

A. Past Year in Review

Actions and Accomplishments

The BC Branch Committee has nine members. Some have Province-wide responsibilities, such as Upgrading, Mentoring, and others are regional representatives. The Committee met 5 times in 2012, with another meeting scheduled for November. With a heavy year-round competition schedule, and large distances to be covered, it has been difficult to maintain meetings with full participation. The Committee is tasked with producing a new format for meetings, including the use of teleconferencing. Actions by the Committee this year:

- Produced an updated Committee Handbook and Workplan/Timeline, which improved the group's focus, and helped members to stay on task, despite the shortage of "face-time" at meetings.
- All member officials completed Criminal Record Checks or Voluntary Declarations before registering 2012 memberships. This required extensive support from the Committee and from Branch staff. All members have been reimbursed for fees charged
- Completed a self-assessment of the contributions of officials toward achievement of the goals of the Long Term Athlete Development and Canadian Sport 4 Life program; examination of training materials, and the Officials Ethics and Guidelines document shows strong support and linkage with the relevant stages of the program
- Distributed more than 250 copies of the BC Athletics Officials Ethics and Guidelines for Conduct booklet and discussed at training sessions
- Produced a multi-year Provincial training strategy as a road map for officials training and mentoring up to Level 3. Development of the Province wide network of workshop leaders and mentors is in progress.
- More consistent and thorough approach to mentoring; one Committee member assigned to track, support and report on in-Province mentorships/evaluations.
- Provided organizational and technical support to numerous Host Organizing Committees
- Improved communication with member officials through regular e-news bulletins
- Committee members participated in a weekend Strategic planning workshop, and identified the strategic "pillars" which will guide officials development over coming years.

Outstanding issues and concerns

- Abuse of officials. This has not escalated to the level experienced in some other sports, but serious incidents of verbal abuse and harassment took place this year. In each case the Officials Manager pursued the matter with the Meet Director, and the offender's Club. The Committee has brought this to the attention of the PSO and has suggested remedies.
- The Committee produces detailed program statistics for the Provincial Sport Organization for its training sessions. We are not yet able to produce parallel statistics (contact information) for mentoring. Attempts to develop an effective procedure have failed.
- The Committee has good success in developing officials in regional centres and metropolitan areas. Support for development in rural areas where there are fewer meets, and lesser facilities is a challenge. Membership surveys show concern about unequal access to services.

Recognition Program

The Association maintains a recognition program, including gifts and other forms of feedback to thank volunteer member Officials for their service. The gifts may or may not act as an incentive for Officials to work harder or longer. However, we think those who claim them are appreciative. The scope of the gift program was expanded in 2012, including Level 2 officials.

- Level 2 and above receive a monogrammed shoulder bag.
- New Level 2 officials also receive a Golf Shirt.
- New Level 1 Officials receive a nametag and a lapel pin.
- All Officials Level 2 and above receive a free IAAF Rule Book.

The gift program is funded by BC Athletics, and through a donation from Sprott Shaw Community College. Feedback and "social networking" is also an important part of the Recognition program. Officials who volunteer for meets are named and thanked in regular newsletters, where tributes (mostly!) are passed on from event organizers. The Committee regularly and consistently mails cards to officials who are sick or bereaved, thankyou cards to donors, and congratulations to member officials for the happier occasions such as births and marriages.

The Committee e-mailed a new electronic Awards nomination form to all officials. We hope this will produce more nominations, and a more open broad-based process.

Recruitment Strategies

Recruitment efforts focus almost exclusively on the "athletics community", people who already have a connection to the Sport. The Committee has some success in working with member Clubs, and promoting

officials development among their members. Attempts to use major events to reach out and recruit new members from the general population have mixed success. Partnership with the BC Seniors Games organizing committee produced excellent results. Trainers provided an introductory workshop for more than 50 new volunteers, some of whom indicate a desire to continue. Other events, such as BC Summer Games and the National Track League series produce no result at all. Recruitment through major events is highly important in the metropolitan areas, where it is difficult get attention, and attract volunteers. Smaller communities may have an easier time in drawing local volunteers, but sustaining their development in areas where few competitions take place, and facilities are weak is a challenge.

We distribute record cards and other promotional materials to selected Senior Officials to help them recruit from the volunteers and other participants at events. We are still assessing this initiative.

