



# Athletics Alberta Officials' Bulletin

## December 2017

By Jack Leman

The 2017 – 2018 indoor season is upon us and by now you all should have received (in a slightly different format than in previous years) the Indoor Meet Sign-up sheet. If, by chance, you have not received this document, it has been posted in the Officials' Section of the AA website.

### *2016 Athletics Canada Official of the Year*



Ian Gordon commenced officiating in 1988 in Calgary under the tutelage of Barry Calloway. As a Level 4 Starter, he was one of the recall starters at the 2001 IAAF World Championships in Edmonton. As with most of the officials involved in that meet, it was a highlight of their officiating career. It was also at that meet that Ian first truly appreciated the three ring circus analogy of a track meet.

Ian is now qualified as a Level 5 Starter and Track Referee, a Level 4 Umpire, as well as a Mentor, Clinician and Master Trainer. He is always willing to discuss the nuances of starting with anyone interested and has mentored many starters across the country. He has been actively involved with the Alberta Officials' Committee for several years, and his contributions have been invaluable. Ian has also served on the Athletics Canada National Officials' Committee as VP for mentoring. Over the last few years Ian has been at five World Master Games Championships. The most recent being in Perth this past year. Also in 2016, he was the Starts Referee at the Canadian Track and Field Championships. This past year as the National Officials' Committee was transitioning, Ian's continued dedication to mentoring, even though he was no longer on the committee, enabled many officials from across Canada to continue their pursuit of excellence. Not only did he ensure that their mentoring continued, he was very careful to ensure that it was equitable. As officials we owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his efforts both this past year and over his many years of involvement. Thank you Ian!!

## *Athletics Canada National Officials' Committee Wall of Honour*

Congratulations to Ray Deere who has been appointed to the Athletics Canada Wall of Honour.



Ray started officiating in 1991, when in April, he attended the Introductory Officiating Clinic. From 1991 to 1997, he mainly officiated in track events as a timer, finish line judge, umpire and then as a photo-finish judge. In 1998, he transitioned to officiate as a throws judge, continually improving and then became a Level 5 Throws Judge in 2006. In 2012 he was also upgraded to a Level 3 Throws Referee. Since 2007, he has been a National Mentor and a National Clinician. Ray has, over the past 25 years, officiated at almost all of our Calgary meets.

## *In Memoriam*

Long-time track and field official (and great supporter of the sport) Colin Robertson passed away on December 3, 2017. Colin's officiating career began in 1977. A year later he helped out as a volunteer during the marathon that was held in association with the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton. Then in 1983 he worked as an umpire during the World University Games, also in Edmonton. Colin's main interest, however, was to become a starter and in this discipline he achieved level 4. Very much respected for his work, he trained many of the starters who followed him. The period leading up to the 2001 World Championships in Edmonton provided a new challenge as Colin became fully involved as one of the event's two officials' coordinators. And once the meet started, his was a voice of calm reasonableness no matter how stressful things could become.

Generous with his time, knowledge and expertise Colin will be missed by all who knew him.

## *2018 – 2019 IAAF Competition Rules*

The 2018 – 2019 IAAF Competition Rules have now been released and came into affect November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. They are available for download here: <https://www.iaaf.org/about-iaaf/documents/rules-regulations>

We have once again prepared a summary of the specific rules which have been revised and this (rather lengthy) document will be posted shortly in the Officials' Section of the AA website. In that regard, I would like to thank Irene Gaudet and Miriam Stanisavljevic for their considerable time and efforts in reviewing the changes to the Field Events section of the rules.

The formatting/presentation of the new rule book has changed rather significantly from previous versions. As indicated in **Note (iii)** in the Definition section of the new rule book, ***“The notes in green print (previously in the IAAF publication “The Referee” - “Le Juge Arbitre”) provide interpretation to the Competition Rules and practical guidance for their implementation.”***

Where the notes ***“in green”*** are applicable to rules that have been changed, they are included in our summary document. However, many are applicable to rules that have not been changed and as they can provide significant input into the application of the rules, it would be

our recommendation that officials make a point of reviewing the new rule book in full so that they can be fully aware of the implications of all of the *green* comments and clarifications.

## *False Starts*

*By Ian Gordon*

Starting with the 2014 rule book, a buck or a twitch was no longer considered a false start. The 2012 rule book indicated that if a false start control apparatus was in use, it would be normally accepted as conclusive evidence of a false start. This apparatus could easily be triggered by a buck or twitch and to give somebody a false start for this infraction, while they were not trying to get the advantage of a false start, was harsh.

The 2014 rule book introduced the wording that the hands would need to leave the ground or the feet would need to lose contact with the blocks for it to be considered a false start. This note is:

*“Note (i): Any motion by an athlete that does not include or result in the athlete’s foot / feet losing contact with the foot plate(s) of the starting blocks, or the athlete’s hand / hands losing contact with the ground, shall not be considered to be the commencement of his start.”*

This was insufficient however to change how many starters internationally viewed the rules, and the false start control apparatus was still being accepted normally as conclusive by the starter. Subsequently, in the 2016 rule book, the electronic equipment at the start line was renamed to the **Start Information System**. However, this still did not change how many of the starters viewed the information from the equipment.

