



## 2020 AGM REPORTS

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**September 2020**

**by Linda Blade**

#### **ATHLETICS ALBERTA MATTERS**

As I write this President's Report of 2020, we find ourselves in a societal landscape that is vastly different than anything we've previously experienced. This is the year of COVID 19. Our functioning as a sports association has been completely upended, as the guidelines for member interaction have changed multiple times and in highly restricted ways (as will be discussed by Executive Director, James Rosnau, in the Office Report). To make matters more complicated, still, the COVID lockdown in Alberta happened on the very week that our office was to move to a new venue. The requirement for quick adjustment on the part of Athletics Alberta staff has been nothing short of overwhelming. Our board of directors and staff should be commended for remaining vigilant in responding both to the heightened agitation of a membership eager to keep training & competing and to the complex (ever shifting) COVID regulations and insurance complications presented by both Athletics Canada and our Alberta provincial government. Everything came to a halt:

- The 2020 outdoor competition season, including the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo
- Preparations for the 2021 World Masters Championships Indoor Championships
- The Athletics Alberta road running operations
- Further development of the Mini Legends grassroots program

On the other hand, things that could be done online continued apace:

- Opportunities for coaching education
- Improvements in the accounting system
- Conceptual progress on new approaches in the areas of Clubs Policy and Mini Legends
- Continued exploration regarding the possibility of building new tracks (both indoor and outdoor)
- The annual Athletics Alberta awards ceremony
- On-going meetings with Athletics Canada and other Canadian sports organizations; much of it pertaining to COVID protocols but, also, involving a heightened commitment to the Safe Sports movement that was launched in response to some terrible revelations of athlete abuse
- The Annual General Meeting (despite its postponement from May to this month of September)

As promised at the 2019 AGM, the board of directors updated the Transgender athlete policy. It can be found in the Athletics Alberta Code of Conduct and Ethics.

A final good news story for the year 2019-2020 is the continued increase in membership and participation. Clearly, the diligence of our leadership team is yielding results.

#### **ATHLETICS CANADA MATTERS**

On the national front, the year 2019-2020 was scandal-ridden. Three coaches were given lifetime bans all related to sexual interference with athletes that had taken place over a long period of time:

- Dave Scott-Thomas of University of Guelph (coach)
- Andy McInnis of Ottawa Lions Club (coach)
- Ken Porter of Ottawa Lions Club (board member and former coach)

Another coach, Desai Williams, had been given a lifetime ban in 2018 for the same reason.

These cases indicated that there has been something seriously lacking with respect to athlete protection measures in Track & Field Athletics.



An extraordinary amount of time was spent at AC headquarters this past year addressing the situation. One of the impediments to identification of wrongdoing was the restriction on the nature of “whistle blowing”. Before 2020, only the victim could report an incident, but victims of abuse are often too intimidated to come forward.

Athletics Canada has now publicly announced a new “whistle blower” policy (and a new screening policy). Witnesses other than the victim can now report something observed and be protected in doing so.

The policy includes this pledge from Athletics Canada:

*“AC pledges not to dismiss, penalize discipline, or retaliate or discriminate against any person who discloses information or submits, in good faith, a report against a person under the terms of this Policy.”*

There are now clear guidelines on how to submit a written report about a potential violation and how this information will be handled by the Athletics Canada commissioner.

Also, all coaches must now adhere to the “rule of two” [See **APPENDIX** for details].

By 2021 there will be a new “Universal Code of Conduct” that all coaches will have to adhere to.

In other news, of the many COVID-related cancellations, we are informed that – while most of the international 2020 competitions will be moved to 2021 - World Athletics will not be able to do anything about the 2020 World Junior class. Sadly, this means that there will be one group of U20 athletes who will have missed this event and will not get the chance to attend their global championship.

Finally, I wish to extend our congratulations to Louise Buskas on her recent appointment to the Athletics Canada National Officials Committee.

