

Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee General Meeting
2 May 2023 at 7:00pm Held on Zoom

1.0 Meeting **called to Order** by Irene Gaudet at 7:04 pm

2.0 **Attendance:** Alix Steward, Cammie Kannekens, Carmelle Cooper, Christine Rapp, Dave Keenan, Dave McLaren, Dean Cooper, Denise Roche, Doug Weber, Emly Anderson, Eric Wittenberg, Gordon Murray, Irene Gaudet, Jack Leman, Jeff Davis, John Findlay, John Van der Put, Juste Kagisye, Karen Wright, Khalid Sultan, Laura Weber, Lisa Lem, Loree Irving, Louise Buskas, Marianne Chichak, Mark Rowe, Mary Wittenberg, Michael Samson, Mihaela Cozma, Miriam Stanisavljevic, Philippa Fairbairn, Ramona Jackson, Robert McKinnon, Shari York, Terry Protz, Tracy King, Victoria Morgan, ZhenZhen Lu

3.0 **Minutes of 4 May 2022** were circulated. Louise Buskas /Eric Wittenberg moved to accept.
Carried

4.0 **Financial Update** from the 2022/23 year was presented.

Income	
Rulebook Sales	3,494.29
Clothing sales	260.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,754.29
Expenses	
Honoraria -clinics	500.00
Evaluations	9,862.09
Shirts	1,530.90
Promo - nametags	1,481.40
Rulebooks	2,451.75
NOC meeting	453.20
Parking	79.00
Printing	9.25
Shipping	1,099.40
TOTAL	\$ 17,466.99

5.0 Reports

a. Chair – Irene Gaudet

Our 2022 AGM was once again held via Zoom and was well attended by 24 officials from across the province. The 2023 AGM will also be held via Zoom – on May 2, 2023.

The online signup for meets was piloted in the indoor season and we hope to have it fully functional for the outdoor season. We still don't have all officials signed into the system and this may be an ongoing challenge.

We have tweaked our mentorship program for officials. Now, all new officials are invited to a Zoom meeting just prior to the first meet of the season in the area (1 in Edmonton and 1 in Calgary). At this meeting, they are told what to expect to be asked to do and who to look for as the city coordinators are on each call. Mentors are only assigned once an official has upgraded to level 1 or if they are very active, when they have done 1 or 2 meets. This eliminates mentors being assigned to officials, who, for whatever reason, register and/or do the online clinics, but we don't see them at meets.

For the calendar year of 2022, there were 37 mentorships/evaluations and 29 upgraded officials.

We presented Eric Wittenberg with NOC recognition for 50 years of officiating in Canada. Philippa Fairbairn was also recognized with a Queen's Jubilee Medal for her contribution to Athletics in the province.

Statistics:

Number of Meets: 30 Indoor 12 Outdoor 18

Caliber of meets: P 25 N/NC 5

Total number of Registered Officials 2022-23 (2021-22): 152 (153)

New: 23 Level 1: 10 (21) Level 2: 43 (44) Level 3: 32 (38) Level 4: 20 (17) Level 5: 25 (32)

Note: new officials not counted in 2021-2.

These officials are registered as officials and have taken the intro training. (as of April 3, 2023)

Officials Award Winners:

AA Official of the Year

Mihaela Cozma and Bruce Suffield

AA Novice Official of the Year

John Findlay and Pam Medland

Clinics:

8 clinics in 6 disciplines with a total of 45 officials trained. Many of the clinics were a combined in-person/Zoom format so that more officials could attend from locations outside of the host area. The online AC introductory clinics have been a great success with 56 officials attending. A further 4 clinics for level 3 are scheduled for April and May 2023.

Mentorship/Evaluations:

Alberta Officials participated in 40 mentorship/evaluations for levels 2 (11), 3 (6) and 4 (14), and 5 (9). The highlight of the summer was the successful upgrading of 10 officials to either national level 4 or level 5 by NOC and 8 upgradings to level 3 (provincial).

