

2025

Cristina Briarton

Cristina Briarton, of Lisle, is a natural as an official. She spots potential issues before they happen, she handles interactions with coaches and athletes professionally and effectively, and is a great teammate on an officiating team. She has great mastery of the rules, and maybe more importantly, knows what she doesn't know, so she can either look it up or ask. She made the jump to working a Detweiller invite this year, and from what I heard, she impressed the veteran officials there as well. She is the kind of official that we will see in leadership roles in the next 5-10 years. Overall, she's super impressive and deserves recognition. (From a nomination letter by Lindsay Consdorf) Congratulations Cristina!

2024

Rutelia Faith Miller

Rutelia Faith Miller prefers to go by Faith, but Faith is her middle name. Faith is the 2024 ITCCOA Rookie of the Year. She was nominated by Jacklyn Slaughter and worked several meets with her and many other officials as well. Faith not only is an IHSA official, she is also a USATF official and has learned to work many different events during her first two years as an official. Faith completed the ITCCOA mentoring program and attended the St. Charles Level 1 clinic where she really got some good experience. Faith lives in South Holland. Illinois is very fortunate to have her as an official and we look forward to her continued success.

2023

Leslie Schall

Leslie Schall is the 2023 ITCCOA Rookie of the Year. Leslie was a special education teacher and has now been an IHSA T&F and XC official for three years. She has fully embraced officiating, having gone through the ITCCOA Mentoring Program formally, but also being open to new experiences and unofficial mentoring at every meet she works. Leslie loves working with student athletes of any age and has worked with all ages, not only in high school, but also youth athletes and masters athletes in USATF. She loves officiating and it shows.

2022

Thomas Taylor

Thomas Taylor of Chicago was awarded the Rookie of the Year for 2022. Tom started off his first High School track meet with Jeff Vorreyer in some of the worst possible weather conditions imaginable. That was his very first meet and he stuck with it. This XC season he had meets and was also able to step in and help as a clerk at the 2A Deerfield Sectional. The top two 2A girls teams for Illinois came out of Deerfield so it was an historic meet. Tom handled himself with professionalism and a demeanor that was calm. I think calm is something that just naturally surrounds him so this is passed on to the athletes as they prepare to race. Tom has been

volunteering at the Chicago Marathon for 10 years and is happy to now be able to work track and field and cross country meets. He is a welcome and needed member to our association and to the IHSA.

Congratulations to Tom Taylor. Tom became an IHSA official in 2021-2022 and jumped right in. He conducts himself as a seasoned veteran and worked many meets in the northern suburbs with partners and on his own. He also worked a 2A XC Sectional this year as an additional clerk. He was willing and able to step in and comport himself with professionalism and ease.

2021

Doug Berger

Doug Berger's involvement with XC and Track goes back to 1973 when he began as head coach of both sports at Gordon Tech in Chicago. He has also been the head XC and assistant Track coach at Loyola University and has coached at Loyola Academy.

In the 2021 track season Doug signed on as an IHSA track official. As we are all aware, 2021 was a most unusual year as schools again hosted meets following 2020 the Covid year. Doug worked many meets assigned by Bill Drennen, his nominator for RoY, in the Central Suburban League, (CCL). Kerry Dean also assisted in the nomination of Doug. A quote from Kerry's nomination letter reads in part...

"Doug possessed all the positive attributes of a seasoned track official and required no direction at any point. For a first year official, he is a natural whether it was his delivery of the start commands, speaking to the athletes, or discussing concerns with the coaches."

During that season Doug was able to work about 16 track meets ranging from small dual meets to large invitationals that included the CCL Conference Championship as the asst. starter and the Loyola Academy IHSA Girls Sectional as a clerk.

During the 2021 XC season Doug was the starter at a few quad meets and an invitational. He was also an assistant starter at an IESA sectional, the Dukane Conference meet, and the Glenbrook South IHSA sectional.