### **Appreciation**

In closing, I would like to say that I am highly honoured to serve as **President of Athletics Alberta**. I extend a hearty THANK YOU to each of the following groups of people for your respective roles in ensuring that this association functions properly:

#### **A. Athletics Alberta Staff:**

Executive Director - James Rosnau

Membership & Communications Coordinator – Beth Harding

Technical Manager - Brad Babiak

General Manager of 2021 World Masters – Mary Manley [Mary has recently resigned]

#### **B. My colleagues on the Athletics Alberta Board of Directors:**

Christine Lavery - VP Personnel

Evelyn Burnett – VP Administration

Robbie Cumming - VP Programs

Ed Moore, Georgette Reed, Ian Gordon, Nathan Lennie (removed) - Directors-at-Large

Jessica O'Connell - Athlete Representative



**C. The Officials Committee**

Irene Gaudet - Chair  
Louise Buskas - Past Chair  
Philippa Fairbairn - Edmonton Coordinator  
Mihaela Cozma - Calgary Coordinator  
Brenda Bower - Medicine Hat Coordinator  
Ian Gordon - National Upgrading Coordinator  
Eric Wittenberg - Level 3 Upgrading Coordinator  
Janet Dixon - Level 1 and 2 Upgrading Coordinator  
Jack Leman - Communication/PR

**D. Clubs & Affiliates**

Track and Field Athletics would not function at all without the extensive duties undertaken by clubs, coaches, athletes and the families (many of whom serve as volunteers!). I extend a special THANKS to every one of our participants and members. In the final analysis, this is all for you and I trust you are being served well by our efforts.

In the year ahead there will be challenges. Let's continue to work together to ensure that Track & Field, Road Running & Cross Country will continue to grow and prosper once this COVID pestilence subsides.

Submitted with hope and optimism for a better future:

**Dr. L.F. Blade - President, Athletics Alberta**



## **Vice-president Administration**

**Evelyn Burnett**

### **2019 – 2020 in Review**

As the fiscal year for Athletics Alberta ended March 31 the impact from the CV-19 pandemic was minor. Membership was consistent with the prior year as the year closed out.

Athletics Alberta carries insurance to cover both its own and member club/athlete risks. During the year the insurer chose to terminate its coverage for all sporting groups and so Athletics Alberta signed a new policy with Gallagher.

### **Policies**

Two policies were updated – the Health and Safety Policy to align it with the Occupational Health and Safety Act of Alberta and the Respectful Workplace Policy. These are substantially complete and will be approved by the Board in the near future.

### **Revenue and Income**

Membership fees and the Alberta Sport Connection grant remained stable in the past year, providing a consistent base of funds. Other funding came from a number of sources - from meet entry fees, general grants, World Masters Athletics funding and the Edmonton Legacy Foundation (for TOP). A casino was held and additional bingos provided increased funds for the year. Net income for the 2019 - 2020 year was a positive \$4,835 compared to a loss of \$39,434 in the prior year.

Looking forward into 2020 – 21, the Alberta Sport Connection funding is being reduced. However, at least in the current year, some amount is being replaced by emergency CV funding.

### **Financial Statement Reporting**

During the 2017 – 18-year Athletics Alberta outsourced its accounting functions to an external firm. The anticipated benefits did not materialize, and the decision has been reversed. Athletics Alberta has hired a contract individual to reorganize and revamp how the books are organized. Results to date are encouraging and continued improvement in the new fiscal year is expected. In addition, Athletics Alberta is actively searching for a new firm to complete the annual review on an ongoing basis.

In regard to the yearly requirement of an audit of Athletics Alberta, the following is detailed in Section 3 of the Bylaws:

#### **Section 3: Audit**

1) The Board shall cause an audit of the financial position of the Association to be done annually, and the audited financial statements with the auditor's report shall be submitted to both the Annual General Meeting and the Registrar of Corporations, as required.

2) Each year the board shall appoint an auditor, or auditors, of the annual financial statement of the Association. The auditor(s) shall be a: A public accountant, as defined by the Alberta Chartered Professional Accountants act, to be engaged to perform the audit; OR b. Two individuals who are members of the Association, neither of whom are a board member, officer, or employee of the Association.

The Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2020 were compiled by David M. Stetic Professional Corporation, CPA. A review of the 2019 – 2020 Association accounts was completed and signed off by two members at large, Courtney Elcock and Robyn Webster.

*Evelyn Burnett*

*VP Administration*



**VP Personnel Report**  
**September 2020**  
**Christine Laverty**

As VP Personnel, my main focus is the membership of the Association. This includes staff, officials, coaches and athletes. There are always challenges when working with people and this year was no different.

There were a number of issues that occurred over the year but with the help of James Rosnau and the Personnel Committee of Ritch Braun, Louise Buskas, Sean Freeman, and Ian Gordon all cases were handled in a professional matter and resolved.

