

# BCA Officials Committee Report 2006

## *Officials Committee's Activities in 2006*

The role of the Committee within the BC Athletics community is described in its Mission Statement:

...”to ensure that all Athletics competitions are conducted in a fair, equitable and safe manner in accordance with rules set by the IAAF. The Committee takes a leading role in officials’ recruitment and training, and advises the Provincial Sport Organization on policies and technical standards for competition.”

The Committee met 6 times in 2006 to report on progress and discuss issues. Committee members worked steadily through the year, as part of 2 groups (sub-committees)

- Assignments and up-grading (April Arsene, Carol Cull, Kathy Terlicher, Sanda Turner, Alice Kubek)
- Recruitment and Education (Sue Kydd, Jackie Barrington, Karen Davidson, Ina Wallace)

The Committee Chair provided general leadership for Committee members, organized meetings, and took a leading role in building strong cooperative relationships with our partners:

- BC Athletics staff and CEO
- BC Athletics Technical Committee
- BC Athletics member Clubs
- National Officials Committee
- Event host committees

The 3 Zone representatives (Alice Kubek, Alwilda van Ryswyk, Carol Cull) worked with the Assignments and Upgrading committee to provide effective support for events in their respective regions, and obtain opportunities for mentoring and evaluation for their local officials. Shirley Young managed the Awards, and Incentives program for the Committee. All Committee members were active as Technical Officials, and provided “leadership by example”, participating in an awesome number of events.

We all thank departing members Karen Davidson and Ina Wallace for their work on the Committee in 2005 and 2006.

Our activities in the principal areas of responsibility are listed below:

### Competitions (Assignments, mentoring and upgrading)

The Assignments and Upgrading Sub-Committee provided leadership in development of officiating teams for 33 individual events in 2006, 25 of which

were in the Lower Mainland. Officials were also encouraged to volunteer their time and expertise to work at twilight and School District events in their own or neighboring districts. The exact number of events served is unknown. The sub-Committee provided opportunities for BC officials to travel to meets inside and outside the Province for mentoring. Re-development of facilities in Victoria and Kamloops led to two “wandering Championships”. Last minute changes of venue increased the complexity of providing support for the BC Combined Event Championships and the BCJD Pentathlon Championships. Kamloops officials traveled to the Lower Mainland for competitions while their own Stadium was closed. Some key activities:

- Provided a high level of support for BC Championships, providing qualified officials for National Championships, all BC Age Class Championships, and BC Combined Event Championships.
- Provided officials teams for important non-stadium events, including Cross Country Championships, the Sun Run, and Timex 10k series
- Sent 3 Officials to Indoor Meets in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, using BC Athletics funds (Jackie Barrington, Darren Blois and Dave Hopkins)
- Sent 2 officials to Canadian Junior Track and Field Championships in Sherbrooke, Quebec using BC Athletics funds (Steve Martin and Michele Peacock)
- Provided officials for the BC High School Combined Events Championships (first invitation)

BC Athletics can be very proud of its hardworking Technical Officials. They braved torrential rains, biting winds and relentless heat during this very long competition season. They acted as ambassadors for the sport and for BC Athletics by volunteering at meets at all levels. Gratitude and praise for their expertise and excellent efforts has been received from both local and national individuals and groups. Officials’ membership in BC now stands at between 100 and 150 (depending on the definition used). Twenty-seven officials were upgraded during the year (see attached list).

### **Issues to consider**

There are challenges that lie ahead. The Committee will need strong support from its partners to develop teams for large scale meets in coming years. Each of these meets will require “all-star” teams, drawing in officials from the entire Province.

- The Canadian Junior Championships in Abbotsford, 2007 and 2008.
- Pacific Cup Series
- The World Police and Fire Games in Burnaby in 2009.

The BCA Officials budget will be used to cover travel expenses for officials participating in the National Juniors Championship. This is a relatively large bill, and will affect our ability to support other meets in the Province.

The Committee scales its support, depending on the status of each competition, but attempts to provide officials for **all sanctioned events**. The list of events continues to expand, and some schedule conflicts are inevitable. School sports

organizations are once again looking to BCA officials for assistance at the local and Provincial level. Increased awareness of our role in supporting Athletics is a great benefit to the sport organization, but it also means that requests for our services will continue to grow. We are grateful for the recognition, but are also aware of a need to draw more volunteers into our ranks.

