

IAAF ACADEMY FOR COACHES

The IAAF Coaches' Commission has decided during its first meeting in Budapest, HUN in March 2004 that the first activity of the IAAF Academy for Coaches will be a pilot course for Chief Coach.

Since this date the course has been set up and run, which is remarkable with regards to the tight time schedule.

INTRODUCTION

The IAAF Academy Chief Coach Accreditation Course is aimed at those individuals within an organisation that have responsibility for leading and managing significant performance orientated programmes (Performance/Coaching Directors, Academy Head Coaches, Team Leaders etc.) It aims to provide the coach with the relevant knowledge, understanding and practical experience to create an environment capable of delivering high levels of individual and team performance at specific events and over multiple seasons. It recognises an athlete centred approach and the role of these individuals as leaders and managers of a support network assembled around the athlete. Central to the course design is a philosophy that focuses on meeting the practical demands and challenges that face coaching at this level. Utilising a problem solving approach, the perspectives of multiple disciplines are brought together in order to facilitate innovative and creative solutions. Coaches are encouraged to explore and develop the critical factors that impact on this process namely; their personal coaching, leadership and management skills. The components of Observation & Analysis, Planning, Preparation and in event Performance are examined from an interdisciplinary perspective.

STRUCTURE & DELIVERY

The course has been organised in two distinct parts with each part carrying a unit equivalence of 30 credits. Part A focuses on developing the coaching, leadership and management skills. Part B focuses on the practical aspects associated with delivering World Class performances. Each part will involve up to 300 hours of total student effort including direct contact and private study (pre course preparation, assignments etc.). A coach candidate may only progress to part B upon satisfactory completion of part A. Each 30 credit module are written, delivered and assessed by the host Institution (School of Sport & Exercise Science, Loughborough University, UK). It is envisaged that upon successful completion the candidate coach will qualify with the award of IAAF Academy Chief Coach.

For the initial pilot both parts A and B are delivered at the host Institution venue (Loughborough University, UK) with candidate coaches locating from around the world for 2 extended residential sessions lasting 10 days for Part A and 6 days for Part B. It is envisaged that both sessions must be delivered within a 6 months period (July/December) with course completion (assessment/graduation etc.) some time thereafter. The course leader is responsible for the

overall development of the course, appointment of staff, scheduling of the residential sessions and general administration/monitoring of candidate progress.

ASSESSMENT

Candidate coaches are assessed in both part A and part B of the course with each module part assessed either independently or in combination with other module parts. Module assessment takes different forms both formal (written) and more practical (presentations, video assignment, verbal report, poster etc.). Wherever possible the assessment format attempt to reflect the practical issues facing the coach at this level and draw upon the 'here and now' problems confronting the candidates in their professional roles. Candidates are required to complete project work whilst resident on the course and through private study in between residential sessions.

COURSE ORGANISATION

The course venue, University of Loughborough was the right place to run this pilot course. The area is wide offering all necessary facilities. All the participants and staff were accommodated in the same lodging, Faraday 16. The food was correct and the change of restaurant from breakfast to dinner was appreciated. The main classroom, equipped with 8 computers connected to internet was 15' walking far from our lodging. Most of the sessions were appreciated by the participants and several constructive comments have been received for further improvement. The tutors' level was high, and minor changes will be made in the whole programme of the part A: time schedule, sessions order, duration, transfer of knowledge, e-learning. A social evening hosted by the Sport Development Centre/ LU Athletics including invited guests at the HIPAC Athletics Centre was very fruitful. Facilities are impressive and discussions with people from athletics were appreciated.

PARTICIPANTS

The participants were 15 from each Continental Area, they have been nominated by their respective Area Coaches' Association in cooperation of the MSD.

AFRICA (2)

- John VELZIAN, Kenya
- Enang Ruth MESODE, Cameroon

ASIA (1)

- Ria LUMINTUARSO, Indonesia

EUROPE (4)

- Peter DAVIDOVICI, Israel
- Vadim ZELICHENOK, Russia
- Peter THOMPSON, Great Britain
- Frank DICK, Great Britain

NACAC (4)

- Victor LOPEZ, Puerto Rico

- Lenford LEVY, Jamaica
- Diane WHOLEY, USA
- Carmyn JAMES, Canada

OCEANIA (3)

- Anthony L. RICE, Australia
- Stephen HOLLINGS, New Zealand
- Fletcher McEwen, Australia

SOUTH AMERICA (1)

- Oscar GADEA, Uruguay

CONCLUSION

All the 15 participants were highly satisfied after completion of the Part A. This course has shown interest and enthusiasm from all parts involved, especially the University of Loughborough and its tutors. Further cooperation should be implemented with them for any other pilot course or course when applicable.

Part B will be held in Loughborough University from 19 to 26 September 2004, 6 days duration.