

BC Athletics Junior Development Committee Meeting

Minutes of the April 6, 2014 meeting

Time 2pm to 4pm- BC Athletics Office, Fortius Centre + Teleconferencing

In Attendance: Graeme Fell, Birgit Weaver, Maureen de St. Croix, Dave Short, James Meehan, Dawn Copping

In Attendance via teleconferencing: Dan Horan, Alwilda van Ryswyk, Tom Dingle, Randy Longmuir (BCA Board liaison)

Absent: Tyler Heisterman, Winston Reckord

1. Agenda reviewed and accepted with addition of discussion of one remaining "Director at Large" position on the committee (#12)
2. Acceptance of Feb 2nd Meeting minutes with following corrections: under New Business – correction to Item #1a – 4th Action Item to read: Graeme to contact other provinces for their JD criteria and meet formats.
#4. Committee Meeting dates and formats - remove final line of paragraph "Action: Birgit and Graeme volunteered to contact other provinces for their JD criteria and meet formats" – typo
Moved: Birgit Weaver, Seconded: James Meehan Motion: Passed.
3. Items arising from March 22nd Board Meeting – report filed by Birgit is attached
Discussion of the merits of the combined 14, 15 year old class continues. Graeme has had a discussion with Brian to look at the intent of the motion presented at the 2013 AGM. Input from Randy Longmuir suggests that the Board will not have an appetite for a change to the AGM approved combining of 14, 15 year olds, at this point in the season. Discussion to include if part of the issue is an alignment with Athletics Canada's groupings. Crucial point for a 2014 decision will be before the BC Jamboree date.

Motion: The JD Committee recommends that the 14 and 15 year olds compete separately and be awarded separately in all events, with the exception of circumstances that allow the combining of age groups as per JD rules, and for BC Summer Games Trials and competitions as the BC Summer Games designation is for 14, 15 year olds.
Moved: Maureen Seconded: Birgit Weaver Motion: Passed Unanimously
Action item: Randy will follow up with the board re direction of issue
Action item: Graeme will continue his discussion with Brian
4. JD Manual update re BC Cross Country Championships – proposed fee structure of \$7 / athlete with a flat \$15 late fee is presently awaiting approval from Cross Country Committee; Maurice Wilson has sent this to the Cross Country committee. Clarification from Randy Longmuir that the Board can approve such a rule change. It is an item that does not need to wait until the AGM for approval. * note from Brian McCalder that the entry fee rule change is on the agenda for the April 8, 2014 BC Athletics Executive meeting.
Final updates/edits to JD Manual due to BCA by Wednesday / Thursday, April 9/10th.
5. Proposal to use shortened wires for hammer throwing by younger athletes. Graeme has discussed with throwing coaches with the feedback that the hammer wire could be shortened by up to 3", but that implement weights should follow the gradations of other implements. Dan Horan commented that use of the shortened implements may produce an element of fun to the event for training, but that the athletes should not be competing until they can complete 2 turns for the throw. Dawn

Copping is looking for feedback from other hammer coaches to discover what experimentation other coaches are using.

Action Item: Dawn Copping will put out a note on BCA blog asking Hammer Coaches to respond to her with ideas for young throwers re. experimenting with the shorter wire and come back with a recommendation by the September Meeting.

