

RISK MANAGEMENT

Note: This book is available free of charge to members. Please contact the O.T.F.A Office.

Book Introduction

The purpose of this book is to lend some assistance to teachers, coaches, meet organizers, officials as well as owners of track and field facilities in the area of risk recognition and risk management in the sport. With the tremendous range of track and field activities, participants, and facilities goes a similar range of circumstances that may be deemed a risk to participants. For this reason, this book is not intended to be exhaustive in identifying all possible risks and remedies. There is no substitute for the continual exercise of common sense and prudence in the organization and administration of learning sessions, training sessions and competitions. Equal care and consideration is required in the construction of facilities and the selection of apparatus that will allow the participant to engage in the sport as safely as is possible.

With this book and other resources as a guide, it is hoped that the reader will develop with experience a comprehensive knowledge of how to foresee and avoid preventable risks for participants in the sport of track and field yet not be deterred from being innovative or inhibited in promoting a joy for running, jumping, and throwing activities. Modification of rules and events to suit the capabilities of the participant may provoke more interest in him/her as well as reduce the risk of injury.

The first part of the book discusses the components of negligence as is currently interpreted by the courts. The next part presents general guidelines in the development of a Risk Management Plan followed by a recommended Emergency Plan of Action. The final sections of the book outline selected risks and some recommendations on how to manage these risks for the various events of track and field and presents guidelines primarily for teachers of physical education classes.