

**2017 SUMMER GAMES
TRACK & FIELD
WEBINAR TRANSCRIPT**

SLIDE 1: INTRODUCTION

Greetings, and welcome to this webinar reviewing track & field competition for the 2017 Summer Games. This webinar only discusses track & field. For other sports and for other areas within Summer Games, such as transportation, check the website for webinars on those subjects.

Finally, this webinar is important for all participants of Summer Games. So whether you're an athlete, coach, or spectator, we hope that you find this information useful.

SLIDE 2: JEFF MOHLER

Next, let me introduce myself. I am Jeff Mohler with the State Office. For Summer Games, I serve as the Games Director. In addition, I coordinate track & field and cycling.

SLIDE 3: FRANCIE SMITH

Francie Smith is our Regional Manager for Southern Indiana and will be the host for our delegations at track & field, where we will provide team camp areas for those interested. More on this later.

SLIDE 4: TRACK & FIELD MANAGERS

While Francie & I will have a part of the track & field experience, let's talk about our key volunteers who will coordinate & host the competition.

Our managers are a veteran crew of Chris Akers, his son Cortez Akers, Kevin Alsup, and Aaron McRill. And you see their assignments listed here.

SLIDE 5: MANAGERS SHIRTS

I don't have photos of our managers, but here's the shirt they will be wearing throughout the weekend. We'll give them multiple shirts, so no fear of certain odors from the guys. If you need help, have a question, or have a concern, find the guys in these shirts.

SLIDE 6: TRACK & FIELD MANAGER DUTIES

Chris, Cortez, Kevin, and Aaron will keep us on schedule, hopefully, answer your questions, rule on protest (from head coaches only), deal with issues, and restrict competition areas to those who need to be there.

SLIDE 7 and 8: TRACK & FIELD CAPTAINS

More veteran volunteers will serve as our captains. Here's the list and their assignments.

SLIDE 9: CAPTAIN SHIRTS

Again no photos of our excellent captain crew, but here's the shirt they will be wearing.

SLIDE 10: TRACK & FIELD CAPTAIN DUTIES

Here's the list of the captains' duties. Now their role is to run the events. So coaches, moms, dads, they won't have time to answer your questions – other than our 2 staging captains – Terri Kriston and Larry Ratcliff. Please let the competition captains keep the events rolling.

For questions, find a manager or go to Terri in the East Staging Tent or Larry in the West or North Staging Tents.

SLIDE 11: NEW IN 2017

We have a few changes for this year. I'll highlight a few here. Those that I do not mention will be discussed in greater detail later in this webinar.

The 800 Walk moves to Sunday morning to reduce scheduling conflicts and to allow these walkers the cooler conditions of morning competition.

In the field events, we will have the competitors perform 3 CONSECUTIVE attempts. The exception is the Running Long Jump. In that event, competitors will alternate. But back to the other field events. 3 consecutive attempts will be better for the athletes, as opposed to sitting down, getting back up, sitting down, and getting back up again. We feel this will be better for them, so let's do it.

Finally, we will host a Run Unified Relay on the track Friday afternoon. The relay is a 4 x 100m Relay with team members consisting of law enforcement officers, Finish Line employees, and Special Olympics athletes nominated by their County Program. Join us at 3:00 PM for this fun and exciting event.

SLIDE 12: COACHES MEETING

Coaches, one representative from each delegation must attend the meeting to receive important updates and final instructions. If a delegation does not attend the meeting, then they forfeit the right to make protests in track & field.

SLIDE 13: HEAD COACH CREDENTIAL

Here's a template of the head coach credential. By one person attending the coaches meeting, each delegation will receive 3 head coaches' credentials. With track & field having 2 different venues and with Gibson Track being a large venue, we are providing 3 credentials when all other sports only provide one.

SLIDE 14: ATHLETE CREDENTIALS

Athletes will have credentials as well. But we prefer that athletes and partners DO NOT wear them into the staging tent or during competition. Instead, and as we have done for some years now, competitors will have bib numbers.

SLIDE 15: BIB NUMBER

Here's a bib number. On each will be a mailing label that lists the competitor's name, delegation, events and division numbers. Now if the event has a preliminary, then a final, this division number will be the preliminary division number. The final division number will be determined after prelims. More on this later.