### Recruitment and Education

The Recruitment and Education sub-committee focused on building the base level of officiating; a major effort to encourage new people to become officials. Many Level I and Level 2 workshops, as well as clinics, have been offered in the Interior and the Lower Mainland. The workshop presenters for the Level I and Level II courses were: John Cull, Carol Cull, Jackie Barrington, Sanda Turner, Kathy Terlicher, Sue Kydd, and Alwilda Van Ryswyk. One additional Level 2 workshop is scheduled for November 25 in Vancouver. The following BC Athletics officials presented higher level clinics in 2006—Dale Loewen, Iain Fisher, Kathy Terlicher, John Cull. Some highlights:

- Revised the Level 1 workshop package
- Trained new Level 1 trainers
- Presented 7 Level 1 Workshops in the Lower Mainland to recruit and train beginner officials
- Presented 1 Level 1 Workshop in Kelowna
- Presented a series of Junior Officials training sessions in Burnaby
- Developed a new Level 2 workshop package using Powerpoint
- Presented 1 Level 2 workshop in Surrey
- Presented 1 Level 2 workshop in Kamloops
- Presented 3 Provincial Workshops in Abbotsford (Starters, Starters Assistants, Umpires)
- Presented a National Horizontal Jumps Workshop in Kamloops

### **Statistics for the 2006 workshops/clinics**

Level I (8 workshops)  
79 participants

Level II (2 workshops)  
14 participants

Junior Officials  
49 participants

Provincial Officials Workshops  
29 participants

The sub-Committee developed a successful strategy to promote officiating through Club contacts. The basic tools used in the campaign are the 3 Bs- brochures, boards and the Bulletin. A key element in the strategy was publication of a new “Volunteer to be an Official” brochure. Committee members distributed brochures through running stores, recreation centres, in meet director packages, and at events. Additional brochures will be available at the AGM and will be included in next year’s official’s package. The committee designed and developed 2 A-frame free standing **signboards** and placed them in high visibility positions at various meets in the lower mainland and the Interior. We used the **BC Athletics Bulletin** to keep members aware of the workshops and clinics.

One Committee member coordinated publicity, and managed registrations. The bottom-line result is **33 new volunteer officials** participating in events in the Lower Mainland in 2006.

### **Issues to consider**

The Sub-Committee found that recruitment is time intensive. New recruits require extensive and consistent “follow-up” and encouragement. The campaign to build the base will require efforts from all officials in the Province. Senior officials especially are encouraged to recruit and promote volunteerism. Some of the results of the campaign are elusive.

- not all people who register end up attending workshops
- difficult to monitor whether people who attend workshops continue to be active members
- many people who attend workshops belong to clubs and do not volunteer outside of their club level
- recruitment of new officials seems to concentrate in the lower mainland and expansion is needed in other areas of the province

Vancouver Island Athletic Association Clubs are pursuing a development strategy for officials based entirely on informal mentoring. This may have improved the knowledge and skills of local volunteers; it has not, as yet, produced any certified officials. The new training packages for Level 1 and 2 include expanded content regarding “Non-Stadium” events. This has had the favorable result of improving knowledge of Road Racing and Cross-Country among our new officials. However, BCA Road Racing Clubs have not, as yet, shown any interest in training and certifying officials.

### Communication and Liaison

The Committee relies almost exclusively on electronic communications to stay in touch with the membership. Like other Divisions of BC Athletics (and most other organizations) we use a combination of Web documents and e-mail. Regional coordinators and officials managers attempt to reduce their telephoning load by sending updates and information by e-mail whenever possible. The Committee aspired to develop its own electronic newsletter in 2006, but abandoned the idea, in favor of streaming items through the BC Athletics Bulletin. The BCA Board agreed with our request to include the 2006-2007 IAAF Technical Competition Rules as a membership benefit in 2006. The multi-level incentive program has become too complex, and requires revision.

- Clarified policies and procedures for re-imbusement of officials expenses (see Resolutions)
- Developed and distributed an officials information package for members
- Ordered and distributed Rule books to eligible members
- Placed informative and promotional items in many editions of the BC Athletics Bulletin (thanks to Sue Kydd)
- Began re-development of the BCA Officials web page; renovated key areas, and posted Committee minutes
- Participated in many meetings and events with our partners

## Issues to consider

The Chair and the Assignments sub-committee worked closely with the Meet Director of the BC Seniors Games in 2006. This has not been the case with BC Games generally. In many recent Games we have failed to maximize opportunities to provide mentoring and training for the local officials.

