2021 USATF South Carolina Annual Meeting
Athletes Advisory Committee Report

Chair/Officer Title:	Athletes Advisory Chair
Chair/Officer Name:	Ian Whatley
Reporting Period:	September 2020 - September 2021
Report Date:	August 16, 2021

Goals

The association AAC support USATF-SC athletes who qualify to compete at national and international level; make sure SafeSport, background checks, and athlete's rights rules are enforced to protect USATF-SC athletes.

Activities

Due to Covid, junior events at the national level this year dropped qualifying standards; Therefore, USATF-SC did not pay entry fees for our age group athletes to compete. USATF-SC offered grants to athletes who: 1) were association members, 2) qualified for the US Olympic Track and Field Trials and, 3) started their Olympic Trials event. Awards consisted of $40 to cover the entry fee USATF national charge all Olympic Trials entrants, and a further grant of $500. Of the eleven (11) USATF-SC athletes who were qualified for grants, two declined because of collegiate eligibility problems or because the entry and travel costs were covered by other bodies. The grant recipients competed in track (3), jumps (2), throws (3) and road events (1). Two USATF-SC athletes qualified for and won medals in the Tokyo Olympic games: Raven Saunders—silver in women's shot, and Wadeline Jonathas—silver in the women's 4X400m. Following the trials, all grant recipients received emails congratulating them on their efforts, and offering to connect them with USOPC psychologists if they were suffering any post-event mental health issues. The association were thanked by every athlete for their grant, which was only $3 more than the amount by which one of our athletes reported they had overdrawn their account to reach the Trials.

Expenses

Total cost of this quadrennial program was $4,860.

Proposal

That USATF-SC offer a mentor and a grant for association Olympic Trials competitors to become either an L1 coach OR to become a certified official. The estimated cost is less than $800.