



Go USATF.ORG

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From: Sean Rice <seanrice@mac.com>
Date: October 1, 2009 2:36:52 PM EDT
Subject: SPORTS DATA
To: USATF BOARD of DIRECTORS

Dear USA Track & Field,

I am sincerely saddened to hear GoUSATF.org has not reached our best leaders - yet - so I shall triple my efforts !!! =)

WE THE PEOPLE

Regardless of what i've heard, I do believe our leadership is concerned with what's best & healthy for our sport as a whole. I do believe our governing USATF body is for opening doors, for ensuring that everybody wins, and that opportunities like Go Pre for iPhone should be possible, not just as a concept for discussion, but for our members themselves to develop on their own too - in the American tradition of democracy and a free marketplace.

IN ORDER TO FORM

I believe our leadership would like to see every athlete reach their potential. I also believe Steve Prefontaine fought the AAU so many years ago to make exactly the same point we at GoUSATF.org are making now - however ironically - that EVERY member should and must be allowed to reach their potential. As athletes AND developers. We must be free to dream up ideas like Go Pre (1.0 for iPhone/iPod by Sean coming soon :o) ... in support of our sport, must be free to design better websites ... and forever be encouraged to do so ... for the good of our sport. We must provide them with unrestricted access to our sports history.

At GoUSATF.org, we argue our sports data is freely supplied by our coaches and meet directors to sites with an understanding of responsibility. That they are safekeeping our data and making its sharing possible around the world for the benefit of our sport. As leaders, WE are ambassadors for our sport. It's up to US Coaches across God Bless America to ensure our best leaders USATF not only hear us ... but address these serious issues ASAP. Go Pre eeee... :)

A MORE PERFECT UNION

To ensure the widest possible marketing of our message, I am reaching out to everyone inside our sport. I am contacting current and retired coaches, meet directors, athletes, sportswriters, famous personalities, and the news media ... and explaining what needs to be done.



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At present our sports data is hosted by several for-profit entities ... who restrict access to our data, severely in some cases, and reserve the right to deny anyone access at anytime without explanation.

At GoUSATF.org, we feel our USATF leadership must assume hosting responsibilities, setup a centralized server-driven database solution that anyone can access, and provide feeds for everyone to access. I'd further recommend using Apple technology, given an authoritative voice. Our meet directors, coaches, athletes will only need to submit data once ... and upon submission, our entire sport has immediate access. Clearly defined user-friendly documentation will support a robust yet simple to use API system. Yes, USATF itself could determine to provide basic information visually as well ... however this isn't critically important. I'd do it ... but that's just me. Regardless, all policies must be inclusive.

THAT BENEFITS OUR SPORT

Existing websites like MileSplint.us would be unaffected. But far more importantly, the doors for competition and innovation in our market open... to coaches like me :) ... and WE gain the freedom of choice. To choose voluntarily whether to buy a subscription from our favorite cool runners website, purchase a killer iPhone app like Go Pre ... or develop a competing product ourselves. The futures wide-open. Everyone profits. It's a win-win-win !!!

Hope this helps,
Sean

p.s. oh, almost forgot. GO PRE !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!