

N O C N O C

NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2009

N.O.C. Fall Meeting & News

Meet Assignments:

Branches were complimented for "carpooling" to keep costs down and to get more officials to the National Seniors or National Juniors. Five officials were sent to the National Junior Championships and ten to National Senior Championships. The Royal Canadian Legion provided all of the funding for officials for the Legion meet.

Officials' Development, Mentoring

It was a busy summer with 33 mentorings done.
Seniors - 12 Juniors - 11 Legion - 4
Masters - 3 Other- 3

Photo Levels: Branches have asked to move from the two tier current system to: Operator (equivalent to Level 3), Assistant Chief Judge (equivalent to Level 4) and Chief Judge (equivalent to Level 5). (*see article below*)

Recertification: Discussion followed a suggestion for having a method for ensuring ongoing competence of Level 5 officials. It would ensure they keep abreast of rules and were active officials. NOC will look into a format for testing NTO's and Level 5's to recertify/renew their levels.

Retraining: There is a need to retrain clinicians in the use of the new power point clinics. Also, new mentors need to be trained as older officials retire. Arrangements will be considered for clinics for clinicians/mentors.

Ivonne Shoucair has left Athletics Canada. Nicole Clark will be NOC's A.C. contact.

National Championship Events

Can. Half Marathon Championships Apr. 19 Montreal
Can. Marathon Championships May 24 Ottawa
Can. Track & Field Championships (including 10,000m)
June 25-28 Toronto
Can. Jr. Track & Field Championships, July 17-19
Charlottetown, PEI
The Legion Can. Youth Track & Field Championship,
Aug.7-9 Sherbrooke

Canada Games Aug. 15-29 Charlottetown, PEI

N.O.C. and Branch Chairs will meet in Winnipeg, April 24 - 26.

N.O.C. Nominations were called for four positions in January. Only four nominations were received. The N.O.C. positions were filled by Jane Edstrom, Bud McInnis, Keith Newell and Leroy Washburn.

Currently, the N.O.C. consists of six voting members with two year appointments being done in alternate years. Due to a reduction in the size of the committee a few years ago, there are four positions open in one year and two positions open in the following year. There is a need to adjust this to three positions each year. To remedy this unbalance, it has been suggested that one of the positions filled this term be made for three years on a one time only basis (One year is not an option, since nominations were called for a two year term.)

This will be discussed and voted on at the Spring N.O.C. Meeting.

(An archive of meeting minutes, NOC-NOC Newsletters and other documents are available at <http://www.athletics.ca/main.asp>.

Click on the "Officials" tab to get to Officials information and then click on the red text "National Officials Committee" found at the bottom of the page.)

Upgrading for Fall 2008

Congratulations to the following officials who have completed all the requirements for their new levels:

Level 5:

Larry Kemp, NS	Field Referee - Jumps
Eric Wittenberg, AB	Vertical Jumps
Maureen Horlick, AB	Horizontal Jumps
Gilles Rochette, QC	Umpire

Chris Alward, NB Horizontal Jumps
Brian Beck, BC Photo Finish National

Level 4:

Bert Englemann, BC	Throws
Andy Burgess, ON	Starter
Howard Brandt, BC	Starter
Brian Hawksworth, BC	Umpire
Chantel Gauthier, QC	Umpire
Merlin Johnson, AB	Starter
Dave Hopkins, BC	Track Referee
Ian Gordon, AB	Track Referee
David King, MB	Throws
Richard Winton, MB	Starters Assistant

A Reminder to Branch Chairs

Nomination forms for your Official of the Year and Wall of Honour candidates are due March 30. These should be sent to LeRoy Washburn.