Doug's coaching background, willingness to help out, and enthusiasm have marked him as an outstanding official during his first seasons in both track and cross country. Doug worked with Bill Drennan, Jay Marshall, and Kirt Davies for the mentoring program.

2019

Steve Johnson

Steve was a 4 sport athlete in high school back in the 1970's, even entertaining several D2/D3 scholarship offers. Ironically, however, none of those sports was Track or Cross Country! He didn't come into the world of Track & Cross Country until his daughter ran for Downer's Grove

North and at the Univ of Wisconsin-Parkside. He was a dutiful parent of a runner as he volunteered for all of the various duties...timing, clerking, finish line, etc. He continued to

volunteer even after his daughter graduated. I guess you could say that he was hooked at this point!

At the urging of Downer's Grove North coach Bruce Ritter, Steve became licensed with both the IHSA and USATF in 2017. Since then, he has worked meets from the middle school level on up, including the NCAA D1 and USATF T&F national championship meets.

Steve and his wife Marie live in Woodridge, IL, their college age children, Ashley and Ryan.

Bob Roley

About three years ago, I was working a JH track meet in New Berlin, IL, when I ran into a teacher that I used to work with who was now coaching. He mentioned to me that his father-in-law, Bob Roley, was in the process of studying for his officials license in track & field. I passed along my contact info and told him to have Bob call me if I could help in any way. It wasn't long before Bob gave me a call and I was amazed at how much he wanted to learn. He asked a lot of questions and learned as much as he could.

I first got the chance to work with Bob when he volunteered to help me out at a cross country regional meet the next fall. His desire to learn continues as he has volunteered at both XC and Track state meets. Having mentored under Dave Feldhake in 2018, Bob went on to work 18 meets during the 2019 season. I have no doubt that he will keep learning and honing his skills as an official.

Bob comes to officiating as a "second career". He graduated from Stewardson-Strasburg HS in 1969 and the U of I in 1974. He went to work at Caterpillar as an engineer and currently holds 14 US Patents as a result of his work. He and his wife Cindy live in Windsor, IL, where he enjoys gardening as well as spending time with his 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

2018

Rashida Gates

Rashida is a third year track and field official and a member of the ITCCOA. Rashida has been very active in officiating the sport at the middle school, high school, and Collegiate level as well as USA Track and Field. She is very willing to work at any level of competition and at any event.

Not only does she know the rules, but she also knows how to handle herself professional around the athletes, coaches, and parents and always does so with a smile!

Rashida has been into sports all her life. She started running track at the age of 8. The other sports she participated in junior high was volleyball and basketball. In high school she was a three sport athlete, volleyball, basketball and track. She was a varsity track team member and captain for all four years. Her sophomore year she made it downstate in the 400m she also ran the 400 in the 800 medley relay, open 400, 4x400relay and 4x200 relay.

Rashida passed up many track scholarships and decided to take a basketball scholarship to attend Lewis University. Still loving the sport, Rashida was a huge supporter. After becoming a mom of two girls who are very active in track themselves, Rashida was so involved with the team that coaches asked her to volunteer more of her time. She happily did.

Her youngest daughter is still running and she helps coaches her team in the summer. Rashida is also Vice President and member of USATF MASTERS Explosion track club.

2017

Patty McHugh

2016

Jordan Sieger

Jordan is currently a senior at Shelbyville High School and to date, is the youngest Rookie of the Year Award winner in our Association's history. Jordan began participating in Track and Field in 7th grade, first as a sprinter, but later transitioned to a middle distance runner. He has competed at both the IHSA State Cross Country and Track and Field Finals. He attributes his success as an athlete to his coaches, Kevin Kramer and Chris Mosley. Jordan began his officiating career last year as a junior, but has helped at Track and Field meets since 8th grade. He owes his start to Ben Guyot who encouraged him join the IHSA which he did at the age of 17. He was mentored by several officials around the State, but truly appreciates the help from Mike Powers who help connect Jordan with the officiating community.

