



Athletics Alberta Officials' Bulletin

October 2021

by Jack Leman



2020 Tokyo Paralympics

Louise Buskas



Truly a dream come true!

Ahead of the Games, I put a lot of hours into studying, but at the same time tried not to really think about going. Kind of worried it wouldn't happen. It wasn't until officiating at some of our Alberta meets, when you would come up to offer your congratulations and support, that it started to seem real. That support meant a lot to me. Thank you!

The two weeks of limiting contact prior to departure, and the two negative Covid tests required for Japan, truly made it a reality.



Those first steps in Olympic Stadium sealed the deal! I felt like a sponge the whole time I was there. Trying to soak up as much as possible.

I was asked several times if it would be possible to see me on TV. My response was: "If I do my job right- No." I did not have a specific assignment, which was perfect, because I got to experience several areas. Call room, no cameras in there. Umpire, several times positioned after finish line looking down home stretch. We got permission from the media to go up into their stands. There, we were out of the way, had a great vantage point, and found the best place to hide from cameras.

At throwing events I was usually in the landing area, on the opposite side from the cameras, so that took some careful positioning to attempt to be out of their line of sight. This wasn't a requirement, just my preference. I was asked to observe the landing area for part of a long jump event. Was thinking of you, Milan, so I helped sweep at the end. It also entertained the volunteers.

The number of National officials and volunteers was overwhelming. The logistics and organization involved was mind-blowing. The kindness and generosity of all the Japanese was touching. The athletes and their performances were inspiring.

I enjoyed every moment of being there. Okay maybe not the spitting into a test tube daily for Covid testing. But It's good to be back home, and I am looking forward to an Alberta Indoor season.

AA/AC Recognition Awards

This past summer, Athletics Alberta recognition awards were presented in Calgary and Edmonton to a number of our Alberta officials in honour of their 25+ years of service.

EDMONTON



Bruce Suffield

CALGARY



Ian Gordon, Doug Kyle, Pat Inglis, Estella Rung, Ed Moore

Early in 2020, at the USPORT Championship meet, these recognition awards were also presented to the following Edmonton officials.

**Philippa Fairbairn
Vernon Schmid
Eric Wittenberg**

**Fidelma Muldowney
John Takahashi
Mary Wittenberg**

25+ years of dedication and officiating in support of our athletes and the sport of Athletics.
Amazing. ***Thank you all!!***

World Athletics Competition and Technical Regulations

2020 WA Competition/Technical Regulations were amended recently. The amendments will be included in the 2022 edition of the WA Competition and Technical Rules, to be in force from 1 November 2021.

The formal amendment documents can be accessed here: [Book of Rules | Official Documents \(worldathletics.org\)](https://www.worldathletics.org) in the Book C: Competition section.

The first amendment document dated Mar. 17/21 deals with a number of matters including TR 22.6.2 hurdle events and specifically the issue of striking/knocking down the hurdle with the lead leg/foot. A second amendment deals with TR 25.6 General Conditions – Field Events

The TR 22.6.2 amendment reads as follows: (Note: the strikethrough is the “old” text and the red is the replacement text. The green text is part of the interpretation section of the rule with the strikethrough being the “old” text and the bold green being the replacement text):

TR 22.6 In addition, an athlete shall be disqualified, if:

22.6.2 they knock down or displace any hurdle by hand, body or the ~~upper~~ side of the lead leg front side of the lead lower limb; or....

~~It should be noted that the reference to “the upper side of the lead leg” means any part of the front side of the lead leg, not only the part above the knee. The front side of the lead lower limb includes all front facing parts of the leg from the top of the thigh to the end of the foot.~~

The TR 25.6 amendment **General Conditions – Field Events** reads as follows:

In situations in the horizontal Field Events where there are more than eight athletes, only the eight athletes with the best valid performances are allowed any additional trial(s). This requires an athlete to have a measured mark recorded from a fair jump or throw in at least one of their first three trials. Where less than eight athletes achieve such a valid performance it is only those athletes who are allowed any additional trial(s) even though it will mean less than eight athletes proceeding.

Previously, when fewer than eight competitors qualified for an additional three attempts, we had the option of being able to include an athlete whose first three attempts had been recorded as a “fault” or a “pass”. This is no longer the case. *Philippa Fairbairn*

A second amendment document is dated July 2021 and deals with several matters but the prime focus from a technical rule perspective is the issue of disqualifications due to a **Lane infringement – TR 17.3.**

The intent of this amendment is that an athlete (or relay team) should not be DQ'd for stepping only once on the lane line or kerb on their left which marks the inside border on a bend.

For races run in lanes or partly in lanes, when the shoe/foot is to the left of the inside lane line on a bend, there must be some part of the shoe/foot still in contact with the inside line when the infraction occurs for this exception to apply.

In races with multiple rounds, this infringement can be made only once by a particular athlete during all the rounds. A second infringement for the same athlete in the rounds would result in a DQ.

In relay races with single or multiple rounds, any further step on the line, by an athlete on the team, regardless of whether they committed the first infraction, will result in the disqualification of the team whether it happens in the same round or in another round of the same event.

All lane infringements should be tracked in the competition data systems and shown in the start lists and results.

This is rather a significant rule amendment and it is my understanding that NOC will be doing an article on this matter in their next Officials' Newsletter.

UPGRADING – FALL 2021

The following officials were appointed to or upgraded in their respective positions and levels at the recent Athletics Alberta Officials' Sub-Committee meeting.

Level 1

Diane Duff - Fox Creek

Johanna Fischer – Edmonton

Victoria Morgan – Calgary

Victoria Person - Calgary

John Findlay – Edmonton

Marjorie Hibbert – Edmonton

Tristan Sinnatamby - Edmonton

Level 2

Leslie Fiegenwald

Jan Van Der Put

Pamela Fischer

Level 3 - Throws

Ralph Troschke

Jury of Appeal - Provincial

Bing Chu

Lisa Lem

Heather Climenhaga

Michael Samson

Jury of Appeal - National

Irene Gaudet

Mary Wittenberg

Eric Wittenberg

AA WEBSITE POSTINGS

The revised Officials' Grading chart as of Oct. 2021 is now posted on the AA website.

The Upgrading Pathway for AA officials has also been amended and a document outlining this revised pathway is posted on the website.

Both documents can be accessed in the **Officials' Section/Become an Official/Upgrading Section** of the website.

Covid-19

Athletics Alberta is considering developing a mandatory vaccination policy before the start of the Indoor Season and would like input from officials on this matter. They have asked us to complete the following online survey. Please [complete this survey](#)

Officials' Committee 2021 - 2022

Chair – Irene Gaudet

Past Chair – Louise Buskas

Calgary Coordinator – Mihaela Cozma

Edmonton Coordinators – Philippa Fairbairn & Norma Morgan

Medicine Hat Coordinator – Brenda Bower

National Upgrading Coordinator – Ian Gordon

Level 3 Upgrading Coordinator – Eric Wittenberg

Level 1 and 2 Upgrading Coordinator – Janet Dixon

Communications/PR Coordinator - Jack Leman