

2018 State Track meet feedback

Northern Maine Towns: 10

Central Maine Towns: 5

Southern Maine Towns: 6

Total Towns: 21

Northern Maine Participation Numbers: 105

Central Maine Participation Numbers: 53

Southern Maine Participation Numbers: 33

Total Numbers: 191

Total Boys: 114

Total Girls: 77

From Matt Green - SoPo

Overall excellent experience. The parents of my runners were universally pleased with the meet. Check-in was a breeze with all the shirts pre-sorted.

Meet started right on time.

Ribbons were quickly ready.

T-shirts were very nice and something kids will wear around.

Not sure how the concession did in the new location as it was moved away from the people, but it looked like they had some nice baked goods that I never got around to trying.

Officiating crew was great, easily approachable, and timing crew even sorted out a tough finish that came down to the thousandth. I was worried my guy was going to get lost in the camera because the race was so tight, but they found him.

If we're stretching to look for something to improve on, it's tightening up the races themselves to bring the overall length of the meet down. It's a challenge for the young ones when the meet enters hour #4. Accomplish this by lining up more races ahead of time. Typically one age group (and gender) at a time was called to the start meaning there was often quite a gap between races as we waited for the next group to be called to the line, checked in, and lined up. I think we could have shaved a half hour or even more off the total time if the next race was always ready to go once the finish line was clear.

We should probably also inform coaches of some track etiquette as the camera crew was having trouble particularly near the end of the meet with kids running in front of the camera as they entered or exited the infield. There were far too many kids (and parents) on the infield often with large groups running alongside a teammate who was competing (which is a big no-no in track), and I think that increased the camera crossings.

Overall, I thought things were excellent and a very positive experience for all involved.

For the future, I am looking to get out of hosting the regional. I have suggested that SP make this meet a rec camp activity which would boost numbers in the meet while giving them a free field trip (or two if they spring for a bus to Bangor), but have not heard back. If SP is no longer interested in hosting, both Gorham and GNG have expressed interest in hosting. Gorham has extensive experience hosting HS, MS, and USATF meets and is one of the sites I enjoy going to as a coach/spectator because they run an efficient meet. I believe Gorham is also thinking of making this an activity for their rec camp which would boost the numbers.

From Matt Bouchard:

Suggestions for next year:

- Registration could be started sooner. Folks were ready to register and we were not set up yet. Coaches also need to be notified to tell their participants not to check in on their own as the coach will check in their teams. (Exception for those who did not have coaches attending)
 - I agree with Matt G. about races taking too long to start. We should announce one event ahead so runners are at the starting line when ready to line up. We had to wait for some athletes and had to have Tracy announce athletes not at the race to make sure they were a scratch or not. (We need radios/walkie talkies to communicate with timing staff to see if participants are scratches or not and to communicate with announcer. We also had a couple participants we had to add in and place in lanes which had to be communicated prior to the race which also took time. (Suggestion: 2 clerks One will help line up the event going on and the other will gather and organize participants for the next running event)
 - The finish line must be blocked off from participants and mostly spectators from walking on the track and in front of the camera. This was the worst I've ever seen it with folks walking across the finish line. (We can put stakes up to barricade opposite side of finish line off. We can place signs up that say do not enter on timing side of track)
 - Yes, I agree with Matt G. again that coaches need to tell their teams they can run along side the athlete that is running in the race.
 - I also am not sure how concessions made out as I did not go.
 - I believe ribbons went well as there were not many left at the end of the meet and no lines waiting to receive.
 - I believe field events went well. They got down well before the races finished.
 - I think we need to re-think the age 15yr old category. We had no runners for these events.
 - Bottle redemption cans should be put out. Bangor could receive some redemption as there were a lot of bottles lying around and in the garbage cans.
 - More trash cans would be good. Some were full and trash was falling out of them.
- Over all: Meet went very well. I have attended several school track meets and granted there are a few more events I have never left a track meet in under 4-5 hours. We also have to remember

that high school aged athletes have an idea when their events will start and know how to line up/ run the 100m etc. Our 7-10 year olds are just learning and practically have no clue. They are there to run and have fun with smiles on their faces!!!!