### Technical Standards and procedures for Competitions

The BC Athletics Technical Committee is a sub-Committee of the Officials Committee. The Committee is very grateful to Peter Fejfar for his excellent work in reviewing stadia, and training new Technical Managers. Some notable achievements in 2006:

- Technical review of 3 stadia (South Surrey, Kamloops and Kelowna) in process.
- Updated information for Meet Organizers on Technical preparation for competitions (see Officials Web page).
- Developed standard follow-up letters for documentation of progress in improvements to stadia
- Developed a feedback process for improvement of events

Committee members developed a feedback process, to gather comments from Officials and submit suggestions in a report to event organizers and BCA staff. The process was used effectively, but sporadically, in the Lower Mainland. Reports were mostly well received, but the process is time consuming, and tends to fall apart in “high season”. The points below are the most frequently mentioned highlights (and lowlights) from the 2006 season.

#### On the positive side of the report card

- Hosting for officials and volunteers is generally good (4 stars)
  - meets provided meals and beverages (lots of water)
  - provided souvenirs and draw prizes
  - some meets hosted a social event or an evening meal
- Technical preparation has improved in most cases (3 stars)
  - Clubs have purchased equipment for implement certification, and have trained volunteers or officials. Certification is much more consistently done
  - Wind gauges are used consistently (Midgets and older)
  - Timely technical preparation (availability of equipment & start lists prior to 1st event) is inconsistent.

#### On the less positive side

- Crowd control (1 star)
  - Spectator and coaching areas need to be clearly defined and enforced
- Throwing implements (0 stars)
  - frequent failure to provide legal age class throwing implements
- Inappropriate schedules (2 stars)
  - too many field event athletes for the time slot
- Volunteers (Technical Aides) (1 star)

- Some meets consistently schedule reliable volunteers for full days. Cheers for Langley Mustangs and Coquitlam Cheetahs. In other situations officials re-organize teams for every single event. Clubs should scale the meet according to the level of volunteers they can provide.
- Track umpiring (1 star)  
Too many Club level meets have NO UMPIRING AT ALL.

## ***The Committee's Objectives for 2007***

The items below are highlights:

### *Competitions (Assignments, mentoring and upgrading)*

Organizers of the Legion Championships in 2006 were successful in mobilizing volunteers and officials from a wide range of Clubs in the Lower Mainland. Adopting a "regional" approach for National Juniors Championships in 2007 will also lead to success. The sub-committee's priorities in 2007 will include securing suitable opportunities for mentoring for BC officials both inside and outside the Province.

- Review priority lists for travel outside the Province
- Liaison with NOC members and Officials coordinator for Western Canada Summer Games
- Maximize opportunities for mentoring Provincial level officials at BC Games (Seniors Games and Disability Games)
- Maximize opportunities for mentoring BC officials at the National Juniors Championships

The Sub-Committee will face several challenges in scheduling, requiring good communication with Zone representatives, and creative use of funds:

- Conflicting meets, e.g. Kamloops Centennial and South Fraser Junior Olympics
- Development of officials teams for Indoor meets in Kamloops

### *Recruitment and Training*

The Committee will continue a pro-active approach to recruitment of beginner officials. We will contact as many member Clubs as possible, extending an offer to present introductory Level 1 workshops. We intend to strengthen our support for beginner officials, using the funds provided to the Committee to increase their opportunities for meet participation within the Province. Some other specific objectives for recruitment:

- Extend the "3 B" strategy to other areas of the Province, especially the Interior and Vancouver Island
- Continue to use one Committee member as registrar and publicity coordinator
- Purchase another sign to be used at events on Vancouver Island.
- Find ways to activate all Senior officials as recruiters

- Include copies of “Volunteer to be an Official” in Officials information packages in 2007 for distribution to new prospects.
- Continue to offer Provincial clinics as a “before” session at late starting meets
- Establish contact with retired groups as possible source of new officials, i.e. retired teachers. Place items in Newsletters.

Advanced training opportunities will include:

- National Technical Workshops in 2-4 disciplines (At National Juniors?)
- National Mentors training
- National Clinicians training

Development of a Meet Directors Manual (Race Directors Manual) and related training courses is a worthwhile objective, but more than the Committee can take on in the coming year.

### Communication and Liaison

Some key areas for the Committee’s attention in 2007 include:

- Improved communication with hosts of the various BC Games for 2007-2008; specifically, selection of officials coordinators
- Distribution of an information package for BC officials early in the season
- Web development, expansion of the selection of technical materials
- Deliver important information to officials through the BC Athletics Bulletin
- Review and revise the incentive program for 2007, produce a simpler program which is easier to manage

### Technical Standards and Procedures for Competitions

The BC Athletics Technical Committee will continue to work with Host Organizing Committees to improve safety and technical standards at sanctioned meets.

