



## ***Adaptive Track and Field, USA 2024 Annual Chairman Report***

<u>The 2024 ATFUSA Board</u>		<u>Board Terms</u>	
<u>(** term ends in 2024    *** being extended due to merger)</u>			
Philip Galli	Chairman / Long Distance Racing Chair	**	2025-2028***
Jerry Clayton	Vice-Chair – Officials Chair		2022-2025
Steven Kessler	Treasurer		2024-2027
Jessica Cloy	Secretary		2023-2026
Pam Carey	Member at Large (MAL) – High School		2022-2025
Pam Chiavaroli	MAL – MAL		2023-2026
Brian Seamann	Athlete Representative		2024-2027
Teresa Skinner	MAL – High School & Coaching Chair		2024-2027
Cindy Latham	MAL – Field Coaching		2024-2027
Randy Chiavaroli	MAL – Field Chair	**	2025-2028***
Jim Strunk	MAL – Records & Track Chair	**	2025-2028***
Denise Hutchins	MAL – Classification Chair		2023-2026
Frank Anzaldi	MAL – T20 Chair		2023-2026

**\*\*\*– Extend to 2028 due to merger and the future of the 501C3.**

### **ABOUT ADAPTIVE TRACK AND FIELD USA (ATFUSA):**

Wheelchair Athletics of the United States of America, Inc., DBA as Adaptive Track and Field USA (ATFUSA) is a 36+ -year old Texas based 501(c)(3) organization that was formed to support Adaptive Track & Field and Adaptive Wheelchair Road Racing in the USA.

Until 2000 ATFUSA was the National Governing Body (NGB) for Wheelchair Track and Field and Road Racing in the USA. In 2002, the United States Olympic Committee (USOC now USOPC) became the National Paralympic Committee and U.S. Paralympics became the NGB for Para (all disabilities) Athletics (Track and Field) in the USA.

### **ATFUSA'S MISSION:**

Since 2002 the ATFUSA mission is to support and promote community based Adaptive Track and Field and Road Racing in the USA for all World Para Athletics (WPA) defined disability classes and be the Lead for Juniors under 14 (U14) and Master Age groups M35, M50, M60 in the USA (groups not controlled by US Para Track and Field). Through this effort we continue to be the major US Paralympic feeder into the elite athlete ranks by doing the following:

- Sanction Track & Field meets (through Move United for multiple sport events and individually for Athletics only competitions and our national championships),
- Sanction Wheelchair Road races at the 5K, 10K, 15K, ½ Marathon and Marathon level
- Expand Para Athletics in the USA
  - Work with states to set up or maintain High School Wheelchair and Ambulatory Athletic divisions at their Dual, Group, Regional, and State level meets.
  - Partner with other organizations to expand Para Athletics in the US; including Challenged Athlete Fund (CAF), Move United (MU), USATF and others.
- Set the rule exceptions for U11, U14 and Master Para athletes.
- Keep the USA records and event results for all age groups U11 through Master, championships.
- Work with US Para Track & Field and USATF to grow the number of Level 1, and WPA NTO Para Officials in the USA to prepare for Para Meet Growth in the USA and the 2028 LA Paralympics.

ATFUSA has a Memo of understanding with Move United. In this partnership Move United has been given the rights by ATFUSA to sanction Track and Field competitions (usually when they are held in a multi-sport competition) and ATFUSA provides management services to oversee the sanctions and direct support at the major Level 2 and 3 Track & Field competitions.

### **THE BOARD:**

The Board is currently made up of 13 members but can range from 11 to 15. Each member serves a 4-year term. The Board terms are staggered with a portion of the Board up for election yearly.

The Executive Board's (Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, & Treasurer) terms are staggered so that they do not all end their term in the same year.

All positions outside of the Executive Committee are member-at-large positions. Chair positions for Track, Field, High School, Records, CP, Intellectual Disabilities (II), etc. are appointed by the Chairman from the MAL members with the approval of the Board.

### **2024 BOARD ELECTIONS:**

There are Three positions up for election in 2024, the Chair, (MAL) Records and (MAL) Field. The board terms are being extended to 2028 due to the USA Para T&F merging with USATF. After the integration ATFUSA will reassess its role and mission.

## **2024 FOCUS AREAS:**

1. **Meet Management:**  
Update the SAMS Meet management software.
2. **Develop Para Officials:**  
Continue work to increase Para Certified Officials and Run an NTO course.
3. **Meet Results:**  
Maintain the Standards, Results and Records database on the ATFUSA Website.
4. **Rules:**  
Communicate and set the U14 and Master rule exceptions.
5. **501(C)(3):**  
Maintain ATFUSA's non for profit status.
6. **Long distance Racing:**  
Grow the number of ATFUSA Sanctioned Road Racing events.
7. **Equipment Sales:**  
Provide Track and Field implements to the Para community.
8. **Meet Support:**  
Provide operational support for the Move United Athletics competitions and run the competition at the Hartford, Move United, Junior Nationals in Hoover, AL..
9. **High School:**  
Continue to help states create Para Divisions for Athletics for both Wheelchair and Para Ambulatory athletes.
10. **Education:**  
Work to improve our value to Athletes and Coaches on our Website and through clinics
11. **By-Laws:**  
Continue the work to update the By-Laws to agree with the current way we are conducting business.