Jonathan Troyer

Jonathan started his Track and Field officiating career during his Senior year of high school. An injury prevented Jonathan from competing his Junior year and that inspired

him to become an official. In his first year, Jonathan worked under the direction of his mentor, Dave Facker. In his short tenure, Jonathan has worked the Girls State Track and Field Finals the past three years and has also worked the State Cross Country Finals in 2015. Jonathan is currently a Junior at Eureka College, studying Biology and Criminal Justice. He is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and Sigma Zeta Science and Math Honor Society. Jonathan is also a Soccer Referee for the IHSA, NCAA and the USSF.

Cliff Norman

Cliff's interest in Track and Field and Cross Country began as an athlete competing for Crown High School Carpentersville and later at Elgin Community College. He was away from those sports while serving our country in the Marine Corps. He returned home, married and settled in Arlington Heights with his wife Lisa and their two daughters. Cliff works as an IT Manager with Packaging Corporation of America. Cliff renewed his participation in the sport through volunteering at the Mid-Suburban League Cross Country meet in 2012. Cliff joined the IHSA as an official and has worked several meets in the Chicagoland Area as well as working State Series Meets for the IHSA and IESA.

2015

Dave Koelper

Dave ran track in High School and in College. He is retired after 30+ years working for the United States Postal Service as a Letter Carrier. Dave was mentored as a Track and Field Official in 2014 by Bill Drennan and Mike Powers. In 2015, Dave officiated 33 track meets for the IESA and IHSA. He also officiated at the IHSA Boys State Track meet and enjoyed working the Long and Triple Jumps.

Pat O'Brien

Pat is a lifelong resident of Rock Island and was a 300 Intermediate Hurdle State Qualifier for the Rock Island High School team that claimed the Class AA State Championship in 1989. After high school, Pat served in the US Army, fighting in Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

After ending his military service, Pat held a few different jobs, none of which offered him the time or opportunity to get back onto the track and give back to the sport he's always

loved He is currently the Water Utilities Maintenance Supervisor for the city of Rock Island.

In 2014, Pat began volunteering at Rock Island HS Track meets, and with the guidance of Charles Austin, recognized there was a need for officials. Beginning in March, 2015, Pat worked for the 20 IESA and IHSA track meets, under the guidance for Charles Austin, Bill Bulat, and Russell Jenkins and eagerly awaits the start of the 2016 Track and Field Season.

Pat has been married to his wife Gretchen for 24 years and they have three daughters, Kaitlyn (17), a 2015 IHSA State Qualifier in Tennis, Elyse (13) and Emily (9).

Lindsay Consdorf

Lindsay first joined the Track and Cross Country community as an athlete throughout middle school and high school. Even in high school, Lindsay intended to become an official one day. In college, Lindsay was a member of the Illini Runners Club organization and had her first clerking experience as a volunteer at the Big Ten Indoor Championships at the University of Illinois. After college, she was an assistant coach for the girls' team at Warren Township High School for five years before deciding to transition to officiating.

As an official, Lindsay has worked the IHSA Track and Field State Finals series for both Cross Country and Track and Field. Lindsay has most recently worked in the Clerk's tent at the State Track and Field Finals and was the Boys' Class 1A Starter at the 2015 State Cross Country Championships.

Lindsay is in her tenth year of teaching Chemistry at Warren Township High School and lives in Palatine with her husband and son.

2014

Kelley Mullaney

Kelley started running track her sophomore year in high school at Cary-Grove and senior year was appointed captain of the girls team. She did not continue her running career in college but did volunteer when she could for Eastern Illinois University home track meets. After graduating from EIU, she landed her first teaching job, half way through the year, at Stewardson-Strasburg. When she was hired as a math teacher, she was also hired as the head track and field coach for both boys and girls. During her there, she had the pleasure of coaching, not only the first state qualifier but the first state medalist in school history. After her time there, she moved on to Macon Meridian High School where she now teaches math and is a volunteer assistant track coach.

