Maine USATF
PO Box 214, Canaan, ME 04924-0214
(207) 474-8876 www.meusatf.org

IMPORTANT 2008 USATF CLUB REGISTRATION

March 21, 2008

Dear Club Directors & Coaches,

For 2008, **ALL Club Registrations** must be submitted to the association's office on or **before April 24th, 2008.** As on May 1, 2008 date, all USATF Competitive Clubs will have an extra late fee applied of **one hundred dollar ($100.) and there will be no exceptions.**

BACKGROUND SCREENING OF ALL COACHES & VOLUNTEERS: For 2008

As of Jan. 1st, 2008, to be a member club of USATF, and MEUSATF, all USATF - Maine Clubs must provide to the association's screening agent, Paul W. Morency, a Coach/Volunteer Application Form for all those that come in DIRECT CONTACT with Youth Athletes. Background checks on all coaches/volunteers is now **MANDATORY for 2008.** Within the Maine Association, Paul Morency (and only he) will be doing all background checks and all individuals and findings will be either approved or denied. There will be an application for Coaches/Volunteers that will be used and issued to all clubs within this association. (Coaches/Volunteer Application Form enclosed).

Paul Morency - MEUSATF's screening agent has already had a background check done and has signed a confidentiality agreement, which is on file with USATF.

All coaches/volunteers **must become** USATF members. Cost for USATF membership is as follows: Adult Coaches/Volunteers - $25.00. Youth Volunteers age 16 up to the age of 18, cost is $14.00*. **If** MEUSATF performs the background screening on clubs coaches/volunteers, cost is an extra $5.00.

Enclosed are the coaches/volunteers form (please make photocopies if needed) that they the coaches/volunteers will fill out and send into the association's screening agent.

If your local recreation program does a background check on you, as a coach/volunteer(s) or if you have under gone another screening process, such as; an Educator by the State of Maine or other approved State of Maine departments i.e.: State and Local police or Sheriffs departments this will forego a background check by ME-USATF as long as there is a notarized copy of that certification and the completion of the Coaches/Volunteer Application form and sent to the screening agent to have on file.

Items to be looked at during the screening process are:

1. Any crimes against children
2. Any sexual offences
3. DWI/OUI (within last 5 years)
4. Drug convictions
5. Weapons violations
6. Assaults, battery or any other crime of violence
7. Lewd conduct

You may ask why ME-USATF is looking at starting Background Checks. The answer is very simple. To promote a safe and supportive athletic environment in which youth athletes can pursue their athletic goals. There is also a Q&A sheet enclosed. If you have any other questions or concerns, please make contact with Paul Morency- MEUSATF's Screening Agent at his e-mail address: meusatf@roadrunner.com

Sincerely,

Valaree J.L. Foss, Maine USATF President
Paul W. Morency, Maine USATF Background Screening Agent