

Athletics Alberta Officials' Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 24th, 2010
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Red Deer College, Room 2002A
Red Deer

MINUTES

Attendance

Estella Rung, Sandy Deere, Louise Delsing, Garret Haubrich, Liz Haubrich, Marg Derbyshire, Irene Gaudet, Philippa Fairbairn, Maureen Horlick, Ray Deere, Jack Leman, Darlene Kowalchuk, John Takahashi, Bruce Suffield, John Goldsmith, Louise Buskas, Cathy Simpson, Pat Inglis, Ian Gordon, Doug Kyle, Carol Kyle, Bud McInnis, Raju Selladurai.

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Ian called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda as amended.

Darlene Kowalchuk / Irene Gaudet - Carried.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of October 18, 2009.

Motion: To approve the minutes of October 18, 2009.

Darlene Kowalchuk / Louise Delsing - Carried.

4.0 Business arising from the Minutes of October 18, 2009.

Item 7.1 Dangerous Weather

Bruce Suffield informed the meeting that Athletics Alberta now has a severe weather policy in place. Bruce will email Ian Gordon the details of this policy, who will then forward it to all registered officials. The criterion for when to suspend a meet is determined by the meet director. However, in discussion, it was noted that regardless of what a meet director may or may not decide, it is incumbent upon officials to suspend a meet in their own jurisdiction if there are unsafe conditions.

Item 7.2 Meet Management

Louise Buskas asked what action followed from the letter the chair wrote to the Chair of the Personnel Committee and the President of the Board of Athletics Alberta that the rules of competition are not always being followed, in reference to the seeding into heats, lane draws, and the advancement rules from one round to another.

Ian stated that the issue was discussed at the Competition Development Committee, and there was general agreement that the rules should be followed. To date, these particular rules seem to have been subsequently followed.

5.0 Reports

5.1 Chair – Ian Gordon (see attached).

5.2 Northern Zone Coordinator - Philippa Fairbairn (see attached)

Philippa stated she has some requests for officials for next year's outdoor season already. These include the NE high school zone meet, and the ASAA meet. There was a discussion on the value of qualified officials at high school zone meets. It was pointed out that some competitors in some zones may never have exposure to meets other than the zone meets, and it is important that they experience a properly run meet.

5.3 Southern Zone Coordinator – Cathy Simpson (see attached).

Cathy will email her report to Ian Gordon. Pat Inglis told her experience with an athlete this summer who at the Caltaf meet was told they pre-qualified, but was not on the list of finalists, and therefore did not compete. In some meets, it is becoming a trend that there is a qualification round, but some do not need to compete in this round, as they advance directly to the final because they have previously met the meet standard. In a case like this, it is necessary for the meet to communicate this to the officials, and include the person on the list of finalists. Bud pointed out that in some cases, a person can participate under protest to preserve the rights of all concerned.

5.4 Training Group Coordinator – Darlene Kowalchuk (see attached).

Maureen Horlick commented that there are opportunities to hold beginner's clinics, especially for parents, during practices. Doug Kyle mentioned that in fact we have done this in Calgary from time to time.

5.5 Statistician / Upgrading Coordinator – Irene Gaudet (see attached).

Motion: To accept all the above reports as presented.

Estella Rung / Sandy Deere Carried.

5.6 Liaison with Athletics Alberta

Ian Maplethorpe was unable to attend this meeting.

6.0 New Business.

6.1 Meet Safety Issues.

At the St. Albert Challenge meet on June 26th, there were 2 near misses during the midget and youth men's hammer throw event. This was in part because marshalling of relays was being conducted in the in-field, and partly because the hammer cage is not fully up to spec. Extensive discussions have occurred since this incident, including discussions by Ian Maplethorpe at the officials' sub-committee meeting on September 19th, and later at the CDC meeting on October 21st. At our sub-committee meeting, Ian Maplethorpe expressed that in an incident like this, there is either an issue with the specs of the cage, or a scheduling issue. The CDC will consult with Ian Maplethorpe and make recommendations to Athletics Alberta. At the Fowler Field facility, the recommendation by the meet organizers is to hold this event either before the meet officially starts or in the evening after the other events are finished.

Marg Derbyshire inquired about who to contact with regards to the positioning of fencing and other issues with regards to safety at the Medicine Hat facility. Ian Gordon replied that the best contact would be Ian Maplethorpe, and would give Ian's email address to her.

6.2 Watches and Heart Monitors as Assistance

The use of watches and heart monitors is an ongoing problem. Bud McInnis read from a document from last week's NOC meeting as to what is and is not allowed on the field of play. In particular, watches, while able to provide assistance, are not allowed according to the IAAF rules, in fact are allowed at IAAF meets. This issue needs to be resolved by Athletics Canada for both the Junior and Senior National Championships prior to next summer.

At the Provincial race walk championships in September, Athletics Alberta ruled that both watches and heart monitors would be allowed. There were 2 master's records set at this meet, and these have been ratified. Ian Gordon emailed Brian Keaveney on this matter, but no answer was received.

