

To: Head High School T&F Coaches
From: Kyle Doperalski, Assistant Executive Director

A few things for you as we are nearing league meets and then the best part of the season – regionals and state!

- The number one thing we heard from coaches about during and after the state meet last season was the entry process for team camp. It was clear that with the physical changes to the east side, we need to change the process. For years, it didn't really matter where you were in line because if you wanted to be on the bleachers, you could be and if you wanted to be under the bleachers, you could be. Neither of those options existed last year which complicated the team camp entry process. While there are some coaches who prefer the old system of getting there a day or two in advance, which served us well for decades, the process needs to be modified to fit the current needs of the event. This year, the link below is how the list will be built. The google form will have two questions and will take less time to complete than it takes to run 100-meters. The first question is the email address of the person filling out the form and the second question is the name of the school. Please enter your entire high school's name as listed in the KSHSAA database. If you simply respond with "North High" – we have no idea which school that is and it will be thrown out. Once the form is submitted, we are notified down to the second. The list will be arranged in the order the schools completed the form. Once a response is received, the email address entered in the first question will receive an email confirming the submission has been received. It does take a few seconds for that email to send, so don't worry if you feel like you lost a few spots in line by the time it takes for the auto response to be generated and sent. Every response will have some lag time before the confirmation email is sent. The form will be turned on at 8:00 a.m. Central Time on Wednesday, May 14. If a school submits more than once, they will be taken off the list. There is no need to complete this multiple times. I will email the completed list to head coaches in advance of the state meet so you will know your placement for team camp entry.

Team Camp Entry Process Google Form: <https://forms.gle/ne3WE7CkP16iNE4B7>

- We are pleased the executive board passed a measure prior to last school year to allow all assistant coaches into the meet for free. However, in order to receive complimentary admission, all of the requirements such as AED, CPR, rules meeting, etc. must be satisfied and your AD has listed you in the directory as an assistant coach. In prepping for this year's state meet, TeeJay and I came across the notebook of signatures from assistant coaches when they received their wristband last year. Many of you did a great job of following the protocol in the first year, but there were some unfortunate conversations with people claiming to be assistant coaches who were either not listed as an assistant coach by their school and/or didn't fulfill the requirements. Those coaches did not receive complimentary admission to the meet. Assistant coaches on the list will sign their name and have a wristband placed on their wrist at the northwest corner of the facility near team packet pick up. That wristband is their ticket to the event to receive complimentary admission. Wristbands for head coaches and a manager(s) will be in the

team packets again this year. Per the manual, if your team has 1-10 state qualifiers, there will be one manager wristband in your packet. If your team has 11+ qualifiers, there will be two. Boys and girls teams are separate. It is possible to have up to four manager wristbands.

- Team camps will not be allowed in the shot put viewing area on the southwest hill. There are no team camps permitted under the west bleachers. This is a request of Wichita State and we plan to honor that request. Please don't plan to send your team camp there. We will be asking team camps to be relocated if they are either place. The only place team camps will be allowed in the west stadium is on the top three rows directly north or south of the press box.
- This morning, I went back and read all of the responses to the coaches survey after the state meet and want to hit on a few things that were asked or brought up that weren't brought up in the previous two bullets or were in my own notes to improve. Right now, I'm not going to talk hit on every thought or comment but trying to get some that were brought up a few times.
 - Horizontal coaches boxes: We did a poor job of executing this last year. They will remain in the west stands this year. Next year, they will be moved to the east side where the horizontal jumps will be up against the bleachers. I realize this is not an idea set up for coaches of horizontal jumps.
 - One thing we've already discussed with WSU is the need for practice hurdles. For whatever reason last year, they weren't on the infield for warmups like they should have been.
 - Here is how the appeals process works: The officials make (or don't make) a determination. If the coach wants to appeal that process, a protest can be filed at the southwest corner of the track. Once the written appeal is made it will be considered by the jury of appeals for a final ruling.
 - There were several comments about the east side last year. We are expecting the experience to be much better this year with the new construction and the new team entry process. There will not be any big white tents like there were last year. We do expect the bottom few rows of the new east side bleachers to be fairly empty because the site lines over the team camp areas will be impeded by team tents. In the future, there will not be team tents there, it will be horizontal jumps and pole vault.
 - The 4x800m relay check-in process was identified as an area that needed improvement after the 2023 state meet. Our clerking crew cut the time in half for 2024 which was a big improvement. We had a stopwatch on it. We will continue to refine this process and look to speed it up.
 - This will be the final year the shot put is in the stadium. It will be on the outside in the future. Please do not plan to put your team camp near the shot put.
 - Umbrellas will not be permitted on the infield unless it is owned by a volunteer worker. Athletes should not be sitting and watching events on the infield. I asked several athletes who appeared to be simply hanging out to leave the infield. We have requested the larger tent for award staging that we had last year. That was well received and one of the better things I thought we did last year.

- Wichita State intends to run golf carts from the parking lot into the stadium as they did last year. Koch Arena will also be open again this year for concessions and bathrooms.
- Regional entries open next Monday, May 12. Regional entries close Monday, May 19.
- The link for the zoom with WSU's athletic administration will be sent in the future. That zoom will be held at 7p on Wednesday, May 28. You are all encouraged to attend and ask any questions you have.
- Lastly, thank you for making a difference in the lives of young people. The bond that is formed between athlete and coach is special and lasts a lifetime. It is impossible to have that type of relationship with 100% of your athletes and coaching can be tough at times – but know that you are making a difference in the lives of many, even the athletes who don't express their gratitude or share much emotion. The idea of being included on a track and field team is a great feeling and you are all doing that for kids in your school, which is a fantastic thing!