This year the Awards were handled quite differently, with the Covid situation. We did a Virtual Awards night and then the actual awards were either presented to the winner at their home or mailed at their request. The actual streamed Awards ceremony was well received by those that selected to watch it. The general comment was that it was quick, well delivered and almost everyone watched the whole event as opposed to slipping out once they got their award. This will be under more discussion for following presentations.

Staff evaluations happened in March right before the Covid shut down. The staff have since then been working from their homes and communicating like the rest of the world through Zoom.

The staff did receive Christmas bonuses once again for 2019.

At this time, I would also like to commend Louise Buskas as she has been selected to the NOC and welcome to Irene Gaudet who will take on the role of Chair for Alberta.

Thank you to all

Christine Laverty



## **2019-2020 Programs Committee Report**

**Committee Members** – Robbie Cumming (chair), Jaime Thomas, Ciera Wolf.

**AA Staff Representative** – Brad Babiak

Thank you to the entire Athletics Alberta staff, without their help and support our programs would not happen. Their experience, knowledge, and leadership is invaluable.

**Covid-19** – A BIG thank you Brad for all the hours of work with me into developing a framework for Back to Track in the province and James for being on the AC Back to Track sub-committee representing Alberta. Which most days feels like a no-win scenario however I feel we are moving in the right direction. Next steps:

- 1) Flushing out a Cross Country Provincial Championship
- 2) Develop Indoor Training Guidelines to satisfy AHS, GOA, AC and local facilities
- 3) Develop Indoor Competition Guidelines to satisfy AHS, GOA, AC and local facilities
- 4) Develop Outdoor Competition Guidelines to satisfy AHS, GOA, AC and local facilities

**Track & Field** – This past year we managed to have a very successful Indoor season. We changed the format of provincial championships hosting U10, U12, U14 and Masters in February and U16, U18, U20 and Open in March. This new format managed to shorten the days of each meet giving our officials a much-needed break between days. The feedback from officials, coaches and athletes for both meets was very positive.

Alberta is also applying for the opportunity to host a 2023 and 2024 Legion Championship in the next hosting cycle.

The final Western Canadian Summer Games took place in Swift Current in 2019. Athletics Alberta, its VP Programs, and the AC Committee are working closely with the other provinces to achieve a solution that could involve either the Western Canada Games Council or other Games Councils. Team Alberta finished second in points to the host Saskatchewan but first in medal count. These games showed that developing athletes and partnerships with Para and Special O sport is vital to team success.

**Cross Country & Road Race** – An excellent 2019 Cross Country Season, Alberta Athletes accounted for 1 Gold medal and 3 Bronze medals at the National Championship. As well as 4 Albertans made National Cross-Country Teams.

Congratulations to the University of Calgary Dinos on their second straight U-Sport Men's National Championship. Six of the seven members of that team are home grown Albertans.

Athletics Alberta is exploring an opportunity of hosting the World Athletics Mountain Running Championships in 2023 and 2024.

**Athlete Funding** – The 2019 funding allocations were reviewed prioritized and organized to relate to Athletics Canada development initiatives. Athletics Alberta athlete development initiatives in 2019 distributed 40 AADP cards and 31 athletes received National Championship Funding.



Due to the cancelation of the 2020 Outdoor Season AADP Funding we be based on Indoor results and rankings ONLY for 2020 AADP. Information will be released shortly.

2021 will usher in additional opportunities to better align ourselves with Athletics Canada. The AADP and National Championship goals, guidelines, and responsibilities will be released shortly.

Highlights:

- Funding CAPP identified athletes.
- Awarding 2 para cards at a Tier 2 level. (ahead of everyone else)
- Requiring athletes to attend our Outdoor Provincial Championships to receive funding.
- Addition of an injury card.
- Funding 40 athletes with more money
- National Championship funding only for Cross-Country and Road Race

**Coaching** – Athletics Alberta is currently working towards tightening up coaching certification to align with insurance needs, and the countries NCCP minimum code of conduct standards. Currently we have lots of coaches taking courses but very few pursuing full certification via the evaluation. Future coaching excellence guidelines will require Coaches to obtain full certification within a year of joining AA or affiliating to an AA Club.

During lockdown AA hosted 2 sessions online for the Foundations of Coaching which is required for both Sport Coach and Club Coach. In total we had 22 attendees. With AHS lifting certain restrictions we are now looking at dates to host the in-person portions of both Sport and Club Coach.

