

The Official's Bulletin

Athletics Alberta (Track & Field, Cross Country, Road Running) Association

Summer 2009

An Overview

by Ian Gordon

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It has been a year since we last published this Officials' Bulletin. We plan on continuing this publication, but I do feel the need for a written publication is not as great as in the past. The internet is now widely used. In fact, of our currently registered 143 officials, only three are without an email address.

Please keep your registration current. This is how we can contact you. If you change your personal information, including your email address, please let the Athletics Alberta office know. Everybody who is registered is covered by insurance while at the competition site. Also, the numbers registered are added to the total membership of Athletics Canada. Many grants to national organizations are dependant on the number of members, so it is important that everybody possible is included.

The Athletics Alberta web page is, and continues to be, a good source of information. Under the "Resources" section, you will find the "Officials' Zone." This is our section. The reference materials there include registration information and a link to the Athletics Canada National Officials' Committee web page; A page for other reference materials used by officials contains competition rules for all types of competitions, technical specifications, competition forms and notes, upgrading requirements and documentation, contact information for the Alberta Officials' Subcommittee, Alberta officials' AGM minutes and newsletters. Jack Leman is the liaison for this web page, so if you have anything that should be posted or updated, please contact either Jack or myself.

Also under "Resources" you will find a section on track and field facilities. It lists the competition tracks in Alberta and, in most cases, includes a track diagram showing start lines and break lines. There is a quick reference for most hurdle specifications, and we are now in the process of adding notes with respect to start lines and break lines.

The rules and specifications for age-class athletes are changing. Details of the new specifications, which are sometimes used now, are provided in the article on Long Term Athlete Development.

The new IAAF rules to come out later this year will be ratified in Berlin in August and will come into effect about the beginning of November, prior to our indoor season. Almost all of the proposed changes have been recommended by the IAAF Technical Committee and the Council, so are likely to be accepted. For details of the proposed rule changes, see the articles later in this newsletter. Of special interest will be the new start rule.

Next March, the World Masters Indoor Athletics Championships will be held in Kamloops. Many of us are looking forward to officiating at these World Championships.

Please send any upgrading requests and related materials to the Athletics Alberta office by **SEPTEMBER 10th**. Our committee will meet later this fall to consider the upgrading requests.

Athletics Canada Wall of Honour

by Jack Leman

I recently had the pleasure of nominating Bud McInnis for admission to the National Officials' Committee (NOC) Wall of Honour. Here is a synopsis of the submission.

Bud began officiating formally in New Brunswick in 1982 but prior to that, from 1960 on, had organized many high school meets in the area. Bud relocated to Alberta in 2000 and has been a registered Alberta official since that date.

He has officiated at many international and national championships meets including the 1988 Sudbury IAAF World Junior Championships, the 2001 Edmonton IAAF World Championships, the 2005 Edmonton World Masters Games, the Canada Summer Games in 1985, 1993 and 2005, a host of Canadian Junior and Senior Championships, plus the usual assortment of provincial and local-area meets.

In addition, Bud has been extensively involved in the administrative aspects of officiating. He was New Brunswick Officials' Chair from 1995 to 2000, is currently the Central Zone Coordinator for the Athletics Alberta Officials' Sub-Committee, is a member of the AA Personnel Committee, the AA Competitions Development Committee and, in his remaining spare time, is the NOC member responsible for Officials Development – Mentoring.

Bud is currently graded as a Level 5 Track Referee, a Level 5 Umpire and has achieved Level 3 grading as a Starter's Assistant, a Finish Line Judge and a Hand Timer. He is a National Jury member, a National Clinician and a National Mentor. With those extensive qualifications, as might be expected, Bud has been, and continues to be, involved in conducting many clinics in various disciplines.