B. Branch Statistics

Number of Meets 93 Indoor 11 Outdoor 82
Calibre of meets P 88 N/NC 5
Total number of Officials 190 Paid (BCA Members)155 Unpaid (Non-Members) 35
Provisional 35 Level 1 32 Level 2 46 Level 3 26 Level 4 20 Level 5 31
NTO 4 ATO 1 ITO 1
Number of Mentors 22 Number of Clinicians 13 Number of Junior Officials 1
(Level 1 0 Level 2 1 Level 3 0

Comments on the Statistics: Competitions

The Branch competition program was very concentrated in the Lower Mainland (Zone 3,4,5) this year. This Region has only 37% of the Branch officials, but supported the majority of higher level events, including all Provincial Championships (Track and Field and Cross Country, and all age groups), and both BC Games events. This was an unusual situation, and took a heavy toll on local officials. However, Hosts for 3 of the events (Jamboree, Langley Pacifics, BC Seniors Games), provided accommodation for visiting officials, and BC Athletics did the same for Summer Games. This gave the Committee a good opportunity to bring in officials from other Regions for training and mentoring. We worked closely with the Regional Development Coordinator for North Vancouver Island to develop a base of trained Level 3 officials to support Summer Games (Nanaimo) in 2014.

The total number of meets included in the tally is approximately the same as in 2011 (93 vs 92). Member officials supported 11 "School" meets, primarily District and Provincial Championships, many of which are

now sanctioned by BC Athletics. This is a smaller number than in 2011, as many District meets were cancelled due to BC Teachers job action. Schools competitions increasingly rely on BCA officials for their qualifying meets. We expect that School meets will return to previous levels, now that the job action has come to an end. The Committee was asked to provide officials for some of the sanctioned Cross Country meets in 2012, including the BC and National Championships. Two road events requested Officials, including the BMO Vancouver International Marathon and the Sun Run. The majority of sanctioned road races, including BC Championships, did not.

Many events in the Province included a Paralympics component. We responded to several requests from Special Olympics.

Comments on the Statistics: Membership

Membership dropped in 2012 (190 vs. 200). Membership reached its highest level in 2010 (205). There have been a small number of retirements among senior officials. However, the largest drop seems to be in Level 1 and level 2. Club Officials often stop volunteering when their children graduate, or leave the sport. Event organizers frequently rely on the “irregulars”, experienced volunteer officials in the “Provisional” category. “Irregulars” may have no interest in seeking membership or certification, but still make a valuable contribution to the sport in their own communities.

C. Award Winners

<u>Name of Award</u>	<u>Winner (2011)</u>	<u>Winner (2012)</u>
Mary Temple Award (Novice Official)	Celina Wong	TBA
Ralph Coates Award (Long Service)	Ken Serl	TBA
Dave Coupland Award (Inspirational)	Ken Christensen	TBA
Ian McNeil Award (Official of the Year)	Wayne Elke	TBA

D. Clinics

Date	Discipline	Level	Location	Clinician	Participant #
Feb 12		2	Kamloops	Track -Cliff Weathermon Field - Bob Cowden	11
Mar 4		2	Nanaimo	Culls	6
Mar 29		1	Vancouver	John Cull	13
May 17		1	Kamloops	Alwilda van Ryswyk	6
June 4		1	Prince George	Judy Gaiesky	10
June 15	VJ	National	Langley	Carol Cull	6
June 15	Starters	National	Langley	Dale Loewen	6
June 16		1	Langley	John Cull	15
June 19		1	Richmond	John Cull	12
June 23		1	Langley	Kathy Terlicher	1
June 28	VJ	National	Calgary	Carol Cull	6
August 14		1	Burnaby	John Cull	50
Sept 15		2	Langley	Culls	10
October 13	Mentors	National	Delta	D. Weicker	17?

Comments on Clinics and Education

Level 2 Workshop materials were updated late in 2011 and delivery of these courses was restarted in 2012. Level 1 trainers were active in the Lower Mainland, Zone 1,2 (Okanagan), and Zone 7,8 (the North). The Branch Chair met with VIAA member Clubs to offer assistance in presentation of training workshops to supplement informal training currently offered in Zone 6. Trainers for Provincial Courses (Level 1 and Level 2) are now available in all Regions, and have access to current resource materials and files. The Committee maintains a cumulative database listing all participants in workshops. Feedback forms used at all workshops show a positive response, and consistent appreciation for the value of the experience.

E. Mentorship

BC officials were involved in 36 mentoring/evaluation sessions, inside and outside the Province. This is an increase over the 28 performed in 2011. The Committee circulated a “Fact Sheet” to members outlining competency requirements for Level 2 and Level 3 upgrading.

It should be noted that there are few National Photos Mentors in Western Canada, and this makes it exceptionally difficult to meet requirements of the NOC upgrading criteria. The same is also true for Walks.

