

MEMBERSHIP

Zones 1 & 2 encompasses three major areas;
Central – Kelowna - Vernon – Penticton
North – Kamloops – Shuswap
South – Trail – Kaslo

There are 10 registered BC Athletics clubs in the zone comprised of 5 track & field clubs and 5 running clubs. Individual memberships total approximately 335 running club members and 433 track & field club members. This reflects an overall growth in the zone as compared to the 2010 membership numbers. Of the ten clubs, only 2 were down in members from the previous season. A couple club changes from 2010 to note are the addition of a new member club Kaslo Running Club and the merger of Kelowna Track & Field Club to the newly formed Okanagan Athletics Club. We should see another growth in the 2012 outdoor season as this is a BC Summer Games year.

COMPETITIONS and PERFORMANCE

The BC Athletics weekly blog has done a great job of covering major athletics news from around the province. I will therefore just highlight a few of the accomplishments of athletes and clubs from this zone.

First would have to be the amazing season Dylan Armstrong has had, numerous podium appearances, lots of gold, new records and the Diamond League Crown. Dylan has excelled on the international stage. He has brought a spotlight to His discipline, sport, coaches, Country and all those around him, what a great ambassador, good thing he has those big shoulders. We are very proud and wish for him the best in England.

Kamloops has the largest track club in the zone. They are also the National Throws Center and the Interior's Pacific Sport Regional Center. These centers continue to produce high level athletes who have been very successful both nationally and internationally. You can read more in the annual reports submitted from the Center's. The Kamloops Club hosted numerous meets offering competition for athletes of all ages. They also very efficiently hosted The Canadian Master's Indoor Championships in March, The JD Championships in July, and The Western Canada Summer Games in August. Accolades to the very dedicated group of volunteers in Kamloops. With the start of the indoor season in October and an active Fall Cross Country Running group the wheels are always turning in Kamloops.

Kelowna athletes very successfully represented their new club on the national and international stage. In August, six Okanagan Athletics Club athletes and coach Daniel Medland-Marchen attended the International Children's Summer Games in Scotland. This was the first time Kelowna has sent a delegation to the games. OAC was represented at the Junior Nationals by Athlete James Turner and OAC Head Coach Pat Sima-Ledding as Team B.C. sprint-hurdle coach. James won gold in decathlon and bronze in the 4x100 relay, he also carried home the silver in javelin from the Western Canada Summer Games. Aaron Stroda and team mate Keely Watts-Watling stood high on the podium at the Legion Canadian Youth Championships in Ottawa. Aaron broke the discus record while winning the gold, he also won gold in javelin and silver in shot and relay. Keely took the gold in Pentathlon. Kelowna sprinter Keefer Joyce was named to Athletics Canada's Commonwealth Youth Games Team. Competing in Isle of Man, Great Britain he placed fifth in the 100m and brought home a bronze medal from the 4x100 relay.

Trail Track and Field Club has the dedication of Dan Horan to thank for keeping Athletics alive in Trail. Although the Club is very small, they offer training and competition for all disciplines and ages. One concern is the lack of interest and support for Athletics from area middle and high schools. The Club's running track was resurfaced and ready for the B.C. Senior Games in August. Dan and his crew of volunteers hosted an excellent track and field competition. The community of Trail were wonderful hosts for the 2011 B.C. Senior Games.

Vernon Amateur Athletics club continues to produce some very competitive young athletes. Club alumni Sarah Bailey was signed to the Jacksonville University track program. Coach Ian Cameron was named to the B.C. Team that competed in the Legion Canadian Youth Championships in Ottawa. The hopes for a new track being built along with a multi sport field and facility has been pushed back again. The Interest groups spear heading such a facility has had to regroup, put forth a new proposal and again await a government decision on land use.

The running clubs within the zone and the Interior Running Association provide numerous opportunities for runners of all ages and levels to compete on the roads and trails. Local competitions have been well attended with some running at maximum numbers. Competitors from zone 1&2 have had many successes and podium appearances at provincial, national and international events. The IRA awards banquet takes place in Kamloops Nov.12th. We will work on improved communications with the running clubs to enable more comprehensive reporting.

Although clubs struggle with low membership, tired multi tasking members and other challenges the future of Athletics in the zone looks promising. We have a strong core of dedicated people within each club who tirelessly work to ensure the show goes on. To all of you who have supported the sport your contributions are appreciated. To all the athletes, congratulations on your participation and successes.

I would also like to thank those who sent me information for this report. Communication is so important and it has to be two way to be effective.

To conclude I would like to say that the position of BC Athletics Director for Zone 1&2 has been a great learning experience for me. I have struggled at times but the opportunity to learn the ropes from a very knowledgeable group of people has been invaluable.

Respectfully Submitted
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Director Zone 1 & 2
BC Athletics