Insofar as our local situation is concerned, prior to Bud's arrival in 2000, there were no graded track referees in the Edmonton area and, as a result, from time to time track events at our meets would be conducted with little regard for protocol and/or compliance with competition regulations. That was about to change. It is now generally recognized that our Edmonton meets run much more efficiently than used to be the case and in addition, we have two local, graded track referees and a strong and growing contingent of capable/graded officials available to work the Edmonton-area meets. As a result of all of the above, it should come as no surprise to learn that Bud was recognized as the New Brunswick Official of the Year in 1994 and 2000, the Alberta Official of the Year in 2007, and has been granted lifetime membership as a New Brunswick official.

Clearly, Bud's support and encouragement have been major contributing factors to the positive changes that have occurred in our Edmonton track officiating situation. Thank you Bud!

Upgrading Criteria Update

This year, the National Officials' Committee updated the criteria relating to Photo Finish. The category "Photo Finish National List" has been removed and its criteria have been added to the Level 3 Photo Finish Chief Judge criteria. This means that in order to become a Level 3 Photo Finish Chief Judge, an official must meet the criteria for that position, and also the Photo Finish National List criteria. However, since for the most part the criteria overlapped, the main effect is simply that the National List is no longer available.

In Alberta, we have upgraded people to the position of Photo Finish Chief Judge for some time now, so these changes will not affect the way we have been treating this issue.

National and Provincial Upgradings

During the past year, we had a total of six Alberta officials upgraded by the National Officials' Committee. They were:

Ian Gordon – Track Referee 4

Maureen Horlick – Horizontal Jumps 5

Merlin Johnson – Starter 4

Vernon Schmid – Competition Secretary – National List

Eric Wittenberg – Vertical Jumps 5

Mary Wittenberg – Vertical Jumps 5

Congratulations to all of you.

Additionally, we had a number of officials who completed the requirements for the various provincial levels. Congratulations also go to them and we look forward to their continued participation as track and field officials.

For level 1:

Jeff Davis (Edmonton)
John Goldsmith (St. Albert)
Garret Haubrich (Medicine Hat)
John Hinkey (Edmonton)
Monique Hosanee (Medicine Hat)
Cammie Kannekens (Medicine Hat)
Pat March (Edmonton)
Maxine Scringer-Wilkes (Calgary)
Cindy Stephen (Calgary)
Sharon Stubor (Medicine Hat)
Joe Walsh (Ardrossan)

For level 2:

Diana Andriashek (Edmonton)
Bellerine Crosson (Edmonton)
Joan Knight (Huang) (Calgary)
Simon MacKintosh (Edmonton)
Hazel McClarty (Strathmore)
Christine Rapp (Edmonton)
Miriam Stanisavljevic (Edmonton)
Donn Taylor (Stony Plain)
John Victor (St. Albert)
Sandra Wigg (Calgary)

For level 2 Racewalk:

Ian Gordon

For level 3:

Robert Barclay (Umpire)
Louise Buskas (Track Referee)
Nikki Ellis (Competition Secretary – Provincial List)
Nikki Ellis (Photo Finish Chief Judge)
Irene Gaudet (Horizontal Jumps)
Audra Jones (Racewalk)
Darlene Kowalchuk (Throws)
Gordon Murray (Throws)
Michael Samson (Photo Finish Chief Judge)
Anke Seifried (Throws)
Al Spady (Starter's Assistant)



2009 Canadian Track & Field Championships

Several of us from the Edmonton area were fortunate enough to be invited to officiate at the Senior National Track and Field Championships held in Toronto from June 25 to 28. A brief recap of the experience from my track officiating perspective follows.

The meet was held at the Varsity Centre, which is located on the University of Toronto downtown campus. The location provides for somewhat unusual skyline views as it is not every day one can look up from the track and see the CN Tower close by.

The stadium has been completely refurbished and is essentially a brand new track and field facility. The competition areas are complete however a small amount of work remains to be done to finish the surrounding structure. The track and sports field area also has a dome which is installed in the winter so the facility can be used year-round. What is somewhat unusual about the facility is that beneath and behind the main spectator stands is a full indoor hockey arena.

A downside to the competition area is that the infield is artificial turf (designed to accommodate football and soccer) and as a result, throws events have to be held on a grass field adjacent to and outside the track facility with little or no accommodation provided for spectator seating.

