
Graeme Fell

JD Pentathlon Championships

The JD and Midget Pentathlon Championships took place on July 11th in Chilliwack. It was a well run meet with 129 athletes competing: without the midget age group this year. The largest group was the 11 year old females with 26 and the smallest group was the 9 year old females with 5. The previous year saw 190 athletes participate (171 when adjusted for the now removed Midget athletes). This obviously represents a reduction from the previous year, likely a result of the later date that was required. Hopefully this will be reversed when the meet reverts to its usual June time-frame. This was the first time that the event has been hosted on the new Chilliwack track and was very successful, with a “tight” schedule to limit down-time and a low key atmosphere that was very athlete / parent friendly.

JD Championships

The 2015 BCJD Championships were held in July 17th to 19th in Kamloops, BC and hosted by Kamloops Track and Field Club. The weather, was, fortunately, not as hot as anticipated during the first two days due to overcast conditions. Water cannons on the infield, together with access to the indoor arena made it possible athletes and spectators to remain reasonably cool, even when the sun shone on the last day of competition and the temperature reached 37 degrees. The meet had 295 athletes competing, which, while a significant decrease from the 432 that competed in 2014 in Surrey, is comparable to the 300 that competed in Nanaimo in 2013; higher participation always being the norm when the event is hosted in the lower mainland.

Thirty clubs sent athletes to the championships, and there were also unattached members of BCA competing. The championships were well supported by BC Athletics Officials and ran to schedule. Some concern was raised regarding the lack of shade and high temperatures.

JD Cross-Country Championships:

The JD Cross-Country Championships took place in Nanaimo on Sat, Oct 24th in conjunction with the main championships. Overall numbers were down significantly from the previous year; part of the island effect. Breakdown over the past years has been: All / Girls / Boys – 2015: 106/52/54 - 2014: 175 /99 / 76 – 2013: 224 / 116/108 – 2012: 195 / 97 /98. It was noticeable that the number of athletes from private schools was down in the Lower Mainland Cross-Country Series as a result of less schools participating.

JD Awards Banquet and post banquet survey:

The JD Awards Banquet was held at the Croatian Cultural Center on Sunday, Nov 8th, following the BC HS Cross Country Championships the day before. Kyle Nielsen were in attendance to speak as guests of honour. Greg White (BCA Executive Chair) attended the banquet at which se seventy-seven athletes received awards. Sixty-seven of those were able to attend and altogether 193 people attended the luncheon, with an additional 60 attending just the awards part of the event. The JD Committee undertook a post banquet survey to elicit suggestions as to how the event could be improved and options that might be available for hosting of the event.

JD Manual:

The JD Committee undertook a revision of the JD Manual, a lengthy process that was completed just prior to the 2015 track season; the intent being to remove the references to 14 and 15 year olds, that now fall under the Senior Committee, as well as to remove all extraneous information.

Meet Feedback:

The JD Committee began to provide feedback to host clubs of JD meets to help provide positive feedback as well as suggestions for improvement. An example of this is the Jerome Indoor Meet, where suggestions and feedback were provided, resulting in a very positive experience for JD families and improved participation for the meet itself.