6.3 Meets for Qualifying Standards

At a meet this summer there was an athlete who attempted to run the World IAAF Junior standard at a twilight meet prior to the Moncton meet. Athletics Alberta stated that a standard can be made at any sanctioned meet. The concern at the meet in question was that there were insufficient qualified officials to judge the event. The question becomes, why should we supply officials if it doesn't matter whether we show up or not. This matter was brought up at the CDC, and Rob Connors will be in touch with other provinces to see what their practices are. This issue will be raised again at the next CDC meeting by Bud McInnis and Ian Gordon.

6.4 Canadian Track and Field Championships – 2011

Doug Kyle is the meet officials coordinator, and has formed a committee of himself, Ray Deere, Estella Rung, Pat Inglis, and Ian Gordon to help in the selection of officials at this meet. A list has been submitted to Jane Edstrom, but will not be reviewed until early in the new year when other provinces will list who they want to send to the meet and be mentored. The meet will be a 4 day meet, and a tentative schedule has been sent out. There will be the possibility of qualifying for the meet during a preliminary meet over the first 2 days. There will be 33 paralympic events at this meet. The IPC liaison has yet to be appointed.

6.5 Relationship between Athletics Alberta and Officials

Bruce Suffield noted that there are many issues of concern to officials which need direct input to Athletics Alberta. Coaches and athletes are well represented at the board level of Athletics Alberta, but not officials.

Resolution:

Whereas:

1. There exists a large group of dedicated and highly qualified volunteer track and field officials who are members of Athletics Alberta and,
2. It is an absolute necessity to have these volunteer officials available in order to conduct well run competitions in the Province and,
3. There currently is no permanent representation for officials in the decision-making process of the Athletics Alberta Board of Directors

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alberta Officials request that the Athletics Alberta Board of Directors consider the designation of a permanent position on the Executive Committee for the Chair of the Officials Sub-Committee.

Louise Buskas / Jack Leman Carried Unanimously

6.6 NOC Positions up for reappointment

Bud McInnis informed the meeting that there are four positions on the NOC up for appointment this coming spring. Two of these positions are currently held by Leroy Washburn and Bud McInnis, neither of whom are willing to serve another term.

7.0 Nominations and Elections

7.1 Northern Zone Coordinator

Incumbent: Philippa Fairbairn

Jack Leman nominated Philippa. Philippa was acclaimed.

7.2 Training Coordinator

Incumbent: Darlene Kowalchuk

Philippa Fairbairn nominated Darlene. Darlene was acclaimed.

8.3 Provincial Chair

Incumbent: Ian Gordon

Ray Deere nominated Ian. Ian was acclaimed.

8.0 Adjournment

- Darlene Kowalchuk moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Attached Reports

Chair Report, Fall, 2009 - Ian Gordon

As of August 31, we had 144 registered officials in Alberta, 13 less than last year. On our grading chart, there are 19 level 5 officials, 16 level 4, 39 level 3, 30 level 2, 20 level 1, and 34 provisional officials. On the grading chart, there were 14 not registered as officials. The biggest difference this year is that we had 19 fewer provisional officials, while we had 9 more level 3 officials.

During this year, Alberta officials helped in supporting twelve indoor meets (six regional, four provincial, and two national level meet) and eighteen outdoor meets (nine regional, and eight provincial, and one national level meet). The national level meets during the last year were the Golden Bear meet, the Canada West university meet, and the Edmonton International meet.

During the last year, we had officials upgraded to all level 3 disciplines except for referees. Right now, we are still the weakest in combined events where we have no qualified referee.

There were twelve mentoring sessions for levels 4 and 5 this last year. Seven of these were indoor, and five were outdoor. We were very fortunate to be able to have 4 mentorships at the World Master's Indoor Championships in Kamloops, and another 3 at the Senior Nationals in Toronto. This summer, Irene Gaudet was upgraded to level 5 throws, and Louise Buskas to level 5 umpire.

With the new rule book, Darlene Kowalchuk and I have updated the level 3 exam, which now should be used.

There were problems with the Athletics Alberta website this summer, and not all the officials' zone has been completely re-built. However, I have been assured this should be completed sometime this month.

Registration is being done on-line, and must be done every year. Please take the time to register as an official. Registration has implications for national funding and for insurance, so it is very important that you do register.

This will be an interesting year as the Senior Nationals will be coming to Calgary. Also, the Edmonton International meet will piggy back on the Seniors, and should also be a high calibre meet. I wish all a very successful coming year in officiating.

Northern Zone Report- Philippa Fairbairn

During the 2010 outdoor season we had three major meets in the immediate Edmonton area. They were the Edmonton International Track Classic on the evening of June 12 (preceded by the Hershey Provincial Finals during the day), the St. Albert Challenge on June 26 and 27 and the Sherwood Park Track Classic on July 11 and 12.