Year Ahead:

We hope to continue upgrading senior officials (levels 4 and 5) but this may be hampered by opportunities to work and be evaluated at a national meet. We are still looking to upgrade as many officials as possible to at least Level 3, especially in the Calgary area as we look forward to hosting Legion Nationals there in 2024-25.

We have changed our Committee structure to add in an 'Administrative' Position which will oversee the online signup program along with the Chair.

We look forward, finally, to the implementation of the Officials Policy which was passed back in 2020 so that we can have more opportunities for officials to travel to gain experience on a priority basis. However, we do not anticipate any travel from this fund for the upcoming year as it is only year 1 and no funds have been collected to date. To be approved for travel from this fund, an official should demonstrate an ongoing commitment to officiating athletics in Alberta and the eligibility will be determined by a sub-committee of the Officials' Committee as outlined in the policy.

b. Edmonton Coordinators – Philippa Fairbairn / Norma Morgan

During the summer of 2022 we had a very busy outdoor track and field season in the Edmonton area while the 2023 indoor season stretched our officiating resources to the limit.

This was particularly true of the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships held on March 4 and 5.

The six larger outdoor 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 Park Classic July 22: (34 Officials) July 23: (43 Officials) July 24: (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.

By the start of the 2022/2023 indoor season Covid fears had diminished and, for the most part, the indoor meets saw much greater athlete participation. As can be seen below, official numbers varied widely, depending on the requirements of the individual meets.

Last Chance November 26, 2022: (38 officials)

Panda/GBO Preview January 7: (34 officials) Athlete numbers were fairly low but the meet director feels that, as greater awareness around this meet builds, participation will increase.

Golden Bear Open January 20: (40 officials) 21: (45 officials spread over 3 sessions)

22: (36 officials)

Alberta Indoor Games February 4: (40 officials) 5: (44 officials)

Panda Open February 10: (40 officials) 12: (40 officials spread over 3 sessions)

12: (32 officials)

Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships March 4: (52 officials) 5: (44 official). This meet was truly a test of our endurance as both days stretched well into the evening because athlete numbers were so high.

Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference Championships March 18 and 19: (15 track officials per day.)

The other event that took place during the indoor season was the Running Room Indoor Games on February 22, 23, March 8 and 11 with 3 preliminary sessions and one final. School participation numbers were down as the momentum that was building pre-Covid has yet to return.

One major problem that Edmonton is facing concerns our photo-finish area. Vernon Schmid recently lost three valued officials. One has returned to BC and two have pulled back for personal reasons (one has, or is about to have, a baby and the other recently married). Three of our new officials have expressed an interest in learning the various aspects but don't want to commit totally to that particular area.

c. Calgary Coordinator – Mihaela Cozma

As of March 2023- there are 45 registered officials in Southern Alberta

2022 Outdoor season: 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.

2023 Indoor season: 3 meets in Calgary hosted under Dinos' series and one meet hosted by Caltaf as Cheetah Indoor Invitational for U10-U14. Three of the meets offered also fields events and were supported by AA Officials from Calgary. A few Calgary officials have been supported by Calgary Track Council or by AA to participate at meets in Edmonton to be evaluated or to have the opportunity to work in teams for field and track events.

Used the new system to prepare 2 of the meets in Calgary and we'll continue to promote the use of it as we are all preparing for a busy 2023 outdoor season.

d. Medicine Hat Coordinator – Brenda Bower

No Report

Main meet for last year was High School Provincials.

They do have a few meets coming up this summer. If you find yourself in that area during a meet, they would appreciate the assistance.

e. Level 1 and 2 Upgrading Coordinator – Michael Samson

Emerging from the Pandemic and returning to regular track and field we have had a successful year for new and beginning officials. This year a total of 45 people took the online Level One clinic and began their journey to becoming a track and field official. A total of 14 officials were upgraded to level one this year and a further 9 were upgraded to level two. It is good to see our number of new officials increasing and says much about interest in the sport.

