

BC Athletics Junior Development Committee - Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 8pm by Teleconference

1. Attendance

Doug Evans (Chair), Lee Hunter, Dawn Copping, Birgit Weaver, Makayla Mitchell, Darren Willis (BOD Committee Liaison), Sabrina Netty (Introductory Programs Coordinator)

Regrets: Kylie Lakevold, Caitlin Reed, Christine Dela Cruz, Kyndrie Malmquist, Ross Browne

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Dawn requested that JD Competition Calendar be added to the agenda.

Birgit requested that follow up of Doug's presentation to the Board of Directors be added to the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda (Dawn Copping/Lee Hunter). Accepted.

3. Acceptance of minutes of meeting

Motion to accept minutes (Lee Hunter/Doug Evans). Accepted.

4. Items arising from last meeting.

Last meeting was cancelled due to technical difficulties. Issues intended to be discussed have been included in this meetings agenda.

5. Report from Darren

Darren shared that the process to hire a new CEO for the organization was underway. Application were now closed with over 20 submissions, intend to shortlist within a week and begin interviews. Changes have been made to allow Brian to stay on beyond his initially planned retirement of March, so that there isn't stress around the timing of filling this position.

The Board also discussed the new Athletics Canada Policy of Transgender and Gender Diversion Inclusion and it's implications in relation to the type of sanctioning meet directors may select. When asked for clarification, explained that meets that sanctioned choose to be World Athletics Sanctioned fell under the World Athletics policy regarding Gender Equity, while meets that don't chose that option will follow fall under the Athletics Canada policy. He recommends that all meet directors review the new Athletics Canada policy and contact Athletics Canada or the BC Athletics office if they have any questions. Discussion that officials training may be useful to ensure appropriate conduct when dealing with participants.

6. JD T&F Championships Pole Vault Inclusion

Follow up to conversation from JD Forum in which it was suggested that the JD Pole Vault be held at the Jamboree. Discussion that the Jamboree is not an ideal option as it will require JD athletes to travel to a Championship meet where they can only participate in a single event. Discussion that Committee can consider application for JD T&F Championships from clubs that are unable to host Pole Vault, provided they provide alternative arrangements for Pole Vault to be hosted at another event in the same region on the same weekend. Dawn noted that BC

Athletics owns Pole Vault equipment which is stored at Swangard Stadium, so clubs without mats could rent and transport it to their site.

7. JD T&F Championships Finals Advancement

Follow up to conversation from JD Forum in which it was suggested that the current advancement policy was not ideal for JD, due to the number of heats that can exist.

Motion that eight fastest times advance to Finals (Dawn Copping/Lee Hunter). Approved.

8. JD T&F Championships Para Event Offerings

Follow up to 2022 JD Para Guidelines, in which document indicated that seated events would be offered in 2023, alongside the para ambulatory events. Sabrina recommended offering wheelchair 100m, 600/800m, and seated shot put, as that would provide a sprint, distance, and field event. Discussion that while BC Athletics doesn't mandate that all clubs do this, it is certainly encouraged, as it could help in attracting JD para athletes to our sports, and giving them participation opportunities prior to the Championships. Discussion that will have to ensure that proper tie down equipment for seated throws is available in host city.

Motion to add wheelchair 100m, 600/800m, and seated Shot Put to the JD T&F Championships program (Dawn Copping / Makayla Mitchell). Approved.

9. JD T&F Championships Minimum Measurable Distances

Follow up to conversation from JD Forum in which it was noted that, due to large field sizes, officials decided that athletes long jumps wouldn't be measured if they didn't achieve a minimum distance. Lee provided clarification that Officials ensured that, if no other jumps had been measured, the athletes final jump was, however no certainty if that is the best jump. Opportunity for discussion as there is no policy on this in the JD Policies. Discussion that with the JD T&F Championships the culminating event of the season for young athletes, it's not always a championship is the traditional sense of coming to perform at a high level as much as it is an opportunity to show how you've improved over the season.

Committee determined that all fair jumps should be measured.

Discussion next turned to high jump as that event does have minimum heights but are rarely followed. Conversation regarding whether these minimum heights should be enforced, due to the amount of time the event can take. Dawn noted that the JD philosophy encourages athletes to try as many events as possible, while striving towards personal bests. Makayla noted that if enforcing Minimum Standards, it's important to advertise early so that participants can be aware.

Committee determined that high jump will continue to use and advertise minimum heights, however officials have the prerogative to start lower based on field size and time allotted.

10. JD T&F Championships Medley Age Eligibility

Sabrina shared that 9 and 10 year olds are not allowed to participate in the Medley Relay (200/200/200/600) because they can not run 200m. However, several years ago, the JD Committee supported the inclusion of a 4x200m at the Jerome Indoor, with the result being that JDs of all ages have been running 200m relays for nearly a decade. Discussion on whether there was an opportunity to review the eligibility for 9 and 10 year olds to participate. Dawn noted that 200m doesn't align with LTAD for that age group. Birgit commented that it doesn't misalign because athletes aren't training to race 200m, they'll just run it in a relay based on their existing fitness. Lee noted that the purpose of the medley relay is to appeal to distance runners, so a 200m isn't taxing to their system in the same way we may think of for sprinting. Makayla asked if there was an option to offer a different relay format. Sabrina noted that it would be difficult to do so for that age group within the current guidelines because the only currently allowed distances are 60m, 100m, 600m, 1000m. Dawn commented that when LTAD was adopted, someone had come to speak to the Committee about it and would like further consultation before making changes. Darren suggested finding medical support to ensure that this won't impact our athletes before making this change.

Agreement that Committee would meet in early April to review medical information and make a decision on this matter for this year's Championship.

11. Meet Schedule

Dawn expressed concern that there are not enough JD meets on the Lower Mainland schedule for this year. Birgit noted that there are three tracks under construction this year (Bear Creek, Percy Perry, Swangard) so schedule will be more built out in 2024. Sabrina also noted that there are more than enough meets but many of them are occurring in the early season (April, May) and fewer later in the season (June, July). Aim for next season is to begin having these conversations earlier to hopefully build out ideal calendar rather than meets just occurring on traditional weeks with potential gaps in calendar.

12. Report to Board

Birgit requested that Doug send the Committee members a copy of the report he presented at the January Board/Chairs meetings as it had not yet been posted to the website. Doug agreed, and shared that there had been positive conversation about Birgit's suggestion to use the membership database to promote other events and initiatives (ex. JD Crests). Darren noted BC Athletics had recently hired a new staff member, Hailey Kjaer, to oversee Marketing & Communication, alongside Coach Education and Officials Development, so see can be a good resource in these promotional initiatives.

13. Motion to adjourn at 9:58pm