



Athletics Alberta Officials' Bulletin

October 2022

By Jack Leman

2023 Officials Registration

Registration for 2023 has now opened in Trackie. There is no cost to officials, but you MUST be registered to be eligible for the insurance coverage and for any upgrading. Go to <https://athleticsalberta.com/officials-copy/> and click on Register as an Official or go directly to <https://www.trackie.com/members/UN-AB.php>

Announcements

Please note that Athletics Canada recently made the following addition to their Technical Regulations:

097 *Spitting (or similar) in warm up, call room, or field of play (including on throwing implements), or any other public area may be treated as a conduct offence and may be dealt with by a warning or disqualification (yellow card and / or red card offence).*

In Memoriam

The athletics community in Alberta lost two officials this past summer, Denis McInnis and Peter Gray. We thank them for their years of officiating and send condolences to their families.

Densil "Bud" McInnis



With sadness, we must advise of the passing of Bud McInnis on August 3rd 2022.

Prior to moving to Alberta, Bud resided in St. John New Brunswick where he was a high school teacher in biology, mathematics and physical education. With his physical education activities, he had also been responsible for organizing many high school athletics meets for that area. He became formally involved with Athletics New Brunswick officiating activities in 1982.

Bud and his family relocated to Sylvan Lake Alberta in 2000. He became active in Athletics Alberta officiating upon his arrival in the province. With the 2001 IAAF World Athletics Championships being held in Edmonton, Bud was one of the four Umpire Section Heads designated for that competition.

Bud was graded with Athletics Canada as a Level 5 Track Referee, a Level 5 Umpire, a Level 3 Starter's Assistant, a National Jury Member, a National Clinician. and a National Mentor.

In recognition of his significant contributions to athletics officiating, Bud was named Athletics New Brunswick Official of the Year in 1994 and 2000 and Athletics Alberta Official of the Year in 2007. In addition, he was named to the Athletics Canada Officials Wall of Honor in 2008.

Bud's substantial involvement with officiating and his support and training efforts with our athletics officials has had a significant positive impact on their capabilities. His presence will be greatly missed.

A link to Bud's obituary may be found here: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/25596853/densil-king-mcinnis>

Peter Gray



On September 16, Peter Gray passed away at the age of 79.

After emigrating to Canada from England to teach in 1967, and again in 1970, Peter had a positive impact on all who knew him. Many will remember his awesome teaching, athletic ability, kindness, fairness, generosity of spirit, an indomitable sense of humour and his raucous laugh. Peter loved life!

Peter began working as an official in Alberta in 2006 and was often seen at the throws circle. He attained Level 3 as a Throws official and is best remembered for his ready laugh and great sense of humour and helping younger athletes at throws or timing for the Journal (Running Room) games. His presence, especially in the indoor season, will be missed.

Peter's obituary may be found at: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/edmonton-ab/peter-gray-10949951>

Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee

The 2022 fall AA Officials' Committee meeting was held (via Zoom) September 8, 2022. The following reports were presented at this meeting.

Edmonton Officials' Coordinators

Philippa Fairbairn & Norma Morgan

The summer of 2022 saw a very busy track and field season. With the government opening up travel and health restrictions, some meets were busier than others, with one meet, scheduled for July 1, cancelled due to the lack of entries.

It was exciting to have Edmonton host the Warm-Up to the Worlds event on July 3. Unfortunately, because of issues with airline flights, some of the US athletes were not able to make it to Edmonton in time and had to pull out.

The two smaller local meets were:

Columbians Spring Fling: April 30, 2022 (8 Officials including 3 trainee officials)

Columbians Jumps Meet: May 21, 2022 (9 Officials including the same 3 trainee officials)

The six larger meets in the Edmonton Region were:

St. Albert Challenge: May 28 (30 Officials) May 29 (25 Officials)

Foote Field Open: June 17 (27 Officials) June 18 (30 Officials) June 19 (30 Officials)

Leduc Track Classic: June 25 (16 Officials) June 26 (12 Officials)

Warm-Up to the Worlds: July 3 (37 Officials)

Columbians Track Classic: July 16 (14 Officials) July 17 (15 Officials)

Sherwood Track Classic July 22 (34 Officials) July 23 (43 Officials) July 34 (39 Officials)

The majority of meets in the Edmonton Region used only local officials. The two exceptions were the Warm-up to the Worlds, which included three officials from Calgary, and the July meet in Sherwood Park. Because the Sherwood Park meet had a Tri-Province component, it was given an N designation, which benefited those officials who were looking for level 4 and 5 evaluations. As part of this process, four out-of-province officials worked at the meet as well as three officials from Calgary.