The track is, without a doubt, the best labelled track I have ever seen. Small metal plates attached to the inside curb identify everything from the usual start lines/cut-in lines/finish lines up to and including the beginning and ending of each relay exchange zone...by lane.

The meet was held over four days with the first two days concentrating primarily on Para-athletics events. It was a very relaxed schedule for track events (compared to our provincial meets) with most sessions starting in the afternoon (except for racewalk which had a 7:30 a.m. Sunday start time) and lasting no longer than about four hours. As a result, there was lots of time to relax, sightsee and socialize with other officials.

The level of competition was what you would expect at a National Championship meet but the highlight of the meet for me was standing on the inside of the track near the finish line (best seat in the house) for the Women's 100m hurdle final and watching Perdita edge out Priscilla and Angela for the win. One of those "hairs standing up on my arms" moments I won't soon forget.

Overall, the meet was fairly well run but, in truth, there seemed to be a number of glitches from a technical standpoint, plus I heard complaints from a few coaches on the organization of the field events. Not what you would expect at a competition of this calibre and likely, I expect, a result of unforeseen circumstances.

Hospitality for officials provided by the meet organizers was nothing short of amazing. We stayed in residence at St. Michael's College – a short walk (about 1 km) from the track. A fully stocked hospitality room was open for officials after each evening session. Full meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) catered specifically for officials with a choice of two or three hot entrees for each meal, lots of salads and desserts, including huge tubs of ice cream and a tray of cones for those (not me) with an ice cream cone addiction.

Lunch and dinner were served at Trinity College, which is adjacent to the track. The dining hall was located in a very old Harry-Potter-like building which must at one time have been a church. Huge stone exterior walls, a high vaulted ceiling, an elevated choir loft at the back of the hall, large stained glass windows and ornate carved wood interior walls covered with oil paintings of various dignitaries.

As usual at a meet of this nature, new friendships were made between out-of-province officials and old friendships re-established by those of us who have been around for a while. Would I like to go back next year???? Just ask me.

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD)

Athletics Canada and its provincial branches have agreed to adopt Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) guidelines into their technical specifications for the Pee Wee, Bantam, Midget and Youth (previously identified as Juvenile) age classes. The changes, which are intended to make the various events more appropriate to the age of the athlete, will be formally implemented at the branch level over the next 10 months (Indoor September 2009; Outdoor April 2010). However, several of the provincial branches (including Athletics Alberta) have already started to use the new specifications on a trial basis. Because implementation is not mandatory for all meets in Alberta, officials will need to check the technical packages for each meet to determine which specifications are being used.

For detailed information on this program, go to the following links on the Athletics Canada website:

http://www.athletics.ca/files//Development/LTAD_EN.PDF

and <http://www.athletics.ca/files//Development/ATHLETICS%20CANADA%20EVENT%20STRUCTURE%20-%202008.PDF>

Athletics Alberta has already implemented the changes to the Pee Wee and Bantam events with the adoption of the new Multiple Event Framework program. This means that the primary additional effect of LTAD introduction (for track events) will be in the Midget and Youth age classes.

As the athletes progress through the various age classes, the distances run and, in hurdle races, the heights of the hurdles will gradually increase. For example, the shortest sprint distances will increase from 60 metres for Pee Wee athletes to 80 metres for Bantams and finally 100 metres for Midget competitors. Sprint hurdle heights will increase by 3" from one age group to the next. Middle distances run will increase, for example, from 600 to 800 to 1200 to 1500 metres. The Midget steeplechase starts with a 1500 metre run, with four jumps per lap and no water jump. The water jump is added, distances increased, and hurdle heights for men increased as athletes progress through the age groups. Track diagrams posted on the web page are slowly being changed to reflect these new specifications. New distances, such as 60 metres, 150 metres and 300 metres will be noted, as well as the new hurdle heights and distances.