The 2018 rule book has again modified the wording. The rule now states: ***“Note: When an IAAF certified Start Information System is in operation, the evidence of this equipment shall be used as a resource by the relevant Judges to assist in making a correct decision.”***

Hopefully this change will have the effect of now using the equipment as an aid rather than being used as conclusive evidence of a false start.

The other issue that has been addressed in the 2018 rule book is that of rolling starts. Rolling starts were never allowed. Note (i) always stated that motion that results in the hands leaving the ground or the feet leaving the blocks was a false start, and clearly this would include a rolling start. The note now states,

“However, if the Starter determines that prior to receiving the report of the gun an athlete initiated a movement that was not stopped and continued into the commencement of his start, it shall be a false start.”

I believe the Canadian and US starters will in general view the changed wording in the new rule book as a confirmation of practices that we have been conducting ourselves for many years, and hope that internationally application of the start rule will become more uniform.

## *Then and Now*

*By Philippa Fairbairn*

Over the past 27 years we have seen major growth in the numbers of level 3, 4 and 5 track and field officials in Alberta. The figures below tell the story.

1990

- 12 level 4 officials (11 active, 1 inactive)
- 5 level 5 officials (4 active, 1 inactive)
- 14 level 3 officials

2017

- 16 level 4 officials (several with level 3 or 4 in additional disciplines)
- 34 level 5 officials (several with level 3, 4 or 5 in additional disciplines)
- 25 level 3 officials

So what has led to the dramatic increase in numbers—but above all the number of level 5 officials we now have in Alberta? I believe it all started in the late 1990s when Edmonton was awarded the 2001 World Championships in Athletics. Suddenly track and field in Alberta achieved a much higher profile than it had before. Interest grew and many who had attended the introductory officiating clinics that were held in the years leading up to the World Championships became seriously involved and worked on upgrading their qualifications.

But while the World Championships might have been the original impetus for the increase in the numbers of officials in Alberta, some other factors came into play in the years that followed. In the nine years between 2007 and 2016 Alberta hosted several high calibre meets.

- Western Canada Summer Games, Sherwood Park, 2007
- Canadian National Championships, Calgary 2011, 2012
- Canadian National Championships, Edmonton 2015, 2016

- Pan-Am Juniors, Edmonton, 2015
- Western Canada Summer Games, Fort McMurray, 2015

When national and international meets are held within a province they provide many opportunities for our officials to obtain the mentorings and earn the credits they need to reach the higher levels. For example, those working towards level 5 need four national championship credits as chief or assistant chief in their particular discipline. To achieve these when major meets are held in another province can be more difficult as it depends on the individual official being invited to that meet.

So one can conclude that the high-profile meets that Alberta has hosted during the past several years has resulted in this province having a large pool of very experienced officials who, at the same time, are making sure that their knowledge and expertise are passed on to those working towards their next level, whether that be level 2, 3, or 4. And in the same vein, it is also critical that Alberta continue to pursue opportunities to host the higher calibre meets. Such a strategy will ensure our up-and-coming officials are provided with as many opportunities for advancement as possible and that the sport will continue to draw new recruits to our officiating ranks.

### *Logging*

Also; a reminder of the importance of renewing your Athletics Alberta membership prior to the end of the year. There is no cost/fee involved. Failure to renew means no insurance coverage is provided for the unregistered official should an accident occur at any of our meets. Renewal also keeps you on the mailing list for our Provincial bulletins and National Officials' updates.

### *Upgrading*

Athletics Alberta officials who were upgraded at the fall Alberta Officials' Committee meeting are as follows:

#### **PROVINCIAL**

##### **Level 1 – General**

Hank Fast  
Darryl Lem  
Gerald Wilke

Rene DeGagne  
Kent McDougall  
Ian Wilson

Sonya Hassan  
Scott Ratzlaff

## Level 2 – General

Kellie Gray  
Ron Thompson

Elizabeth Haubrich  
Kyle Weiman

Graham Overn

## Level 3

Ken Phillips – **Horizontal Jumps**  
Eddy Tse – **Throws**

Alix Steward – **Starter's Assistant**

## NATIONAL

Mihaela Cozma – **Horizontal Jumps 4**

Ed Moore = **Photo Finish Chief Judge 5**

Doug Weber - **Starter 4**

Tracy King – **Starter's Assistant 4**

Gordon Murray – **Throws 5**

Deirdre Choate – **Vertical Jumps 4**

Meta deBruijn - **Vertical Jumps 4**

Congratulations to all of the above officials for the many volunteer hours required to achieve these designations!

## [Athletics Alberta Officials' Committee](#)

**Chair** – Louise Buskas

**Calgary Coordinator** – Cathy Simpson

**Edmonton Coordinator** – Philippa Fairbairn

**Provincial Upgrading Coordinator** – Eric Wittenberg

**National Upgrading Coordinator** – Ian Gordon

**Education Coordinator** – Ken Phillips

**Communications/PR/Awards** – Jack Leman