She has spent the last two girls and three boys State Track meets working as a volunteer official. This past summer she got involved in USA Track and Field and had the pleasure of officiating several meets. The fall was the first time she was able to work at the State Cross Country Meet. Although she has just started to get involved in officiating, track and field has been a huge part of her life, and she hopes to continue contributing to the sport and assisting athletes like so many did for her.

2013

Kenric Bond

Kenric Bond's involvement with Track and Field began at Low Point-Washburn High School where he earned All-State honors in cross country and track & field. From there Kenric continued his athletic career at Eastern Illinois University where he lettered in cross country and track & field. After college, Kenric became an educator, with stops at Atwood-Hammond, Shelbyville, and Congerville-Eureka-Goodfield school districts before coming to Will County School District 92 in the Lockport/Homer Glen area. Along with teaching, Kenric coached cross country and track & field at the middle school and high school levels. After eighteen years, scheduling conflicts made it difficult for Kenric to continue coaching. Still wanting to still be part of the sport of track and field, Kenric decided, with a tremendous amount of aid from numerous veteran officials, to become a cross country and track & field official. In the short time as an official, Kenric has worked at the State Cross Country Championships and the Girls State Track and Field Championships. He is in his twentieth year of teaching, and continues to coach middle school cross country. He resides in Lisle with his wife and daughter.

Tiffany Seay

Mostly known for her contagious smile and laughter on the field, Tiffany has been a participant and fan of Track and Field for over 30 years. As an athlete, she anchored the Whitney Young Dolphins 4x400 and 4x800 relay City Champions from 1989 - 1991. She went on to compete at the collegiate level for Lewis University (Division II) until a knee injury ended her running career.

Not wanted to move too far away from her first love, Tiffany provided technical assistance for several Chicago Public Schools track teams. Tiffany has served as Girls' Distance Coach for Whitney Young and Head Girls' Coach for Senn High School and Englewood High School.

Due to her position with Chicago Public Schools as a Program Manager and pursuing her Master's and PhD, Tiffany had to step away from coaching. However, her love continued.

In 2011, Tiffany got restless as she wanted to get back into Track and Field but did not know how. Finally, after a conversation with Calvin Davis, former CPS Sports program manager, Tiffany decided to pursue becoming an official. Being an official allows Tiffany to be close to the sport that she loves and allows her to assist the youth that she advocates for on a daily basis.

In her short time as an official, Tiffany has worked numerous meets and has worked at the Girls and Boys State Meet in 2013.

2012

Tim Cross

Tim Cross has been officiating for the past five years. He is one of the most conscientious officials around. Tim consistently demonstrates preventive officiating. He is analytical without being over officious, and keeps a keen perspective of his surroundings. Tim has excelled in a very short time. In his first two years Tim was very methodical in his approach to learning his responsibilities. This served him very well as he quickly grasped each task and now demonstrates excellence above many. To that credit he was asked to serve as the Head Triple Jump Judge for the Girls State Track

and Field Championships after serving only a few years on the crew. As shown above, he has worked numerous cross country and track and field meets in varying capacities in his short time. He has traveled an estimated 3200 miles serving both sports, and demonstrated good leadership. He has worked 20 state Series Meets at the high school level and has officiated at both the elementary, most recently serving as the Meet Referee for the IESA State Meet, and collegiate levels. If you ask Tim what has been the best part of being an official, he will tell you it is working with athletes, knowing you have helped them to perform at their best, while running an efficient fair and accurate meet. Tim Cross is a fine official with a great future ahead and represents the ITCCOA well.

Andrew Bergstrom

2011

Jesus “Jesse” Rocha Jr.

Third year IHSA official Jesse Rocha Jr. has made an immediate impact on the sport that he loved participating in as a track and field and cross country student-athlete at Aurora Central Catholic.

