

National Officials' Committee Meeting

April 24-26, 2009

Winnipeg

Minutes from the meeting will be circulated in due course. The following are notes from the joint sessions including National Officials Committee members and the Branch Chairs.

The Friday Evening joint session proceeded with no representation from NB, NS, PEI, NL. All NOC Members were in attendance. The Nova Scotia Chair was present for the Saturday and Sunday joint sessions. NOC members reported on their Friday afternoon session, and reviewed progress on the Action items from their Fall 2008 Committee Meeting.

Clinicians and Mentors Training.

There may be a need to retrain existing clinicians; particularly in regard to effective use of PowerPoint. There is no strategy in place for doing this yet. Branch Chairs advised that there is no present need to recruit and train additional clinicians or mentors.

National Open Book Exam

Serge Thibodeau will produce a new revision by June 2009. Various versions of the exam are in use. Branches use the exam in different ways. In two Branches it used as part of a training session for Level 3. Candidates are invited to a session in their local area. Participants complete sections of the exam, and then review and discuss answers with a leader. This may be worth a trial in BC. Candidates often need assistance from a senior official to clarify questions, and the ability to discuss answers could be very useful.

Competitions 2009

Rick Stocker has been appointed as Officials Coordinator for the **Canada Games**, and **Canadian Juniors** (both in Charlottetown). The NOC Member from that area (Leroy Washburn) agreed that our request for participation by a BC official who will be vacationing in that area is reasonable, and should be forwarded to Rick. Rick has sent enquiries to Atlantic provinces, but no appointments have been made.

Enrico Toscano will be the co-Chair for the local organizing committee for **Canadian Seniors** in Toronto. The Officials Coordinator is Ian Reid. They will probably be short of officials, particularly in the Throws area. There is an opportunity to send self-funded or Branch-funded officials. Accommodation and meals will be provided. Enrico will send Branches a priority list (by discipline). The new U of T venue presents some challenges for a meet at this level:

- Discus Hammer landing area limited to 70m
- Single long jump pit

Two Branches are working on plans to fund officials for the **World Indoor Masters Championships** in Kamloops.

- Saskatchewan may bring a “van-load”
- Three officials at least funded from Quebec (The Raymond brothers and Cecile Lefebvre)
- The Ontario Branch Chair will contact a bilingual announcer (Suzanne Leroux)

Branch Reports (Saturday)

Nova Scotia

NS has a total of 38 officials, and covered 21 meets in 2008 (6 were Indoors). They have a Branch Chair, but no Committee. The Chair has recommended establishment of a Committee. Plans for 2009 include establishment of an incentive program, and development of recruitment materials, brochures etc.

Ontario

Officials Membership in Ontario has declined somewhat to 125. In the interests of re-building, they have eliminated the annual membership fee (previously \$25), and increased the mileage allowance to \$.35 per kilometer. The Ontario officials Committee has a much larger budget than any of the other Branches, about \$40,000 per year (3 times the size of this Branch). Many members are teachers, and they are encountering increasing difficulty in obtaining leave to participate in meets. The Ontario Association receives a lot of requests to service community events, and special multi-sport Games, such as the Asian Games. They have a declining ability to provide this type of service, and are focusing on “core” athletics events. They still covered 120 meets in 2008, nearly twice as many as in this Province. 51 of the meets were indoors. Ontario Track and Field Association is now re-named as Athletics Ontario.

PEI

There is still no active officials organization in this Province. Leroy Washburn (NB) reported that some PEI officials are active in events in New Brunswick, but are not registered with any Branch. There is a large group of volunteers preparing for the Canada Games and Canadian Juniors (both in Charlottetown in 2009). He will be attending an organizational meeting in May.

Quebec

La Belle Province has 80 active officials. They have the most extensive and best-funded recognition program, which provides on-going awards of “kits” based on cumulative credits. They recruited 8 new officials in 2008. Quebec officials are developing Level 3 technical workshops with PowerPoint presentations and printed course guides. Two disciplines are covered so far. Officials participated in 43 meets in 2008.

Saskatchewan

This Branch has focused on developing a very successful recruitment and training program for new officials. Clubs are actively participating in recruitment, and in many cases paying membership fees for officials. New recruits come primarily from the “athletics community” (parents and friends of athletes). They now have 36 Provisional officials and 45 at Level 1, providing an excellent base for future development. The preferred format for introductory workshops is a short classroom session, followed by “rotation” through events during the associated meet. Some senior officials have decided to “step back” from key positions at higher-level meets to provide opportunities and mentorship for younger officials. Total number of officials is 168. There is a multi-level recognition program, with logoized items such as sports bags, sweat shirts etc. for officials at Level 3 and up. The Committee organizes annual banquets (and awards?) in both centres; Regina and Saskatoon.

