

Athletics Alberta Officials' Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 21, 2018
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Holiday Inn, 33 Petrolia Gasoline Alley
Red Deer

MINUTES

Attendance

Ken Phillips, Eric Wittenberg, Louise Buskas, Marg Derbyshire, Bud McInnis, Philippa Fairbairn, Jack Leman, Ian Gordon, Louise Delsing, Dave Keenan, Roger Hazlewood, Bruce Suffield, John Takahashi, Christine Laverty.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Louise called the meeting to order.

2. VP Personnel, Athletics Alberta

Christine Laverty, VP Personnel for Athletics Alberta, addressed the meeting, and thanked the officials for their work, and gave words of encouragement.

3. Presentation

Louise Buskas presented Bud McInnis his 35 year pin and congratulated him for his years of service.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To accept the agenda

Roger Hazlewood/Marg Derbyshire- Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of April 22, 2017.

There were no changes to the minutes.

6. Business arising from the Minutes of April 22, 2017.

4.1 Recognition items:

The 20 year plaques in Calgary and Edmonton are still a work in progress.

The 25 year award is also a work in progress.

4.2 Jack mentioned that there are changes to the rules since the 2018-2019 rule book was published, and there will likely be further changes. The most current rules are found on the IAAF website.

7. Reports

5.1 Calgary Coordinator – Cathy Simpson

The past year in the Calgary region saw the usual number of indoor and slightly less outdoor meets. We missed our twilight meets in Airdrie and hope they return soon. We had a good turn out of officials and an excellent turn out of volunteers.

Many of our officials had an opportunity to travel to Edmonton to officiate or mentor or be mentored. As Philippa mentioned in her report, Athletics Alberta has taken over responsibility for three indoor meets--Last Chance, the Alberta Indoor Games and the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships. Apart from a schedule that featured huge gaps in some areas and overlapping events in other parts of the day the meets went reasonably well.

I am pleased to say that in my opinion the Calgary meet schedules are excellent. We have some long days but it is due to the large volume of entries and not due to large time gaps.

Ian has been working hard to provide introductory clinics to our new officials. Until we can get our officials to Level 3 or higher we will need to rely on the Edmonton officials to provide us with the experienced officials. Hopefully we can still rely on the Edmonton officials to help us out. It is always a major concern when 2 meets are booked on the same day.

Estella Rung has decided to retire from Officiating. She will be greatly missed!! It will be very difficult to look out into the field and not see Estella. Thank you for all of your tireless efforts and wisdom. You have been a mentor, role model and inspiration to all of us.

To echo Philippa's sentiment - I am grateful to all the officials who have given of their time to ensure that our athletes have fair and well-run competitions. I would also like to send out a special thank-you to the Edmonton and Medicine Hat officials who have worked various meets in Calgary. Your contribution is much appreciated.

5.2 Northern Coordinator - Philippa Fairbairn

The past year in the Edmonton region saw the usual number of indoor and outdoor meets. The Golden Bear Open is the only meet we had that has an N designation. The format of the Pandas Open is basically the same as the GBO with its emphasis on university-age athletes. I would suggest that some consideration be given to trying to get an N designation for that meet also.

As I mentioned in last year's report, Athletics Alberta has taken over responsibility for three indoor meets--Last Chance, the Alberta Indoor Games and the Alberta Indoor Track and Field Championships. Apart from a schedule that featured huge gaps in some areas and overlapping events in other parts of the day the meets went reasonably well. A problem that affected me was that a final version of the schedule, for the last two meets in particular, was not available until one day before the meet. This created issues when it came to letting our officials know about their individual assignments. AA is also trying to go with a generic schedule that is subject to minor adjustments only. I can't say I am convinced that this is the way to go. To their credit there has been an attempt to limit the events being offered, which does make these meets more manageable.

The meet that did not go well during the past outdoor season was the one held in Leduc last June. There were not enough officials and not nearly enough volunteers. The situation was made worse by the fact they had far more entries than expected and by the ill health of John Bole. Leduc is on the calendar as hosting a meet this coming June and I really hope it is handled better.

Looking ahead, there are two meets this summer in the northern half of the province that are being held at non-typical locations--the ASAA Championships in Red Deer and the Alberta Summer Games in Grande Prairie. Of the two, the high school provincials will use what is essentially a skeleton crew--referees, chiefs, two starters, an SA. The ASG will have more officials. We tend to see the Alberta Summer Games as an opportunity for newer officials (those with at least a level 3) to experience what is probably their first out-of-town meet. Of course they will also need the guidance of our more experienced officials.

During the past couple of weeks, Brad in the Athletics Alberta office has been in touch with a Special Olympics staff member. Their provincial championships will be held in Edmonton on the same

weekend as Caltaf. According to Brad "the lead officials will be named to be a part of the organization of the event so there is a unified team." This meet doesn't use a huge number of officials and I indicated to Brad that Stephanie Hazlewood and Heather Climenhaga have been involved in previous years.

