



## MEMO

**TO:** USATF Association Sanction Coordinators  
**FROM:** Andy L. Martin, Director of Associations & Membership  
**RE:** Sanctioning of events with Hazardous Obstacles (mud runs and other adventure type events)  
**CC:** Association Presidents, Association Secretaries, Association Offices, Nancy Hobbs, Glen Latimer, Virginia Brophy Achman, Fred Finke, Mike Scott, Don Lein, Norm Wain, Carmen Triplet  
**DATE:** November 30, 2011

In recent years certain “adventure” type events that incorporate running have become popular. These events are commonly called “mud runs,” “warrior dashes,” and “urbanthons,” and include, many hazardous obstacles such as, fire, mud pits, water obstacles, rope climbs, tunnels, and repelling down buildings.

Some of these events have been submitting applications to obtain a USATF sanction. **These sanction applications should be denied.**

Please note that trail runs or cross country races which do not include man-made obstacles are still eligible for sanctioning by USATF; as are track events that include hurdles and steeplechase barriers as described in the USATF Competition Rules.

If you receive an application for sanction for one of these you should deny the sanction. If you are uncertain about the event you may contact Carmen Triplet and she will work with you to determine the appropriate action.

The Application for Sanction has been updated to include a “Hazardous Obstacle” question (see below) and a corresponding explanation on page 2 of the application.

**Obstacles:** Does your event contain man made obstacles, mud pits (natural or man-made) or any hazardous obstacles?       Yes     No

List any obstacles included in your event: \_\_\_\_\_

Please take the time to review the new application which can be found at <http://www.usatf.org/events/sanctions/application/download>. You will see that this application is a fillable PDF. A standard PDF will be emailed to you in the next week. **Moving forward, please do not distribute any sanction application unless it includes an update date of 11/11 2011 (as noted at the bottom of the application).**

Below you will find a sample “denial” letter template that you may use to communicate to events which do not meet the criteria for sanctioning.

{ Association Logo Here }

Dear { Event Director's Name }

Upon review of the Application for Sanction for the { Event Name } please note the application has not been approved. The reason for the denial is:

- Event does not fall under the jurisdiction of USA Track & Field.
- Previous races conducted by the event organizer have not followed USATF rules, as required by sanctioned events.
- Previous races conducted by the event organizer have failed to issues awards or prize money as advertised.
- The event includes man-made obstacles (mud pits, water, ropes, fire, etc.) which are deemed to be unsafe and furthermore are not covered by the USATF general liability insurance policy.
- The event has already obtained a sanction from the Amateur Athletic Union.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely,

*Your Signature*

{ Your Name }  
USATF { Association name } Sanction Coordinator