

Zone 6 Year End Report

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The Vancouver Island Athletic Association (VIAA) and other Zone 6 clubs were very active in providing a well rounded program in Zone 6 for 2008. The VIAA continues to run a series of meets both in Track and Field, and Cross Country, with other Island Clubs holding Road Racing and Cross Country/Trail events.

In Cross Country/Trail racing there were 9 sanctioned events and 12 non-sanctioned events up and down the Island. In Road Running there were 17 sanctioned events, and 34 non-sanctioned events.

In Track and Field there were 10 sanctioned events, and 1 non-sanctioned event. This included both a sanctioned and non-sanctioned race walk event. Nanaimo Track and Field, with assistance from VIAA members, held the BC JD Championships. This event was very successful and well attended.

All VIAA Track and Field meets now have electronic timing. The association has worked diligently to upgrade to electronic timing, and feels this only increases the calibre of our Island series. We encourage athletes to visit the Island and participate at one of our many meets throughout the year.

The North American Indigenous Games were held in Duncan this year. The event saw participation from VIAA, CeeVacs and the BCA officials. The event was a huge success and very well attended.

Peninsula Track held the VIAA Pentathlon, and also ran the 1st VIAA Weight Pentathlon. This new event was well attended by throwing enthusiasts from all over the Island, and a second Weight Pentathlon is scheduled for June 7, 2009. Any and all throwers are welcome to participate!

One of the major challenges of 2008 was cost of travel to attend events. Economic pressures increase the challenges to run successful activities in all aspects. Hopefully gas won't increase in the summer to the outrageous cost it was last year. This will help increase attendance at all levels of athletics.

Zone 6 also continues to work on all-round development, not only for our athletes but for coaches, administration and officials. VIAA has an Officials development program that has seen the increase in the number of new officials to our sport. Training continues both for athletes and coaches, with Level 1 and 2 coaches' clinics, and training camps for our Zone 6 Summer Games athletes.

We had a full team participate in the Summer Games, with many of our athletes reaching success and personal goals at the Games. Island athletes were also successful in making the Legion team as well.

2009 starts with the continuation of the VIAA series for Cross Country, and several road running events.

Coaching development and officials' development will continue to be a prevalent theme for 2009. The continuation of our sport is contingent on further inclusion and development of volunteers. As technological advances continue, the need to train and develop with those advancements will ensure the success of our athletes, assisting them in reaching their full potential. We look forward to another successful year in 2009.