



Athletics Alberta Officials' Bulletin December 2015

By Jack Leman

Yes, we all did survive a busy (and memorable) 2015 summer schedule.



Speaking of which, below is a message of appreciation to officials from Christine Laverty, VP Personnel, Athletics Alberta.



November 17, 2015

Dear Officials

I am new to the role of VP Personnel, and it has been a quiet transition. We just recently had our first Strategic planning meeting in Calgary for the Board. I am excited to help with the planning of our future.

But today is about you, the Officials. 2015 was the most amazing year in Athletics as far as competitions go. The top meets in Canada, happened here, and they happened all summer. Those meets would not have happened or even been possible, without you, the Officials. I must say that you all stepped up huge, and made us very proud, as a Province. Every event was covered, and although most of you were probably quite tired by the end, you still filled your roles, volunteered your time, and did so in a friendly and professional way. You did Alberta and yourselves proud. Congratulations.

But in my role as coach, I would also like to commend you, the officials, on how you handled the day to day normal meets throughout the year. For the young or novice athletes, no matter what their age, competition is a huge and scary thing. This year, I found our officials to be more patient and encouraging to the athletes. Competitions became less of stress to them as there was always an official, willing to help out or share their knowledge with our athletes. This means a lot to the athletes but also to the coaches, who can do the job of coaching and not deal with athletes terrified by officials talking to them. You have become educators as well. You are the ambassadors of our competitions and play a huge role in athlete development on the competition side. I saw many more happy faces at the end of the competitions this year, than ever before. Once again thank you.

I hope that you have an excellent day and year, and I look forward to seeing you all at the next track meet, which by the way is not that long from now.

Thank you

Christine Laverty
Athletics Alberta
VP Personnel

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And now.....the 2015 – 2016 Indoor Season is upon us.

But before we get fully immersed, let's look back at a few of the things which took place over the past summer.

Doug & Carol Kyle by Ian Gordon

In Calgary, at the Caltaf meet this past June, a special presentation was made to Doug and Carol Kyle in honour of their 55 years of service to athletics officiating.



Louise Buskas, Doug Kyle, Ian Gordon, Estella Rung

Doug and Carol were both born in Ontario; Doug was a distance competitor and Carol a high jumper. They met at a training camp prior to the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne.

Together, they founded the Calgary Track and Field Club, now known as Caltaf. Between them, they have many awards for their efforts. In 1997, Doug was named to Athletic Canada's Wall of Honour, and in 1998, Carol was also named to the Wall of Honour. In 1959, Doug was inducted into the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame as an athlete, and in 2000, Carol was inducted as a builder. In 2012, Carol was named the Calgary Booster Club Sportsman of the Year.

Both started officiating in 1960, and both became level 5 officials in their specialties. Doug is also a Paralympic International Technical official. Doug and Carol have conducted many officiating clinics together, and have helped to develop numerous officials in order to conduct well run competitions.

Thank you, Doug and Carol, for your dedication to officiating over the past 55 years.

World Masters Championships *by Ian Gordon*

The World Masters Championships were held in Lyon, France from August 4-16, 2015. I was one of four Canadian International Volunteer Officials working this meet. The others were Judy Armstrong, Bob Cowden, and Alice Kubek. There were many international officials from other countries, especially the United Kingdom and the United States.

Four stadiums were used for this event. The eleven days of actual competition were broken into three sessions with 4 days of competition, a day off, 4 days of competition, a day off and a final 3 days of competition. The days were very long with events starting as early as 8:00 am and in some instances continuing until around 7:00 pm. There were 8,000 competitors in five year age groups 35 to 95+. On one day, there were about 125 heats of 100m. One of the most popular disciplines was the throws, where not only were all the usual throws, but also a throws pentathlon, consisting of the four usual throws plus the weight throw.

The first two days I joined a start crew at one of the outlying stadiums. Communication was a challenge, as I don't speak French, and very few spoke English. Sign language works only to a degree which resulted in some confusion from time to time. I found that if there was some discussion on a rule, I could point out the rule in the English IAAF rule book and they could follow along using their French rule book. The remaining days I worked the main stadium. Most my

time was spent helping organize the athletes between the call room and the start lines. For example, there were generally about three heats in sequence on the track for the 100m. The entrance to the track was just past the finish line. When one heat would finish, we would escort one heat from the area past the finish line towards the back straight, the heat on the back straight would be escorted to near the start area, and the heat nearest the start area would be escorted to the start lines and blocks (if they wanted to use these). It was a challenge to keep the flow going smoothly, but with good separation between the heats, and the heat sheets to check the athlete bib numbers and lanes, we were able to run the heats in a timely manner.

