

THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

DECA Newsletter

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QUALIFYING ISSUE

Newsletter Begins 37th Year

Hello Again.....This is the first Newsletter of our 37th year. We began in 1976 and I wish I could say it seems almost like yesterday. But my memory fails me. The 2012 indoor season is off to a sluggish start and a number of the nation's top CE indoor affairs will be conducted next week. This issue is devoted solely to qualifying standards and procedures for the season's top international and national championships.

2012 Championship Schedule:

Indoor:

3/1-2	NAIA	Marion, OH
3/3-4	USATF	Bloomington, IN
3/9-10	NCAA I	Nampa, ID
3/9-10	NCAA II	Mankato, MN
3/9-10	NCAA III	Grinnell, IA
3/10-11	IAAF World	Istanbul, TUR

Outdoor:

5/24-25	NCAA II	Pueblo, CO
5/24-25	NCAA III	Claremont, CA
5/24-25	NAIA	Marion, IN
6/6-9	NCAA I	Des Moines, IA
6/15-17	USA Junior	Bloomington, IN
6/22-23	USOT/USA	Eugene, OR
7/10-11	IAAF World Jr	Barcelona, ESP
8/8-9	Olympic Games	London, GBR
TBA	Thorpe Cup	Marburg, GER

The 2012 indoor season culminates with the IAAF world indoor championships in Istanbul, Turkey on March 10-11 and the outdoor season with the Olympic Games in London on Aug 8-9. The following tables list qualifying standards for each of the mentioned national and international events.

Indoor:

	2011	#	2012
IAAF WC	see notes**	8*	see notes**
USA champs	7700/5450/3850	8	7700/5450/3850
NCAA I	5675	16	5750
NCAA II	5192/4600	12	5153/4600
NCAA III	3700/3350	12	Top 13
NAIA	Top 16	15	Top 16

#-number of starters

*- for 2010 world indoor meet in Doha.

**-.8 athletes are invited by IAAF: the top 3 from the 2011 outdoor decathlon list; the 3 top scorers from the world indoor list as of Feb. 20, 2012; and 2 invitees at the discretion of the IAAF. No more than two from any one nation. Upon refusals or cancellations or last minute injuries invitations are extended to the next ranked athlete on the list. Regardless, the field will be limited to eight.

Comments: The substantial hike in the NCAA I heptathlon standard results from the terrific scores posted in 2011 in College Station. Recall that ten (!) athletes scored over 5722. This may be ameliorated somewhat by the graduation of 5 of the top ten scorers. Nonetheless, it took a score of 5671 to make the 16th cutoff.

Outdoor:

	2011	#	2012
Olympic Games:	8000/7700 ¹	40	8200/7950
US Olympic Trials:	7900/7600 ¹	20	7900/7600
USA Champs:	7850/7500	16	same
NCAA I:	7500/6900	24	Top 24
NCAA II:	6994/6300	12	6976/6300
NCAA III:	6600/6000	19	6600/6000
NAIA:	Top 16	16	Top 16
USA Junior:	6200 ⁶ /6250 ⁷	13	-not posted-
IAAF World Jr: ⁵	6875 ³ /7090 ⁴	26	6875 ³ /7090 ⁴
Thorpe Cup: ²	USA champs	8	USA champs

Legend:

- numbers of starters

1 - for 2008

2 - team selected from USA national meet, normally places 4 thru 8 plus two discretionary picks.

3 - 1.067m hurdles, 7.26kg shot, 2 kg discus

4 - 0.995m(39') hurdles, 6kg shot, 1.75kg discus

5 - for 2010

6- junior international
7- high school implements

Comments: The significant spike in the Olympic Games standards results from the extraordinary size of the 2008 field in Beijing....40 starters. The US Olympic Trials standards remain: 7900 automatic and 7600 provisional. The latter is used to fill the field. For 2012 it has been announced that the field will be limited to 18. The NCAA has not posted a Div I standard but does claim that the field will be limited (as in the past few years) to 24. Last year the final qualifier scored 7385. There is little change in the Div II, III and NAIA procedures.

A Word or Two About Qualifying for the 2012 US Olympic Trials Decathlon



Some general information provided by USATF:

Qualifying standards: A(automatic): 7900
B(provisional); 7600
Field size: 18
Qualifying period: All qualifying performances for the U.S. Olympic Trials must be attained on a standard outdoor track in the period Sunday, May 1, 2011 through Sunday, June 17, 2012,
Special provisions: Wind-assisted performances will not be accepted for 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials qualifying.
There will be no adjustment for decathlon marks made at altitude.
Appeals: The Men's and Women's T&F Chairs will handle all entry appeals up to 48 hours prior to the start of competition in each

A number of issues have already popped up about qualifying for the US Olympic Trials decathlon in June. In summary:

the *first* deals with counting the scores achieved at last year's NCAA I meet in Des Moines. Recall that a severe weather (lightening and storm) postponed last 2 events of day two for 5 hours before athletes were told to go home and return next morning (the 3rd day) to complete meet. It would seem reasonable that these performances would count for '12 OT qualifying. In point of fact there was not much advantage to scores by going to a 3rd day since the athletes were told to stay ready and warmed up for @ 5 hours (in the old Drake field house) before the meet was finally called off for the day. It's only reasonable to count those scores.

