

BC Summer Games Report BC ATHLETICS AGM – January 2007

Once again the Summer Games presented unique challenges and spectacular competition for all concerned.

My sincere thanks go to the following people and groups for all of their hard work:

- Shirley Young, the Assistant Sports Advisor, for her work of results and her never-ending support and suggestions. Shirley represented me at the 2006 Summer Games, as I was unable to attend.
- The eight Zone Representatives from around the province who had a very difficult time pulling together the zone teams using on-line registration for the first time. These include: Dan Horan Zone 1; Heather Baptie Zone 2; Brad Wallbank Zone 3; Kathy Terlicher Zone 4; Dawn Copping Zone 5; Tom Dingle Zone 6; Dighton Haynes Zone 7; and Bill Masich Zone 8. All worked around the clock to put together the most competitive team possible for their zones.
- Judy Armstrong, Sport Chair, who organized everything in Kamloops in preparation for the Games.
- BC Athletics Officials under the direction of Judy Armstrong. Every report on the Games praised the officials and their high level of expertise and their kindness to the athletes.
- Jarred McLean, Al McLeod and their team for their work on the facility preparation and equipment. Everything was well prepared and ready for the competition although up to the week before the Games, the new facility had not been inspected and approved for competition. The Kamloops team had to prepare for the Games events and ceremonies in addition to preparing for their return to training at Hillside Stadium.
- Brian Beck and his team for the amazing job on the camera and with the results.
- All of the club, community and family volunteers too numerous to mention.

TEAM SELECTION

Once again this was difficult in several of the zones. The four smaller zones had difficulty filling a team with 30 athletes while the larger zones added to their team size through the Wild Card process. For the first time a several athletes who had earned positions on their zone team, opted not to attend the Games. I hope this is not a trend for the future.

WILD CARD SELECTION

This went smoothly this year with the exception of the Provincial Representative who incorrectly applied one of the rules and caused a problem with an athlete. This will not happen again! The Wild Card process uses scoring tables to rank the athletes and is a good tool to assess which athlete should be named to a team. Unfortunately this process can be long and drawn out as athletes are offered spots and events and these are not always accepted or the athlete has made other plans.

COACHES

This year the Games organization required all zones to have fully certified Level 2 coaches. Two zones were not able to have coaches with this qualification attend with their teams. This presents problems for the future Games as no more extensions will be given to these zones. This could mean that two zone teams will not be able to attend in the future without a qualified coach. We need to be sure that we qualify more coaches in zones where we are now relying on one or two individuals to keep the teams involved.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

Once again major problems continued to cause distress to our athletes and team staff members. These problems occur year after year as the Host Organizing Committee for the Games changes with each change of location. By the time the issues are addressed... the Games are over and we have to start with another HOC! All of the issues listed below have been addressed year after year in our talks with the Games staff members.

- Accommodations were not satisfactory, as our group of 300+ athletes needs more showers. Athletes had to go through a gymnasium that was used for basketball games in order to get to the few showers available.
- Games organizers need to listen when we say that boys and girls dorms on the same floor of a school are not a good idea!
- The water supply was again unsatisfactory. With temperatures 35° and above everyone was drinking 6 or more bottles of water during a long day at the track. Games policy is that they will NOT provide bottled water for any venue.
- Shade is another problem at any track facility and small towns are stretched to the limit providing enough tents for all venues. This usually means that athletics gets far too few tents for our athletes.
- Transportation was a disaster in Kamloops. Athletes were “dropped off” close to their dorms and not at the facility that meant that they walked distances at night or with their sleeping bags and cases, etc. The shuttle bus and courtesy car schedules were ineffective.
- Minor disciplinary problems occurred as always, some more creative than in the past, but our athletes.
- Marshaling for the Opening Ceremonies took two hours and then the stage remained set up in the infield for the entire weekend.

FEE INCREASE

The participation fee for the 2008 Games will be increased to \$150.00 per athlete. This represents a 100% increase over the 2006 fee and may mean that some athletes will not be able to afford to attend.

PROPOSED EVENT CHANGES

It is very important to keep our numbers up in all of our events or events could be removed and the numbers of our athletes participating could be decreased. We are still having difficulty with our participation numbers in pole vault and racewalk for girls and boys. I would like to increase our participation in hammer and steeplechase to 2 athletes per team [both girls and boys] as those two events are now showing a healthy increase in numbers. Pole vault and racewalk will remain at 1 athlete [both girls and boys] for the next games.

NEW RECORDS

The following Girls' records were set in Kamloops at the 2006 Games. No records were set for boys this year.

EVENT	RECORD	RECORD HOLDER	HOMETOWN	YEAR	ZONE
100 Metres	12.14	Christabel Nettey	Surrey	2006	3
High Jump	1.73 m	Holly Parent	Victoria	2006	6
Long Jump	6.12 m	Christabel Nettey	Surrey	2006	3
Javelin	41.23 m	Katie Green	Comox	2006	6
Outdoor Pentathlon	3058 points	Holly Parent	Victoria	2006	6

Diana Hollefreund
Provincial Sport Advisor
BC Summer Games 2006