

# Zoom Track Club Relay Team Contract

Most events in track & field are individual events with the unique exception of relay teams. Zoom relay teams are competitive and a fun way for athletes to race as a team. It also provides an opportunity for special team commitment and camaraderie. For many it is a way for athletes to contend in a regional or nation level competition.

All relays are chosen by coaches. Many elements are evaluated before selecting a relay team including, but not limited to, talent, number of other events, timing of other events, age of the athletes, capability of achieving handoffs, and our ability to create a competitive team. Because a large percentage of our teams qualify for Regional and National competitions, willingness to travel is a huge consideration for placement on a relay team at the State Championships.

In track meets which are not part of the Junior Olympic qualifying rounds, relay team members may change week to week. A travel commitment is not needed to participate on those relay teams.

State relay teams are selected in early June. Team rosters including alternates are submitted during registration for the USATF State Championships and/or the AAU Regional Championships. Relay team rosters may not alter after registrations are submitted, however alternates may be utilized at any time in any round of the competition. Please note, there is not always an alternate for every relay team. The Zoom Track Club does not require alternates to travel for a relay team, unless they have officially become the replacement runner and will be competing.

The coach will decide whether a team will compete on the national level. Once a verbal commitment has been made by all families, follow through on your promise to travel is expected. Please be mindful of your pledge, as other families have already made arrangements to attend regional & national competitions. In some cases, athletes may have sacrificed individual events at the expense of the relay team. It is rare, but possible unexpected life events may occur which will affect the ability of a relay team to compete.

If selected for a relay team, please remember there are other teammates counting on you to arrive on time. (Relay team members must arrive at least 45 minutes for local competitions and at least 60 minutes prior to a State, Regional, or National competition.) Extra time is needed for team warm up. Relay teams are also called to the clerking area earlier than other events because of the amount of time needed to coordinate the race. Arriving late is very disruptive to the team warm up and puts undue stress on athletes prior to the event.

Relay members not checked in at our team tent on time will be replaced with the alternate if available. Once an alternate has been asked to fill in, the original relay member arriving late will not be allowed to run.

The alternate plays an important team role. This athlete must be prepared to run in the event any member of the relay team becomes unable to participate. Alternates must attend relay practices and learn every position and be able to replace any member (leg) of the team.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand the special commitment required to compete on the State, Regional & National relay team, and wish to be considered as a relay member. I am willing and able to travel to all meets this season.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to participate on a relay team, but I am unable to travel to Regional & National competitions. Please check track meet dates you are NOT available for a relay team:

\_\_\_\_\_ May 31

\_\_\_\_\_ June 7

\_\_\_\_\_ June 14

\_\_\_\_\_ June 28

\_\_\_\_\_ July 26

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to be considered for a relay team this season.

Signature of Athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_