



WMA Championships Newsletter – March 2011

Mark your calendars: Entry deadline is April 24

The clock is ticking toward the entry deadline of April 24. Register online by April 24 at wma2011.com, and we'll see you in Sacramento!

WMA organizers travel far and wide to spread word

Sacramento organizers returned home from visits to Albuquerque, New Mexico (USA Masters Indoor Championships) and Ghent, Belgium (EVAC Indoor Championships) encouraged by the interest expressed by U.S. and European athletes about this summer's WMA Championships.

The purpose of the trips was to distribute up-to-date materials about the WMA Championships and to answer any questions athletes had about housing, transportation, registration and competition-related matters. The upshot was that athletes on both continents are excited about coming to Sacramento for the first WMA Championships to be held on U.S. soil since 1995.

“Their enthusiasm and support gives us even more confidence heading into the final four months of preparation that we're going to have a terrific WMA Championships this July,” said John McCasey, chief executive of the Sacramento Sports Commission and chairman of Sacramento 2011. “While

there's a lot of work to be done, I feel very good that the extensive outreach efforts we've made since being awarded the event in 2007 are paying off."

Athletes can register online at wma2011.com until April 24. More than 900 athletes had registered online as of March 23.

This is the first time that online registration has been instituted for the WMA Championships.

"The online registration is going very well," McCassey said. "We know we're going to get flooded with entries in the final month of registration, and the system in place is more than capable of handling it."

Transportation update

The complete transportation plan for the 2011 WMA Championships will be available online in the next couple of weeks, but here's an early summary:

Athletes who stay in one of the 24 WMA-designated hotels (see wma2011.com/transportation-accommodations) will receive a free pass to use Sacramento Regional Transit's extensive rail and bus system throughout the entire event.

The public transportation system links all of the designated hotels with the six competition venues – Sacramento State (primary competition site), Sacramento City College (secondary competition site), American River College (primary practice track), Granite Regional Park (cross country), American River Parkway (marathon) and Land Park (road race walks).

Those athletes who choose to stay in non-designated hotels will be able to purchase a transportation pass that will be good for the duration of the event (July 6-17) and grant them access to the public transportation system. This pass costs \$36.25 if you purchase it online; \$35 if you buy it at the event in July.

For those who rent cars, parking is available at all venues for a fee ranging from \$1 (Sacramento City and American River College) to \$6 (Sacramento State) per day.

Organizers are working on finalizing an agreement with a national rental car company that will offer reduced rates for WMA visitors. See wma2011.com for updates.

Plenty of hotel rooms available – but reserve them through wma.2011.com

A number of athletes have wondered why, when they try to book a room in one of the WMA-designated hotels, they're informed that the hotel is full.

We apologize for any confusion, but here's the explanation:

There are plenty of rooms still available in the designated hotels. But to reserve those rooms at one of the 24 designated properties, WMA participants and visitors need to book their rooms on wma2011.com, not on the hotel's web site.

Many of the hotel web sites are saying the rooms are unavailable, when in reality they're being held specifically for the WMA Championships.

A limited number of dormitory rooms are still available on the Sacramento State campus within walking distance of the main track. See wma2011.com/en/dorms.

Party time in Old Sacramento

Join your fellow athletes for "A Taste of Sacramento," the WMA athletes' party on July 13 featuring the best food California's capital city has to offer. Sixteen of Sacramento's finest restaurants will serve an array of delicious foods along with the finest wines and beers from Northern California.

Among the restaurants catering food for the party are the Firehouse (firehouseoldsac.com), Ten22 (ten22oldsac.com) and Scott's on the River (scottsseafood.net).

The party will take place in Old Sacramento along the Sacramento River waterfront. Party-goers have an opportunity to experience California's rich history and will be able to a pair of world-class museums.

The California State Railroad Museum is North America's most popular

railroad museum, featuring 21 lavishly restored locomotives and cars. The Sacramento History Museum is a reproduction of the 1854 City Hall and Waterworks and its mission is to explore, interpret and display the region's history from the days before the Gold Rush to the present.

Regional transit has bus and train stops within blocks of Old Sacramento. More transportation information will be provided at registration.

To purchase Athlete Party tickets, use the "Register Online Now" link wma2011.com/en/home.

National teams can reserve tents now

In addition to offering free shading in the main grandstand, the local organizing committee is renting 10-foot-by10-foot structured tents for placement near the throws area of the main track at Sacramento State.

These tents will be provided to national teams (not club teams) for a \$200 rental fee for the full 12 days. Tents will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

To reserve a tent, please email your request to info@wma2011.com.

Those planning to bring their own tents will be able to set them up in the main grandstands only at the three main venues – Sacramento State, Sacramento City College and American River College. The LOC will not permit any individual tents to be placed outside the main grandstands by individuals or club teams.

Any tents placed outside the competition venues will be subject to the respective school's policy.

Team uniform policy

Some athletes are asking whether they have to wear a national singlet during the WMA Championships. The answer is yes. Please consult with your national affiliate for specifics.

For U.S. athletes, the approved singlets can be found at usatf.org/events/2011/WorldMastersAthleticsChampionships/athleteinfo/

[uniforms.asp](#). These can be ordered via a special store set up for the WMA entries. USA Track & Field notes that your entry has to be submitted in order to access the special store.

Merchandise on sale

Official WMA merchandise is available now at [wma2011.com](#).

[More questions? See “Frequently Asked Questions” at wma2011.com/en/FAQs.](#)