Again, competitors CANNOT enter the staging tent without a bib number.

SLIDE 16: BIB NUMBERS

More information on bib numbers. Keep this number throughout the weekend! Wear it on the front and outer most layer of the uniform. Each athlete and each partner will be given 4 safety pins. Please use all 4. If you only pin the upper 2 corners, then the bib number may catch wind as the athlete streaks down the track. And the result will be a bib number that flies up into his or her face. Use all 4 pins.

Your Head of Delegation will pick up the bib numbers at delegation check-in at Burford Hall. Be sure to give yourself plenty of time to pick them up, distribute them to the coaches, and get the athletes to the staging tent on time.

If you lose it, seek a replacement at the Info Tent in Olympic Town.

SLIDE 17: COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Here's a glimpse of the competition schedule for Gibson Track. With as many races and divisions as we have at Summer Games, the track & field schedule is actual 3 schedules. We will have one for the Gibson Track running and walking events, including the 100m Wheelchair Race, one schedule is for Gibson Track's field events, and finally, one schedule is for the events at the North Gym, including the 400 Walk.

New this year, we are listing the staging times for each event and each division. The biggest hassle for you and for us at the staging tents is the crowd. These staging times should help. DO NOT arrive to the staging tent BEFORE this staging time.

If you do arrive early, please back away from the staging tent entrance. Allow those athletes who are being staged to have access to the entrance.

Finally, divisions will compete ahead of the posted start times only if all competitors have arrived. While we will stage a division up to the start time, we ask that you arrive at the staging time or just after the staging time. DO NOT wait until the start time.

SLIDE 18: PRELIMS VS. FINALS

As mentioned earlier, some events have prelims and finals. Those events are listed here. After the prelims, our finish line crew will work on the new divisions. But we will not post the new divisions until after that track session has concluded. The new divisions will be posted at the 2

Info Tents, and we'll show you where those tents are later in this webinar. In addition, each evening, the new divisions will be posted at Delegation Services within Burford Hall.

Finally, within these events, some gender/age groups do not have sufficient numbers to warrant both prelims and finals. If so, they will be run as finals only and will run during the time that the other gender/age groups are running their prelims. Check the schedule for notification of when this occurs.

SLIDE 19: GIBSON TRACK MAP (NO TENTS OR MARKINGS)

Now that we've discussed our volunteer leaders and competition information, let's show you the venue. But first, let's get our bearings. This photo faces the south. So while most maps have north to the top, north is at the bottom for this photo. Yet this photo is already outdated. Indiana State University continues to upgrade this new facility.

Track & field will continue to use the North Gym for the 400m Walk on Friday and our Level 1 and Level M events on Saturday.

SLIDE 20: GIBSON TRACK MAP (ALL TENTS & MARKINGS)

Now let's show you our tent layouts. All our tents and projected placements.

Please note the various gate entrances. Indiana State University does not have official designations for the gates, but we will. The gates are outlined here in a purplish circle and are labeled Gates A through F.

For track & field competition, we will utilize 3 different staging tents. The East Staging Tent is located near Gates B and C. The East tent will be for all running, walking, and wheelchair events on the track.

The West Staging Tent location has moved. Instead of being near Gate A, we will be placing it in the middle of the backstretch. It will be used to stage for the Running Long Jump on Friday.

And the North Staging Tent, located in the grassy field, will be used to stage for the shot put, softball throw, mini-javelin throw, and standing long jump. The North tent is best accessed through Gates D and E.

Unlike previous years at Rec East, athletes will NOT report directly to their competition tents. Instead they will report to the North tent. From there, our staging and competition crews will get them to the appropriate competition tent.

For Awards, we will use 2 Awards stations. The Track Awards will be for any event taking place on BLUE – meaning the track. This includes the running long jump. The Field Awards will be for any event taking place in GREEN – meaning the grassy field.

New for 2017, we have added 2 small tents near the East Staging Tent and North Staging Tent. While labeled as “Info Tent”, these tents will have water too. Seek water before entering the staging tents here. These info tents will also include results and divisions for final heats in certain sprint events.

