

From: "Philip Greenwald" <greenwaldp@att.net>
Subject: RE: Team USA Malaga
Date: July 28, 2018 at 9:49:40 PM EDT
To: "Michael Kish"

Michael –

I don't know why the national office staff didn't forward your email to me and I assume they will do so next week – they have been very busy with uniform distribution.

To answer your questions - the entire selection process occurs in Malaga, not before. That has been our practice for many years and it won't be changing for Malaga. The selection process is set by Masters Track and Field Committee of USATF and they are extremely reluctant to change it after it is announced. Changes are considered by the committee for future WMA championships when the committee (and its Executive Committee) meet. The full committee meets at the USATF Annual meeting the week after Thanksgiving (in Columbus, OH this year), the Executive Committee meets, mainly via conference call, more several times a year).

There are several problems with doing the selection before we are all there – it starts with confirming who is actually going and available, then researching their recent performances to do a preliminary selection. The next issue that we (the selection committee) can't commit either – too many things can happen that would cause us to re-think the team structure, potentially leaving a "selected" person out – this would happen if a number of athletes were injured, didn't come to Malaga, or were leaving earlier than planned. We could then go from having 9 or 10 people in two age groups (enough for a team in each) to seven – one team and several alternates. . Likewise, somebody could come and perform better than one of the pre-selected athletes; what do we say to him/her – sorry, we have already selected the team and you are not on it, despite your running better than selected people. Finally, there is a simple matter of logistics – we can have over 20 teams and 100 interested athletes at a championship – that is a large number of people to research on-line; you quickly end up with wind-aided, indoor, and old performances that are hard to evaluate.

WMA has considered moving the 4x100 earlier in the schedule (closer to 100 and 200 competitions), so far that hasn't happened.

My advice is always to plan your trip around your individual events; if you are available for the relays and we have a slot for you, that is a bonus. Unfortunately, there are so many things outside your control that planning on running a relay is not a good strategy.

Regards,

Philip Greenwald