6. Discussion of BCA webpage access to JD information. Report attached by Tom Dingle and Tyler Heisterman. Access to the JD information appears to be difficult. Some difficulties might be eliminated by changing LTAD heading to Age Specific Programs.
Some items in JD manual may be better served with a link to event specifications rather than contained directly in the manual – easier to update information on one site than on many. Specifically the technical specifications might be better served linked directly to that information.
Proposed question – should other forms of media be considered for track and field information.
Action item: Dawn will go through JD Manual with the task to locate duplicate information that needs to be deleted from the JD Manual
Action item: Graeme will ask Tyler if he would be willing to liaise with BC Athletics on changes to the BCA website as suggested by Tyler and Tom.
7. Discussion of criteria for acceptance of meets for JD awards and standards
Graeme spoke to Brian McCaLder re meet criteria.
Issues: no mechanism for letting the event directors know where changes need to be made or issues addressed. A post event report submitted to the JD committee should lead to the improvement of events.
Events qualifying as eligible for JD Awards and Standards qualification should be reviewed annually to ensure that the events continue to be of high quality.
All meet directors must send results in a designated format to Tom Dingle – results should be sent as soon as possible post event, but definitely 2 weeks post season (middle of August)
JD committee to collect information and provide feedback to each meet director once the event has concluded and results have been sent to Tom.
8. Finalization of 2014 list of approved JD meets that are eligible for JD awards and standards.
List attached.
Motion: Remove the following 4 meets from the 2014 List
 VIAA Pentathlon and Throws meet
 Track City Classic, Eugene
 Classy Classic, Seattle
 George Dean Meet, Sidney
Moved: Birgit Seconded: Dawn Motion: Passed
Motion: Request that the July 9 and July 14 Ocean Athletics/ Re/Max Summer Series events be added to the 2014 list of approved JD meets
Moved: Maureen Seconded: James Passed
Motion: Request that the June 25th, July 2nd and August 6th Ocean Athletics / Re/Max Summer series events to be added to the 2014 list of approved JD meets.
 Discussion: Negative: possible impact on other meets
 Positive: provides alternative competition opportunity for those unwilling or unable to take in weekend events
Moved: Maureen Seconded: James Motion: Passed
9. JD Banquet

Issues: food was poor in 2013 – Dawn has spoken to organizers

Parking was difficult due to limited parking and the booking of another large event for the same time period

Dawn will continue to take the lead on the organization of the banquet

Action item: Dawn will make a list of all tasks that need to be accomplished

Birgit will continue with the handing out of the Cross Country awards and 14 year old JD

Graduation Certificates

Graeme will put on booking form – all will be done on-line this year

10. Direction of JD Committee

Important to gather information as to how to make track and field more attractive to athletes and parents. A survey will be developed to gather the following information:

- i) How can the sport be made more attractive to both athletes and parents?
- ii) What different types of formats appeal to athletes and parents? – do different formats appeal to different types of competitors?

Possibly 2 surveys – one to gather general information, a second to gather more specific information

Action item: Graeme will develop a tentative survey that will be submitted to the JD committee for approval

Survey needs to address:

Audience (athletes, coaches etc.)

General questions

Specifics: weekend meets, performance options.

Motivation: what motivates athletes? Standards, crests, medals, performance?

Is there too much emphasis on awards? WE have done this already.

How difficult / easy is it to find out information about getting involved in Track and

Field?

11. Committee Meeting Dates:

September 7, 2014 meeting approved – time to be determined – mixed Teleconference style

October 25, 2014 meeting approved – post BC XC champs – Abbotsford

December, 2014 AGM – Friday evening 5-7pm JD Committee meeting

12. Filling of remaining 'Director at Large' position. Agreed that sufficient time was given for further applicants.

Action item: Tyler Heisterman to determine if candidate from Nanaimo still interested

Motion to adjourn meeting

Moved: James Meehan Seconded: Graeme Motion: Passed

Meeting adjourned at 4:09pm.

Submission by the JD Committee to the BC Athletics Board of Directors regarding the Strategic Plan

The JD Committee would like to thank the Board for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strategic Plan. Obviously a lot of effort has gone been put into the process and a lot of thought and reflection has occurred in the creation of this document. The JD Committee whole heartedly supports the document: the values, mission statement align with the direction the JD Committee feel the association should be taking.

We do have three items we wish to share: one regarding how the JD Committee sees itself aligning with the direction provided in the document; some concern with the limited mention of LTAD in the document; and lastly a questions as to what measures are in place to ensure that decisions made in committee follow the Strategic Plan.

