

A. Past Year in Review

Actions

The Branch Committee met 6 times in 2007, and worked steadily through the year in sub-committees, providing leadership for BC Athletics Officials.

Accomplishments

The Committee provided a high level of support for the Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships, all BC Age Class Championships, two international level meets, and BC High School Championships. The Assignments Sub-Committee and the Regional contacts recruited and deployed officials teams for a huge number of local, schools and twilight meets, including a few Cross-Country and Road events. The market for our services continues to expand, but financial resources are not keeping pace, and this limits our ability to respond. The Canadian Juniors Championship was a highly successful meet, and a showcase for our members' abilities. However, the current level of Provincial funding keeps us below the recommended number of officials for this level of event (87). Some of the Committee's key accomplishments in 2007:

- Developed a draft version of a BC Track and Field Meet Directors Manual
- Developed a formal strategy for recognition and retention of volunteers
- Increased the number of participating officials
- Provided extensive support and technical assistance for development of new or renovated facilities in Kamloops, South Surrey, and Maple Ridge.

Incentives

The BC Athletics officials' incentive program provides each registered member who obtained 12 credits in the year with a recognition item. The expenditure in this area was scaled back to compensate for increased demands on our competitions budget. In 2007, officials were provided with a lapel pin. The program may return to its former level, and provide officials with apparel items if additional funds are provided, or if a new sponsor is found.

Recruitment strategies

The Recruitment and Education sub-committee focused on building the base level of officiating. We have identified three areas of potential growth. Each one requires a different strategy.

- Recruitment from the membership of affiliated Clubs
- Recruitment from the general population
- Recruitment of active retirees, especially retired teachers

Recruiting from Club Members

This has historically been one of our best sources of new recruits. However, it is clear that many Clubs are struggling with the demographic shift of the last 2 decades, which has reduced the ability of parents to commit time to volunteering. We continue to contact Club leadership each year, to offer help in training members as officials. Some Clubs are convinced that officials' development is vital to their own interests, but it is clear that we have to move on and find new recruits elsewhere to maintain our numbers. Some specific initiatives in this area:

- Support for the Vancouver Island Athletic Association regional strategy. We provided travel funds to support mentoring by senior officials. Club members were enrolled in a training program spanning a series of meets. This is a highly successful program.

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- Noteworthy progress in Zone 1,2 with several new registrations in the Kelowna Track and Field Club.
- Establishing contact with Club webmasters. A committee member is encouraging development of officials sections on Club web pages.

Recruitment from the general population

We believe that there is a wider “network” of people in the general population with some degree of affiliation or interest in Athletics. The strands of connection may be through “relationship” or through experience as former participants in the sport. Successful recruitment in this area depends on “strategic” placement of a clear message about the availability of an exciting and worthwhile volunteer opportunity. We are aware that “relationship” recruiting has provided some of our best new recruits. Many are brought into the fold by friends and relations who are already officials. We must find ways to support and encourage this. Some initiatives in 2007:

- Distributed promotional brochures through running stores, and at events.
- Distributed promotional brochures to Senior officials for their use in informal recruitment.
- Recruitment signboards provided and used in Zones 1&2, 6 and 3/4/5. Committee members report that this has produced some contacts and enquiries.
- Developed “contact cards” (business cards) for use by officials in informal recruitment.
- Improved officiating content on the BCA web site, and in the BCA Bulletin
- Developed a proposal for membership in Volunteer BC, and use of their web resources to promote recruitment.

We have not yet made an effort to place our message in Community or National media. There may be an opportunity to obtain exposure through media sponsors of events.

Recruitment of active retirees.

As our own demographics will demonstrate, age is no barrier to success as an Athletics official. We have made some initial attempts to recruit new members from the expanding numbers of retirees. Elementary and Secondary teachers generally have some exposure to Athletics, and are well represented in our ranks. Committee members have contacted retired teachers associations in Abbotsford, Langley and Coquitlam.

B. Branch Statistics

Number of Meets 46 Indoor 0 Outdoor 46
Calibre of meets P 39 N/NC 7
Total number of Officials 159 Paid (AC Members) 130 Unpaid (non-Members) 29
Provisional 31 Level 1 41 Level 2 37 Level 3 2 Level 4 13 Level 5 40
NTO 4 ATO 1 ITO 1
Number of Mentors 21 Number of Clinicians 12
Number of Junior Officials 2 Level 1 2 Level 2 0 Level 3 0

C. Award Winners

<u>Name of Award</u>		<u>Winner</u>
Mary Temple Award	(Novice Official)	tba
Ian MacNeil Award	(Official of the Year)	tba

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Ralph Coates Award (Long Service) tba
Dave Coupland Award (Inspiration) tba

D. Clinics

Level 1 and Level 2 workshop materials were revised and updated this year. Some small changes will have to be made in 2008, based on the updated IAAF Handbook. Feedback (evaluation) forms were used for all presentations. National Level technical workshops presented by BC Clinicians at the National Junior Championships were also highly rated by the participants. The principal weakness in our training program occurs at the Provincial level. We would have more success in training officials for upgrading to Level 3 if we developed a formalized mentoring program to follow from our Level 1 and Level 2 workshops. We depend on National Level officials to provide informal training and guidance during events. This is not universally successful, and some new officials do not receive the leadership they require.