- Complete technical review of 3 stadia (South Surrey, Kamloops and Kelowna)
- Use the feedback process consistently in all zones in the Province

John Cull  
Branch Chair

## Assignments - 2006

Carol Cull

### **Meets during the 2006 Season where BC Athletics Officials' help was requested:**

Jan. 29	Icebreaker 8km
Feb. 19	PRR Half Marathon
Apr. 8	SFU Open
Apr. 12	Kajaks High School Meet
Apr. 23	Sun Run
May 3	Achilles Cup
May 6	Valley Royals High School Open
May 7	Vancouver International Race Walk
May 13 – 14	Dogwood
May 13 – 14	Eagle Classic
May 19 – 21	South Fraser Junior Olympics and High School
May 26 – 27	BC High Schools Combined Events
June 2-3	BC High Schools Track and Field Championships
June 4	LaFarge Abbotsford International (PC #1) BC/Cdn 10km Champ.
June 6	Kajaks International Track Classic (PC #2)
June 8	Pacific World Cup (PC #3)
June 10 – 11	Jesse Bent Memorial Track and Field Meet
June 11	Victoria International (PC #4)
June 16 – 18	Langley Pacific Invitational / BC Masters Championships
June 24	BCJD Pentathlon
June 29	Thunderbird Track and Field Meet
June 30 – July 2	Jack Brow
July 1 – 2	BC Combined Events Championships
July 8 – 9	Trevor Craven Memorial Track and Field Meet / BC Jnr. Champ.
July 15 – 16	BC Senior & Juvenile Championships
July 21 – 23	BCJD Championships
July 28 – 30	BC Summer Games
August 10	Ocean Athletics Track and Field Meet
August 12 – 13	Royal Canadian Legion Championships
August 14 – 17	Maccabi Games
August 24 – 26	BC Seniors Games
Oct 21	BC Cross Country Championships
Dec 2	Canadian Cross Country Championships
Tues. nights	Hershey Harriers Series

Officials also volunteered their time and expertise to work at Elementary and High School Meets within their own or neighboring districts.

## **Upgrades for 2006**

### **Level 1**

Allain McCallum	January
Randy Stuart	June
Gary Tayler	June
Daryl Palmer	June
Jeff Byington	June
Dave Short	June
Judy MacDonald	July
Bill Koch	July
Jo-Ann Dykstra	July
Craig Benson	July
Greg Clark	September

### **Level 2**

Helen Jaques	November (2005)
Mark Lillicrap	June
Sandra Herd	September
Lila Griffith	September
Daryl Palmer	September

### **Level 3**

Neil Chin Aleong	Starter	January
Wally Smeaton	Umpire	September
Kathy Terlicher	Racewalk	September
Jackie Barrington	Starters Assistant	September

### **Provincial List**

John Cull	Jury	March
Fiona Clarke	Jury	March
Gary Johnston	Announcer	July

### **Level 4**

Darren Blois	Starter	October
Steve Martin	Throws	October
April Arsene	Umpire	October

### **Level 5**

Dave Hopkins	Umpire	April
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## Officials Membership status 2006

The table below represents Club affiliation of BC Athletics members who indicate on their registration form that they are Officials. A substantial number of these (10-15?) are “imaginary” Officials, in that they have never applied for any form of certification, and are not known to have participated in sanctioned events. The ones listed as “Unknown membership status” are certified Officials who are known to participate in sanctioned events, but are either

- Not current members of BC Athletics or
- BCA members in some other category (who have not ticked the right box)

The best guess at numbers of active “real” officials in BC is **about 100**.

Club affiliation	Officials members
Achilles	1
Alberni Valley	1
Burnaby Striders	1
Chilliwack Track and Field	2
Coquitlam Cheetahs	2
Hershey Harriers	2
Kajaks	1
Kamloops Track and Field	14
Kelowna Track and Field	2
Langley Mustangs	2
Nanaimo and District	2
Nor'Westers	8
Ocean Athletics	1
Peninsula Track and Field	2
Prairie Inn Harriers	2
Prince George Track and Field	3
Semiahmoo Sun Runners	1
South Fraser Track and Field	2
Unattached	35
Universal	1
Valley Royals	7
Vancouver Thunderbirds	2
Victoria Track and Field	6
Unknown membership status	14
Total	114

JNC  
October 28, 2006