

From: "Vladislav Bukshtynov" <bukshtu@math.mcmaster.ca>
Subject: Problem: Official response required
Date: Sat, March 27, 2010 2:30 pm
To: alfanom@mcmaster.ca
Cc: gilesj@mcmaster.ca

Attention: Official response required

Dear Mark Alfano,

I'm writing to you to draw your attention to many problems with supervising the second floor indoor track facilities at David Braley Athletic Centre. I have been doing my running exercises for about 2 years and I should notice I have not seen yet the control of the track activities in a such mess.

First of all, like other members I can see the indoor track hours of operation and other regulating stuff at <http://www-athrec.mcmaster.ca/facilities/details/indoortrack/hours.htm> and I assume that the rules are written for all members and instructors and we are in the equal position. But now, it is a normal situation, whenever I come, some groups (with instructors, sometimes without) may occupy tracks ##2, 3 and 4 with their activities, making other runners to shift to track #1 or even to use some space outside tracks. My question is - is it so difficult to organize appropriate booking system for the track usage as it is done for pool and squash courts? I also have quite busy schedule and, paying my membership, want to have a regulated access to this facility. I want to have an access to the info when the track is free for regular members and plan my training schedule at these hours not expecting that some cool guys doing some 'intricate' exercises can make me get out of track.

To be more precise I am going to share my today's adventure to show the current state of the problem:

- a) I started running at 10:05 (Saturday), instructional programming should have been finished according to the web site and a flyer at the track entrance. Three tracks were occupied by some sprinters group, the last one was periodically occupied by some instructor controlling three ladies running. OK, I managed running permanently changing tracks and dodging other runners. Many other guys, including a couple of people with disabilities, gave up and left the track.
- b) Then an additional group (app. 20 people) appeared and occupied three tracks from other side and started running in group periodically changing running direction. Here, my question was how about the safety?
- c) I wanted to ask this question to a lady sitting at the table of track manager, as well as who was the instructor for this group. This lady said that she did not know this, she refused my request to go and to speak to that person, also she declined to introduce herself and to provide me with the name of the person she has to report to.
- d) I managed somehow to finish my training program, just wondering all the time left - if your instructors have any certification regarding proper supervision and safety. They cannot (or may be do not want) to locate properly their groups in the areas outside the track. People were loitering, jumping and sitting just at the track. This is so careless and dangerous for runners and also for themselves. But I observe the same picture on the everyday basis.

So, concluding this, my first wish was to report to the university

committee responsible for the safety control because it was not the first case I asked track managers at least to report about all these problems. But I decided to report to you as a facility manager (CC to the Director of Athletics and Recreations) and I expect to see some measures which can be easily taken to resolve these problems. By the way, what you need to do just to

- notify again all instructors, managers and regular members about the general rules for combined usage of the track;
- control that all instructors officially book the tracks if they need them at non-specified time (except the case of using track #4, it's already reserved for sprinting), and notify the regular members (web site postings) if there are any changes in the availability of all tracks (full and partial usage);
- put a responsibility to supervise track usage on the track managers at least when they are on duty.

Please note, I do not asking nothing but simply do your job properly to ensure that all members of McMaster community (not only members of sport teams) have equal access to the sport facilities they are paying for. I really am sorry for a bit sarcastic and aggressive tone of my letter, but I ran out of my patience seeing how some people abuse tolerance and patience of others.

Sincerely,

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