

Athletics Alberta Officials Committee General Meeting

Held via Zoom

Tuesday, May 8th, 2024 7:00 pm

Minutes:

1.0 Meeting **called to order** @ 7:02 pm by Irene Gaudet, minutes by Ramona Jackson

2.0 **Attendance:** Irene Gaudet, David McLearn, Norma Morgan, Mary & Eric Wittenberg, Jeff Davis, Michael Samson, Marianne Chichak, Miriam Stanisljevic, Denise Roche, Gordon Murray, Dean & Carmelle Cooper, Sharon Evans, Hakan Haskoylu, Philippa Fairbairn, Deirdre Choate Emly Anderson, Victoria Morgan, Tim Schultz, Mark Kupiers, Mihaela Cozma, Jeff Stephenson, Ian Gordon, Juste Kagisye, John Findlay, Ramona Jackson

3.0 **Minutes of AGM May 2, 2023**, Michael Samson /Ian Gordon moved as posted. Passed

4.0 **Financial Update** - changes in office no update available at this time, add to minutes when available

5.0 **Reports** of Officials Committee

- a. Chair – Irene Gaudet *AGM mentors and evaluation's 39 upgrades, implement of officials policy, funding for travel and experience, travel for upgrading from budget with AA; minimal draws in 2023 as it was 1st year; OMA in place and working hear from Ramona and N & S coordinators; 156 registered officials, 29 are new, 8 level 1, 32 level 2, 21 level 4, 26 level 5; hole in disciplines looking to fill up; year ahead, using OMA more, challenges is more meets and officials spread thin and some feeling burnt out, longer meets, unrealistic schedules, meet Directors to talk to Sr officials and referees for assistance with meet schedules, all in athletics alberta report.*

Irene Gaudet moved as presented/Jeff Davis Passed

- b. Edmonton coordinators – Philippa Fairbairn/ Emly Anderson *Emly present, During the past year, we had our usual very busy short track and long track seasons. Seven meets took place in the spring/summer months of 2023 with the most significant being the ASAA High School Championships in June, and both the Edmonton Athletics Invitational as well as the Sherwood Park Track Classic Track in July.*

Earlier this year, on February 23 and 24th, the Canada West Championships were held, involving university athletes from four provinces and was the most significant meet of our 2024 short track season. For the most part, the indoor meets in Edmonton had an adequate number of officials. However, we did struggle to get enough officials for the five days of track-only events that took place between March 6 and 17, these being the Running Room Games as well as ACAC. We were really thin on each of the five days.

Once again, the Alberta Indoor Provincials (March 2 and 3 this year) had an over-full schedule and required our officials to put in some long hours. Volunteers were also in short supply, particularly for the later sessions.

We are gearing up for a very busy long track season. Specifically, in June alone, we have the Leduc Track Classic, the Special Olympics Trials, the ASAA High School Championships, the Edmonton Invitational, and the Edmonton Columbians Classic all scheduled.

Finally, you've heard this before but it's worth repeating, it would be helpful if clubs were to encourage parents and retired athletes to become involved in officiating if possible. And we would suggest that the meets, hosted by individual clubs as fund-raising events, might be the main starting point for club efforts in this regard.

Emly Anderson moved/Marianne Chichak Passed

- c. Calgary coordinator – Mihaela Cozma - *no written report; super busy indoor short meets with track; good coverage; new officials showing interest; outdoor extreme busy, resurfaced tracked at foothills, looks nice and clean; 2 big meets being spring challenge May 11-12, legions in Aug 9-11; officials very small team, smaller team hard to recruit officials;*
- d. Level 1, 2 and 3 Upgrading coordinator – Micheal Samson - *May 2023 through April 2024 has been busy with provincial upgrading. The online introductory clinic was well attended with 29 people completing it this year. We had 6 officials upgraded to level 1 and 9 officials upgraded to level 2. We had 8 upgrades to level 3, a number of which were in horizontal jumps. We already have a number of evaluations arranged for the coming outdoor season and are seeing several clinic attendees already signing up and out for meets. As always we are looking for experienced officials willing to be mentors for up and coming officials particularly at levels 1 and 2. We are looking forward to another busy and successful upgrading year*
- e. National Upgrading coordinator – Ian Gordon - *Fall 2023 NOC meeting: 2 level 4 officials were added to the Spring 2023 upgrading list. 2 officials were upgraded to level 4 and 2 officials were upgraded to level 5. Spring 2024 meeting: 2 officials were upgraded to level 5. Outlook for outdoor season 2024: Confirmed 7 evaluations for level 4 and 7 evaluations for level 5. Potential 2 more evaluations for level 4.*
- f. Communications – Jack Leman - *no report see Website for Newsletter*
- g. Administrative Coordinator – Ramona Jackson *156 registered officials with 101 for entry into OMA, difference is Safe Sport training pending completion, officials not set a renewed member until this is complete. Meets entered were 13 for indoor and 21 for outdoors for a total of 33 meets. Credits have a few misalignments with hours in the system versus actual hours and Philippa, Emly and Mihaela doing amazing work to keep everything aligned. Issues with credits please contact coordinators and we can fix them. Cards are also still being used. Also recorded into OMA is evaluations, training (online, exams and clinics) and upgrades. This is not real time but does get entered.*
Marianne Chichak questioned credits entitled on racewalk, Irene G noted for anyone to email her if they feel credits are in error. Ian G indicated there are special circumstances like combined events but all credits are reviewed via meets prior to upgrading.
Discussion on clinics (including online or observing) to record as attending.
- h. Past Chair – Louise Buskas - *no items to report*

Ian Gordon moved all reports are accepted/Eric Wittenberg Passed.