Once again I am grateful to all the officials who have given of their time to ensure that our athletes have fair and well-run competitions. I would also like to send out a special thank-you to the Calgary officials who have worked various meets in Edmonton, often at their own expense. Your contribution is much appreciated.

5.3 Medicine Hat Coordinator – Marg Derbyshire

Medicine Hat hosted the Special Olympic Games this last summer, which went well.

5.4 National Upgrading Coordinator – Ian Gordon

Level 4/5 Upgrading

Fall 2017

Deirdre Choate	Vertical Jumps 4
Mihaela Cozma	Horizontal Jumps 4
Meta deBruijn	Vertical Jumps 4
Tracy King	Starter's Assistant 4
Ed Moore	Photo Finish Chief Judge 5
Gord Murray	Throws 5
Doug Weber	Starter 4

Spring 2018

Marianne Chichak	Umpire 4
Bing Chu	Field Referee – Jumps 4
Lisa Lem	Umpire 4
Jack Yee	Throws 4

5.5 Provincial Upgrading Coordinator – Eric Wittenberg

Fall 2017

For level 1:

Hank Fast – Edmonton
 Rene DeGagne – Calgary
 Sonya Hassan – Edmonton
 Darryl Lem – Edmonton
 Kent McDougall – Calgary
 Scott Ratzlaff – Calgary
 Gerald Wilke – Edmonton
 Ian Wilson – Sherwood Park

For level 2:

Kellie Gray
 Elizabeth Haubrich
 Graham Overn
 Ron Thompson
 Kyle Weiman

For level 3:

Ken Phillips – HJ
 Alix Steward – SA
 Eddy Tse – Throws

Spring 2018

For level 1:

Kate Dupuis – Calgary
 Gail Phillipchuck – Edmonton
 Dale Schinkel – Edmonton
 Heng Zhu – Edmonton

For level 2:

Lizane Boucher
 Hank Fast
 Rene DeGagne
 Sonya Hassan
 Dave Keenan
 Laura L'Heureux
 Scott Ratzlaff
 Brenda Sallis
 Mark Seville
 Sharon Sherman
 Corrine Timmer
 Ralph Troschke
 Gerald Wilke
 Ian Wilson
 Shari York

For level 3:

Emly Anderson – Umpire
 Marianne Chichak – Walks Judge
 Becca Gould – Starter
 Noella Lee Pong – Starter
 Lisa Lem – SA
 Miriam Stanisavljevic – FRJ

For Provincial List:

Irene Gaudet – Jury of Appeal
 Mary Wittenberg – Jury of Appeal

5.5 Communications / PR Coordinator

5.6 Exam/Education – Ken Phillips

This past year has been a learning experience for me in the role of Exam/Education Coordinator and I find I am still trying to figure out my role and how to develop the most effective ways of supporting and retaining officials, especially the newer ones.

We want to develop a culture where new officials feel welcomed and supported right from the beginning and then all the way throughout their time as an official. One very positive step, from my perspective, was the development of the 'New Official' name tags. I believe this has helped new officials feel more a part of the team sooner and also makes it easier for existing officials to get to know the new officials.

I have been giving feedback to officials writing the level 2 or 3 exam on the questions they have gotten wrong and why. The feedback to this has been very positive from the officials and creates a learning opportunity for them. Based on their feedback, I would recommend continuing with this process.

The feedback on the exams has also provided some good input on questions that may be worded in a manner that is causing some confusion. I will be taking this input to see if we can re-word the questions to make them clearer.

Another initiative I am working on is to put together a 'resource library' for new officials on the Athletics Alberta website with some of the tools that existing officials use. For example, Vertical Jump Planner, Horizontal Jump Planner, Intro speeches, forms, etc.

5.7 Communications – Jack Leman

There were two Officials' Bulletins issued in 2017.

We changed the process for distributing these bulletins to our members with the December 2017 edition. Previously our bulletins were emailed directly to officials by the AA office. We now are having the bulletins posted on the AA website and having our Zone Coordinators, Philippa and Cathy, provide a link by email to our members in their zone as to where the bulletin is posted on the AA website. I have not received any feedback as to whether this method is working better than the previous process.

Philippa and Cathy, have you received any input from our members on this matter?

I am in the process of putting together the Spring 2018 bulletin. I understand there might be photos available of Service Pins being presented to some of our officials. If these photos could be sent to me shortly, I can include them in the next bulletin.

Also, if any of you have articles you would like included in the bulletin or issues you would like raised, please let me know as soon as possible.

5.7 Chair

Louise presented her report. In addition, she noted that there are 94 officials who are levels 3 to 5, representing 1700 years of experience.

Past (2017/18) Year in Review

Actions / Accomplishments –

We as officials continue to support our athletes by providing fair competitions, which is our number one priority. But we have also continued and improved upon helping and supporting each other in becoming better officials.

Our executive committee is committed to improving how we recruit, encourage, educate and advance.