Finally on this map, we have identified 2 great areas in which our delegations may set up a team camp. We highly encourage this, as the new facility has few areas of shade. Unfortunately, it is not practical to provide shade to all 2000 athletes and coaches. But if each delegation were to provide shade for their teams, it would have a big impact. Each team camp area will be 16 feet by 16 feet. We project space available for 50 team camps. Team camps have been distributed on a first come, first served basis via a registration process.

Speaking of shade, we do ask that delegations provide 3 S’s for their convenience – SHADE, SEATING, and SUNSCREEN. We will have some stands around the track. But it will not be enough. If delegations communicate to athletes, coaches, and families to bring seating, that will make a big difference.

And with sun comes the need for sunscreen. Keep your athletes protected from the sun. We will have sunscreen available at the info tents. But you will still want to bring sunscreen for your team camps.

SLIDE 21: GIBSON TRACK MAP (TEAM CAMPS)

Delegations with team camps registered earlier this month with Francie Smith, our Southern Indiana Regional Manager.

The RED “X” marks the location you can drop off your team camp equipment and supplies. Francie will have a crew assisting her on Friday morning. That crew will deliver your equipment to your team camp for you. Just get it here, and she’ll take it from there.

Notice the knife and fork symbol in the white circle? For Saturday lunch only, Indiana State University is willing to bring box lunches to you and your delegation. Now, this isn’t an “all or nothing” situation. If you have some athletes who do not compete Saturday morning, don’t have them come over to West Campus for lunch. Have them go to the dining commons as always.

The box lunch option is for those athletes and coaches who will be at track & field or at bocce until late morning on Saturday. Or perhaps they have to return in the early afternoon for another event. Order a few box lunches and don’t worry about the round-trip.

Pick up your box lunches at this location. Take them back to your team camp. Enjoy the midday meal. Again, not an “all or nothing” deal.

SLIDE 22: TEAM CAMPS

This slide shows some great helpful hints from Francie. Be sure to note the times she and her crew will be available on Friday and on Sunday to assist with equipment.

Be sure to label all items with your team camp number.

SLIDE 23: BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM

This slide shows you the first page of the box lunch order form. Again, this will be done online. This link is going out Friday, May 26 to each Head of Delegation. Orders will close on Friday, June 2.

Only order what you need. Don't waste food.

Once you submit this form, you will receive a confirmation email.

SLIDE 24: GIBSON TRACK MAP (WATER STATIONS & RESTROOMS)

And with our final look at the Gibson Track, let's talk about water stations and restrooms. This map represents the projected locations for both. Regarding water, we will have it available under each awards tent and each info tent at the Gibson Track.

With water, we ask that athletes, coaches, and Games volunteers come to Summer Games with water bottles. Each time we use a water bottle, it saves the environment from one discarded cup. Please try to be green.

And what goes in must come out. Here are the projected locations for restrooms. For Gibson Track, the finish line building has restrooms on the first floor. The rest of that building will be off-limits, as our timing crew will use the second floor. And we will have portable restrooms near Gate A and the North Staging Tent.

As for medical personnel and athletic trainers, they will be located in a tent near the finish line.

SLIDE 25: CAMPUS MAP (BURFORD HALL)

Here is the location for Burford Hall. When competition is over each day, then Burford becomes the location for Delegation Services. After Opening Ceremonies and after the Saturday dance, coaches can come here to find the final divisions for those sprint events with prelims and finals.

SLIDE 26: TEXT ALERTS

Once the Games begin, communication directly to athletes, coaches, families, Games volunteers and HODs becomes very difficult. That's why we rely on a text alert system.

The slide shown here describes how you can opt into a general text alert. Texts may promote featured entertainment, souvenir sales, weather updates, event cancellations, and much more.

To opt in, simply text "YOU CAN", with no spaces, to 844-83. We've used this system in the past. So even if you opted in last year, you'll need to do it again this year. And be sure to share this text alert system to anyone not participating in this webinar.

SLIDE 27: THANK YOU!

Now all the planning for Summer Games track & field is nothing without competitors. So to our athletes, good luck! To our coaches, thank you for preparing the athletes for this great weekend. To our Unified partners, thank you for teaming up with these great athletes. To the parents, thanks for being great supporters of Special Olympics and the best fans anywhere.

Safe travels. We'll see you on the track soon!