

# Relay Concepts \& Coaching Dilemmas 

Jack Sands

Klein High School
Houston, Texas


## $4 \times 1$ - 24 Years in a row under 42.0

$$
\text { Average }=41.4
$$

$4 \times 2$ - (Added to the state Meet 14 Years Ago) Under 1:26.40-7 Times
Best of 1:24.08 (Broke existing NFHS Record)
$4 \times 4$ - 26 out of Last 30 Years 3:20 or Better 2001-2007 = 3:14.58 Average 1995-2008 = 3:15.78 Average

4 Best Former Athletes = 2:58.6 (45.90, 44.6r, 44.6r, 43.5r)

## Sprint Relays

- $4 \times 1-4 \times 100$ - 400 Relay - Sprint Relay
- $4 \times 2$ - $4 \times 200-800$ Relay - $1 / 2$ Mile Relay
- $4 \times 4$ - $4 \times 400$ - 1600 Relay - Mile Relay


## $4 \times 100$

1. Batons \& Starting
2. Method of Exchange
a. R-L-R-L
b. R-R-R-R ?????? Worth It?
c. Runner's Position

In/Out
Feet - 3 or 4 point or Standing
Body

## $4 \times 100$

4. Checkmarks - Line vs. Box

## Athlete's Choice?

5. Markers

a. Tape b. Tennis Balls<br>c. Poly Spots/Gym Markers<br>d. Bath Mat

Remove all Tape \& Marks From Lane

## $4 \times 100$

## Baton Exchange -

a. Command ???

## b. Hand Placement - No Table



## c. Aim Point



## d. Wait for Target \& Push Top




## Baton Goes From Vertical Towards 45 Degrees



## e. No Command

## 4-5 cycles <br> Mark in Zone ?

Safety Mark ?

## $4 \times 100$

## Drills -

## 1. Stationary

2. On Track

Full Speed?
Distance
Fatigue

## Dual Accelerations

Dual Accelerations

Max Velocity

## $4 \times 200$

## Blind or Visual

Method of Exchange

1. R-L Switch
2. R-L-R-L
3. R-R-R-R

Runner's Position

## $4 \times 200$

## Checkmarks

15-16 Foot Lengths for Boys \& 13-15 for Girls $2 / 3$ of $4 \times 100$

3 Cycles
Zone Marks
Move Up in Zone?

## Runner's Responsibilities (Must Be Separated)

## Incoming

Run Past/Run Over
Don't slow
Command Early (If Used)
Key Elbow
Look for Palm
Wait for Target \& Push Top Stay in Their Half
Give Top 1/3 (Bottom 1/3)
Make Sure It's Taken

Outgoing
Full Speed - Run Away
Stay in Their Half
Heel Back
Don't Look
Don't Search
Take Baton
Adjust Speed at Safety Mark
Don't Switch - Carl Lewis
Adjust Baton Early -
Twist-Hip-Chest-Gator?

## Additional Thoughts on Blind Exchanges

1.Bonzai Attitude - "Willing To Lose"
2.Coach Must Be There at All Times
3.Coach Must Find \& Set Mark
4.Watch From Afar
5.All Choices Based on Weaknesses
6. Most Reliable To Receive From Thoroughbred

## $4 \times 400$

## A. Baton Exchanges

## 1. 3 Step

2. Drew's Drop
3. Torch

## 3 Step



## Drew's Drop



## Torch w/ Gator Carry




## $4 \times 400$

## B. Methods of Exchange

## 1. R-L Switch

2. R-L-R-L

## $4 \times 400$ <br> C. Method Of Carry Regular Gator

## D. Checkmarks ????

$2^{\text {nd }}$ Leg $=2$ Strides before Lane Insides Start Mark $3^{\text {rd }} \& 4^{\text {th }}$ Leg $=2$ Strides Before $10^{\text {th }}$ HH mark??

## $4 \times 400$

## E. Alignment

Inside

Window

## Block Out

## Feet on Side of Triangle



## Penn Relays $4 \times 400$



## Runner's Responsibilities

## Incoming

- Run to Window
- Run Thru Zone
- Present When Palm

Appears

- Hit The Hand The $1^{\text {st }}$ Time
- Make Sure They Take It
- After Pass, Complete Stop

Look Before Moving
(Unless in Lane 1)

Outgoing

- Create Window
- Pull Runner Thru Zone
- Take Baton - "Choke it"
- Adjust After 3, if needed
- Switch Hands, When Clear (Anchor ???)
- Use first 5 to 6 seconds


# Coaching Points 

Relay Booklet

Walk Track Before Meet

Warm-Up in the Lane They Will Be Using

## EMPHASIZE TEAM

NEVER ASSUME an athlete knows even the simplest rules

DON' T CHASE
DON' T WASTE YOUR BEST ATHLETE

Get The Big Picture = Watch From a Distance

## Personnel \& Strategy

-Is Curve running important?
-How do they handle the baton?
-Are they better in lead or behind?
-Can they use left/right hand?
-Can they run out of blocks?
-Consistency
-Competitiveness
-Experience:
(everything else being equal)
-Use of alternates:
Develop depth
Train alternate in several spots
-200M Runner to lead off?

## $4 \times 100$ Potential

## Add up your 4 runners 100 Meter Times \& Compare to Relay Time

Great Passing $=>$ than 2.5 sec Difference

Very Good = 2.3 to 2.5 Difference

Good 1.8 to 2.3 Difference

Less than 1.7 = Work Still Needed

## Klein Forest 2007 400 Meter Relay

$1^{\text {st }}$ Leg $=$
$2^{\text {nd }}$ Leg $=$
10.61
$3^{\text {rd }}$ Leg $=$
11.24

Difference $=2.82$
$4^{\text {th }}$ Leg $=$
43.38

Great Passing??

## $2^{\text {nd }}$ Exchange of Nation's Leading 40.56 Relay



What could have been?

jack.sands@att.net jsands1@kleinisd.net

281-731-8417

