

Dale Loewen

2014 BC Summer Games took place in Nanaimo, July 17-20. The athletics competition was a success mainly because of the many dedicated volunteers who together managed, organized, coached and officiated and the athletes who participated so well. We especially extend our thanks to Allen Johnston and Tyler Heisterman for their leadership as Sport Chairs and the Nanaimo Track and Field Club for their extensive support in making the 2014 Athletics competition a great success.

The 2016 BC Summer Games will take place in Abbotsford at the Jane & Gerry Swan Track, July 21-24, 2016 hosted by the Valley Royals Track and Field Club.

## **ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT**

BC Summer Games age for Athletics is 14-15. This is the first opportunity for an athlete to be chosen as part of a Provincial Team and travel to a competition outside their community to represent their regional zone. Athletes are provided a championship competition which includes all events allowed for the Midget age category. Special Olympics has been integrated fully into the Athletics competition.

The assessment for athlete participation by the BC Summer Games is in two areas:

- Numbers of zones and/or numbers of zones with 50% or more of the maximum allocation.
- Meeting gender percentage outlined in the Technical Package.

The assessment was fully satisfactory based on:

- Athletes were brought from all eight zones.
- 94% of the maximum 288 athlete allocation was utilized.
- The gender split was 52:48 (female:male).

## **COACHING DEVELOPMENT**

The BC Summer Games provides coaches with an opportunity to develop skills and to gain experience to manage and lead a team of athletes who may not be known to them. The BC Games requires that each zone have a Head Coach with level 2 (club coach) certification.

The assessment of coach participation by the BC Summer Games is in three areas:

- Percentage of Head Coaches who meet the NCCP certification requirement for the Games or the sport.
- Each Zone that has athletes at the Games is required to have a registered Head Coach. This criteria looks at the numbers of Head Coaches without looking at the certification of the coaches.
- PSO self-reporting on coaches who move from BC Games to next level of competition.

The assessment was mostly satisfactory based on:

- All zones with athletes had a Head Coach.
- Not all Head Coaches met the certification requirement. Some head coaches had not fully completed level 2.
- Four Assistant Coaches had some form of NCCP training.

Note: Beginning in 2016, the BC Games will require that all coaches have successfully acquired the Make Ethical Decisions course provide by Via Sport.

## **OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT**

Leading up to the Nanaimo Summer Games several workshops and training sessions had been held in the North Island to prepare for the Games. Most of the participants for the training and workshops were from Nanaimo and area north. The majority of the workshop attendees officiated in at least two of the Island meets, towards earning their credits as an official. The 2013 BC Junior Development Track and Field Championships held in Nanaimo was used as a test meet for the BC Summer Games. Forty-one certified officials (23 from Vancouver Island) were in attendance at the BC Summer Games. Fourteen officials were at level P, 1, 3 and 23 were at level 4, 5.

The assessment of official participation by the BC Summer Games is in one area:

- PSO self-reporting on officials who move from BC Games to next level of competition.

The assessment was fully satisfactory based on:

- the required Completion of the officials form and provided some indication of Officials moving from BC Games to higher levels of competition

## **COMPETITION**

The 2014 Nanaimo completion schedule was condensed to 2 full days from the previous 2 ½ days schedule. Scheduling for most BC Summer Games communities becomes difficult when the opening and closing ceremonies are held at the track and field venue. The Nanaimo Organizing Committee required full access and use of the venue on the Sunday of competition. Athletics accommodated by developing a new two day schedule. The BC Games requires the each sport be involved on each of the three days of completion either by providing competition or developmental clinics. If a 2 day schedule is continued, the half day will require the additional panning of clinics.

## **ORGANIZATION CAPACITY**

The BC Summer Games relies on having key personnel in place to effectively complete the BC Summer Games process. Key positions required are the Provincial Sport Advisor and Assistant, Sport Chair, the 8 Zones Reps and the 8 Head Coaches. One of the most difficult tasks we face is attracting enthusiastic and competent people into these positions. We have been very fortunate to have had excellent volunteers but the pool is

shallow. We endeavour to be diligent in succession planning and to find replacements for many of these positions in order to continue.

## **CHALLENGES**

- Mentoring new people to manage and administer the BC Summer Games competition.
- Identifying and strengthening current areas that can be improved in service and program delivery.
- Improving athlete, parent, coach level of knowledge of the rules of the sport.
- Better defining the roles of key personnel.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Start mentoring a Provincial Sport Advisor for the 2016 Abbotsford Summer Games.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of the key personnel.

## **5 INITIATIVES FOR 2015-2016 RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES**

- Work with BC High School Track and Field Association to identify and develop zone coaches and to coordinate zone trials.
- Develop better trial selection processes and administrative processes for the games competition.
- Refine the Games competition schedule for 2016.
- Develop a deeper pool of level 2 coaches willing to participate in the BC Summer Game.
- Improve athlete, parent and coach knowledge of the rules of the Sport.

Dale Loewen, Provincial Sport Advisor