

## **2008 BC SUMMER GAMES REPORT TO THE BC ATHLETICS AGM JANUARY 2009**

### **ZONE REPRESENTATIVES**

This year only 3 of the 8 zones had returning reps: Zone 5 **Dawn Copping**; Zone 6 **Tom Dingle** and Zone 1 **Dan Horan** with Zone 7 **Joe Galvin** returning after a break. The remaining 4 zone reps were new and it was a difficult task getting volunteers for these positions: Zone 2 **Jarett McLean**; Zone 3 **Jim Clifford**; Zone 4 **Larry Neilson** and Zone 8 **Judy Gaiesky**. It should be noted that no volunteers from Zone 4 stepped up for the position, so **Larry Neilson**, Assistant Provincial Advisor, ran the trials and completed the team formation for this zone. Without Larry there would have been no zone 4 team at the Games. The position of Zone Rep involves a large amount of work and each zone owes a huge thank you to their representative for the hours each one spent putting their team together.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

With the new guidelines for arrival at the Games [all teams must be in the host city by 12:00 noon on Thursday] very early start times for all teams caused some concern. This is not something over which BC Athletics has any control. Many athletes and coaches feel that this does not permit athletes to compete at their best. *This concern will be discussed with the BC Games Society with regard to future Games.*

### **ACCOMMODATION**

This time the location of the dorms was in a school right beside the track facility which was a great idea which gave the athletes access to cool spaces and shade when they were not competing. However, the school was old and did not have nearly enough showers and/or washrooms for the size of our group. A clear separation between the girl's dorms and the boy's dorms needs to be made for obvious reasons. Busses were required to transport athletes to the food venues, but once they were back at the dorms, there was movement between the venue and the dorms for showers and changes of clothing after events.

### **FOOD**

There was a huge disagreement over the food at the 2008 Games with some groups saying it was the "best ever", others saying it was "boring and repetitive", and others refusing to eat at the food venue. Other complaints were noted as to the quantity of the food in the lunch bags – some felt it was too much and others too little. Meals for vegetarians or for special diets often didn't arrive on time or were not enough for the requests that had been made. There seems to be no planning for "athletes" diets with hamburgers being served the night before competition. Again, we have no say over the food chosen or served or the amounts as this is a decision made by the host city which changes every Games.

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

The choice of the OC venue was a huge improvement [a hockey arena] and allowed spectators to be seated during the event. Unfortunately, the walk from the food venue to the arena was long and very hot and then the participants were expected to stand outside on the pavement in the heat for over an hour and a half. This was not good planning for athletes after a long day of travel and just before the start of their competitions.

### **SCHEDULE**

The current schedule works for the numbers and the events. Minimal changes are based on each individual host site and the number of officials available for the Games. This year, changes had to be made in the pole vault/high jump events due to a lack of officials in the vertical jumps area. Minor changes will be made only as required as this schedule gives room for field events to run overtime.

### **TEAM NUMBERS**

This is an area of huge concern with zone teams ranging in size from 8 athletes to 53 [base team with wild cards added]. When a zone cannot fill a team, we lose those positions so this year we sent the smallest group in years [233 athletes instead of our maximum of 288]. Only Zones 3, 5 and 6 completely filled their teams this year with two of the remaining zones having trouble even filled a base team of 30 athletes [Zones 1 and 4]. If this trend continues, it will be difficult to maintain our current numbers per

team with the BC Games Society. *[UPDATE: We will be permitted to maintain our numbers for the coming Games as we filled 6 of our 8 zone teams with the base number of athletes.]*

### **WILD CARDS**

Once again the Wild Card system works in determining the best athletes in all of the zones waiting for spots on a team. This system ranks each performance in all events so that the next best athletes waiting for a position will be added to the teams.

### **OFFICIALS**

This was a difficult year for officials due to the conflict with the Canadian Juniors taking place in Abbotsford on the same weekend. We made use of the officials available and they did an excellent job under the circumstances. A special thank you to those officials who volunteered to come out of the stands and officiate instead of watching their own children compete.

### **HOST CLUB**

Our thanks go to Kelowna Track and Field Club under the direction of **Pam Medland** [meet director] and **Peter Maryschuk** [facility and equipment] for doing a first class job of preparing for the Games with too few volunteers. The fact that the actual athletics portion of the Summer Games ran smoothly is a credit to their hard work!

