

Welcome to the Medford Rotary Relays!

On behalf of the Medford School District, North Medford High School track coach and meet director, Piet Voskes, and the presenter of the event, the Rotary Club of Medford, I welcome you to the 2022 Medford Rotary Relays Track and Field Meet. This year marks the 83rd anniversary of this historic track meet, which is now held at two venues: Newland Track at Spiegelberg Stadium and Bowerman Field at North Medford High School.

Have you ever wondered how Bowerman Field and Newland Track got their names? While Bill Bowerman is famously remembered as track coach of the University of Oregon and the 1972 US Olympic Team, and a co-founder of Nike, he is also a local legend who coached the Medford High School track and field teams in the 1930's and 1940's. In his eight track seasons at Medford, Bowerman's teams won three state championships. This relays meet began under Coach Bowerman's leadership in 1939 and the North Medford track and field site is named in his honor. Succeeding Bowerman as head track coach at Medford High School in 1948 was Bob Newland, who took the Medford program to even greater heights. In his ten years at Medford High, Newland's teams won nine state track championships. Fittingly, the oval at Spiegelberg Stadium is named the Newland Track.

Here is another piece of important local lore for you. Did you know that the Medford Rotary Club, the first Rotary Club in Southern Oregon, was established in 1923? One of our highest priorities, as reflected in our longtime support of the Rotary Relays, is to bolster activities and projects benefitting the youth of our community, including more than \$43,000 in scholarships given to local high school students last year alone!

What, then, are the details of the meet? This year competition begins with track events Friday evening at Newland Track and ends with field events and select track events at Bowerman Field on Saturday. The Friday track events start off with a mixed boy/girl 1600-meter relay. Then, under the relay format, boys' and girls' teams compete not only in the customary 400-meter and 1600-meter relays, but also in relays of hurdles and longer distances. Saturday's field events will be conducted as three-person team events. Lastly, Saturday afternoon will see the staging of three individual track events: the 1500-meter run, 100-meter dash, and 300-meter hurdles.

At the conclusion of the meet, trophies will be awarded to the boys' and girls' team champions for both large schools (6A -5A) and smaller schools (4A-1A) along with the most valuable individual boy and girl athletes of the meet. Ribbons will be awarded during the meet to teams placing from 1st through 6th place in each event, with a total of more than 560 ribbons to be awarded in the 17 events.

Traditions are a part of who we are as a community. We are pleased you could join us today in this celebration of the talent and teamwork of outstanding high school track and field athletes.

Enjoy the Meet!



Raul Woerner
President, 2021-2022