**Club Policy** – In order to help us address coaching certification, volunteer burnout, athlete funding and official's recruitment, changes have been made to the current club policies. This will be released in the fall of 2020 and implemented January 2021. We will be hosting a virtual townhall to role out the Club Policy on September 23.

**Calendar Congress** – Due to the day to day uncertain of Covid-19 Athletics Alberta will NOT be hosting a Calendar Congress this year. With AC placement of National Championships in 2021 we will be looking to basically move our 2020 calendar to 2021

In Conclusion, I would like to give a big thank you all the volunteers, coaches, officials, administrators and day of volunteers, without you we wouldn't be able to enjoy the sport we love.

Submitted by: Robbie Cumming, Vice President Programs





**Alberta Officials Committee  
Chair Report, August 31, 2020  
For Summer 2019 through Spring 2020 seasons**

In the 2019-20 year Alberta Officials were involved in 35 meets, 21 outdoor and 14 indoor. Of those meets, there were 12 provincial-level, 3 national-level meets, 1 national championship, and 19 other including various school meets. Only one meet (late spring 2020) was during this time due to Covid19.

Our officials were involved in a total of 35 mentoring's; 25 national level, and 10 provincial level.

We hosted 12 clinics/workshops this past year, with a total of 100 attendees.

After spring upgrading, we have 40 level 5, 38 level 4, 67 level 3, 53 level 2, and 16 level 1 officials. In addition, there are 30 national mentors and 6 provincial mentors; as well as 12 national clinicians.

Officials of the Year are Pat Marsh and Christine Rapp, and the Novice Officials of the Year are Gord Hobbins and Cathy Scott.

Jack Leman was entered on Canada Official's Wall of Honor for 2018.

Irene Gaudet was named as Athletics Canada Official of the Year for 2019.

Submitted by,  
Irene Gaudet, Officials Committee, Chair  
And Louise Buskas, Officials Committee, Past Chair





## **Athletics Alberta Masters Sub-Committee**

**Donna Dixon**

**Report 2019/2020**

The Masters Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Programs Committee. The mandate of the Masters Sub-Committee is to review and evaluate the needs of Masters (35+) athletes and to provide input to promote Masters participation and proficiency in road running, track & field, cross-country running and race walking. Current members of the Masters Sub-Committee are: Donna Dixon, Loretta Amerongen, Susanne Lauridsen & Dan Parsons .

Masters athletics is active in Alberta. The current masters age groups for meets in Alberta are: 35-49, 50-64, 65 and over. A number of masters age athletes continue to perform at a high level in open competition in track, cross country, road racing and race walking. Masters athletes also contribute to athletics as volunteers, officials, coaches, and board members.

In 2019 there were 180 masters members of Athletics Alberta (a significant increase from 2018) and 2037 masters members of AC branches across Canada. Athletics Alberta's decision to offer a reduced masters membership fee for 2020 and 2021 is an excellent initiative to promote masters participation even though major masters meets have been put on hold at present.

Athletics Canada and Canadian Masters Athletics ("CMA") have a coordinated membership agreement whereby all Athletics Canada branch masters members are also members of CMA. Under this agreement, Athletics Alberta is entitled to appoint a representative to the CMA Board and I have been named as this representative. I participate in regular CMA meetings via teleconference.

The CMA website is [www.canadianmasters.ca](http://www.canadianmasters.ca)

The Canadian Masters Indoor Championships were successfully hosted in Edmonton in March 2019. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the World Masters Athletics Championships scheduled for July 20-August 1, 2020 in Toronto were cancelled.

Jovette Jolicoeur continues to maintain the Alberta Masters Track & Road Racing website which includes a listing of provincial masters records. The previous hosting site is no longer available so this information will be moved to the Athletics Alberta website.

Masters Sub-Committee's activities in 2019/2020 included selecting masters athletes of the year in two categories:

1. Track & Field and 2. Road Racing & Cross Country.

Thanks to the AA staff for their assistance over the past year. The Masters Sub-Committee will continue to work for the benefit of masters athletes and the promotion of athletics as a sport for life. Please contact any sub-committee member if you have questions regarding masters matters.

Donna Dixon

Member, Masters Sub-Committee

CMA Alberta Director

[dixondm1@shaw.ca](mailto:dixondm1@shaw.ca)

September 8, 2020