Discipline	Level	Location	Clinician	Participants
	Level 1	Vancouver	Sanda Turner	6
	Level 1	Langley	Kevin Kydd	22
	Level 1	Kelowna	Alwilda van Ryswyk	?
	Level 2	Kamloops	John and Carol Cull	11
H. Jumps	National	Kamloops	John Cull	4
Throws	National	Abbotsford	Peter Fejfar	10
Umpires	National	Abbotsford	David Weicker	8
Starters Assistant	National	Abbotsford	Keith Newell	2
Track Referee	National	Abbotsford	Keith Newell	8
Photos	National	Kamloops	David Weicker	2
Mentors	National	Vancouver	Keith Newell	10
Clinicians	National	Vancouver	David Weicker	6
Mentors	National	Kamloops	David Weicker	4

E. Mentorship

Canadian Junior Championships in Abbotsford gave us a substantial training opportunity. BC Mentors provided leadership and evaluations for 9 officials from BC, Alberta and Ontario. BC Officials were also mentored in Ontario (Bert Engelmann), and Saskatchewan (Brian Beck, Joan Cowden). We have made it easy for members to communicate with the Committee regarding their training and upgrading needs through an interactive web-based form. The Committee responded to all mentoring requests received in 2007.

Discipline	Level	Where	Mentor	Mentee
Starters Assistant	5	Abbotsford	Keith Newell	Joan Cowden
Starter	4	Abbotsford	Keith Newell	Howard Brandt
Starter	3	Abbotsford	Dale Loewen	Daryl Palmer
Track Referee		Abbotsford	Alice Kubek	Dave Hopkins
Umpire		Abbotsford	Jack Leman	Janice Loewen
Umpire		Abbotsford	Connie Halbert	Sherry Purdy
Throws Referee	5	Abbotsford	Peter Fejfar	Estelle Rung
H. Jumps	4	Abbotsford	Bob Cowden	Aileen Lingwood
Vertical Jumps	5	Abbotsford	John Cull	Mary Wittenberg
Vertical Jumps		Abbotsford	John Cull	Steve Martin
Starters Assistant	3	Kamloops	Cliff Weathermon	Sue Kydd

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Horizontal Jumps	3		Alwilda van Ryswyk	Sandra Herd
Horizontal Jumps	3	Langley	John Cull	Sandra Herd
Horizontal Jumps	3	Kamloops	Bob Cowden	Raelene Zabolotniuk
Horizontal Jumps	3	Abbotsford	Alwilda van Ryswyk	Raelene Zabolotniuk
Horizontal Jumps	3	Coquitlam	John Cull	Laurel Wichmann

F. Junior officials program

We have not yet developed a specific Junior Officials training program. Two Junior officials have become certified at Level 1 through participation in the adult training program. Several others are active as volunteer officials, but have not yet applied for upgrading.

G. Upcoming Year/Goals/Events

The Committee will continue its efforts to recruit and train officials in all areas of the Province. The Regional strategy developed by the Vancouver Island Athletic Association will move on to a higher level, following a Level 2 workshop in Nanaimo in February 2008. Training and mentoring for the large numbers of new Level 2 officials in the Province will be an important task for the Committee in the coming year.

We will continue to pursue a Province wide recruitment strategy, with specific initiatives for:

- Club members
- Athletics community
- Retired

The Committee will attempt to build support for the strategy outlined in “Recognition and Retention” discussion document and for effective use of membership in Volunteer BC. The high numbers of BC officials without valid memberships is of some concern, and efforts will be made to contact them, and encourage them to join.

We will also continue to work with Host Organizing Committees and member Clubs to improve safety and technical standards at sanctioned meets. Some important developments in 2008 include

- Commencement of Indoor competitions in Kamloops
- Renovation of the Maple Ridge Track and Field Stadium
- Completion of work on the South Surrey Track and Field Stadium (Discus, Hammer, and Horizontal Jumps areas)
- Publication of a final version of the BC Track and Field Meet Directors’ Handbook
- Consistent and effective use of the event feedback process in all zones.

Officials Membership status 2007

The table below represents Club affiliation of BC Athletics members who indicate on their registration form that they are Officials. A substantial number of these (10-15?) are “imaginary” Officials, in that they have never applied for any form of certification, and are not known to have participated in sanctioned events. The ones listed as “Unknown membership status” are certified Officials who are known to participate in sanctioned events, but are either:

- Not current members of BC Athletics or
- BCA members in some other category (who have not ticked the right box)

The best guess at numbers of active officials in BC is **159**.

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Club affiliation	Officials members
Achilles	0
Alberni Valley	3
Burnaby Striders	1
Capilano Eagles Running Club	1
Chilliwack Track and Field	2
Comox Valley Cougars	2
Coquitlam Cheetahs	1
Hershey Harriers	2
Kajaks	2
Kamloops Track and Field	22
Kelowna Track and Field	14
Langley Mustangs	4
Nanaimo and District	6
Nor'Westers	7
Ocean Athletics	5
Peninsula Track and Field	2
Prairie Inn Harriers	1
Prince George Track and Field	4
Semiahmoo Sun Runners	0
South Fraser Track and Field	3
Unattached	33
Universal	0
Valley Royals	8
Vancouver Thunderbirds	2
Victoria Track and Field	5
Unknown membership status	29
Total	159

**Summary of competition expenses (mileage) in 2007-2008 budget year
Paid from the BCA Officials' Budget.**

National Championships		\$2,826.72
Canadian Junior Championship	\$2,826.72	
Provincial Championships		\$1,732.49
BCJD (Kamloops)	\$432.87	
BC Jnr/Senior (Kamloops)	\$730.50	
BC Juvenile	\$569.12	
Local Competitions		\$1767.40
Zone 1,2	\$458.70	
Zone 3,4,5	\$301.47	
Zone 6	\$1,007.23	
Total		\$6326.61