Second, there is the question of not using wind-aided scores. The guidelines say "wind-assisted performances will not be accepted for 2102 U.S. Olympic Trials qualifying." I assume that this means we use the >4.0 mps rule (Rule 260.27) since the IAAF has announced that the newer rule (>2.0 average) applies only for world record applications. In other words the "W" (one event <4.0mps) on the statistical lists will not count, but the "w" (ave >2.0mps) will. I am not sure I am right about this and it may sound like nitpicking but it'll make a big difference for some....eg, Joe Detmer and Chris Randolph have "w" scores. Detmer's was at the Thorpe Cup in Chula Vista. It would seem reasonable that those scores would certainly count. I admit that the issue is cloudy.

A practical solution would be to not count scores that both have an average>2.0 and at least one mark with a >4.0, That's what I consider a "wind-aided score," and may have been what the IAAF was trying to do in fall of 2009 when they altered and botched the rule. This will be a crucial issue for the above mentioned athletes since they'll need to know if they should chase a qualifying mark in the spring. Using either ruling (>2.0 mps average) or >4.0 mps for any one event appears rather harsh. If we change the "or" to "and" we solve all the problems. This last paragraph is just my opinion.

Consider, there are any number of typically 'windy' decathlons each spring in the US....to mention a few....Texas Relays, Texas Greatest Athletes, Claremont Classic. And numerous qualifying scores come from these meets. Depending upon the wind readings (and please maintain a wind reading for each of the 3 long jumps) athletes will need to know if their score counts. We better be careful. This could get confusing, especially since the IAAF changed and then reneged on the most recent rule. And the situation begs another question do all reported scores have to have wind readings?

A reminder: there is an appeals process. My guess---they will be busy.

Third, two of the current top qualifiers are US citizens who also have citizenship in other nations for which they have competed recently. Jangy Addy (Liberia) and Tommy Barrineau (Finland) both were born, schooled and live in US. Addy competed in 2008 US Olympic Trials decathlon and Barrineau's dad, James, was a 1976 US Olympian in high jump. They are traditionally found on USA lists because they are US citizens. But in 2011 Addy competed for Liberia and was All-Africa champ and Barrineau competed at European Cup and World University Games for Finland. I believe the citizenship issue (Rule 5.4 e) is quite clear and neither will be allowed to compete at the US Trials.

USA Decathlon List

[from the beginning of the qualifying period, May 1, 2011 to present]

8729	Ashton Eaton	Ore e TC
	88 1 USA, Eugene	6/23-24
8689	Trey Hardee	Nike
	84 1 Hypo-Bank, Götzis	5/28-29
8118	Mike Morrison	California
	88 1 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
8083	Curtis Beach	Duke
	90 2 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
8011	Ryan Harlan	unat
	81 3 USA, Eugene	6/23-24
7996	Miller Moss	Clemson
	88 3 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
7993	Jangy Addy	unat-LIB
	85 1 All Africa, Maputo	9/11-12
7914	Gray Horn	Florida
	90 5 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
7903	Michael Ayers	Georgia
	88 6 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
7846w	Joe Detmer	unat
	83 2 Thorpe Cup, Chula Vista	8/13-14
	[10]	
7814w	Chris Randolph	SLO Well
	84 1 Classic, Claremont	5/12-13
7806	Isaac Murphy	Texas
	90 9 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
7802	Kevin Lazas	Arkansas
	92 10 NCAA I, Des Moines	6/8-9-10
7742	Jeremy Taiwo	Washington
	90 1 Pac 10, Tucson	5/6-7
7736	Chris Helwick	unat
	85 4 USA, Eugene	6/23-24
7679	Nick Adcock	unat
	88 5 Thorpe Cup, Chula Vista	8/13-14
7675	Matt Johnson	Sam Houston St
	90 6 Thorpe Cup, Chula Vista	8/13-14
7658	Tommy Barrineau	Georgia/FIN
	88 3 SEC, Athens	5/12-13
	[18]	

NB; this list cannot be considered the "official" Trials qualifying list for the reasons/issues discussed above. Nevertheless it is helpful.