



ON TRACK

1st Edition; Issue #1

We are involved in track and field events as well as off track officiating activities!

NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR OFFICIALS, ATHLETES, COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

Welcome to issue #1 of the 1st edition of the new newsletter of the National Officials' Committee. So, who's who in the National Officials' Committee; and what do they do?

Andrew Walker, PEI NOC Chair

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Gilles Rochette, QC - Directory and Upgrading - sportvision@outlook.com

Upgrade and maintain the Directory and Streamline the Upgrading process

John Cull, BC - Education and Pathways - johncull@telus.net

Simplify the current Pathway and Standardize and upgrade the education materials

Jane Edstrom, MB - Meet Assignments, Mentoring and Clinics - janeedstrom@mymts.net

Maintain list of mentors, Facilitate mentorship pairing and Facilitate major meet assignments

David Weicker, BC - Communication and Awards - dweicker@shaw.ca

Generate seasonal newsletters and co-ordinate the awards process

Other Committee members:

Lloyd Howey, SK - assisting in Education and Pathways

Angela White, AB - assisting in Communication and Awards

Helen Manning - Athletics Canada Board Liaison

John Lofranco - Athletics Canada Staff Liaison

Rob Guy - CEO of Athletics Canada

Note from the Chair of Athletics Canada (Bill MacMackin):

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for the important work you do as volunteers for our sport. Canada is very fortunate to have such high-quality officials across this country. I officiate myself and often act as a meet director in New Brunswick, so have so a great deal of respect for the skills and dedication you bring to our competitions.

Our board of directors knows the importance of supporting the National Officials Committee as they work to strengthen officials' development in Canada. We thank them for their hard work. We have asked Helen Manning, a director of the board to participate on NOC so we can give first-hand help. It is a board priority to ensure our officials are supported, happy and feel appreciated. If at any point feel free to contact Helen or myself if you have comments or concerns you would like to share (506 647-4931).

Thank you again for all your hard work this past year, and particularly for the long hours, you give up each summer. We truly appreciate your dedication to our athletes and Athletics in Canada.

News from the Chair of NOC (Andy Walker):

As the incoming Chair of the National Officials Committee, I am very pleased to contribute to the first edition of On Track which is designed to keep the world of Canadian Athletics Officials informed about news and important developments in Athletics in Canada and the world. David Weicker has provided the impetus for this publication but the reason that NOC is reinstating regular communications with officials is that we want you to be involved as well.

My goals as Chair of NOC are to ensure that the world class officials that we have currently continue to be world class; that we develop new officials who can become world class; and that becoming an official at any level is a fulfilling and fun way to participate in Athletics in Canada. We need world class officials at all levels of Athletics in order to allow our sport to grow and maintain its current high level in the world.

Our umbrella includes both able-bodied and para athletes, Masters athletes and road runners. We support all age groups and all areas of the country. We need to ensure that the officials who make all these events happen feel they are recognized for their hard work and commitment to the sport and this publication is just one small step to help accomplish this.

News from around the world (David Weicker):

The IAAF is having its recertification event for International Technical Officials in mid-October and both Jane Edstrom of Manitoba and David Weicker of British Columbia have been invited to the recertification examination. It is a three-part event which includes a short presentation on rule changes followed by an intensive 3 to 3 ½ hour “closed book” written examination.

After this there will be a comprehensive oral examination to test both competency in English as well as broad knowledge of track and field issues. The World Para Athletics group of IPC will also be certifying a panel of International Technical Officials, for the first time following a similar process. Both Louise Buskas of Alberta and David Weicker of British Columbia will be in attendance. David is the “coordinator” of the event.

NACAC Level II Course and Recertification (Jane Edstrom):

NACAC hosted a Level II Officials Course and Recertification in San Salvador, El Salvador at the end of August. Two courses were offered, one in Spanish and one in English. The English course was conducted by Jane Edstrom and George Kleeman and the Spanish course was led by Gemma Castano and Michael Serralta. As the current IATO's are required to recertify every four years Daniel Michaud attended and was successful.

Mentoring and Meet Assignments (Jane Edstrom):

There have been many mentoring opportunities over the Indoor and Outdoor seasons of 2017. During the Indoor season twenty-two mentorships were staged and during the Outdoor season fifty-five took place. Thank you to all of the national mentors who worked with fellow officials and completed the mentorships. Thanks also goes to Ian Gordon for his assistance with organizing and pairing officials for the mentoring experience. A reminder to mentors that at the conclusion of the mentoring process a copy of the completed mentor form is to be submitted to Jane Edstrom, VC Mentoring.

Branch Chairs and Officials are reminded to submit in Dec/Jan their list of Officials wishing to Travel with reference to Mentoring/clinics for the summer
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The national mentor's clinic was given a face-lift over the winter season. Thanks to Jennifer Campbell for her assistance with this project. A reminder to officials who are potential mentors - the criteria:

- must be a level 4 or 5 official
- must be recommended by the Branch Officials Chair (BOC)
- must take part in a mentoring clinic after recommendation from BOC
- must communicate and work well with fellow officials

Over the past year for major Indoor and Outdoor meets, the assignment of officials was led and directed by the AC Office staff. The list of major officials was given to NOC after the assignments were made.

NOC in consultation with BOC's is in the process of catching up with the designation of N and NC meets over the past three years.

News about Upgrading (Gilles Rochette):

The following upgrades have been approved by the National Officials' Committee effective April 1, 2017:

Chris Baker AB, U4

Marry Wittenberg AB, CER4

Bob Cowden BC, FRJ5

Rick Rathy BC, S4

Scott Murray MB, PFJ4

Vinesh Midha ON, VJ4

Don Hedman SK, VJ4

Sue Deschiffart BC, U4 - **Dated Oct. 2015**

A belated congratulations to all!

Branch Chairs and Officials are reminded to have their upgrading requests for the fall submitted by **September 30**. **ALSO** any changes of phone, e-mail and other address etc. of officials send along so we can keep the Directory up to date.

News about Awards (David Weicker):

Congratulations to Official of the Year - **Ian Gordon** for his work on ensuring that the Mentoring priorities of the former and present NOC carried on.

Congratulations also to the newest Wall of Honour members - **Judy Armstrong** (BC) AND **Ray Deere** (AB)

In addition, Athletics Canada inducted **Judy Armstrong** into the Hall of Fame in the Builder Category.

News about Education and Pathways (Lloyd Howey and John Cull):

For the past year a NOC Subcommittee has been working on revision of the officials' pathway. The proposed new pathway is designed to address the following objectives and benefits:

- Simplify the pathway model, yet ensure the same high standard at events
- Reduce the number of evaluations required to progress from the "new" Provincial to National level...and depend more heavily on formal mentoring and enhanced training options with the ultimate goal to produce excellent National quality officials
- Address regional issues/inequalities of access to required credits, evaluations and training
- Recognize and maintain each individual's experience, training and certification in transition
- Preserve the status of Senior Officials

Several models were developed by the committee and a survey was initiated as to which direction we needed to go. Respondents included Branch Chairs, several senior officials as well as NOC members. Overwhelmingly the proposed pathway selected consists of four levels: Community Official (old Level 1, 2), Provincial Officials (old Level 3), National Official (old Level 4, 5), Master Official (specialist leaders, clinicians, mentors). The key elements of the proposed pathway include a streamlined entrance, expanded mentoring and on-going, on-line support.

Next steps for the Pathway Subcommittee is to prepare a final draft for presentation at the NOC/Branch SGAM meetings in December.