
Graeme Fell

JD Pentathlon Championships

The JD and Midget Pentathlon Championships took place on June 21st in Maple Ridge and hosted by Golden Ears Track and Field Club. Good conditions greeted the participants; sunny and calm. Total registered competitors was 169 (90 girls and 79 boys) compared to 156 in 2016. The largest group was 12 year old boys with 31, and 10 year old girls with 25, the smallest group was the 9 year old girls with 9 athletes. Average group size overall was 17 as opposed to 15 in 2016. There was an issue with points system and access to timing software available to make use of the BC JD Pentathlon score tables. Although a manual version was made available to the meet organizers, the issue became apparent so late that there was insufficient time for anyone from the meet to efficiently use the manual version. For this reason a decision was made in consultation with the meet director, timer and JD Chair to use the Alberta tables available in Hytech for the official results. The results were converted manually after the event had concluded so that point tallies were available for both the BC JD Crest and BC JD Awards. A solution to this problem will be needed by next year. Otherwise, the meet ran fairly smoothly despite the high jump events causing some delay and late finishing for one or two competitions. Thanks to the BC Athletics Officials who, as always, did a fantastic job and to Golden Ears and Andrew Lenton for hosting.

JD Championships

2017 BC Junior Development Track and Field Championships - July 21-23, 2017

Hosted by Ocean Athletics Track and Field Club - Meet Director: Maureen de St. Croix

The 2017 BC JD Championships meet was originally scheduled to be hosted by the Okanagan Athletics club, but due to the high level of fire activity and resultant decreased air quality, the difficult decision was made by Okanagan Athletics in a meeting with Karen Hatch, Pat Sima-Ledding, Paul Selzer and Teena Russel – Okanagan Athletics, Brian McCalder – CEO BC Athletics, Sabrina Nettey – BC Athletics First Contact, Graeme Fell – JD Committee Chair and Maureen de St. Croix – Ocean Athletics, to move the meet to the Lower Mainland.

Ocean Athletics offered to host the event. Given that Ocean Athletics had hosted the previous year, the club was likely in the best position to take on the event with 8 day lead time and thus the offer was accepted.

Although accommodation proved to be a challenge due to several other athletic events having been moved out of the Interior to Surrey plus an already booked major music festival, the event was still able to attract 401 athletes – down only slightly from the 420 total in 2016.

The move caused a few complaints from some families but in general families and athletes were accepting of the need to move the event and made the appropriate effort to get their children to the event. Athletes already registered before the change were given adequate time to request a full refund of entry fee payment. This was accommodated by Adam Stacey of Trackiereg.

Weather was excellent with slightly cooler temperatures on the Saturday and a warm day Sunday to end the event. Although there are always conflicts that impact the ability of athletes to compete in all of their chosen events, the general expression from participants was that they considered the event successful and that their children enjoyed their experience.

A huge thank you is in order for the BC Athletics Officials who came out in droves to support the event, even though the majority of local officials' season should have been finished the week before with the BC Jamboree event in Coquitlam. A total of 50 BC Athletics officials supported this event. In addition, the support of over 70 Ocean Athletics Volunteers plus a group from the University of British Columbia and Coquitlam Cheetahs

allowed visiting club coaches and families to enjoy supporting their athletes without the need to provide volunteer help at the various events.

Ocean Athletics Track and Field Club was happy to have been able to step in and provide a solution to the potential problem of compromised athlete health due to the Interior fire situation. The support given by the JD parents and clubs around the province for making the effort to make the Championships event work for their athletes was greatly appreciated. We look forward to travelling to Kelowna in 2018 for the BC JD Championships event.

Problems to address:

1. Medley relay – the medley relay (200, 200, 200, 600) is designated as a relay for 11's, 12's and 13's but 9's and 10's have in the past been allowed to run to ensure clubs can field a team. A related decision was made by the JD Committee 2 years ago to allow this to occur also at the Harry Jerome Indoor 4x200 event, recognizing that although the 200m is not a designated event for 9's and 10's, they are capable of running the event and having it as part of a relay is not detrimental to their development. A problem did arise when all 10 year old or mixed 9,10year old teams were entered. The Meet Director made the decision to award the athletes medals in a separate age category but to have their results stripped out of the results as they were in fact an exhibition event. Both Parents and athletes were highly agreeable to this solution. Potential solutions include:

Making it even more clear in the Meet instructions that the Medley is a relay for 11's 12's and 13's only, and allow 9/10's to run on a 11/12/13 team to fill out the team roster. This would require the JD committee to make a decision as whether to allow all 10, or mixed 9/10 teams to compete in the 11 year old category.

Solution 2: design a medley relay team for the 9's and 10's. There are several possibilities within the realm of events allowed for 9's and 10's (50, 50, 100, 600 for example).

2. Problems arose over the awarding of medals to unattached relay teams and composition of medley relays that will be discussed by the JD Committee.

JD Cross-Country Championships:

Took place in Nanaimo as part of the BC Cross-Country Championships. This was the second of the two hosting years. Entries were up substantially from the previous year; 175 competitors verses 106 in 2015. 2014 saw 175 participants. The meet was well organized and ran to schedule. The shuttle service to and from the ferry worked really well. The organizers are congratulated on doing an excellent job. Conditions had been wet in the days preceding the championships and while most of the course did not suffer one area (the downhill close to the finish line) posed problems for some of the JD's many of whom do not race in spikes, something to consider when planning events that cover all ages.

JD Awards Banquet:

The JD Awards Banquet is scheduled for Oct 29th with the venue the Riverside Banquet Hall in Richmond. This is the second year that the event has been held at this venue following concerns over the cost and quality of food at the previous location. The 2016 awards banquet was well received as the food was of a higher quality, the cost was lower and the venue was more attractive and with ample parking. In 2016 82 athletes qualified for awards with 180 people attending for both the banquet and awards and 73 attending for the awards only. This year 73 athletes will be honoured.

Athlete and Parent Handbook:

The JD Committee undertook the creation of an athlete and parent handbook. This was sent to the BC Athletics office for review. It was sent back to the JD Committee with a number of changes and additions and has not yet been reviewed by the committee.