### **THROWING IMPLEMENTS**

The message needs to get out to parents and coaches that no personal throwing implements are permitted at the Games. Athletes traveling on the Games transportation are NOT permitted to bring personal implements [except for pole vault poles] so it creates an unfair advantage to those athletes whose parents or coaches attend the Games and are able to bring equipment with them

### **COACHES AND TEAM STAFF**

The head coach of the team must be Level 2 certified and this was difficult this year with many of our coaches choosing to go to Abbotsford for the Canadian Juniors. Each zone needs to work on upgrading of coaches before the next Summer Games so that we are not constantly at risk of not having a zone go to the Games if they do not have a certified coach. *In 2010, all Games staff will have to have a Criminal Record Check in place with BC Athletics [all coaches and managers will have to have this in place for all BCA teams for 2009]. [UPDATE: After further discussions with all sports in the Games, it has been decided to extend the current transition period for NCCP-CBET certification for another 2 years. This means that all zones will again be eligible for the one-time Level 2 certification exemption.]*

### **SINGLETTS**

Again, there is the usual criticism of the t-shirts used by our zone teams. There is great difficulty in getting the 8 zone colours in any other shirts in both the numbers and sizes required in the time permitted. Suggestions are to use a running top or singlets for the future. This needs to be a discussion item within the JD committee but there are problems with both. We cannot get sizes and colours in singlets as this would be a special order so that is almost impossible. There is a strong possibility that we will be able to get running shirts in 8 colours but the cost will certainly go up significantly. This creates additional problems with athletes who cannot afford a BC Games fee of \$150.00 and then a shirt charge of approximately \$50.00 on top of that. The ordering time is short – 4 weeks maximum between ordering and pickup may be too short for companies to provide the sizes and colours required. Also with the increased price of the shirts, there is a problem ordering additional shirts to cover size changes and athletes dropping off a team before the Games. At \$15.00 per shirt we have enough funds to purchase spares to cover this issue but at \$50.00 per shirt this won't be possible. So this needs to be discussed but the bottom line is that we may have to continue with t-shirts for our athletes or they will be forced to wear generic sizes in shirts. I will also look into the idea of ordering white shirts with the lettering in the team colours but this is not permitted under BC Games guidelines at this time.

## RECORDS

The following BC Summer Games records were set in Kelowna, 2008 and have been added to the BC Games List of Records [amended August 2008]:

100 m Hurdles	13.58	Nick Blackburn	Courtenay	2008	Zone 6
300 m Hurdles	39.04	Nick Blackburn	Courtenay	2008	Zone 6
4 x 100 m Relay	45.07	Tunji Taylor-Lewis Mark Whiteley Gabriel Marshalok Brennan Gademanns	Fraser Valley Team	2008	Zone 3
200 metres	24.99	Shai Davis	Richmond	2008	Zone 3
300 m Hurdles [7]	44.30	Jade Vaughan	Langley	2008	Zone 3
Pole Vault	3.10 m	Shawni Hayhurst	Smithers	2008	Zone 7
Shot Put ~ 3 kg	12.93 m	Eilish MacDonald	South Surrey	2008	Zone 3

### Issues for the JD Committee to discuss:

- Recruitment of more Level 2 coaches in zones where teams are at risk [exemption extended].
- promotion of BC Summer Games in all zones as several zones are at risk with low numbers.
- Potential for all zone numbers to be cut due to low turnout in 2008 [minimum requirements have been met].
- Shirts – price, time and availability issues [will be examined for the 2010 Games].
- Recruitment of a Zone Rep for Zone 4.
- Recruitment of people interested in assisting with the work of the current zone reps in all zones.

### Thank you to the following:

- to Larry Neilson for his work as the assistant Provincial Advisor. He was invaluable and it was a bonus having both genders of advisors able to deal with issues as they arose.
- to all the zone reps and their assistants – a thankless job of long hours and many frustrations!
- to the coaches and team staff who accompany the teams. No coaches = no teams!
- to the Kelowna group of organizers, officials and volunteers for a first-class event.
- to the officials from around the province who were critical for the smooth running of the meet.

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BC Summer Games