

Annul Report
Junior Development Committee.
2008

2008 competition for Junior Development athletes was highlighted by the holding of three Provincial Championships.

The BC JD Pentathlon Championships were held in White Rock on Saturday, June 21st. For a second year Ocean Athletics very ably hosted athletes for the one day competition. Ocean Athletics has recommended that the fee to participate be raised to \$20 as the present fee of \$10 barely covers meet expenses. It is thought that this change could encourage more clubs to apply to host the Pentathlon Championships.

The BCJD Track and Field Championships were hosted by the Nanaimo Club on July 18, 19, 20, in Nanaimo. Though there was competition for hotel beds because of another community event held on the same weekend, athletes were very well hosted for the three days. It is difficult to judge how much lack of accommodation availability affected the numbers attending. At future championships the JD Committee feels that only approved events for each age group should be part of the weekend competition. Though it is not practical in 2009, the JD Committee would like to see BC Athletics consider combining all the ages in one huge BC Championship Extravaganza in the future.

The BCJD Cross Country Championships were held in Stanley Park on October 25 with large numbers of young athletes attending. The youngest age groups have tripled in size at many meets. The request has been made that any group of JD's over 50 should be run separately as an age group. The youngest athletes have expressed how confusing they find it when they do not know who they are competing against, especially when the groups running are mixed ages and very large. In 2009 some steps should be taken to address the athlete concerns that have been expressed. Some coaches have also expressed concern about the large JD starting packs and safety both at the start and finish line at meets.

This year was also a **BC Summer Games** Year. Diana Hollefreund with her team managed to provide a wonderful experience for all athletes. Though some felt that the uniform provided was not up to the standard of other sports team uniforms, and ribbons are not awarded, everyone went home with memories to last a life time. The competition was challenging and the weather not too hot in Kelowna.

Many thanks are due to Tom Dingle for developing the new standards each year for BC JD Awards. These are proving to be fairer, with awards spread more evenly across the spectrum of all JD approved runs, walks, jumps and throws. The All Time Top Ten results are being published on the JD web page for ages 9 to 14 years. These also provide an incentive for athletes to achieve. It is hoped that all clubs will become involved in awarding JD crests to their athletes as an incentive program for success. The Crest program can be found on the JD page of the BC Athletics web site. It is hoped that in 2009 more club meets can be added to the published List for Awards and All Time Top 10 used by the JD Committee. The 2009 Committee will be looking at events that are now on the calendar of events and are not included to see if they can be included. Any Club who would like to apply for inclusion of their meet should do so to the BC Athletics office by April 1

each year. One of the reasons that meets are not included at present is that some are run according to high school rules, weights etc. which are not the same as JD rules. If a club is considering a new competition it would be beneficial to the Club to have discussions with the JD Committee before planning their event.

The BCJD Awards of Excellence Banquet was held at the Croation Cultural Centre on October 26th. It was interesting to note that the majority of athletes attended the luncheon. The option was given to just attend just the Awards presentation. Very few athletes were absent which attests to the significance of this event to athletes. It seemed that a fun time was had by all. Many thanks are due to all on the JD Committee who made this event possible through their dedicated organizational skills.

For the first time the JD Committee will be awarding the **Jane Swan Memorial Award** at the BC Athletics Awards Ceremony. It will be presented to an outstanding volunteer for long time service to the young Junior Development athletes of our province in honour of Jane who gave so much to track and field in BC.

The JD Committee is also in the process of reviewing the **JD Coach Award** to bring its criteria more in line with the philosophy of the Long Term Athlete Development Model.

The 2009 JD Committee looks forward to a successful, productive track and field season for all 9 to 14 year old athletes.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Copping.
Chair,
Junior Development Committee
BC Athletics.