

# THE DECATHLON ASSOCIATION

## DECA Newsletter

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## NOT MUCH NEWS

### A Possible 2020 CE Champs

**Hello Again.....**There is little CE news during our quarantine and social distancing to mitigate the CoVid 19 virus. As the numbers for contractions and deaths glumly and menacingly rise daily there has been some agitation to reopen business and organizations as conditions permit. This will be a much slower process than is generally hoped and appears to be conducted, state-by-state in a piecemeal fashion. And I must admit, I hope they start with barbershops.....I need a haircut.

Nonetheless there are some tentative plans underway to salvage, at least in part, the 2020 t&f season and to look forward to a 2021 a likely schedule. Recently the USATF  Executive Committee emailed some scheduling information. Assuming an improvement in the COVID-19 crises and a loosening of social distancing regulations, USATF suggests we have a national champs (these are very BIG assumptions!!!) at a site to be determined during the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in September. Let's keep our fingers crossed. The sport has had a national championship meet (1876) for 144 consecutive years, one of the longest continuous streak in American sporting history. The continuation of the streak will be determined by safety/medical reasons, and at this point, no one can say. Directors at Mt Sac, Drake, Penn and Miramar have indicated a willingness, if possible, to hold late season meets. A fluid situation.

Here is a summary of important future meets...

Proposed dates:

#### 2020

2ns/3<sup>rd</sup> week Sept USATF Champs (tbd) -

#### 2021

Feb 26-27 USATF indoor (Albuquerque)  
[CE champs one week earlier...site tbd]  
March 19-21 – WA Indoor World Champs  
[Nanging, CHN]  
June 9-12 NCAA I [Eugene, OR]  
June 18-27 US Olympic Trials[Eugene, OR]  
[decathlon 6/19-20]  
July 30-Aug 8 Olympic Games [Tokyo, JPN]

#### 2022

Feb 25-26 USATF indoor (Albuquerque)  
[CE champs one week earlier...site tbd]  
June 8-11 NCAA I [Eugene, OR]

As of May 1, 2020 a few USATF national events in August (road running) have yet to be cancelled. There is much discussion about the quick turnaround between the 2021 NCAA I meet and the Olympic Trials...a tough double for CE collegians. One suggestion was to slim the Trials to a 6 day meet. Thinking out-loud....would it be possible to move (for one time only) CEs to the Regional sites and dates. Of course, this backs up to the collegiate conference meets. No easy answer!

Two other positive notes from USATF missives. Higher ups from Max Segal, etc, see the folly of the WA Ranking system and promise to get it scrapped/minimized. Onde

thing has become clear...if the current qualifying system remains in place it will place a premium on the 2021 indoor season since athletes can use indoor scores in the ranking system. For men, there is likely to be a rush to get a big indoor score.....creating an anomaly....using indoor performances (and not having long throws) to qualify for an outdoor event. There is something paradoxical about this.

The current pandemic has given many of us in the CE community time to think where we stand in athlete preparation. Coach Harry Marra has a few ideas of what is needed and is supported by 1968 Olympic decathlon champ Bill Toomey. Here is a summary of recent Marra musings....

Assumptions: the COVID-19 virus may be here for a long time. The impact on collegians may not be good, especially if the pandemic continues. It is possible that many of the



NCAA I schools (362 of them) will be severely hurt by the lack of 'March Madness' revenue and possibly by the lack of fall football revenue. Olympic sports will bear much of the brunt. Some schools may drop T&F programs (and lose good coaches along the way). But more important, we are in dire need of help for our post collegiate CE Athletes...both male and female. The typical USA depth is NOT there. The potential Podium Athletes are thin.

WE NEED A NATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM ( like VISA was ) to re birth this historically American dominated event at the International level.

Here is a simplified plan:

1 Regional Post Collegiate Training Centers  
2 supported athletes at each center...2 Hep...2 Dec ( that's 20 CE Athletes being supported )

one full time quality coach heading up each center

In kind arrangement at each center / facility for equipment, track, pool, wt room, etc.

Additional Financial responsibility:

5 full time paid coaches

\*\* The 20 full-time supported athletes would receive : stipend, housing, massage /PT monies, miscellaneous )

Club is responsible for: Insurances, Travel, Bonus, miscellaneous

Grand Total needed per year: 1.82 million ( rounded 2 million ) NOTE: A corporate drop in the bucket!! VISA WAS NEAR THIS FIGURE 30 YEARS AGO!!!

Maybe you saw it...the USOPC just announced a 10-20% cut in funding to Athletes/Federations because of the delay in the Tokyo Games.

Marra, the NIKE 2012 coach of the year, can be contacted at:

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For those interested here is an Interview with Harry Marra:

[https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhwcdn.libsyn.com%2Fp%2F1%2F4%2Fb%2F14b4e760ccd499bd%2FPodcast3-HarryMarra.mp3%3Fid%3D13770002%26cs\\_id%3D13770002%26expiration%3D1587225404%26hwt%3Defff6223cb5e5789b954482289525037&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6212308483b8484f63ba08d7e3ad11d0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637228204769945970&data=qB3iuIpL8EfOYIZ0RmNjiFCzpsP06ZHGeI%2FSr1xh9Vo%3D&reserved=0](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhwcdn.libsyn.com%2Fp%2F1%2F4%2Fb%2F14b4e760ccd499bd%2FPodcast3-HarryMarra.mp3%3Fid%3D13770002%26cs_id%3D13770002%26expiration%3D1587225404%26hwt%3Defff6223cb5e5789b954482289525037&data=02%7C01%7C%7C6212308483b8484f63ba08d7e3ad11d0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637228204769945970&data=qB3iuIpL8EfOYIZ0RmNjiFCzpsP06ZHGeI%2FSr1xh9Vo%3D&reserved=0)

Stay safe and healthy....FZ

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