
Graeme Fell

JD Pentathlon Championships

The JD Pentathlon Championships were hosted by the Chilliwack Track and Field Club on Saturday June 25, 2016 at the Chilliwack Track and Field Complex. The day began with an ominous looking cloudy sky however as the day progressed the rain held off and it was mostly sunny with some cloudy periods. The temperature was perfect for a track meet and the day was calm. The total registered number of competitors was 156, up from 125 in 2015. The largest group was 11 year old boys with 24 and the smallest group was the 9 year old boys with 9 athletes. Average group size overall was 15.

The meet ran smoothly with everyone helping as needed. +Thanks to the BC Athletics Officials who, as always, did a fantastic job. Some concern with non host clubs failure send a list of volunteers with their registration. A better way to communicate volunteer duties is needed.

JD Championships

The 2016 BCJD Championships were held on July 29th to 31st at the South Surrey Athletic Park, hosted by Ocean Athletics. The weather was near perfect with neither rain nor excessive heat. The meet had 422 (225 girls and 197 boys) athletes in comparison to the 295 athletes that competed in 2015. This is comparable to the 432 that competed in 2014 in Surrey.

Thirty-three of thirty-eight clubs sent athletes to the championships, and there were also unattached members of BCA competing. The championships were well supported by 31 BC Athletics Officials and 72 club volunteers. The event ran to schedule. The following recommendations were made:

1. Maintain heats and finals for sprint hurdles
2. Planning for 2017 should take into consideration that 12 Girls and Boys, and 10 year old groups will be large and that 11G group will be lower.
3. Place Race Walk as a first event on Saturday morning.
4. Recommend dropping heats of 200m. Make the event a Timed Final.
5. Discuss the type and placement of Relays so that participation is increased. (Allow 9,10's to run on the medley team or form their own team even though 200m is not part of the 9,10 repertoire or change the medley format to allow more participation – could be a sprint medley (100, 200, 200, 300 for example) or another variation. Again the relay is a one-off event where 9, 10's could be allowed to participate in a distance not normally contested. Rethink positioning of Relays. Sunday last event is not popular. Suggest Friday night to 'get the nerves out' for one of the relays – 4x100m with 2nd relay at the end of day Saturday.
6. Redesign schedule to have a more vibrant Sunday schedule.
7. Keep podium presentations. Athletes and parents enjoy the opportunity for a medal presentation.
8. The selection of host sites should consider both club participation and building of JD programs. The event should not be looked at solely as a fund raising event. There should be consideration of how hosting the Championships will build the host club program and the host region programs.

9. Given the number of participants in the 2016 Championships, there does not appear to be as drastic an effect on hosting the 3rd week in July or the last weekend in July. It is preferable to have the Championships on the 3rd weekend in July but every second year (even years) it will be hosted on the last weekend in July due to the placement of the Summer Games in the 3rd week of July.

JD Cross-Country Championships

Have not yet taken place – see last year's report for report on 2015 championships.

JD Awards Banquet

The 2016 JD Awards Banquet is scheduled for Oct 30th at the Riverside Banquet Hall in Richmond, a change from previous years due to cost and quality of food considerations. In 2015 75 award winners were invited to attend with sixty-seven of those able to attend. This year 82 athletes qualified for awards.

Athlete and Parent Handbook

The JD Committee undertook the creation of an athlete and parent handbook. This has been sent to the BC Athletics office for review. It is hoped that, once approved and posted, it will provide clubs and new parents with a ready resource.