
Neal Currie

1. Up to 5 initiatives undertaken in 2014 that relate to the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan objectives.

-Working with Coaching Education Coordinator, Jennifer Schutz, to improve availability of coach education.

-Working with schools to promote Track & Field within school sports

-Communication of RJT opportunities to elementary schools

2. Outcomes of the initiatives

-At least 5 coaches from Zones 7-8 attended coach education courses in 2014: 4 club coach and 1 sport coach in Nanaimo, 3 in Kamloops for club coach, and 1 in Kamloops for NACAC U-23 Mentorship.

-Two Zone 7-8 coaches were trained as sport coach educators in September 2014. Once certified, these coaches will be able to offer sport coach training – specifically with Northern communities in mind.

-School participation in secondary Track & Field is growing in the North. This itself has not resulted in any new clubs, but club participation often follows from school participation. Due to very limited club meets available in the North, school participation and meets are crucial to keep the sport going within Zones 7-8.

-Communication of the RJT opportunities has not seemed to have an impact on participation. Coordinated promotion from Zone Rep and BCA might be helpful.

3. Challenges

-The nature of living in the North carries inherent challenges which cannot be eliminated. Cold weather and limited facility access leads to later start-up and a shorter season. Challenges that can be worked on include quality and education of coaches, increased participation and more Northern meets.

4. Recommendations

-Try to grow the number of communities with school coaches, and help improve the quality of the current ones. This will naturally result in improved participation and possibly translate into more communities with active clubs.

5. 2014 highlights and success stories

-Several individual athletes found success at varying meets including BC Highschools, Jamboree, BC Summer Games, Canadian Juniors, World Juniors, Legion Youth Nationals, and BC Cross Country.

-Having the Legion Youth Nationals within BC the last 2 years, and the Canadian Cross Country within BC the last 4 years has been a great opportunity for several Zone 7-8 athletes to attend a National Championship they otherwise wouldn't have attended.

6. A list of up to 5 initiatives for 2015 relating to the Strategic Plan objectives

-Continue promoting coaching education, and work with Jennifer Schutz to coordinate and improve coaching education opportunities in the North.

-Continue and improve promotion of BC Summer Games for age-appropriate athletes. Athletes who attend BC Summer Games tend to continue in the sport for at least 2 more years, and if an athlete attends the Summer Games for a different sport they may be lost to Athletics.