In the field events, one of the more significant changes relates to the use of a 1-metre take-off area for Pee Wee long jumpers. Bantam athletes will use the regular take-off board. The LTAD guidelines also specify the weights of the various throwing implements. For Pee Wees and Bantams it is a 3-kilogram shot, a 400-gram javelin and a 750-gram discus. Midget athletes will use a 600-gram javelin, a 1-kilogram discus and a shot that weighs either 3 kilograms (females) or 4 kilograms (males).

Implementation of these specifications, to cover all types of competitions (including Legion, Hershey and school meets), will be phased in through to 2012.

Proposed IAAF Rule Changes 2010 – Field Events

(All proposed rule changes are shown in italics)

Rule 144 - Assistance to Athletes

Section 2 – *The following shall not be considered assistance:*

(c) Any kind of personal safeguard (e.g. bandage, tape, belt, support, etc.) for medical purposes. The Referee in conjunction with the Medical Delegate shall have the authority to verify any case should he judge that to be desirable (see also Rule 187.4).

Rule 180 – General Conditions (Field Events)

Section 5 – Add **Note:** *If one or more athlete(s) is permitted by the Referee to continue in a competition under protest in accordance with 146.4(b), such athlete(s) shall compete in subsequent rounds before all others continuing in the competition and if more than one, in the same relative order according to the original draw.*

Rule 181 – General Conditions (Vertical Jumps)

Section 8 – Ties proposed to change to **Placings**

If two or more athletes clear the same final height the procedure to decide the places will be the following:

(a) *The athlete with the lowest number of jumps at the height which was his best height in the competition shall be awarded the higher place.*

If equal following the application of (a) above, the athlete with lowest total of failure

If still equal following the application of (b) above the athletes concerned shall be awarded the same place unless it concerns first place.

(d) If it concerns first place, a jump-off between these athletes shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 181.9, unless otherwise decided, either in advance according to the Technical Regulations applying to the competition or during the competition by the Technical Delegate or the Referee if no Technical Delegate has been appointed. If no jump-off is carried out, including where the relevant athletes at any stage decide not to jump further, the tie for first place shall remain.

Section 9 – Jump-Off – proposed as new and current 9 renumbered as Section 10

(a) Athletes concerned must jump at every height until a decision is reached.

(b) Each athlete shall have one jump at each height.

(c) The jump-off shall start at the next height in accordance with Rule 181.1 after the last height cleared by the athletes concerned.

(d) If no decision is reached the bar shall be raised if more than one athlete concerned were successful, or lowered if all of them failed, by 2 cm. for the High Jump and 5 cm. for the Pole Vault.

(e) If an athlete is not jumping at a height he automatically forfeits any claim to the first place. If only one other athlete then remains he is declared the winner regardless of whether he clears that height.

Rule 187 – General Conditions (Throwing Events)

Section 4 – Personal Safeguards change to **Assistance**

(a) An athlete shall not use any device of any kind – e.g. the taping of two or more fingers together or using weights attached to the body – which in any way provides assistance when making a trial. If taping is used on the hands and fingers, it may be continuous provided that as a result no two or more fingers are taped together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually. The taping should be shown to the Chief Judge before the event starts.

(c) In order to obtain a better grip, an athlete may use a suitable substance on his hands only or in the case of hammer throwers on their gloves. Shot putters may use such substances on their neck. In addition, in the Shotput and Discus Throw, athletes may place chalk or a similar substance on the implement.

Proposed IAAF Rule Changes 2010 – Track Events

(All proposed rule changes are shown in italics)

Rule 127- Umpires

Section 4 – Add new note

Note (ii): The Umpire(s) shall report to the Referee any breach of the Rules, even if the athlete (or team, for relay races) does not finish the race.

Rule 144 – Assistance to Athletes.

Section 1

Intermediate times and preliminary winning times may be officially announced and/or displayed. Otherwise such times must not be communicated by persons in the competition area without the prior approval of the appropriate Referee...*This permission shall only be given when there are no time displays visible to athletes at the relevant point and in circumstances where such times will be provided to all athletes in the race.*

Rule 160 – Track Measurements

Section 1

The kerb on the two straights may be omitted and a white line 5 cm wide substituted.

