

May 2017 USATF Junior Olympics Monthly Summary

Weekly conference calls with the Meet Management Team now include discussion of final preparations for the Junior Olympics (JO). This group consists staff from USATF National Office, USATF Youth Executive Committee, Kansas Athletics and the Lawrence Sports Corporation.

We have finalized plans for athletes' medical care provided by The University of Kansas Health System. KU will provide staff for four medical tents, including doctors, physical therapists and athletic trainers.

I met twice with the Kansas Turnpike Authority to discuss the options for dealing with the high volume of cars that will use exit 197 (Lecompton) to reach Rock Chalk Park. Based upon the number of hotel rooms that have been booked in Topeka and Kansas City, Kansas, we expect a large number of teams will travel on I-70. My concerns are based upon the number of payment lanes at Exit 197. For example, westbound cars exiting exit 197 have two options—either self pay or K-Tag. Eastbound traffic has a third lane that can be staffed. During our first meeting, KTA agreed to create and place temporary “JO Exit Here Signage” near exit 197 and allow Public Works to place their portable message board near exit 204 (eastern edge of Lawrence) to confirm motorists to use Exit 197.

The second meeting included KTA marketing staff. They agreed to provide an info sheet that we will share with the Kansas City, Kansas, and Topeka Convention & Visitors Bureaus. They will forward the sheets to their JO hotel partners, which will send digital copies to all teams staying with them and also provide printed copies at their front desks during check-in. The Lawrence Sports Corporation (LSC) will add this information to the JO travel passport on the USATF website. The information will include an explanation the configuration of Exit 197 and alert travelers to possible delays that could add to travel time. KTA will advise visitors to enroll in the K-Tag program or have exact change for the self-pay lanes. KTA also will have a representative at packet pickup on Sunday and Tuesday to offer onsite enrollment in the K-Tag program.

Efforts to secure current and former Olympians continue. The LSC will have a much better idea of who is available after the June 22-25 USATF Outdoor Championships. As reported earlier, Ashton Eaton and Carl Lewis have already committed.

Volunteer recruitment continues. I have met with community groups and large businesses in Kansas City and Topeka to create awareness and explain the various roles for JO volunteers. I made a presentation to the 1 Million Cups organization, and I've been invited to a Rotary meeting next week.

Formal requests have been submitted for approval to use the Mercato property for temporary parking. The work on Mercato may start as early as June 8. After this work is finished, the additional space will provide parking for 500 cars.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Sanner
Lawrence Sports Corporation