Item 1:

The JD Committee has recently begun discussions on how to improve communication between the JD Committee and coaches, parents and athletes. Some of the ideas discussed include:

- Email list and regular correspondence between the JD Committee and club JD coaches. The intent here is to better understand and respond to JD coaches' needs, and to help build a sense of community so that the coaches will be more likely to continue in our sport.
- Surveying of coaching needs: this could be done once or twice a year and would allow for sharing of ideas; coaching solutions/innovations; facilitating mentoring to upgrade skills in event areas; encouraging use of LTAD principles; coordinate and respond better to coaching needs/education
- The creation of a survey to create dialogue with parents and athletes on how to make track and field more attractive. Possible topics include: parent /athlete expectations (vis a vis meets and our sport); meet format; meet schedules, award incentives. The survey will allow us to respond better to athlete and parent needs. Both will provide us with better tools with which to promote the sport while following the LTAD. This may also allow us to identify individuals who would like to coach and/or officiate and potential barriers to doing so.
- All of these ideas fall in line with the values, goals and objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. These planned actions by the JD Committee, together with actions taken as a result, will improve the experience of athletes, parents and coaches and will help us meet the desired Key Results. **In short, the JD Committee supports the general structure of the Strategic plan.**

Item 2:

While the JD committee do not see any real problems with the diagrammed framework we are surprised/concerned that mention of LTAD can be found only once in the document: "*Ensure that all Track & Field training camps are in line with LTAD*"

LTAD is the driver of all activities, both competitive and training, and as such it would make sense that it would be more of a central theme, an overarching one at that, in the strategic plan and resulting framework.

From a JD Committee point of view LTAD is extremely important and it is the JD coaches that are impacted most by LTAD. We have concerns that not enough is being done to ensure that there is a continuum post JD. There seems to be a fairly dramatic shift in training and expectations for athletes when they leave JD and move into high school age training groups. For this reason the Strategic Plan should show more emphasis on LTAD than it does presently.

Item 3:

Given the Values statements, goals and strategic objections contained in this document, the JD Committee would like to clarify what board policy would be when a motion is brought to the AGM that violates the stated values, goals, objectives and values.

As an example:

From the introduction:

"The purpose of the Association is to promote, encourage and develop the widest participation and the highest proficiency in track & field, race walking, road running, marathons, ultras, trail and mountain running, and cross country running in British Columbia."

From the Values statement:

"create a FUN AND POSITIVE EXPERIENCE for our participants;"

"encourage continued PARTICIPATION in Athletics through a variety of opportunities as an athlete, coach, official or sport volunteer"

From the goal statements:

"Recruit and retain more athletes through a sport environment that encourages and supports maximizing potential."

From the strategic objectives:

"Deliver a competitive calendar and seasons of competition that provide the best opportunity for athletes to maximize their potential and put more athletes on the national teams."

"Create celebratory events and systems to promote the sport and recognize the achievements of athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers."

A wider participation and more positive experience will be promoted by having 14 year olds compete and awarded in their own category. It gives them more opportunities in hurdles, sprints, jumps and throws to make it to finals or have another 3 attempts at throws and jumps, which is often where personal bests are achieved. It also helps in their development to have these extra competitive opportunities.

At the last AGM a motion was passed that resulted in 14 and 15 year olds competing together and being together. This appears to be in opposition to the above stated values, goals and objectives. The JD Committee would like the Board to reconsider the motion as it appears to violate the above stated values, goals and objectives contained in the Strategic Plan.

