



Athletics Alberta Officials' Bulletin

January 2019

by Jack Leman

The 2018 – 2019 Indoor Season is upon us...highlighted by the Canada West Track & Field Championships in February and the 10th Canadian Masters Athletics Indoor Track and Field Championships in March. It should be noted that the Officials' sign up sheet indicated the Canadian Masters was scheduled for March 9th & 10th when in fact the actual schedule is March 8th, 9th and 10th with field events only being scheduled for Friday evening.

Age Classes

IAAF 2016 – 2017 Competition Rules updated the naming of the Youth and Junior age classes to U18 and U20.

Athletics Canada, at their recent 2018 Semi-Annual General Meeting in Vancouver, approved a motion to ***"update the nomenclature of age-categories to a numbered system (U20, U18, U16, etc.)"***

Track diagrams for our various Alberta facilities (which are posted in the Officials' section of the AA website) contain the hurdle specs for each athlete age class. As a result of the AC motion, we have amended each diagram to reflect the numbered age class system. Revised diagrams have been sent to AA for posting on the website.

My thanks to Ian Gordon for preparing these amended documents.

I believe AA also is in the process of amending their various technical specification documents to reflect this revised/numbered age class system.

False Starts

By Ian Gordon

At the Legion Youth National Championships in Brandon this past summer an incident occurred at the start line which may be used as a case study. In the Men's U16 100 m final, lane 4 moved and lane 5 left the blocks. The starters recalled the race, and charged lane 4 with a false start. This was not an obvious decision because the eye is drawn to movement, and there was more than one athlete who moved.

The athlete in lane 4 was given the red and black card signifying a false start, and told to leave the track, and he left his lane. However, the coach of lane 4 was very adamant that her athlete run under protest, and was so loud that the next start was aborted. I, as the Start Referee, allowed the athlete to run. I was unsure of what had actually happened during the first start, and was satisfied that the protest was reasonable. I radioed to the photo finish officials that lane 4 was disqualified for a false start but was running under protest.

After the results that showed lane 4 disqualified were posted, the coach for lane 4 appealed, and I was contacted. The coach plead her case. I indicated that I needed to see the video which was recorded under the auspices of the meet. When I reviewed the video, lane 4 had moved. I saw him "buck" in which I was convinced that the hands stayed on the ground and the feet stayed on the foot plates of the blocks, and there appeared to be no forward movement; that is, it was not a "rolling" start. Therefore, it should not have been a false start.

I reinstated the athlete, and he was given first place since he had won the race. This bumped lane six from third to fourth place, and this athlete was very unhappy. The athlete's coach appealed that the DQ should not have been reversed, and I explained what had happened and I was standing by my decision. The coach appealed to the Jury. The Jury asked me to explain my decision and viewed the video. They then upheld my decision.

The whole start team learned from this experience. For me, this reinforced the idea that if in doubt, let an athlete run under protest. If I had not allowed this, there would have been an appeal, and the race would likely have had to be re-run. This would have had a much greater impact in comparison to letting an athlete run under protest and then upholding a disqualification.

Note however that an athlete does not have the automatic right to run under protest. In fact, the Start Referee should not normally allow an athlete to run under protest if there is no doubt that there was a false start. The rules also exclude the possibility of an athlete to compete under protest if a Start Information System (electronic blocks) correctly indicates a false start. Regardless, an athlete who has false started and been disqualified will always have the right of appeal whether or not they have been granted the opportunity to run under protest.

Upgrading

At the recent Athletics Alberta Officials' Sub-Committee annual meeting, the following Alberta officials were recently upgraded in their respective positions:

Provincial

Level 1

Dale Cocks - Edmonton

Gord Hobbins – Calgary

Cathy Scott – Calgary

Karl Wagner – Calgary

Level 2

Maegan Ciesielski

Level 3

Janet Dixon - Starter

Michael Samson – Throws Referee

Laura Weber – Throws

National

Mihaela Cozma – Starters Assistant 4

Jeanne Tse – Horizontal Jump 4

Miriam Stanisavljevic-Horizontal Jump 5

Miriam Stanisavljevic - Vertical Jump 5

Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee

Chair – Louise Buskas

Vice-Chair – Eric Wittenberg

Calgary Coordinator – Cathy Simpson

Edmonton Coordinator – Philippa Fairbairn

Medicine Hat Coordinator – Brenda Bower

National Upgrading Coordinator – Ian Gordon

Provincial Upgrading Coordinator – Irene Gaudet

Education Coordinator – Ken Phillips

Communications & PR Coordinator – Jack Leman