



USA Track and Field-Maine partners with Maine Games to offer showcase event June 25

Amateur athletes of all ages and abilities to compete this summer

SACO, MAINE; January 20, 2011—The Pine Tree State’s official State Games, the Maine Games, is announcing a partnership with USA Track and Field-Maine to create a showcase track and field meet to be held on Saturday, June 25. The venue for this event, as well as other details will be announced prior to the opening of registration on April 1.

This partnership marks the return of track and field to the Maine Games as well as the first time that the state chapter of the national governing body for track and field has been involved.

“The Maine Games is very excited to have an organization such as USA Track and Field, through our state chapter, as a supporting partner this year. This association will provide us with their expertise in creating a meet that all Maine track and field athletes can be proud of,” said Maine Games executive director, Jeff Scully.

“I’m looking forward to working with Val Foss, the USATF-Maine president, and all of their board members and supporters. This is a golden opportunity to advance the sport of track and field, and put it on a statewide stage,” said Scully.

“We’re very pleased to help promote track and field for all ages in the Maine Games.” said Valaree Foss, president of USATF-Maine. “USATF-Maine promotes the Sport of Track and Field in all age divisions from youth to master athletes, as well as the other disciplines within the sport.”

Those disciplines include, traditional track and field, long distance running, race walking, cross country, mountain-trail running, marathons, disabled athletes, and road races. USATF-Maine has the experience in the organization of many championship meets, which include national USATF Masters championship meets, local championship meets, as well as recruiting USATF certified officials from within our state of Maine and neighboring states to promote and execute the rules of fair play to all ages, young and mature.

Amateur athletes of all ages and abilities, including Special Olympians, Maine Seniors, Maine Corporate Track and Masters competitors, high school and college students, as well as recreational track and field athletes, some as young as five years of age, are expected to compete in the 2011 Maine Games State Track and Field Championships.

“We’re trying to offer every event imaginable, in this meet,” said Scully, “Including steeplechase, race-walking, the hammer throw, TurboJav[®], and nearly all of the events offered at premier track and field meets. This meet would be an ideal opportunity for any track and field athlete to explore other events in addition to their own specialties.”

The Maine Games State Track and Field Championships will be the official and exclusive Maine qualifier for the 2011 and 2013 State Games of America, being held in San Diego and Hershey/Harrisburg, PA, respectively. The State Games of America is the national amateur sports festival, offered by the National Congress of State Games. The Maine Games has been a member of the NCSG since 2003. Medalists in this year’s Maine Games track and field meet will automatically qualify to compete against athletes from all over the country this August 4-7. Opening Ceremonies for this year’s State Games of America will be held at Qualcomm Stadium; the home of the San Diego Chargers and host to three Super Bowls.

To learn more, go to: www.maineames.org.

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ABOUT THE MAINE GAMES: The Maine Games is a member of the National Congress of State Games, which is a collection of non-profit organizations from California to Maine, with the mission of making America healthier through these annual multi-event Olympic-style sports festivals. Each year nearly a half-million Americans compete in over 130 different events including Olympic and Pan-American Games sports, as well as regional favorites.

The Maine Games has been in existence since 2003, and will offer as many as 16 different events this year to Mainers from all walks of life, to provide an opportunity to compete on a statewide stage, to practice good sportsmanship, and to develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime.

ABOUT USA-TRACK AND FIELD: To continue our leadership role as the world's preeminent national governing body in Athletics -- from the grassroots to the elite level. USA Track & Field will provide opportunities for athletes of all ages to pursue excellence in long distance running, race walking, and track & field in the USA.

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF USA TRACK AND FIELD: The function of the Maine Association of USA Track & Field is to administer the programs of USA Track and Field within the State of Maine.

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