World Juniors, Moncton July 19-25, 2010

Rod MacKenzie, General Manager Operations for 2010 has informed NOC that things are well underway for the 13th World Juniors. For you old timers, you will remember that Sudbury, ON hosted this meet in 1988. Some of the highlights from Moncton are:

- 2200 athletes, coaches and team leaders are expected
- 130 technical officials will be involved
- Opening and closing ceremonies will feature 1000 local performers
- U de M stadium will be completed in October 2009 with a Mondo FTX track, similar to Beijing
- Athletics NB and the host committee will host the Canadian Juniors in 2009 and 2010
- The 2009 Juniors will be held at Canada Games Place Stadium, UPEI campus Charlottetown
- The 2010 Juniors will be held just two weeks before the Worlds.
- The new multi-purpose stadium will be the largest in Atlantic Canada and will include 10,000 seats.

2009 IAAF Rule Changes

The 2009 IAAF Rules book is out and contrary to what we were lead to believe there are very few rule changes that will affect us at track meets this summer. Again it is single year book and with so

few changes, it would make one question whether or not to purchase a new book.

A Short Summary of the Main Changes for 2009 (the full version can be found at http://www.iaaf.org/mm/Document/AboutIAAF/Publications/04/87/90/20081229021635_httppostedfile_CompitionRules2009-Eng_7874.pdf)

Note: In the 2009 Rule Book, double bars are for changes from 2008 and triple bars are for changes made this year.

Rule 143.7 Athletes may wear numbers or names on any or all of the bibs.

Rule 144.1 “The competition area, which normally also has a physical barrier, is defined for this purpose as the area where the competition is being staged and which has an access restricted to the competing athletes and to personnel authorized in accordance with the relevant Rules and Regulations”.

Rule 144.2(c) Personal safeguards (eg. Taping, bandage, belts) are not considered assistance

Rule 187.4(a) For throwing events, the title Personal Safeguards has been changed to Assistance and reads, “If taping is used on the hands and fingers, it may be continuous provided that as a result no two or more fingers are taped together in such a way that the fingers cannot move individually”.

Recruitment & Retention-You Can Help

All Sports Officials organizations have identified “recruitment of new officials” and “retention of current officials” as one of the issues they must constantly confront. LeRoy Washburn, has this area as part of his NOC portfolio, and offers these suggestions to Provincial Officials Committees.

Most branches are presently doing some or all of the following to encourage their officials in Athletics by: paying travel expenses within the province, offering clothing (uniform) incentives, giving clinics, mentoring new officials and writing newsletters. If your branch is in need of help in any of these areas contact your branch chair and offer your help.

Some other things you might do are:

- work with community track clubs to train officials

- encourage your peers to keep meet records and upgrade
- tell fellow officials you think they are doing a good job and specifically what you liked. A pat on the back from a colleague always feels good.
- act as an informal mentor with a new official
- bring a friend to a meet to help you officiate
- get clubs to form an “officials team” i.e. throws or jumps

Since recruitment is a grass-roots endeavour, Branches should liaise with each other passing along approaches that work. Also encourage local clubs, schools and former athletes to invite members to act as officials. Actively lobby appropriate bodies to build new facilities or improve existing ones. Assist on meet organizing committees.

Branches as well as N.O.C. need to conscientiously work at recruiting and retention to maintain the high level of officials we have presently in Canada.

Need a Mentoring this Summer?

Mentoring requests need to be sent to Bud McInnis through your Branch Chair. Let your Chair know as soon as possible so that he/she can arrange a match up for you.

Your Branch Officials Chair needs to identify and prioritize those officials who want to be mentored and provide the following information to Bud:

1. discipline/level sought
2. official's contact information
3. the meet and the mentors used for the official's current level (3 or 4).

Changes to Photo Finish Judge Criteria

There have been many questions about Photo Finish Judge and Chief Judge categories both from officials and Branch Chairs. The Levels of Photo Finish Chief Judge (PFCJ) have evolved from the old camera and film process to the now digital/computer process. Discussions have been focused on how to meld the various levels of Chief Judge and Provincial and National Lists.

At the upcoming April meeting, NOC will propose a new format to blend Levels 3,4,& 5 PFCJ and PF National List.