Because the International Track Classic offered only a limited number of events we did not require a full complement of officials. However, we have been told that next year's event should attract a greater number of top-flight athletes as it will be held three days after the Canadian Senior Championships in Calgary.

The St. Albert Challenge was an extremely busy meet as it included not only the provincial championships for four age classes but also the team trials for the Legion meet and for the Western Canadian midget/youth meet. Two busloads of Manitoba athletes came to St. Albert as their outdoor season had, up until then, been a virtual "wash-out."

Junior, Senior and Masters athletes had their provincial championships at the Sherwood Park meet but on the whole this meet was not as busy as the one in St. Albert. Once again County of Strathcona staff were on hand and did a tremendous job when it came to organizing and helping with equipment.

Mention must also be made of the Alberta Summer Games, held this year in Peace River. From all reports the facility left much to be desired but our officials did their best under quite difficult circumstances, which included some very hot weather.

It seems a very long time ago now but the 2009/2010 was busier than usual because in addition to the normal round of indoor events we had the CanWest meet on February 26 and 27, 2010. For the upcoming indoor season it is back to the more normal schedule—with the Golden Bear Open the only national meet on the agenda. So far I have 17 officials who have indicated their availability for meets in Edmonton and another 6 who are willing to work the indoor meets in Calgary.

A new surface with new markings has been laid down in the Butterdome. It all looks very impressive but, as a result of the new markings, there are going to be some issues with the 200-metre races and the wall long jump pit. The outside lane overlaps the run-up for the long jump and the next one in also affects the long jump area. .

Southern Zone Coordinator Report – Cathy Simpson

During the fall of 2009 and spring of 2010 the Southern Zone hosted four indoor track meets in Calgary at the University of Calgary, with one additional meet on April 25, 2010.

During the 2010 outdoor season we had six meets in Calgary plus the Chinook throws meet in Lethbridge, and the ASAA High School Provincials in Medicine Hat. There were three New Balance Series meets, the Youth Athletics League which also was a qualifier for the Alberta Summer Games Team, and CALTAF.

Training Coordinator Report – Darlene Kowalchuk

Fifteen clinics were held in Alberta since the last AGM (Oct 2009).

2009 / 2010 Alberta Clinics						
CLINIC	DATE	LOCATION	ATTENDEES	CLINICIAN	LEVEL	PROVINCIAL (P) or NATIONAL (N)
Horizontal Jumps	Oct 17 / 09	Edmonton	6	Darlene Kowalchuk	3	P
Vertical Jumps	Oct 17 / 09	Edmonton	6	Mary Wittenberg	3	P
Throws	Oct 24 / 09	Edmonton	4	Darlene Kowalchuk	3	P
Umpire	Oct 24 / 09	Edmonton	5	Jack Leman	3	P
Intro	Jan 13 / 10	Edmonton	9	J Leman / D Kowalchuk / P Fairbairn	1	P
Starter	Feb 13 / 10	Edmonton	2	Ian Gordon	3	P
Throws	Feb 28 / 10	Kamloops	1	Ray Deere	4	N
Vertical Jumps	Mar 16 / 10	Edmonton	3	Mary Wittenberg	3	P
Intro	Apr 29 / 10	Medicine Hat	1	Marg Derbyshire	1	P
Phototiming	Jun 20 / 10	Calgary	1	Vernon Schmid	3	P
Race Walk Judging	Aug 28 / 10	Edmonton	9	Audra Jones / Jessie Ching	2	P
TOTAL			47			

Level 4 - 2; Level 3 - 9; Level 2 - 1; Level 1 - 3

Statistician Report 2008 – Irene Gaudet

The following people were upgraded this year.

For level 1:

Trudy Aucoin (Edmonton)	Gillian Drever (Edmonton)
Ralph Bunker (Edmonton)	Denise DuPlessis (Edmonton)
Pat Chizek (Lethbridge)	Glen Mori (Medicine Hat)
David Dashwood (Edmonton)	Ryan Page (Redcliff)

For level 2:

Sherry Clark	Maxine Scringer-Wilkes
Denise Duplessis	Sharon Stuber
Rob Fisher	Doug Weber
Charmaine Johnson	Laura Weber
Pat March	Jim Werner
Victor Roduigez	

For level 2 Racewalk:

Christine Prokop	
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For level3Racewalk:

Holly Gerke	
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For level 3:

John Goldsmith (Horizontal Jumps)	Ed Moore (Photo Finish)
Peter Gray (Throws)	Christine Rapp (Throws)
Roger Hazelwood (Starter)	Mark Rowe (Throws)
Darlene Kowalchuk (Vertical Jumps)	Brenda Spitzer (Starters Assistant)
Norma Love-Pankonin (Starter)	Miriam Stanisavljevic (Horizontal Jumps)

In order to minimize confusion, please submit complete packages – cards and mentoring forms. For Level 3 and above, try to keep separate cards for each discipline – lots less confusion. Also as Level 4 and above are national and have to be submitted there, we will not see the cards and credits unless you submit a copy of those cards!