

Vin Lananna – Statement of Nomination

I am running for the office of President of USA Track & Field because I believe that I have the qualifications, experience, and passion to lead USATF at this exceptionally exciting time in our sport. Over the last 40 years, I have been involved in every aspect of track & field, long-distance running, and race-walking: as an athlete, coach, administrator, meet director, fundraiser, innovator, and global advocate. For decades, I've worked hand-in-hand with our Youth, Elite and Master's athletes, Officials, Associations, the AAC, Development, National Office staff, and the global track community as we've pursued lofty and unprecedented goals together.

My love for this sport and all that it represents fuels my passion to help lead our federation as the international model of excellence, integrity, and fairness. To this end, my greatest strength is my ability to unite groups with seemingly different missions to work together toward a common purpose.

I've been both in the trenches and in the boardrooms with youth, high school, every division of collegiate track & field, and post-collegiate athletes. This has included founding distance carnivals, innovating youth, open, and race walk events, and chairing the local organizing committees for nine USATF National events and two IAAF World Championships events, as well as leading Olympic and World Championship team coaching staffs. I want to continue this work across all USATF committees to ensure the goals at the heart of each committee are heard. I fervently believe that we must work collaboratively across all of the disciplines of our sport in order to make forward-thinking decisions.

Athletes and volunteers form the foundation of USATF. We must bring the athletes to the true center of everything we do—not just as bystanders, but as participants in the leadership and administrative structure of our organization. We need to consider how athletes' rights are protected, how they can earn a living as professionals, and how we work with anti-doping agencies for a clean, fair and level playing field. Over the next five years, we have the unique opportunity to demonstrate to the world our leadership role in the sport as the U.S. prepares to host the World Outdoor Championships for the first time. This opportunity must be a part of a nation-wide, long-term plan that capitalizes on the years leading up to the event and includes a legacy strategy to maintain the momentum in the years following. As President, I will lead these major initiatives for youth, high performance, coaches, officials, and associations.

The USATF President must serve as a leader who gives voice to all constituencies. I will work with each facet of our sport to focus in on what we do well and apply those principles to those areas in which we still must grow. I am mindful that at its core, this organization is built on the hard work of volunteers who have dedicated their lives to developing athletes and growing our sport. My first priority will be to help our leadership bring together representatives of all the USATF divisions under a unified set of goals, developed and agreed upon together.

The critical values of our sport must guide all that we do. As President, I intend to bring a renewed emphasis on how we protect, enhance and celebrate the core values of our sport. I have prepared my entire life for this opportunity. I pledge to deliver with every ounce of my energy and expertise a focused effort to build an exciting future for our sport. I invite you all to join me as we strive together with the Board of Directors and National Office to move our great sport to even greater heights.