have a representative at this meeting.** The 2010 D3 Track & Field Championships will be held at Hyde School (CT). Please contact John Rigney (jrigney@hyde.edu).

Track Championship Sites for Spring 2010:

D1 (Deerfield Academy, contact Dennis Cullinane dcullinane@deerfield.edu)

D2 (Governor's Academy, contact Steven Suomi (ssuomi@govsacademy.org),

D3 (Hyde School (CT), contact John Rigney jrigney@hyde.edu)

Fall 2009 XC Championships:

D1	Northfield Mt. Hermon School	Jim Block	jblock@nmhschool.org
D2	Roxbury Latin School	Liv Carroll	livingston.carroll@roxburylatin.org
D3	Groton School	Bill Maguire	bmaguire@groton.org
D4	Canterbury School	David Wilson	dwilson@cbury.org
D5	Berwick Academy	Jon Davie	jdavie@berwickacademy.org

No representative was present from Northfield Mt. Hermon, Canterbury or Groton.

Important reminder: On your XC Championships entry roster, you may list up to 24 runners per team. You may not make substitutions or additions on race day. On race day, any seven of them will be eligible for the varsity race and up to twelve more for the JV race. You must run a full varsity team (7 runners) before you can enter anyone in the corresponding JV race.

Other reminders:

A mailing containing race day information, course map, and registration materials should be sent out by Columbus Day weekend by the race director in each division. It was also recommended that race information be placed on the host school's website. NEPSAC encourages the use of the NEPSAC website (www.nepsac.org) to report scores, records, and other information about our XC and Track teams. The moderator of the website is Laurie Sachs (l.sachs@rivers.org).

Meet directors should be in contact with Granite State Race Services (GSRS, Bob Teschek email racetime@gprs.com).

Find out which "race team" (from GSRS) is actually coming to your site and discuss any issues directly with them. Be sure to send your course record to GSRS.

All team entries should be sent to the meet directors who should check them for proper format (ask GSRS). Rosters should be sent by meet directors to GSRS one week before race.

Site rotation for D1 XC: **NMH**, Deerfield, Andover, St. Paul's, Loomis-Chaffee

Future Site for D2 XC: Berkshire (Bill Gullotta) will host in 2010. First race will start at 1:00 and police may be hired for traffic safety

Future Sites for D5 XC: Lexington Christian is possible host for 2010. Great Brook in Carlisle was suggested as a potential off-campus future site. Liv Carroll reminds us that NEPSTA will pay for large tent and portable toilet rentals.

D3, and D4 as yet have no proposed sites for 2010 XC Championships.

All schools planning to enter teams in future XC Championships should send a representative to the Annual Spring Meeting to help in finding sites for future XC championship meets.

NEPSTA XC All-Star Meet: At the 2009 Spring Meeting, coaches discussed the idea of having an “all star” meet, following the New England Championships, in which the top individuals from each divisional race would compete. Details such as the exact number of individuals participating and the date of the meet were left undecided. However the concept of such a meet was passed on to NEPSAC for approval. Mark Conroy recently reported that NEPSAC approved the concept of the all star meet. They stipulated that the meet consist of the top seven individuals from each division and that the meet be held on the Saturday following the New England Championships. A Wednesday date was ruled out by NEPSAC for travel/cost reasons. The NEPSAC proposal was discussed at our Fall Meeting, and it was generally agreed that we should increase the number of individuals from each division from seven to fifteen and keep the date as NEPSAC stipulated. It was also emphasized that this should be a meet of individuals with no team scoring. Furthermore, it was suggested that NEPSTA support the running of this meet either by using some of its surplus funds or by raising the New England XC Championships entry fee to \$175. Worcester Academy was suggested as a possible site for the meet. Some coaches still have reservations about the meet due to its closeness to the Foot Locker Championships (Saturday after Thanksgiving), the difficulty of peaking for another big race, conflicts with the start up of winter sports, and the fact that some schools may not be in session on the proposed meet date. NEPSTA President Steve Klots concluded the discussion by saying he will bring our revised proposal to NEPSAC with the hopes of an inaugural all star meet in the fall of 2010. He also suggested that coaches poll their teams to gauge runners’ interest in competing in this race.

NEPSTA Annual Spring Meeting Attendance Policy: It was generally agreed that our current policy of attendance (once every two years) is suitable. However it was also stated that coaches should make an effort to attend every year. To address environmental and cost concerns, it was recommended that carpooling be used as much as possible. The penalty for failure to comply with the attendance policy is a fine of \$50 and required attendance at the next annual meeting. For school’s already in violation of the attendance policy, the fine is \$100 and required attendance at the next annual meeting. If these conditions are not met, the school will not be invited to attend future NEPSTA championship meets.

Chip Timing for XC Championships: One of the ideas of how to use some of our budget surplus is to investigate the use of computer chip timing for our XC championships. Granite State offers the chips for \$1.50 per runner which would cost us an estimated \$2500 over our five XC divisions. However Steve Klots has obtained a more cost effective quote from Fast Track Timing LLC. Donald Cameron plans to speak with Granite State to see if they can counter with a better offer. There was some mention of problems using chip timing such as the chips falling off during the race. However, it was generally agreed that if the chips are used properly, they will make running our championships much easier. For example, much less training of chute volunteers will be necessary.

In a related matter, John Bourgault from Avon Old Farms recommends a scoring company called The Last Mile. John used their services for one year and mentioned they were less expensive than Granite State. Donald Cameron cautioned that NEPSTA would like a commitment from any new scoring company to manage all five of our divisional XC meets. Please contact President Steve Klots or Donald Cameron (dcameron@brooksschool.org) if you have more information about this company or others.

Eligibility Requirements for Track & Field: To compete in NEPSTA Track & Field Championships, a school’s program must meet the definition of a team. The program must be open to all students. The program must be described on the school’s website and be well advertised to inform students about the existence of the program. Privately trained athletes do not constitute a team. There is no current official deadline to declare a team, though it was generally agreed that September 1 seems a reasonable date. Liaison, Bob Moore agreed to consult NEPSAC to see if they have determined a deadline by which a school must meet the criteria of what constitutes a team.

New Business

Canterbury Host of 2009 D4 XC Championships: President Steve Klots explained that Canterbury School was allowed to switch divisions from D3 to D4 in order to host the D4 XC Championships this year. All other options were investigated and proved fruitless; there were simply no other hosts available. All D4 schools were informed of the problem and our proposed solution before the final decision was made. Steve went on to explain that divisions are based not only on school size but also on strength of program. Canterbury will return to D3 next year.

While on this topic, it was also noted that getting hosts for all XC division championships is problematic. Donald Cameron from Brooks School generously offered his campus as a D4 XC site on alternate years if computer chip system is used for timing. Rivers School has looked into hosting XC championships at Elmbank. For off-campus sites such as this, a large tent could substitute for an auditorium and portable toilets could be rented. It was generally agreed that showers are not a necessity. NEPSTA will provide funding for rentals.

Spring Meeting Agenda Items: Paul Karasch of Rivers requests that if you place an item on the agenda for the Spring Meeting, you should attend the spring meeting to present your idea. Without someone to present an idea, it may fail to generate discussion. There was general agreement on this sentiment.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Kern
NEPSTA Secretary