

Athletics Alberta Officials' Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 22, 2017
1:35 PM – 3:00 PM
Holiday Inn, 33 Petrolia Gasoline Alley
Red Deer

MINUTES

Attendance

Ken Phillips, Eric Wittenberg, Cathy Simpson, Stuart York, Shari York, Louise Buskas, Liz Haubrich, Marg Derbyshire, Bud McInnis, Philippa Fairbairn, Jack Leman, Ian Gordon

1. Welcome and Introductions

Louise called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda

Liz Haubrich/ Eric Wittenberg- Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 16, 2016.

Motion: To approve the minutes of April 16, 2016.

Eric Wittenberg/Bud McInnis/ Carried.

4. Business arising from the Minutes of April 16, 2016.

4.1 Athletics Alberta is working on developing the position of Technical Delegate appointed for each meet. Jack Leman fulfilled this task at some of the meets this last winter. Jack reported that some meets did not respect his input and did not follow IAAF rules.

4.2 Recognition items for 20 years are to be plaques, but Calgary and Edmonton locations are not finalized at this time.

4.3 The introductory clinic in Edmonton at both the National Championships and the University of Alberta prior to meets were well received. Many officials stayed to work at the meets, and this seems to be quite successful. Handouts at these clinics are also very useful. Although there are some differences between the Calgary and Edmonton versions, we will wait to see what NOC comes up with in regards to clinics before working on this any further.

5. Reports

5.1 Calgary Coordinator – Cathy Simpson

It was a busy year. Calgary hosted five meets in the indoor season. With four meets made up of track events and one meet for field events. We also provided officials for the college meet held at the Talisman Centre in February. These were all well attended.

We had eight outdoor meets starting with Spring Challenge in early May, an All Schools meet in early June, Cal-Taf and the Cheetahs meets in June and ending with the Indo-Canadian meet at the end of July. This also included the three New Balance Meets.

Just so we didn't get rusty we also had a twilight meet hosted by Airdrie.

Several of our officials had the opportunity to work at the indoor meets in Edmonton.

Many of the Calgary officials were invited to attend the Olympic Trials in Edmonton and the Alberta Summer Games in Leduc.

We have a solid base of committed and dedicated officials. Many of our officials are attaining higher levels and are actively mentoring junior officials. We will always need to rely on Edmonton officials and our parent volunteers to run a meet.

5.2 Northern Coordinator - Philippa Fairbairn

The past year in the Edmonton region saw the usual number of local meets plus two major national events--the Olympic Trials and the USports Championships. Mention should also be made of the Alberta Summer Games held in Leduc last August.

And now for my gripe! My concern is that too much is being asked of our volunteer officials and if things do not change we run the risk of losing many of them. The 2017 indoor season in Edmonton was a particularly arduous one.

Athletics Alberta has taken over responsibility for three indoor meets--Last Chance, the Alberta Indoor Games and the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships. I know that they are, to some extent, still finding their way. Although their goal is to improve the meets this is easier said than done. Facility issues, specifically the limitations of the Butterdome, have been at the centre of many field issue problems over the years. The worst of these were very evident during March's AITFC. This meet had a Friday evening session that started at 8pm and ended around 10:30pm with long jump. Saturday's sessions ran all day and into the evening while the Sunday session finished after 5pm. A record number of entries and the inability to use the wall pit when 200m races are being held did not help. AA is aware that the demands being placed on our officials are too great--but the problem is not a new one! Fixing it requires a willingness to restrict the number of entries and reducing the number of events offered. And while recruitment of new officials remains a priority we need to make sure those new officials get the trained to at least level 3, at which point they would be considered capable of acting as chiefs of an event.

It should be noted that the Golden Bear Open has become more manageable. No events are offered for the tyke/peewee/bantam athletes but a special meet that caters to this group is offered a week or two later, with officiating handled, for the most part, by university athletes. The result is that a lot of pressure is taken off GBO--and our officials.

2017 is the first year that our January introductory officiating clinic has not been able to benefit from free advertising in the Edmonton Journal. So we have had to resort to other ways to get our message out. The Running Room promoted the clinic on its various forms of social media and Athletics Alberta publicized it on its web page. I also contacted all those who in the past had indicated an interest in officiating. Eleven attended the January clinic and all came out at some point during the indoor season. Several of these new officials have emphasized to me their desire to continue.

Once again I am grateful to all the officials who have given of their time to ensure that our athletes have fair and well-run competitions. I would also like to send out a special thank-you to the Calgary officials who have worked various meets in Edmonton, often at their own expense. Your contribution is appreciated.

There was discussion on the increasing demands on officials. There is an increase in the number of athletes competing, and there are more competitions. The way that we have been assigning officials to meets might not be good enough in the future, and we may need to re-think how meets are being officiated. This may mean that lower age group events have mainly volunteers and not senior officials. Also, if meets run longer, we cannot expect the senior officials to attend all sessions of the meet.