Official	Discipline	Where Evaluated	Date	Level	Mentor
John Akehurst	HJ	Duncan		3	Aileen Lingwood
John Akehurst	HJ	Summer Games	July 20-22	3	John Cull
Valerie Allemekinders	Gen			2	Aileen Lingwood
Brian Beck	PFCJ	Saskatoon K of C	Feb 2-3	5	Jacqueline Kurmey
Erin Bell	VJ	JD Champs	July 27-29	3	Carol Cull
Crystal Bowman	HJ	Kamloops		3	Chuck Kuhn?
Jeff Byington*	Thr	Langley Pacific	June 16-17	3	Dave Short
Bob Cowden	VJ	Saskatoon	Feb 24-25	4	Evelyn Nesdole
Daniel Elke	Gen			2	?
Cheryl Elke	Thr	Calgary, Ntl Seniors	June 27-30	4	Irene Gaudet
Peter Fejfar	WJ	Calgary, Ntl Seniors	June 27-30	5	David Weicker
Mark Freeland	HJ			3	Aileen Lingwood
Mark Freeland	HJ	JD Champs	July 27-29	3	John Cull
Serena Graf	Thr	Summer Games	July 20-22	3	Peter Fejfer
Dave Hopkins*	Tr Ref	Calgary Ntl Seniors	June 27-30	4	Dennis Beerling
Keith Hooey	Gen			2	Keith Newell
Gerald Joe	Gen			2	Kathy Terlicher
Bill Koch	S	CIS Indoor Champions	March 8-10	4	Jennifer Campbell
Bill Koch	S	PacifiCanada and NTL Meets	June 6, June 15-17	4	Dale Loewen
Linda Kouwenhoven	Gen			2	?
Aileen Lingwood	VJ		?	3	Ina Wallace
Jake Madderom	HJ	South Fraser JO	May 20	3	John Cull
Steve Martin	U	Jamboree	July 14-15	3	Connie Halbert
Steve Martin	U	Summer Games	July 20-22	3	Kathy Terlicher
Helen Newmarch	U	Calgary, Ntl Seniors	June 27-30	4	Dennis Beerling
Greg Nicol	HJ	Kamloops, Centennial	May 19-20	3	Chuck Kuhn
Michele Peacock	VJ	Edmonton Golden Bear		4	Fidelma Muldowney

Michele Peacock	HJ	Calgary, Ntl Seniors	June 27-30	5	Pat Inglis
Rick Rathy	S	Langley Pacific	June 15-17	3	Dale Loewen
Gene Sanderson	S	Langley Pacific	June 15-17	4	Dale Loewen
Vince Sequeira	U	Dogwood	May 12-13	3	David Hopkins
Vince Sequeira	U	Summer Games	July 20-22	3	Alice Kubek
Kristina Shearer	Thr	Calgary	June 27-30	4	Irene Gaudet
Wally Smeaton*	Track Ref	Edmonton Golden Bear		4	Bud McInnis
Brian Thomson	Gen	School Meets	?	2	Keith Newell
Celina Wong	Thr	JD Champs	July 27-29	3	Dave Short
* Evaluations marked with an asterisk were incomplete (to be continued)					

F. Junior Officials Program (comment on how things are going)

The Under-18 officials program is available in BC, but is not vigorously promoted. It appears to be primarily of interest to families already involved in Track and Field Clubs. Some Junior officials “graduated” to adult officiating, but have not been replaced.

G. Upcoming Year/Goals/Events

The most important Goals for the BC Committee are essentially unchanged

- Recruit new officials
- Provide effective support for officials, and meet their development needs
- Provide support for sanctioned events

We will continue to use Provincial and National travel/mentoring lists and a coordinated strategy to provide equitable and open access to training and development. The 2013 National Youth Championships, and Provincial Age Class Championships will be well supported, and will be our key opportunities to provide mentoring, and the required credits for upgrading. The BC Secondary Schools Cross Country/Track and Field Commission contacted the BC Officials Committee this Fall to discuss increased involvement of BCA Officials in their Provincial Championships. We also look forward to participation in Special Olympics Provincial and National Championships.

Key Strategies for 2013

Promote officiating through effective partnerships with member Clubs

- Ensure that BCA members are aware of the opportunity to volunteer.
- Encourage member officials to link with Clubs and support development of community level officiating
- Develop a strategy for increased visibility of Committee members and other officials

Improve the effectiveness of the Branch Committee, and its communication with member officials

- Improve Committee meetings and achieve full participation; regular scheduling, a compressed format, and use of teleconferencing.
- Renovate the officials web page; improved navigation and legibility
- Streamline all processes involving members (applications and communication with the Committee); paper-based processes to become user-friendly online forms when practical
- Develop an effective communication plan for the Committee; build on the e-news bulletins, add a

formal newsletter, and investigate the use of social media.

- Expand the use of non-Committee members in developmental work

Support Officials development by providing open and equitable access to training and competition experience:

- Update the Provincial Training Strategy, and continue to build a broad-based training network to address regional inequalities; Develop an on-line component to enhance and promote Introductory training .
- Assign a Committee member to coordinate mentoring/evaluations and track progress
- Maintain open access to development opportunities through an on-line application form
- Update and use the priority list for Level 2 Officials' in-Province travel and mentoring; support travel using the Grant program.
- Present level 1 workshops in every Region
- Present at least one Level 2 Workshop in each region
- Maintain skills and knowledge of Level 5 officials through travel support
- Identify National Workshops needed for upgrading
- Support for Levels 3 and 4 Officials to obtain credits and mentoring

Submitted by John Cull Date: October 13, 2012

