



MEDIA RELEASE

NAAATT Hosts Webinar on New Rules

NAAATT on Saturday, 2022 January 08 hosted the first in a series of Education Webinars targeted to key stakeholders in the sport of athletics. Saturday's exercise focussed on the newly introduced changes to World Athletics (formerly IAAF) Competition Rules. Some of the changes directly impact the popular events (sprints, middle-distance, hurdles, jumps and throws) in which Trinidad and Tobago is often represented at major international meets.

The lively and very interactive two-hour session was facilitated by Mr John "Slim" Andalcio, one of the more experienced local coaches and technical officials. He is a World Athletics Lecturer and member of the International Technical Officials Panel. Attendees included coaches and technical officials with external participation by Mr. Patrick Mathurin (St. Lucia) and Messrs. Edwin Roberts and Wayne Davis Snr. both of whom are based in USA.

In his opening remarks, newly elected President, Mr. George Comissiong, reminded participants that his slate of candidates for the recently held NAAATT Elections had campaigned on Five Strategic Pillars among which were: "A focus on the overall development of the athletes" and "The enhancement of Support Systems". The planned session was intended to do just that: provide coaches, one of the key support elements, with the information relating to the new rules that they, in turn, were expected to share with the athletes under their care. He cautioned that if an athlete was prepared both mentally and physically but was disqualified for a rule infringement through ignorance then the Coach would not have done his/her job. He also stressed that technical officials, another key support element, also needed to update their knowledge as they played an important role in ensuring that our athletes competed under the right conditions and that rules were fairly and objectively administered.

The Webinar was organised jointly by Mrs Michelle Soute Lopez and Mr. Dexter Voisin, convenors of NAAATT's Education, Publications and Research (Records) and Technical Development Sub-Committees respectively.

NAAATT is preparing for the resumption of competitive events with a series of Development/Preparation Meets planned for the Hasely Crawford and Dwight Yorke Stadiums.

Caption: John Andalcio in company with legendary American athlete, John Carlos, at the World Junior Championships in Cali, Colombia.

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