To better support our newer officials, we offered an online meet and greet for new and level one officials, one meet and greet for Calgary and Southern Alberta Officials and one meet and greet for Edmonton and Northern Alberta Officials. These meet and greets were done in November before the beginning of the indoor season in the respective cities. Both Clinics were well attended with about 10 new officials at each session and there was a lot of great discussions at both sessions. As these meet and greets were so successful we will continue to offer them before the beginning of each track and field season.

We look forward to another great year and helping level one and two officials to progress further while welcoming onboard many more new officials.

f. National Upgrading Coordinator – Ian Gordon

Over the last year Alberta had 15 evaluations: 11 outdoor and 4 indoor. In the fall 10 were upgraded; 6 to level 4 and 4 to level 5. This spring we have 2 level 4 upgrading applications pending.

The officials upgraded to level were:

Graham Overn (horizontal jumps)

Eric Wittenberg (horizontal jumps)

Becca Gould (starter)

Alex Steward (starter's assistant)

Ian Wilson (throws)

Emily Anderson (umpire)

The officials upgraded to level 5 were:

Bing Chu (jumps referee)
Irene Gaudet (throws referee)
Mihaela Cozma (horizontal jumps)
Meta deBruijn (vertical jumps)

g. Level 3 Upgrading Coordinator – Eric Wittenberg

Fall 2022

Photo Finish Chief Judge – Amanda Ntiamoah

Photo Finish Chief Judge - Scott Ratzlaff

Photo Finish Chief Judge – Richard Roberts

Track Referee – Chris Baker

Vertical Jumps – Dale Cocks

Vertical Jumps – Irene Gaudet

Vertical Jumps – Norma Morgan

Vertical Jumps – Blake Peterson

Spring 2023

Throws – Louise Buskas

Umpire – Steven Bosch

Umpire – Sheila Chartrand

h. Communications – Jack Leman

Nothing to report. But will be doing a Newsletter soon.

i. Past Chair – Louise Buskas

Reported that the 2022 Inductee to the Athletics Canada Officials' Wall of Honor is Irene Gaudet

Congratulations Irene.

6.0 Changes to Officials Committee Structure

a. Combine Medicine Hat coordinator with Calgary coordinator into South Coordinator

b. Rename Edmonton coordinator to North coordinator.

c. Level 1&2 Upgrading coordinator combined with level 3 Upgrading coordinator

d. New position - Administrator.

7.0 Elections

a. Chair

Louise B. / Laura W. nominated Irene Gaudet.

No other nominations.

Irene Gaudet is elected by acclamation.

b. North Coordinators

Jack L. nominated Philippa Fairbairn

Philippa F. nominated Emly Anderson

Both accepted and elected by acclamation.

c. Administrator

Louise B. nominated Ramona Jackson

Mary W. nominated Eric Wittenberg

Both candidates were given opportunity to speak. Irene launched a Zoom poll for the purpose of voting.

Ramona Jackson was elected.

d. Communications

Eric W. nominated Jack Leman.

No other nominations.

Jack accepted. Elected by acclamation.

8.0 New Business

Online sign up system - Irene gave an overview of the new sign up system.

NOTE: Everyone still needs to be keeping a manual record til this system proves itself. Especially those that are actively pursuing upgrading.

If you are having any issues logging into the system, please contact Irene.

9.0 Questions

Q-Will upgrading officials, including level 1 and 2, be mentored by someone in their local area.

A-Every attempt is being made to assign a local mentor. For levels 3 and above, mentors will be assigned in the official's chosen discipline. We will try to pair in the same city, but it may not be possible in some disciplines.

Q – what is happening with the July 2 meet?

A – The Edmonton Invitational is an accredited international level meet, and a Technical Delegate has been assigned. All officials must be a minimum level 3 to be an official at the meet. For new and level 1 and 2 officials they will have the opportunity to be there as volunteers.