Some of our officials also offered to volunteer on August 13 for the India @75 Track and Field Meet while several others took part in meets in Calgary, BC and Saskatchewan.

Calgary Officials' Coordinator

Mihaela Cozma

2022 Outdoor season in Calgary

An ambitious early start in April with small meets - Lancer/Sauter – followed by the regular outdoor schedule and closing with some small meets again in August.

Due to unfavorable weather conditions, some meets have been cancelled in April (one out of three Lancer Sauter) and May (one Gord's Running Series postponed to July).

Total number of meets: 13

- 3 small in August, 3 Gord's series, 3 small in April, Cheetah invitational
- 2.5 day meets: Spring Challenge, Caltaf Classic, Alberta Championship

Officials for meets: combination of Calgary and Edmonton zones officials for the big meets; small meets with Calgary officials.

- 14/22/20 Officials from Calgary for the big meets
- 6/8/7 Officials from Edmonton for the big meets

Big meets were great opportunities for mentoring and evaluation, and for some officials to chief in their main events.

New officials in Calgary that officiated this summer: Jo-Louise Huq, Kyle Jenner, Karen Wright, Kristen Severn, Meghan Donaldson.

Challenges:

- the group of officials L3 and up in Calgary is very small and not sufficient to run a sanctioned meet. Needed to bring officials from other cities, mostly from Edmonton, this adding to the meet cost.
- small teams implied long days for the officials.
- new recruits are mostly active on their own professional life and have sometimes limitations to participate (specifically on work days).
- the shifts offered to the volunteers compared with the event schedule were sometimes not compatible/aligned.
- the time the volunteers show up for field events is very close to the start of the warm-up and we don't have sufficient time to brief them, train them on what they need to do, etc., before the athletes show up for their warm-up. The 60 min rule before the start of the event should apply.
- meet schedules assumed multiple teams being available to run many sites at the same time.

Discussion topics:

- the mentoring pairing didn't seem to work this summer for the provisional and L1.
- The organization of volunteers: clubs can help identifying within their membership who may be interested to become an official and we can help them navigate the process better and keeping them involved.

Medicine Hat Officials' Coordinator

Brenda Bower

- Track and field got back to "normal" in Medicine Hat this past season.
 - May was busy with all the school (elementary and junior high) meets that were held
 - Local officials and teacher volunteers organized and ran these meets.
- Biggest meet of the year was the ASAA High School Provincials held the first weekend in June.
 - Thank you to those who came to Medicine Hat to officiate
- MH hosted a Run Jump Throw meet June 10.
 - Local officials and volunteers organized and ran the meet.

Upgrading – Fall 2022

Level 1

Carmelle Cooper–Edmonton
Jo-Louise Huq–Calgary
Konan Kouame–Edmonton–*backdate to Spring 2022*
Veronica Stevens–Camrose

Dean Cooper–Edmonton
Jennifer Jacob–Leduc
Timothy Schultz–Camrose

Level 2

Heather Ahl
Konan Kouame

Emily Cliff
Victoria Morgan

Level 3

Chris Baker–Track Referee
Irene Gaudet–Vertical Jumps
Amanda Janotta–Photo CJ
Scott Ratzlaff–Photo CJ

Dale Cocks–Vertical Jumps
Norma Morgan–Vertical Jumps
Blake Pedersen–Vertical Jumps
Richard Roberts–Photo CJ

Level 4 and Level 5

Recommendations for upgrading Alberta officials to Levels 4 & 5 have been submitted to Athletics Canada (NOC) for approval. Listing of the officials who have been upgraded for these levels will be posted in a later newsletter once they have been approved by NOC.

Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee 2022 – 2023

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 – Michael Samson

Communications/PR Coordinator - Jack Leman