

April 2017 USATF Junior Olympics Monthly Summary

Lawrence hosted the final Junior Olympics (JO) Site Visit on Monday, April 24. Five members from the USATF National Office and four members of the Youth Executive Committee spent the day reviewing the LSC's operation plan, focusing on security, medical services, and the efficiency of our procedures for moving athletes from the warm-up area to check-in and ultimately to the starting line. Detective Dock Hughes, USATF security, toured Rock Chalk Park (RCP) with patrol officers from City of Lawrence, Douglas County Sheriff's office and the University of Kansas. Local law enforcement officers showed Detective Hughes the entry/exit points at RCP, where security and the Command Post would be placed. Detective Hughes also learned how law enforcement officers would interact with personnel checking all attendees' wrist bands and backpacks as they enter RCP. Overall, Detective Hughes found the plan solid and more than adequate.

After reviewing the existing athlete check-in locations around the track, the Youth Executive Committee recommended that we require all athletes to check in on the west side of RCP. This move will create more open space along the north end of the track. These changes have led to revisions to the JO Site Plan Map. The new map should be placed on the USATF Junior Olympics event page soon.

Advertising sales for the JO Souvenir Program are progressing and will cover production costs. This break-even proposition will allow the LSC to provide a free program to every competing athlete. This program will include, along with other content, the names of all entries by event, current JO performance records, the schedule of events and venue information.

I am working with USATF and various sports agents to add to the list of track Olympians who will make appearances in Lawrence during the Junior Olympics. I have received commitments from Ashton Eaton and Carl Lewis.

I'm meeting with groups in Lawrence, Topeka and Kansas City to secure volunteer commitments. We have identified more than 100 volunteer positions that must be filled for each day.

As I shared last month, the Griffith Payments/Harbortouch portal has been completed and is live. In fact, the LSC's first online sale occurred last week with a purchase of two 7-day passes.

After meeting with Scott McCollough and other City staff members, we have determined that LSC's temporary parking plan on the Mercato property is feasible. A formal request, along with a Temporary Right-A-Way Application, will be submitted by May 3. This plan will provide space for an additional 300 cars near Rock Chalk Park.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sanner
Lawrence Sports Corporation