## **2024 DETAIL:**

### **1. Meet Management:**

The IT Committee made up of Phil Galli, Kevin Crytzer, Jim Cuevas, & Paul Johnson:

- a. Is working to create SAMs 2. SAMs is meet management software equally owned by Move United and ATFUSA, which was created in the early 90's to help Meet Directors run a multi-sport Para meet. The original program was premise based and somewhat difficult to use if a region only ran 1 meet per year. The objectives of the updated SAMs2 program are:
  - i. Create a cloud and premise-based program
  - ii. Offer; up to date data on rules, records, results, and classification for just in time meet population.
  - iii. The ability to transfer meet results and post meet reports to MU and ATFUSA.
  - iv. Phase II - Simplify the administration screens to allow Meet Directors a simple way to use the program without extensive training.

The program was transferred to the USA from the developer and is now running on the Move United Server. MU has contracted a developer to continue to fix open code issues and develop input and output reports.

The mutual goal of MU and ATFUSA is to have the program available for the 2025 season.

### **2. Develop Para Officials:**

Continue to grow USATF Certified Para Officials

- a. 355 total officials have been certified this Quad. 38 Officials were added in 2024.
- b. Continue the evaluation process to rate the skill level of our certified officials working Para meets so those meeting the criteria can qualify for the NTO course.
- c. In 2024, 399 evaluations were written from 221 Officials, who worked our Para only meets in the US. From these evaluations we will select those qualified to be named to the next NTO course.
- d. We have 15 to 20 officials ready to take the NTO course. We are hoping to hold the course in 2025.

**3. Meet Results & Records (Records Report input by Jim Strunk):**

To maintain Meet Results & Records in track and field for Para athletes.

- a. We uploaded all Para meet results to the Results Database at ATFUSA.org.
- b. This year was the 12<sup>th</sup> year Junior and Master athletes can set records at Level 3 regional events.
- c. Records were updated on the Web and in SAM's in July of 2024 prior to the Hartford Nationals.
- d. The Boston Athletic Association (BAA) Sanctioned their Boston Para ½ Marathon, and their Boston 10K. The course/events were WPA approved and new USA records were set for many of the Wheelchair and Para Ambulatory classes and a few World Records were submitted for approval.
- e. It was a pretty big year for records given US Para nationals in March, The Hartford and US Para Trials in July and then the Olympics. Excluding the Olympics (I still have to finish reviewing results);
  - i. Total Records Set in 2024: 376
  - ii. Established in 2024: 82 (T71/72, Masters, 40s, 60s)
  - iii. Repeat Records set: 51 (32 at Nationals), some records being set 3 times during the season
  - iv. Established Records repeat Set: 11 (8 at Nationals)
  - v. Amb: 315 / WC: 70
  - vi. Female: 165 / Male: 211
  - vii. Paris Paralympic will be added by end of March 2025.
  - viii. The 700g records for the 2025 season.

**4. Rules:**

- a. New WPA rules were introduced on 3/10/24. These changes were implemented.

**5. 501(C)(3).**

- a. ATFUSA will file the mandatory postcard with the US Internal Revenue Service and the state of Texas for 2024.
- b. ATFUSA maintains its Corporate Address as:  
14900 Ranch Road 12,  
Wimberly, TX 78676  
(residence of Wendy Gumbert).
- c. ATFUSA maintains its working address as:  
ATFUSA  
9 Boulder Lane  
Orleans, MA 02653

**6. Long distance Racing:**

- a. The Peachtree Road race was our National 10K and Philip Galli served as the Para Referee for the event. Peachtree has approved to continue the championship into 2025.

- b. Jerry Clayton and Phil Galli worked the, Chicago, Boston and NYC Marathons as TD and Para NTO.
- c. In addition the Boston half Marathon and the B.A.A. 10K were sanctioned by the BAA and Phil Galli served as the Para Ref for the ½ Marathon.

**7. Equipment Sales:**

We continued to market equipment to our members.

Partial proceeds of these sales go to ATFUSA (and the Dixie Regional Organization run by Randy and Pam Chiavaroli).

Actual 2024 sale proceeds to ATFUSA was, \$679.50.

Accounting is included in the Treasurer report.

**8. Meet Support:**

- a. ATFUSA provided direct support for GLASA, Tri-State, Palmetto Games, Dairyland, US Para Track & Field Championships, US Para track and Field Trials, New England Disabled Sports, and Louisiana Gumbo Meets.
- b. ATFUSA ran the T&F competition at the Hartford Nationals which is the ATFUSA Junior and Adult Nationals.