In addition, the meet director's handbook needs to include how long it takes to run various events.

5.3 Medicine Hat Coordinator – Liz Haubrich

2016 was a quiet year for the Track in Medicine Hat as we did not host a major meet. Our officials worked at the Junior and Senior High School city and zone meets as well as Kiwanis Run Jump Throw.

We did have officials who worked at CalTaf; University Canada West in Regina; Alberta College in Lethbridge; Olympic Trials in Edmonton and finally the Panthers Indoor Classic here in Medicine Hat.

The city of Medicine Hat opened a four lane indoor track at the Family Leisure Center in the fall of 2016 and it has met with rave reviews. The local Panthers Track Club hosted their first indoor meet – the “Panthers Indoor Classic” – for 60 plus athletes on February 11, 2017. It was such a success they hope to make it an annual event.

Medicine Hat will host the Special Olympics July 7-9, 2017 with the Athletics competition being held July 8th and 9th. Our officials are preparing for a busy two day meet.

We are a small but enthusiastic group of officials and we look forward to the new season.

Liz added that it is difficult to interest some officials to upgrade. They see little benefit when they only work the local meets, and there are almost no provincial level meets in Medicine Hat. It was suggested that the committee may need to look at having a van full of officials go together to Edmonton for indoor meets and/or Calgary for outdoor meets, especially as AA has negotiated rates for renting vehicles.

This summer, the Special Olympics Alberta Summer Games are in Medicine Hat, and this may be a good meet to mentor some of the Medicine Hat officials.

5.4 Provincial Upgrading Coordinator – Eric Wittenberg Spring 2015 to Spring 2016

Fall 2016

For level 1:

Peter Bassett (Calgary)
Janet Dixon (Edmonton)
Kellie Gray (Calgary)
Harry Liu (Edmonton)
Jennifer Ling (Edmonton)
Douglas Wilson (Edmonton)

For level 3:

Sharon Duke – Horizontal Jumps
Milan Kostelnik – Horizontal Jumps
Terry Protz – Starter
Cathy Simpson – TR

For level 2:

Trevor Elliott
Keith Lorimer , back date to Spring 2016
Alix Steward
Trudy Tienkamp

Spring 2017**For level 1:**

Maegan Ciesielski (Edmonton)
 Daniella Clonfero (Edmonton)
 Dave Keenan (Edmonton)
 Graham Overn (Edmonton)
 Brenda Sallis (Sherwood Park)
 Mark Seville (Edmonton)
 Nadia Tanguay (Edmonton)

For level 2:

Janet Dixon

Leigh Garvie
 Sherry Heschuk
 Harry Liu
 Doug Wilson
 Sean Baynton
 Daniel Lauzon

For level 3:

Henry Charrois – Vertical Jumps

For Provincial List:

Rob Fisher – Competition Secretary

5.5 Communications / PR Coordinator

In the past year, we have generated two Officials' Bulletins highlighting events from our indoor and outdoor athletics seasons and also providing other general information of interest to our Alberta track and field officials.

The process utilized to distribute these bulletins is that we have provided the Athletics Alberta office with an electronic copy of the document and asked them to forward it by email to each of our registered provincial officials.

This process does not seem (despite repeated attempts) to have worked very well with many of you reporting that you have not received copies of our bulletins.

We have therefore decided to change the distribution process. From now on, we will provide Athletics Alberta with a copy of the bulletin and ask that it be posted in the Officials' Section of the AA website. Once it has been posted, we (the officials "we") will then contact our registered members by email and provide them with a link to the appropriate section of the AA website. Hopefully (as long as you keep us up-to-date with your current email address), this will eliminate the problem.

5.6 Chair**Past (2016/17) Year in Review****Actions / Accomplishments –**

We hosted what was in my humble opinion an excellent Olympic Trials. It was a lot of work and a bit stressful at times, but it was a good meet, and a great show!

And equally important is the way we are revamping our intro clinics (shortening the classroom time and utilizing handouts) and incorporating a more personal touch (one to one with an official at the following track meet) We are having great success converting 'interested' and 'volunteer' to 'official'

Incentives		Years of Service	
Level 1	Certificate	5 yr	'AA Official' badge
Level 2	'Official' Name Tag / Golf shirt	10 yr	Travel mug
Level 3	Windbreaker / Arm band	15 yr	Hat
Level 4	Sweatshirt	20 yr	Plaque in Edmonton/Calgary
Level 5	Weatherwriter	25 yr	tbd

Recruitment Strategies –

Nothing can compare to word of mouth recruitment. We all need to be doing this. Followed up with more encouragement of interested and newer officials. We need to be continually

mentoring each other. The University of Alberta has also done a great job encouraging students / athletes to assist with officiating. They are our future!