The new system will retain Photo Finish Provincial List as a beginning level. This will be followed by PFCJ levels 3, 4 and 5. All other categories of Photo Finish Judge/List will be eliminated.

If you have any comments, please submit them to Jennifer Campbell.

What's your ruling?

1. A Junior runner at the start of a 400m asks to move to an empty lane 3 from lane 8. What do you rule?
2. A high jumper rejoins the competition from the hurdles after all the other high jumpers are finished and asks to complete his jumps. What do you rule?
3. In the 100m Hurdles the first place runner in lane 3 falls and knocks over the 9th hurdle in lane 3 and 4 and is a DNF. The runner in lane 4 completes the race, now in third place but has not had the 9th hurdle to clear. What do you rule?
4. The hammer bounces off the cage netting, then the wing post and falls into the sector. The thrower, having correctly left the circle, expects it to be measured. What do you rule?

Sports Officials Canada - iMember

Sports Officials Canada (SOC) is a federally incorporated national organization dedicated to promoting excellence in sports officiating. SOC represents Canadian technical officials as a national voice, when and where appropriate. SOC has been successful in promoting the objects of the organization by providing input to national and regional sport policy conferences and it is the only organization that represents and has an active interest in officials from all sports in Canada.

Many of you may not know that Sports Officials Canada (SOC) has initiated an individual member program (iMember) which provides an opportunity for you to join over 1500 other officials from across Canada in an officiating club, so to speak. The cost to join SOC as an iMember is ONLY \$10 and as you will see the benefits are fairly significant.

By becoming an iMember you will receive many benefits, including saving money on hotels, car rentals etc. But more importantly you become part of a

movement and an organization that promotes sports officials in Canada and throughout the world. Almost all of the National Sport Organizations, such as Athletics Canada have joined as voting members, in fact Athletics has two members on the Board of Directors (David Weicker and Jane Edstrom).

SOC has also recently announced a new and significant benefit for SOC iMembers. SOC has facilitated an excellent Liability and Accident Insurance Program for iMembers with SUTTON SPORTSCOVER Ltd through Pearson Dunn Insurance. The program is totally optional and iMembers may sign up for the coverage at any time. The total premium is just \$16 for a full year of worldwide coverage. SOC has added a second iMember category so officials can choose the Basic Membership at \$10 or the Enhanced Membership at \$26.

Highlights of the coverage include \$5,000,000 General Liability, Participant Liability, Voluntary Medical, Physio, Funeral, Loss of Income, Medical and much more. Additional Travel and Medical is also available through the policy.

Check out how to join SOC as an iMember at www.SportsOfficials.ca

A Reminder to Officials

Please be sure you keep your meet record cards up to date and signed. Photocopies or the original cards must accompany your NOC upgrading application request. The next deadline date for upgrade application requests is March 31, 2009. Please forward your submission to your Branch Officials Chair at least two weeks before this deadline date.

In Memoriam - Merlin Johnson - Alberta

July 9, 1949 - December 31, 2008

Merlin started officiating in 1992, and quickly was able to organize the finish line judges and timers. As a club officials' coordinator for Track West, he worked with the other club officials' coordinators in order to staff the Calgary meets. He became the Southern Alberta Officials' Coordinator. He achieved his level 3 in Umpire in the spring of 1998 after working as the Chief Umpire during the 1997 World Police and Fire Games in Calgary. Shortly afterwards, he became interested in the position of Starter's Assistant. At the time, there were no level 3 Starter's Assistants in the province, and both evaluations needed to be out of province. In the fall of 2006, he became a Starter's Assistant level 4, and this

last fall became a Starter level 4. He officiated as many high level meets, including the IAAF World Championships and the World Master's Games. He was a fixture at not only the Calgary meets, but the Rocky Mountain Relays in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. Merlin's legacy of training people for the start line area lives on. What he has taught us at the start area is practised at our provincial meets. His enthusiasm and presence will be sadly missed.

(Ian Gordon)

Contact NOC Members

Email any questions, comments or feedback to:

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