**9. Clinics/Education:**

- a. We Continue to review the Best Practices and post them on the WEB.
- b. Phil Galli ran the Zoom portion of the Officials Clinic at the Turnstone Endeavor Games and Paul Johnson with Denise Hutchins support ran the in person portion

## **THE BOARD DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS FOR 2025:**

### **1. Rules:**

- a. Review the rules from 2024 and determine if changes must be made.
- b. Continue to communicate important rules for coaches and athletes.
- c. Notify all Teams of the 700g Javelin change for 2025 and work with Dixie and others to provide an option for them to purchase them for the 2025 competition.
- d. Vacate the existing 700g Age Group/Class events.
- e. Discuss a ATFUSA Grant to help purchase the first new 700g Javelins.
- f. Discuss and approve to move from the 300g Turbo jav for U11 athletes and move to the 250g Aero Jav.  
(Following the USATF Junior committee move to this jav). The change if adopted would take effect for the 2026 season. The USATF Junior committee stated the reason for the change is that the Aero Jav looks and feels more like the regular Javs and it is believed to ease the transition to the heavier javelins.
- g. Await any WPA Rule changes.

### **2. 501(C)(3):**

Maintain the 501( C)(3).

### **3. Clinics/Education:**

- a. We will run an Officials clinic as needed.
- b. Continue to review the Best Practices and post them on the WEB.
- c. Hold a National Para Official's Webinar to teach the new 2025-2028 Para Level 1 Certification course.

### **4. Standards:**

- a. Review the Junior standards in track and field and make appropriate changes.
- b. Review the Open Standards in Track and Field and make appropriate changes.
- c. Vacate all 700g Javelin records due to the change, but do not change the Standards in 2025. Evaluate the 2025 results using the new 700g javelin to determine if a change in standards is necessary.
  - i. Classes effected:
    - F11-13 U17, M50
    - F38 M50
    - F42-F46 U17, M50
    - F61-F64 U17, M50

### **5. Meet Management & Meet Growth:**

#### **Nationals:**

- a. Run T&F at the Hartford Move United 2025 Nationals in Grand Rapids MI.
- b. Work to increase the number of athletes going to the 2025 Hartford MU Nationals.



- c. Place/Approve the Refs at all major Para only competitions, to run the Para Track and Field Events and to provide a consistent level of competition across all MU Level meets.
6. **Road Racing:**
- a. Actively market and increase participation of athletes at the 2025 Peachtree Road Race (our National 10K).
  - b. Continue our sanctioning of Boston Athletics Association Para Events.
  - c. Work to improve the quality of the Para Ambulatory division at the Boston Marathon, ½ Marathon and 10K to help grow this division in the other USA major Road Races.
  - d. Work to get additional Road Race Sanctions for 5K, 15K, ½ Marathon and Marathon.
7. **WEB Site:**
- Provide enhancements and review the topics covered on the ATFUSA website.
- a. Develop content for Coaches, Athletes, and Officials on specific topics.
8. **Meet Management:**
- Implement the new SAMS.
- a. Fix the outstanding issues.
  - b. Develop electronic transfer mechanisms for Track/Field/Swimming input or results, to eliminate mistakes and improve Data import/export.
  - c. Develop import apps to allow for auto replacement of the Classification, Standards, and Record tables, as they change.
9. **Para Officials:**
- a. Develop and implement the new Para Certification Course and Test.
  - b. Deliver a Video Webinar of the Course. (scheduled for 3/4/25)
  - c. Support the challenge to get at least 400 ATFUSA Para certified officials by the end of the 2025-2028 Quad.
  - d. Organize and name Officials to qualified to attend the second and third USA WPA NTO course.
  - e. Continue the Para Official Evaluation process to rank the skill level of our Certified Officials, but change the rating system from 1 to 5 where 1 is the best. (This will put us in line with the USATF Eval process).
  - f. Evaluate the need for a Level 2 USATF certification course and test.
  - g. Create a webinar for officials working Road Races where Para Athletes compete (Wheelchair and/or Para Ambulatory divisions) to ensure all Para rules are implemented consistently.

**10. ATFUSA Revenue:**

- a. Continue to promote Equipment sales and other income opportunities.
- b. Maintain the Move United Memo of Understanding.
- c. Continue and expand Road Events (Peachtree 10K and The BAA Para Events).

**11. High School:**

- a. Support the growth of States with Para Ambulatory Divisions when asked.
- b. Aid any state wishing to organize a Para Division.

**12. USATF Integration:**

- a. Work with USATF Para Committee and USATF Officials Committee to work the transition of Para Track and Field into USATF.

This report is respectfully submitted by;

*Philip C. Galli, Jr.*

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ATFUSA, Chairman