Statistics

Number of Meets 35 Indoor 16 Outdoor 21
 Calibre of meets P 11 N 5 NC 2
 Total number of Officials 147
 Level 1 - 20 Level 2 - 37 Level 3 - 37 Level 4 - 22 Level 5 - 31
 Number of Mentors - 24 Number of Clinicians - 13

Award Winners

Novice Official of the Year Alix Steward
 Official of the Year John Takahashi
 Canadian Official of the Year Philippa Fairbairn

Clinics

Discipline	Date	City	Clinician(s)	Level	#Participants
Horizontal Jumps	6-Jul-16	Edmonton	Peter Faid / Norma Morgan	4	14
Throws	6-Jul-16	Edmonton	Estella Rung	4	6
Starters Assistant	6-Jul-16	Edmonton	Heather Climenhaga	4	9
Introductory	6-Jul-16	Edmonton	Ken Phillips / Michael Samson	1	10
Vertical Jumps	7-Jul-16	Edmonton	Mary Wittenberg	4	11
Introductory	14-Jul-16	Leduc	Ian Gordon	1	1
Starter	15-Jul-16	Leduc	Ian Gordon	3	1
Introductory	15-Nov-16	Calgary	Deirdre Choate / Ian Gordon	1	21
Introductory	6-Jan-17	Edmonton	Jack Leman / Ken Phillips	1	57
Introductory	21-Jan-17	Edmonton	J.Leman/K.Phillips/M.Samson	1	11
Introductory	24-Jan-17	Calgary	Deirdre Choate / Ian Gordon	1	22
Stater's Assistant	3-Mar-17	Edmonton	Heather Climenhaga	3	4
Mentor	10-Mar-17	Edmonton	Jennifer Campbell	N	9
Starter	11-Mar-17	Edmonton	Jennifer Campbell	3	6
Umpire	11-Mar-17	Edmonton	Jack Leman	3	7
Vertical Jumps	11-Mar-17	Edmonton	Mary Wittenberg	3	5

Level 4 / 5 Upgrading

April 2016
 Julie Miller Horizontal Jumps 4
 Chris Baker Starter 4
 October 2016
 Bing Chu Horizontal Jumps 4
 Christine Rapp Throws 5
 Michael Samson Throws 5
 Mark Rowe Throws 4
 Simon MacKintosh Umpire 5
 Pat March Umpire 5

Mentorships

56 official mentorships took place this last year.

16 for level 5, 20 for level 4, 10 for level 3, 10 for level 2

7 of those for out of province officials

Upcoming year / Goals / Events

We have revamped the duties of the officials committee, to share the workload a little more equally amongst the whole committee. Hopefully to also make us a more effective committee. I look forward to seeing it in action.

5.7 AA VP-Personnel

Christine Laverty was not available. Louise read a portion of Christine's report to the AA AGM. In part, she commended the Alberta Officials for their work, noting that it would be impossible to run competitions without dedicated officials. She continued, "With the large increase in our numbers over the past year, their services are requested more and more. Our officials have outdone themselves. They attended every meet from the smallest twilight meet to the National Championships... from the Peewee events to our Olympians trial, our officials put on their professional hats and did so with a smile on their faces. "

6. New Business and Discussion.

6.1 Budget Update.

04/01/2016 - 03/31/2017			
REVENUE			
			5000.00
EXPENSES			
Mentoring (9)		3328.69	
Clinics		1050.00	
Committee			
NOC meeting			
Hats (s/b last year)	792.17		
mileage	120.00		
name tags	90.30		
ASG - Brad	389.13		
		1391.60	
			5770.29
Revenue over expenses			-\$ 770.29

6.2 Recognition Items

For those with 20 yr. or more service, names will be displayed on plaques; one in Calgary and one in Edmonton. This is a work in progress.

What the 25 yr. award was discussed. A suggestion is a picture frame with the official's picture and a medal and/or certificate.

6.3 2016 Meets

2016 Canadian Track and Field Championships & Olympic Trials was selected as the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance's Prestige Award winner for 2016 Canadian Event of the Year (Group B - under \$1 Million), and also was named Edmonton's Live Outdoor Event of the Year at the 2017 Edmonton Event Awards.

6.4 IAAF Books

At the end of next year when IAAF books are printed for officials, it was unanimously suggested that the back of the printed book contain the coloured cards used by starter's assistants and by race walk judges.

7. Nominations and Elections

7.1 Chair

Louise Buskas

7.2 Edmonton Coordinator

Philippa Fairbairn

7.3 Communication/PR/Awards

Jack Leman

Nominations were made for the positions listed above, and all were acclaimed.

The committee will meet at a later date to further identify the duties of the members of this committee and determine who will be responsible for various tasks.

8. Adjournment

Cathy Simpson moved that the meeting be adjourned.