Jesse served as an assistant coach in cross country and track at Aurora Central Catholic while attending Aurora University, but stepped away from coaching after four years to spend more time with his family. Unable to completely leave the sport behind, he became an official two years later and has already worked as the Assistant Starter at two IHSA Sectional meets, while the 2012 state meet will be his third serving as a volunteer official.

2010

Miles Tischhauser

I have had the privilege of working closely with our Rookie of the Year for the last couple of years. His name is Miles Tischhauser. Miles has worked on the track in many different capacities. He has worked as a Starter, Assistant Starter, Referee, and Field

Event Referee. He has been my Assistant Starter and I have been his Assistant Starter. I have been his mentor through the ITCCOA. He has been a track official at many conference, county, invitational, and IHSA Sectional meets. He was also the Starter/Referee at an IESA Sectional last year. He has worked at the IHSA State Track Meet on the Pole Vault crew and the Discus crew. Miles has also worked the State IESA and State IHSA cross country series. This is quite a resume for a 22-year old. He has gotten a lot of experience in a short period of time.

Miles has showed great enthusiasm and passion for the sport and officiating. What impresses me the most about Miles is that he will step up and “make the call”. He is willing to learn and has shown great improvement over these years. He has really done a great job! Miles is very personable and shows great knowledge of the sport.

Miles has been a great addition to the track officiating community. He is currently a Section Leader for the ITCCOA and is the Chairman for the ITCCOA Communications Committee. He has been very instrumental in the development of our new website. Miles is definitely worth of the Rookie of the Year Award.

2009

NONE

2008

David Mitchell

2007

Tim Wolf

Tim Wolf as Rookie of the Year for 2007. I have had the privilege of working with Tim for the last two years. I asked Tim a couple of years ago if he was interested in being a track official. And he jumped at the opportunity. I have been his mentor during this time. Tim has been my assistant starter for the last two years and I have even assisted him a

few times. He took the initiative during his second season to get his own high school and middle school dual/triangular meets. Tim has showed great enthusiasm and passion for the sport and officiating. Tim was willing to learn and has shown great improvement over these two years. He has really done a great job! The coaches and athletic directors and athletes love him. He runs an outstanding meet. He keeps things going during the meet. Tim is very personable and shows great knowledge of the sport.

He has worked as the Starter/Referee, Assistant Starter, Clerk of the Course, and in the Discus event at the State Track Meet. He works over 30 meets each year. He has worked IHSA meets as well as IESA meets. He has volunteered for the State Cross Country Meets the last two years. Tim has been a great addition to the track officiating community. His time is coming.

2006

Dave Facker

A basketball and softball official for eight years, Dave had been a volunteer at many elementary and high school track and cross-country meets for over 15 years. In 2002 he became a registered track and cross country official. Since 2002, Dave has officiated Cross Country Regional, Sectional and State meets. For the last three years, he has served as the Head Finish Line Judge at the IHSA State Cross Country meet. He has also been an official for the IESA State Cross Country meet for the past four years and served as the Head Finish Line Judge in 2004 and 2005, and the Meet Referee in 2006. In 2006 Dave was selected to serve as the Head Field Referee for IHSA Girls State Track Meet. He has also served the NCAA Division III Cross Country Regional as a clerk, assistant starter and finish line judge for the last two years been a starter in Division I track. For all of his work and dedication to track and cross country, Dave was selected, as NFOA Official of the Year for 2006. Dave, married and the father of three, is a resident of Germantown Hills, IL. In addition to his officiating and family, Dave is also active in the community. He is currently serving the American Red Cross as Vice-Chairman of the Heart of Illinois Blood Services Region Board of Directors. He is on the Executive Board of the Italian-American Society of Peoria. With all of this he still finds time to be the Youth Minister for the high school youth group in St. Mary's of Lourdes Church.