Rule 162 – The Start

Section 5

On the command “On your marks” or “Set,” as the case may be, all athletes shall at once and without delay assume their full and final set position.

Where an athlete in the judgement of the Starter,

(a) after the command “On your marks” or “Set,” and before the report of the gun or approved starting apparatus, causes the start to be aborted, for instance by raising a hand and/or standing in the case of a crouch start, without a valid reason, (such reason to be evaluated by the relevant Referee); or

(b) fails to comply with the commands “On your marks” or “Set” as appropriate, or does not place himself in his final starting position after a reasonable time; or

(c) after the command “On your marks” disturbs other athletes in the race through sound or otherwise, the Starter shall abort the start.

The Referee may warn the athlete for improper conduct (disqualify in case of a second infringement of the Rule during the same competition), according to Rules 125.5 and 145.2. In cases where an extraneous reason was considered to be the cause for aborting the start, or the Referee does not agree with the Starter’s decision, a green card shall be shown to all the athletes to indicate that a false start was not committed by any athlete.

Section 6

It is no longer considered a false start under the circumstances listed in Section 5, parts (b) and (c) above.

Section 7

Except in Combined Events, any athlete responsible for a false start shall be disqualified.

In Combined Events, only one false start per race shall be allowed without the disqualification of the athlete(s) responsible for the false start. Any athlete(s) making further false starts in the race shall be disqualified from the race.



Southern Zone Report

by Ian Gordon

During the past indoor season in Calgary, four meets were held at the University of Calgary. The same format was used as in previous years, with three of the meets having track events only, while one featured a selection of field events. Only a few officials are required for these meets, and we had sufficient volunteer officials to ensure these meets were well run.

This summer featured the usual meets – the Spring Challenge/Combined Events, Caltaf (which also included the provincial Senior Championships) and the New Balance series. In addition, the High School Provincial Championships took place in Calgary.

The Lethbridge track is still not ready, so the Rocky Mountain Relays were again held in Medicine Hat. This meet also included the provincial Midget Championships. The Western Canadian Midget Championships were held in Medicine Hat in July.

We have 31 registered officials in the Calgary area and 14 in the Medicine Hat area. In Calgary we are starting to get a few new officials and have a volunteer base that allows us to hold well-officiated meets with a few outside chiefs. Medicine Hat expertise is increasing rapidly. Although that city currently has only four level 1 officials, there will likely be more after this summer, with some achieving their level 2. This is remarkable considering that Medicine Hat had no officials at all just a couple of years ago.

The Glenmore track has been upgraded and is now the primary Calgary track. The Foothills track is in a sad state of repair. Currently, the City of Calgary is conducting an Athletic Park Master Plan which includes future plans for the Foothills and Glenmore areas. Simultaneously, there is ongoing work related to a Multisport Fieldhouse. A feasibility study is to be done later this year. The proposal is to construct a full eight-lane track with the capability of holding world-class competitions. One of the possible sites for this Fieldhouse is where the Foothills track is situated. Until these studies are completed, no work will be done on the Foothills track.

Northern Zone Report

by Philippa Fairbairn

With most of Alberta's meets taking place in the southern part of the province this summer, it has been relatively quiet in the north. As usual, the St. Albert Challenge in May was our first meet of the outdoor season. The Hershey's Provincial final on June 20 was followed by two major meets on back-to-back weekends in July. These last two, but particularly the Age-class Provincials on July 4/5, kept a large number of officials very busy indeed.

Several of our officials have travelled to out-of-province meets this summer. In some cases it was for mentoring purposes and/or for experience, but in other instances it was in response to an urgent request for officials in a particular discipline. Five Alberta officials worked at the Canadian Senior Championships in Toronto, one at the Canadian Masters Championships in Kamloops and one at the Canadian Juniors in Charlottetown, PEI.

The outdoor season is now winding down in the Edmonton area then it will be on to our usual busy indoor season, with the Last Chance meet scheduled for Saturday November 28.

A huge thank-you must go to all our officials who have done a tremendous job during the last three months.