

## Recent Chargers Records

F16-17	Decathlon	Georgia Deep	3744 points	6/24/2024
F Open	Decathlon	Georgia Deep	3744 points	6/24/2024
F80-84	800m	Estelle Hahn	8:29.1	6/25/2024

Georgia's record was set at the USATF Youth Combined Event Nationals (her event began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June and finished on the 25<sup>th</sup>.) "Wait a second," you say, "don't women and girls do the heptathlon, not the decathlon?" Yes, historically, the decathlon (100m, 400m, 1500m, 110m HH, LJ, TJ, PV, Discus, SP and JT) has been contested by men only, while the heptathlon (100m HH, HJ, LJ, SP, JT, 200m, 800m) has served as the corresponding multi-event for women. Recently, in response to requests from female athletes, both the USATF and IAAF have included decathlon for women as a sanctioned event, and both organizations will maintain records for the women's decathlon. It is only natural that the Chargers should follow their lead.

Jordan Gray, a national class American multi-event athlete, has been gathering signatures for a petition to the IOC that urges the inclusion in the Olympic Games of the decathlon for women. As of this writing, the petition includes more than 20,000 signatures, but the IOC has yet to act on the request. The efforts of Gray and other female athletes like her are often misunderstood. It is not that they want women's track and field events to be "just like the men's." The women's decathlon is not identical to the men's: witness the 100m HH vs 110m HH, which differ in regard to hurdle height and spacing as well as distance. Other women's events have different standards for implement weights and dimensions, and these will be incorporated as well into the women's version of the decathlon. Rather, the intent is to offer willing females the same opportunity as males to demonstrate excellence across the full range of athletics events.

Estelle's record was set at a Noontime Running League event held on the Syracuse University outdoor track. (The Noontime Running League is an annual competition between pickup teams that was founded by Nick Wetter in 1973. When Nick administered Charger records his practice was to allow qualifying league performances to stand as Chargers records on the grounds that he officiated these events himself. I continue his practice for exactly the same reason. Noontime Running League events are free, and all are welcome to participate. For information on history, results, and scheduled events see the web page <http://rocinante.subarnyard.net/run.shtml>. For current league news and discussion consult the Facebook group Noontime Running League.)