There were far more starters wanting to work than was required. The starters were divided into two teams; one team for the morning session and one team for the afternoon session. I was on one of these teams for the two final days of competition.

Overall, our Canadian officials are very well trained, as we know the rules and how to apply them. The meet ran quite well with the help of the International Volunteer Officials, who stepped in where needed.

There were several Alberta athletes competing, many of whom I've had the pleasure of seeing over many years. It was a pleasure to see familiar faces.

The most memorable race for me was a 200m race in the 90+ age class Men category. On the finish straight, three men were trading places for the lead, all finishing in a classic photo finish. Their times were 42.98, 42.98, and 43.30. One of the most outstanding men was Guido Muller, a German athlete in the 75 year category who won the 100m, 200m, 400m, 80m hurdles, 300m hurdles, and was on both winning 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams.

Upgrading as of November 2015

NATIONAL

Field Referee – Throws – Level 4

Irene Gaudet

Horizontal Jumps – Level 4

Irene Gaudet

Miriam Stanisavljevic

Vertical Jumps – Level 4

Miriam Stanisavljevic

Throws – Level 5

Carl Cooke

Starter's Assistant – Level 4

Al Spady

PROVINCIAL

Level 1

Elizabeth Haubrich (backdate to spring 2015)

Level 2

Ciera Wolfe

Dilini Vethanayagam

Hakan Haskoylu

Jumps Referee – Level 3

Bing Chu

Horizontal Jumps – Level 3

Mihaela Cozma

Vertical Jumps – Level 3

Deirdre Choate

Meta deBruijn (backdate to spring 2015)

Starter's Assistant – Level 3

Tracy King

Let's show kindness to each other by Philippa Fairbairn

As you all know, we have had an incredibly busy 2015 outdoor season in Edmonton. It was a season in which our officials came through with flying colours. However, while I do not want to put a damper on our achievements, I believe there is one major area where we can improve.

Volunteers are an important part of track and field meets. They perform many of the tasks that officials are either unable or unwilling to do. Many of these tasks are physically demanding and can include raking the pits, replacing the bar on pole vault standards and retrieving throwing implements. It is important to cherish and nurture volunteers even if they arrive late, might not fully understand their responsibilities or need extra time to learn what is expected of them. No matter. They must be treated with respect and patience. Unfortunately, I heard of several instances this past summer when more patience should have been shown. In one instance a volunteer, who came at his own expense from BC to work at the PanAm Juniors, was so upset at his treatment during the first event he worked that he left and did not return.

And what is true of interactions between officials and volunteers also applies to interactions between individual officials. We must treat each other with respect and patience, especially those who struggle to perform an assigned task. Let's make everyone feel welcome and appreciated. I know it can sometimes be hard to hide feelings of stress or frustration but let us try not to take those feelings out on a fellow official. And if, as an official, you have any concerns about the way you are being treated, whether by another official, by a volunteer, by a coach, by an athlete or, at an age-class meet, by a parent, speak up. Relay your concerns to the referee, the officials' coordinator or even the meet director.

Don't suffer in silence.

Jogging

- A reminder of the importance of renewing your Athletics Alberta membership prior to the end of the year. There is no cost/fee involved. Failure to renew means no insurance coverage is provided for the unregistered official should an accident occur at any of our meets.
 - The 2016/2017 IAAF Competition Rule Book has now been released and came into effect as of November 1st, 2015. We have prepared a separate (and somewhat lengthy) summarization of the pertinent rule changes. Many thanks to Estella Rung and Miriam Stanisavljevic for their analysis of the Field event rule changes. The document is posted in the Officials' Section of the Athletics Alberta website. Please have a look at it and relay to us any questions you might have.
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Athletics Alberta Officials' Sub-Committee

Chair – Louise Buskas

Vice Chair – Ian Gordon

Edmonton Zone Coordinator – Philippa Fairbairn

Calgary Zone Coordinator – Cathy Simpson

Medicine Hat Coordinator – Liz Haubrich

Provincial Upgrading Coordinator – Irene Gaudet

Communication/PR Coordinator – Jack Leman

Member at Large – Eric Wittenberg



(25th hurdle)