JD Meets

VOC Elementary Track Meet - Vancouver

Norwesters Elementaries Meet - Burnaby

Bob Dailey Memorial Track & Field Meet - Port Alberni

Eagle Classic Track & Field Meet - Maple Ridge

Dogwood Track & Field Meet - Victoria

Kamloops Centennial Track & Field Meet - Kamloops

South Fraser Junior Olympics - Surrey

Elementary Track & Field Championships - Richmond

Elwood Wylie Track Meet – Nanaimo

2014 High School Track & Field Championships

Langley

Jesse Bent Memorial Cheetah Meet - Coquitlam

Spruce Capital Track Meet - Summer Games ZONE 8 Trials

Prince George

Garrick Track Meet - Duncan

Langley Pacific Invitational Meet - Langley

Junior Development & Midget Pentathlon Championships - Maple Ridge

Ocean Athletics Remax Summer Twilight Meet #1

Jack Brow Memorial Track & Field Meet - Kelowna

Fraser Valley Jumps and Throws Meet – Langley

Ocean Athletics Remax Summer Twilight Meet #2

Trevor Craven Memorial Meet – Burnaby

Ocean Athletics Remax Summer Twilight Meet #3

2014 Athletics Track & Field Championships Jamboree – Kamloops

Ocean Athletics Remax Summer Twilight Meet #4

Summer Games – Nanaimo

Junior Development Track & Field Championships Surrey

Ocean Athletics Remax Summer Twilight Meet #5

COMMENTS ABOUT JD PAGES ON THE BC ATHLETICS WEB SITE

TOM DINGLE

A general comments:

- 1) Given the amount of time spent creating the new web site it is going to be difficult to get major changes done to the layout of the site. Therefore my suggestions are based on what I think might be the best way to work within that framework.
- 2) It is important to keep the JD part up to date. Even now there is a big time lag in getting some things posted. I submitted the JD Awards Standards and JD Crest standards for 2014 over a week ago but they still have not been posted.

Suggested changes:

- 1) Change the heading under the Track and Field page from LTAD (which no newcomer might know) to Age Specific Programs
- 2) On the JD Page there are a number of links to subsidiary pages
 - a. It might be good to have a date indicating when each page was updated. For example, I had to look at the calendar to make sure the dates for the BC JD Championships were those for 2014
 - b. Since we offer series awards to JD athletes competing in the Island Series, that should be listed under the Series for JD's link
 - c. When we determine the new list of JD approved meets then that section on the Top Ten list page will have to be up dated
 - d. The JD Awards page was one I got put in when I submitted the JD Awards Standards for 2014. It wasn't there before. However, nothing has been put on that page yet. My own feeling that it should have some general comments about recognition at the JD level with links to the appropriate places i.e. :

Recognition for JD Athletes

Competitive athletes at the JD level are recognized by BC Athletics for participation and performance in a variety of ways

- 1) Awarding of medals and/or ribbons at track meets with the posting of the performances of all athletes on the BC Athletic web site. ([link to results page](#))
- 2) Awarding of ribbons for participation and performance in track series such as that on Vancouver Island ([link to results for Island series](#))
- 3) Inclusion of an athlete's best performances in the Yearly Top Ten lists posted on the BC Athletics web site. ([link to Top Ten page](#))
- 4) Outstanding performances may be added to the All Time Top Ten lists ([link to Top Ten Page](#))
- 5) Awarding a JD crest for good performances in at least three events ([Link to JD Crest Standards](#))

- 6) Winning of a JD Award for outstanding performance and participation during the year. ([Link to JD Award Standards](#))

In addition each club will have various ways of recognizing their club athletes for their participation and performance throughout the year.

- e. JD Crest Page – as is but maybe with a link to the JD Crest Standards on this page
- f. JD Manual Page – As is but the Manual itself needs to be up dated.

- 3) Hershey Page – seems to be good but Tyler should be able to make suggestions.

Tyler's Feedback:

I spent an hour or so going through the website and I have to say I agree with many of the board members points from the AGM meeting that JD program need a presence on the home page. I think they should replace the "Schools" heading on the home page with a Junior Development Heading. All of the schools info is found I click below the Clubs information and I would think this link gets very little use in a year compared with Junior Development. Once a person finds Junior Development all of the info is easy enough to find if you spend a few minutes. That said, a JD event calendar would be very handy for new parents. I agree with Tom in saying at the very least the LTAD heading needs to be changed and "Age Specific Programs" may be a good answer to this.

With regards to Hershey Track and Field Games we need to have the sanctioning form changed to align with actual events that need to be run at a Hershey Track and Field Meet. As a committee we need to decide if we believe in this program (I think it is a great grass roots program and our club has have a lot of success offering Track and Field to a large group in our community through Hersheys Track and Field). I would like to see BCA further promote Hershey T&F as a great way to reach out in our communities and invite non-club (potential club?) athletes to experience Track and Field with us.