Incentives –

		Years of Service	
Level 1	Certificate	5 yr	'AA Official' badge
Level 2	'Official' Name Tag / Golf shirt	10 yr	Travel mug
Level 3	Windbreaker / Arm band	15 yr	Hat
Level 4	Sweatshirt	20 yr	Plaque in Edmonton/Calgary
Level 5	Weatherwriter	25 yr	in progress

Statistics

Number of Meets	36	Indoor	16	Outdoor	20
Calibre of meets	P 12	N	3		

Total number of Officials 166

Level 1 - 15 Level 2 - 57 Level 3 – 35 Level 4 – 25 Level 5 – 34

Number of Mentors – 31 Number of Clinicians – 12

Award Winners

Novice Official of the Year	Rene DeGagne
Official of the Year	Irene Gaudet
Canadian Official of the Year	Ian Gordon

Clinics

Discipline	Date	City	Clinician(s)	Level	# Participants
Mentor	16-Jun-17	Calgary	Ian Gordon	N	6
Umpire	16-Jan-18	Edmonton	Jack Leman	3	3
Intro	20-Jan-18	Edmonton	J.Leman/K.Phillips/M.Samson	1	5
Intro	23-Jan-18	Calgary	Deirdre Choate / Ian Gordon	1	25
Throws	10-Feb-18	Edmonton	Irene Gaudet	3	5
Track Referee	9-Mar-18	Edmonton	Louise Buskas	3	1

Mentorships

55 official mentorships took place this last year.

3 for level 5, 17 for level 4, 17 for level 3, 18 for level 2

4 of those for out of province officials

Louise also went over some of the highlights of the officials retreat. Files have been put on Dropbox so that information can be exchanged and updated easily; this seems to be working very well. Sticky name tags for new officials with printing, "I'm a New Official". All Referees to be contacted to inform them to be aware of those wearing the "New Officials" labels, and ensure these individuals are given responsibility and encouragement. Brochures that have a brief description of how to run an event for officials who are assigned to an event without experience would be useful. It was suggested that city coordinators have business cards with contact information.

Athletics Alberta Officials Policy is still a work in progress.

Motion to approve reports as submitted:

Eric Wittenberg/Roger Hazlewood Carried

8. New Business and Discussion.

8.1. Budget Update.

Athletics Alberta give the officials a budget of \$7500 for the 2017-2018 year. This was overspent by approximately \$3000, largely because of clothing expense and air fares for officials to the tri-province meet in Manitoba which were bought at the last minute. The added clothing expense was due in part to errors in the printing of logos which might be reimbursed. There is now an inventory of clothing which when sold should help in increasing future years revenue. The officials budget for this year has been increased to \$9000.

8.2. Mileage revision

Currently the mileage for one official/vehicle is \$0.35, for two officials is \$.40, and for three or more officials is \$0.48. Moved that the amount for three or more officials be \$0.50. This is the mileage rate used by Athletics Alberta for business.

Moved by Ian Gordon, Seconded by Jack Leman, Carried.

- 8.3. Dave Keenan discussed track diagrams, and wanted to know if he could have original files rather than the available pdf files. Ian will provide these for Dave. Dave also talked about call room procedures, and how we could better convey information to the athletes about such items as hip number placement and legal spikes. The suggestion was made that we could have display charts showing where hip #, bib #, and spikes allowed posted at the check-in area. Whether spikes should be available, and if so, whether they should be for sale or given away was discussed.
- 8.4. Louise discussed that Environment Canada has a website where we can see what the air quality is. This might be a concern under certain conditions, but we would generally not be able to suspend a meet and re-schedule.
- 8.5. Louise presented a proposal to revise the provincial upgrading process. It was unanimously agreed that the proposed changes be adopted as shown in the spreadsheet below:

	NOC	Currently	Proposed
to Level 1			
Credits	6	6	6
Intro Clinic	Brief	2 hrs	before level 2

to Level 2			
Credits	12	12	12
Service	6 month	6 month	6 month
Clinic	Comprehensive Rules	none	No
Exam	none	yes	Online Worksheet
Mentoring	yes from chief	yes	Discussion form

to level 3			
Credits	16	16	16
Service	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
Clinic	none	yes	No
Exam	NOC exam	yes- ours	Group
Mentoring	2	2	*, **

* assigned a mentor @ time of upgrading notice who gives discipline specific handouts asap and MENTORS then writes up later in approx 6 months

** 2 mentor similar process

9. Nominations and Elections

9.1. Vice-Chair – 2 years

Eric Wittenberg

9.2. Calgary Coordinator – 2 years

Cathy Simpson

9.3. Medicine Hat Coordinator – 1 year

Brenda Bower

9.4. National Upgrading Coordinator – 2 years

Ian Gordon

9.5. Provincial Upgrading Coordinator – 1 year

9.6. Education Coordinator – 2 years

Ken Phillips and Miriam Stanisavljevic will decide between them who will fill the positions of Provincial Upgrading Coordinator and Education Coordinator.

Nominations were made for the positions listed above, and all were acclaimed.

Motion to accept these nominations:

Ian Gordon/Marg Derbyshire- Carried.

10. Adjournment

Ken Phillips moved that the meeting be adjourned.