

Annul Report
Junior Development Committee.
2009

2009 competition for Junior Development athletes was highlighted by the holding of three Provincial Championships.

The BC JD Pentathlon Championships were ably hosted by Coquitlam Cheetahs Track and Field Club on Saturday, July 18, 2009. The fee for an athlete to compete in the five events was raised to \$20 and the Club was rewarded with a small profit. Once again a host Club found that they were in conflict with another Championship meet, the Canadian Masters Championships in Kamloops, and few BC Athletics officials were present to assist. 132 athletes competed with the largest numbers in the 11 to 13 year old groupings.

The BCJD Track and Field Championships were this year awarded to Ocean Athletics and held on the July 24-26 weekend. Twenty-six BC Athletics officials attended this meet with a total of 394 athletes benefiting from their expertise. Girls outnumbered the boys. (218 girls to 174 boys,). The 11 to 14 year olds were the largest groups. The meet was well run and kept to schedule. Maureen de St Croix had many interesting recommendations to make which the JD Committee will discuss at a future meeting.

The BCJD Cross Country Championships were organized to be held in Stanley Park but were changed to the Spanish Banks area in the last week before Saturday October 31st. In 2008 a request had been made that any group of JD's over 50 should be run separately as an age group. In 2009 some steps were taken to address the athlete and coach concerns that had been expressed. The JD Committee is looking forward to receiving a report on the JD Cross Country championships from the organizers.

The BCJD Awards of Excellence Banquet was held at the Croatian Cultural Centre on Sunday, November 1st, 2009. The majority of athletes attended the luncheon with some attending for just the awards presentation. About 75 athletes received awards. Thanks are due to Peter Maryschuk, Vice Chair who served as Master of Ceremonies at the luncheon, Brian McCaldar who mastered the pronunciation of all the names of the winners, and Larry Harper for signing all the graduation certificates for the 14 year olds and congratulating all the award winners. The members of the JD Committee present were all busy on the day with their assigned duties. Sam Walker who took bookings and Jackie Barrington who produced the power point presentation spent many hours ahead of time in preparation. A huge vote of thanks is also due to Tom Dingle who produced all the stats and standards that allowed the Committee to choose the award winners. This event continues to be a popular one, though we increasingly compete for athlete's presence with many other sporting events.

In 2009 the **Jane Swan Award** was presented to Shirley Young, an outstanding volunteer who has given long time service to the young Junior Development athletes of our province. The **JD Coach Award** was presented to Kevin Harrison from the Langley Mustangs. These awards will again be presented at this years Banquet.

During the year the JD Committee discussed many points of interest to the JD program. The 2009 JD Committee looked at events that are now on the calendar of events and are not included as meets that results could be used for Awards and All Time Top 10 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). Some clubs were approached but declined to be included.

The JD web page was updated and it is recommended that the JD rules and regulations be brought up to date and in line with present practice.

The Athletics Canada proposal for changes to the events for young athletes has been discussed and recommendations are ready to be presented.

The 2009 JD Committee looks forward to a successful, productive track and field season for all 9 to 14 year old athletes in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Copping.
Chair,
Junior Development Committee
BC Athletics.