Alberta

Alberta is now receiving support in recruitment from Clubs. They currently have 159 officials, but only 30 meets (12 indoors). The recognition program begins at Level 2 with different apparel items at each level.

Trends

Officials are becoming more active in Provincial Sport Organizations. Terry Mountjoy (CER) is the Chair of Sask Athletics. Jennifer Campbell (SA5 and NOC Member) is Chair of Manitoba Athletics.

A majority of PSO's have eliminated membership fees for officials. BC, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick are the remaining Provincial bodies that require payment from officials. Branch Chairs will be asked to provide information on fees in their annual reports so this trend can be tracked.

Many Branches are involved with Special Olympics, both for local and Championships meets and have found this rewarding (Special O is often well funded).

NOC Members' Reports

NOC Chair (Keith Newell!)

Distribution of NOC NOC newsletter is still problematic. The database used by Athletics Canada for e-mail distribution is out of sync with the NOC directory. Distribution through Branch Chairs is still required (March 2009 edition is on the BCA website). The response to the technical items (situations) has been positive. Senior officials are requested to submit items for inclusion in this section. ITOs especially are requested to share experiences and knowledge gained in International events.

There is still some concern about the quality of delivery of the National Clinics. The Committee will produce Guidelines for Clinicians. Clinicians should familiarize themselves thoroughly with the materials, and also leave adequate

time for discussion. NOC will also produce a web-based technical review tool, to assist Level 4 and 5 officials in updating their knowledge, and staying current with rule changes. Jennifer Campbell has updated the NOC Handbook, and will now update the Officials Coordinators Handbook (current version is 2007).

Branch Chairs were invited to discuss changes to the structure of NOC. A majority approved removing the restriction on the number of consecutive terms for NOC members (currently 3 terms maximum).

Vice Chair Retention and Recruitment (Leroy Washburn)

Distribution of Level 3 recognition pins, and award pins for long service. Branch Chairs will pass them along. Leroy reminded Branch Chairs that these pins are distributed only on request from the Branches. Level 3 pins for BC Officials:

- Lorna Lundeen
- Michele Peacock
- Helen Newmarch
- Martha Belicka

Service Awards for BC Officials:

- Roger Power (25 years)
- John Cull (25 years)
- Ken Serl (35 years)

NOC Official of the Year for 2008, awarded to Jennifer Campbell. Mike Illingworth (ON) and Bud McInnis (AB) were inducted into the NOC Wall of Honour.

Vice Chair Directory and Upgrading (Jennifer Campbell)

An updated version of the National Officials Directory was distributed and last corrections were submitted. Jennifer will send the final version to Branch Chairs electronically within 2 weeks. Electronic versions are not to be distributed further.

Jennifer presented an excellent summary of International Paralympic Rules. The PowerPoint show, and "Coles notes" version of the IPC Rules will be distributed to Branch Chairs after some final corrections. There will be a Technical workshop for eligible Level 5 and NTO officials who wish to become (National) Technical Delegates for Paralympics, in Windsor, July 2009. Jennifer noted some important developments:

- Special Olympics are likely to return to status as a Paralympic (IPC) sport organization
- Paralympic events likely to be included in the Western Canada Games 2011 (are we ready, Kamloops?)

Proposed changes to the upgrading criteria for Photo Judges was discussed and amended. The new version will fold together the Photos National List and Photos Chief Judge 3.

The historic back file of upgrading applications was distributed to the Branch Chairs for safe-keeping.

Vice Chair Meet Assignments (Jane Edstrom)

Travel lists have been received from most Branches. No selections have been made for National Juniors or National Seniors. The National Youth (Legion) Championships has increased its scope, and will probably expand to 5 sessions.

Notes on the 2009 Competition Calendar

Status corrections:

- Sled Dog Indoors, Knights of Columbus Indoors and Kinsmen Indoors will be "N" level meets (for purposes of credits)
- Canada Games "Quad" Meet (4 Provinces) August 8 in Saskatoon will be a "N"
- "Bolt Invitational" in Toronto June 11 will be a "N"
- World Police and Fire Games and all Pacificanada series meets will be "N"
- Jennifer Campbell will provide information on location of the 2009 Special O Nationals.

Notes on the 2010 Competition Calendar

Preliminary listings:

- World Indoor Masters will be "NC"
- Canadian Juniors will be in Moncton (no date)
- CIS March 10, Windsor
- Canadian Seniors July 29-August 1, Toronto
- Special Olympics Nationals July, London ON
- Canadian Youth (Legion) Championships August 6-8, Ottawa