6.0 Elections

- a. **South Coordinator** - can be dual, nominate Deirdre Choate decline due to other commitments, no other nominations Mihaela Cozma will help out; 70% work is done; Irene Gaudet stated ask people and leave vacant at this time. We will try to fill this during the summer.
- b. **Level 1, 2, 3 upgrading coordinator** - nominated Michael Samson by Mary Wittenberg Michael Samson accepted Elected by acclamation
- c. **National Upgrading coordinator** - Ian Gordon nominated by Emly Anderson Ian Gordon accepted Elected by acclamation

7.0 Discussion and Questions

- a. Changes within Athletics Alberta - AGM next week, Irene Gaudet carries vote for officials, others also welcome to attend but must register
- b. Ian Gordon - Participation at meets - yes WA rules need to be followed, CALTAF tech package rules are listed and noted the rules will be followed
- c. Safe Sport completion – National requirement for all sports, must follow the guideline, several officials not completed if issues contact Irene Gaudet
- d. Online signup system for meets if you need password updates or have questions, problems email Irene Gaudet may send to Ramona Jackson, get it working and we will help you get going. L1 and worked a few meets plus completed the safe sport portion you will be entered into the system. Shows a commitment as we pay for users of the system.
- e. In general - Marianne Chichak lost chair at Rollie Miles by John's truck.
Philippa Fairbairn, AA board no designated position for officials? Irene Gaudet Still needs addressing, boards all have officials representative (chair sits on the Board) Meets are out of control.
Jeff Davis any word sending people to other parts of the province? Irene Gaudet is waiting on the budget for that. Put in a number of officials for travel, opportunities may come up. Irene Gaudet has it on her list for purchase laser measurers with cameras; Tablets for horizontal jumps
Mariam Chichak to AA boxes for jumps, equipment needed (list provided to Beth) officials should not be expected to purchase items themselves.
Mary Wittenberg a couple time clocks would be helpful

Adjournment moved by Ian Gordon/Jeff Davis declared adjourned at 7:51pm

Reference

Alberta Officials' Committee

Chair Report, May 2, 2024

For Summer 2023 through Spring 2024 seasons

Past Year Highlights:

Our 2023 AGM was once again held via Zoom and was well attended by 38 officials from across the province. The 2024 AGM will also be held via Zoom – on May 8, 2024.

For the 2023-4 season, there were 34 mentorships/evaluations and 39 upgraded officials. The online AC introductory clinics have had 61 officials attending.

We finally saw 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, there was minimal opportunity during this season as there is not a large amount in the fund, yet. 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. We anticipate that in future years this will lead to more opportunities for travel for officials to gain experience.

We are moving forward with the Online Officials Management System for officials to

sign up for meets in the province and to be awarded credits for their work. As well, we are trying to put all upgrading information – clinics, evaluations – on the system as well. We presented Marilyn Fraser with NOC recognition for 50 years of officiating in Canada.

Statistics:

Number of Meets: Total: 37 (30 – 2023) Indoor: 14 (12 - 2023) Outdoor: 23 (18 - 2023)

Calibre of Meets: P: 31 N/NC: 6

Total number of Registered Officials Total 156

NEW: 29 Level 1: 8 Level 2: 38 Level 3: 34 Level 4: 21 Level 5: 26

Officials Award Winners:

AA Official of the Year Norma Morgan

AA Novice Official of the Year Ramona Jackson and Frank Magdich

Clinics:

6 clinics in 5 disciplines with a total of 42 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 61 officials attending.

Mentorship/Evaluations:

Alberta Officials participated in 34 mentorship/evaluations for levels 2 (3), 3 (10) and 4 (6), and 5 (10).

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.

Complete the testing of the Officials Management System to ensure that credits are properly recorded and updated for meets.

Challenges for Officials:

With the increasing numbers of meets during the year, the officials are spread very thinly and this is leading to 'burnout', especially of more senior and more active officials. If clubs are hosting meets, they should be providing adequate volunteers AND getting some of those volunteers to take on the training to become officials. They should also ensure that there are enough volunteers for ALL sessions of the meet and that at the end of the day, there are enough people left to run competitions.

Unrealistic meet schedules. Meet organizers should send the schedule to senior referees who will gladly look over the schedule to see if the timing with the number of entries can be realistically achieved. Maybe that means fewer entries, maybe fewer trials in field events (4 as opposed to 6?). Perhaps that also means setting entry deadlines a week ahead of the meet so that the schedule can be tweaked if needed!

An inconsistent application of WA rules, particularly failure to participate. This was very evident at the AB provincials this last spring. Not showing up for an event denies other athletes the ability to compete in subsequent rounds. Similarly,

reinstatement of athletes should be made – if at all – after a ruling by the Jury of Appeal, not an appeal to Meet Directors.

*Submitted by,
Irene Gaudet,
Chair, Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee*