



# Warwick Wolves

## Cross Country and Track & Field

Dating back to the mid-1960's, the USATF Junior Olympic program is the most visible youth athlete developmental program in the world. Nearly 70,000 youth athletes compete each year in the Junior Olympic Track & Field and Cross Country programs. Many of America's Olympians began as youth athletes, including stars such as Maurice Greene, Allyson Felix, Bryan Clay, John Godina, Deena Kastor, and Allen Johnson.

Through a series of progression events consisting of preliminary, Association, and Regional meets, athletes have the opportunity to advance to the National Championships in track & field and cross country.

Once [USATF members](#), participants can enter the Junior Olympics either as part of a [USATF club](#) or as "unattached." Competition takes place in six (6) 2-year [age divisions](#), from 8 & under through 17-18.

At E.T. Wyman, we have a run a successful running club over the past spring season. With our three parent volunteers and 1 teacher volunteer, we prepared 17 students - ranging from first to sixth grade - to take part in the Gaspee 5K road race. All 17 students took part in and successfully finished the race.

What a junior Olympic program would mean for Warwick;

- Recognition – All of our elementary and middle school track / cross country athletes currently compete for teams *outside* of the city. Competing for our city would bring a sense of pride and ownership to our students.
- Sportsmanship – Cross country and track fosters both competition with others and with self. It also build a sense of self discipline that mirrors what is needed to succeed in school at any level.
- Better High school Preparedness – This club would be a “feeder” for the Tollgate, Vets, and Pilgrim cross country and track programs, and would most definitely increase the competitiveness on a state level of these programs.

What has been researched;

- Kevin Jackson, the coach of the Providence Cobras (my former coach) has been contacted for his aid and assistance. Mr. Jackson, a former Pilgrim student, has promised his guidance.
- We would need to form a 501 3c. City Councilman Steve Colantuono has volunteered to do this for us free of charge.
- There would be a one time fee of \$75.00 to register the team with USA Track and field (see packet).
- Participants would be responsible for a \$10.00 registration fee with TAC, as well as uniform costs (around \$20.00) and meet fees should they wish to participate in regional / national events. We could also do fundraising to help offset some of this cost.
- With my RIDE coach's certificate, I can function as the coach of both programs.

#### Needed Support;

- For the fall, we would practice at City Park. Practice would be two nights a week. City Park could also function as our home course should we run any local cross country races.
- For the spring program, we would practice at the Robert Shapiro Complex. Practice would be two nights a week. The Shapiro Complex could also function as our home track should we host any meets.
- The voluntary support of the high school programs would be asked for, especially for our track program. If specialized coaches could volunteer one night a month, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for Your Consideration.

Ron Celio - Principal & Former Junior Olympian