

Neal Currie

1. Initiatives in 2015 that relate to the 2013-2016 Strategic Plan objectives.

-Organized a Level 1 / 2 Officials Clinic in Prince George on April 25 – presented by John and Carol Cull.

- 10 people attended
- The results were immediately obvious with higher quality officiating at Sub Zero and Spruce Capital meets (PGTF)
- Two of the participants officiated at Jack Brow
- Two of the participants were willing and interested to present Level 1 workshops in the North, but unfortunately both will be moving out of province

-Have planned a coaching workshop for elementary school teachers on a professional development day (April 2016).

-An attempted coaching workshop was not able to run due to low numbers.

2. Challenges & Recommendations

-Clubs are not active in cross country running. A school team from Zone 7 placed 3rd at the BC High School Cross Country Championships, but none of those runners attended any club races. School teams have access to funding that club teams do not, and the benefit seems insufficient compared to energy and cost of travel to BC XC Championships. Generally, only athletes with the potential to medal will attend.

-The lack of coaching and/or programs available in some communities is causing attrition to other sport, or relocating entirely. Athletes on Zone teams for BC Summer Games have often quit the sport two years later. One family of a very promising athlete decided to have their child move South for improved facility and coaching access.

-The optimal season for training (June-July-August) doesn't align well with the accessible competitions. Coaches / clubs in the area are considering dual meets with limited event offerings. The Hershey Youth Series, if it stays around the end of July, could become a targeted competition for Northern Athletes.

3. 2015 highlights and success stories

-The Skeena River Relay, put on by the Rupert Runners, continues to be a success. This year had 30 teams of 10 runners.

-Some athletes from Zones 7-8 are doing well as Seniors

- Ben Thorne:
 - IAAF World Championship: 3rd 20km RW (CDN Record)
 - FISU: 2nd 20KM RW
- Alyx Treasure:

- Pan Am Games: 7th
- Canadian Championships: 1st
- Regan Yee:
 - FISU: 7th 3000m Steeplechase

-Additionally, both track clubs in the North continue to have younger individual athletes do well provincially and/or nationally.

4. Goals for 2016 relating to the Strategic Plan objectives

-Promote and help interested locals form a BCA affiliated club in Prince Rupert. A long-time school team coach is still active. There is interest from the community, and 2016 Summer Games provides an affordable “major” competition for the Midget athletes, which hopefully could help a new club gain traction.

-Try to have a Sport Coach clinic offered in Zone 7 or 8 in the spring of 2016. There is sufficient interest, but scheduling it is a challenge.

-Continue and improve promotion of BC Summer Games for age-appropriate athletes.