

# USA TRACK AND FIELD SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

## USATF Officials Recertification and Certification for 2017-2020

**Timeline:** 2017-2020 Recertification/Certification will not begin until after November 1, 2016.

**Explanation:**

1. USATF Membership is required through at least **December 31, 2017**. A 2016 membership will expire December 31, 2016. Before November 1<sup>st</sup>, you cannot acquire a 2017 online membership without paying for a 2016 membership.
2. Currently, USATF is beginning to provide updated rules reviews, database forms, and new requirements for the upcoming Olympiad (2017-2020). (Oct 25)

### **REQUIREMENTS for re-certifications /new certifications:**

1. USATF Membership valid through 2017 or beyond
  - a. To remain as an “active” official, USATF membership is required each year by March 31<sup>st</sup> or have a multiple year membership.
2. Completion SafeSport Training completed (requires a valid USATF membership and is free)
3. Background check- NCSI – link to USATF website (after Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>), resources, officials. USATF Membership/Password required; \$16.00 fee
4. **Attend a new certification or recertification clinic:**
  - a. **Rules Review completion**
  - b. **Officials Application form completion (database)**
  - c. **Picture – taken at clinic**
  - d. **\$40 payment – this is for the actual certification (2017-2020)**
  - e. **Verification of SafeSport & USATF Membership**
    - i. **SafeSport certificate- (if you have printed yours or copy)**
    - ii. **USATF Membership card or computer/email print out**
    - iii. **Background Check – copy of email verification**

# USA TRACK AND FIELD SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

**Recertification/certification clinics will be scheduled and posted on the Southwestern Track & Field Officials Association web page: [www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com)**

## Q & A

### **Why do we have to wait until late fall/winter to get recertified?**

As mentioned above, it ties into USATF membership and the timeline to obtain a valid membership. To obtain a membership, go to the USATF web site at [www.usatf.org](http://www.usatf.org) and click on the “Join/Renew Now” link in the upper right portion of the home page.

### **If I was newly certified in 2016, do I have to be recertified for the next Olympiad?**

No, if you were a brand new certified official in 2016, you are “grandfathered” into the next Olympiad (2017-2020). **However, you still have to maintain USATF membership and complete the SafeSport training to have your certification remain “active”.**

### **What if I want to upgrade my level of certification?**

The best time to upgrade is during the summer after the majority of meets are completed. Upgrades during the recertification period will be considered after all the re-certifications are complete. It is a “best practice” to wait until summer of 2017 to request an upgrade.

### **Why do we have to have a USATF membership?**

This began in the previous Olympiad (2009-2012) when USATF mandated it. There have been some litigation issues with liability exposure, also. There have been discussions between USATF and the National Officials Committee (NOC) in providing a “national uniform” shirt to those officials with a current membership - more info on this and other membership developments later this year.

### **Can I purchase more than a 1 year USATF membership?**

Yes, one-year memberships are \$30 and four year memberships are \$100. Two and three year memberships are available, also.

# USA TRACK AND FIELD SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

## **Why do we have to complete the SafeSport Training?**

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) which is the USA sports' governing body has mandated this training to all of its sports, including track and field. This required training comes as a result from litigation involving assaults on athletes by coaches, etc.

## **Where do I go to find the SafeSport info?**

You can google the info or visit the Southwestern Track and Field Officials Association home page, [www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com), to find the link along with the steps to complete registration, etc. The training is FREE.

## **How long does it take to complete the online SafeSport training?**

It depends. Training may take up to 90 minutes for completion online. It may take longer for some.

## **Have there been other opportunities to take the SafeSport training that satisfied this requirement?**

In 2015 and 2016, selected officials and applicants for the major USATF championships were required to complete the training prior to working these meets. These selected officials were also required to complete a background check. In addition, some officials elected to take the training at the USATF Annual Convention. Some training has been offered at clinics in Dallas, Lubbock, and College Station. The list of those attending was provided to the USATF NOC Certification Chair.

## **Will there be any additional SafeSport training sessions in the fall/winter prior to recertification?**

At this time, none are planned although training may be provided to those officials that are technology challenged. It is highly recommended to complete the free training online. This training module requires a USATF membership

# USA TRACK AND FIELD SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

number. Once completed, you can print off the certificate and provide it as proof at your next certification clinic.

## **I have a valid 2016 USATF membership; can I take the SafeSport training now?**

**Yes**, anyone with a current/valid USATF membership should take the training now in preparation for recertification. Do not purchase a membership now for 2016 just to complete the training.

## **How often are we required to take the SafeSport training?**

It is good through at least 2020, for now.

## **Why are background checks required?**

Basically, for the same reasons for SafeSport. Background checks certify that coaches and officials do not have any criminal activity in the past that would prevent them from working with young adults, etc. USATF mandates that all coaches and officials use the NCSI vendor.

## **Where do I go to complete my background check?**

Go to the USATF web site, resources link, then to "officials". You will need your USATF membership number and password. The cost is \$16.00. You will need to update every two years.

# USA TRACK AND FIELD SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

**I only officiate track meets in my general vicinity; why do I have to do all this to officiate?**

That is a good question. Being a certified official exposes you to other qualified, experienced individuals and gives you access to the best practices for your event. Coaches expect competent officials and one way to show that is to wear your certification credential. In addition, should a record be broken, verification of that record requires the signatures from certified officials.

**Do we get paid?**

It depends. Most starters and referees are paid. There have been many colleges that have begun to pay officials and the amount varies from college to college. Some high schools have begun to pay, but very few.