

BCA Zone 6 Director's Report (2019-09, AGM)

(Darren Willis, August 19 2019)

Athlete Development

Sport/Performance Development

Schools

- **New/Resurrected Programs:** The 2019 Track & Field season saw the resumption of two secondary school programs on North Vancouver Island (Ucluelet Secondary, Gold River Secondary School) and the addition of two new ones (Aspengrove School in Lantzville, Phil & Jennie Gaglardi Academy in Comox).

Clubs

- Vancouver Island clubs Junior Development programs were relatively stable in 2019.
- Five Vancouver Island Athletics Association Series meets were hosted this year.

First Nations

- USMA (<https://nuuchahnulth.org/services/usma>), the Nuu-chah-nulth Family & Child Services program arranged for a two-day Run-Jump-Throw-Wheel camp for over 20 kids in March. Coaching support was provided by the Alberni Valley Track Club. USMA was pleased enough with the outcome that it arranged another full-day of introductory Track & Field, hosted by the Alberni Valley Track Club in early May. That event also had over 20 First Nations youth participating.
- ISPARC (<https://isparc.ca>), the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council supported two days of Track & Field introduction and preparation for athletes participating in the August Tlupiih Games. The Games are a multi-sport event hosted by the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, representing/servicing 14 West Coast Vancouver Island First Nations. The Track & Field clinics were attended by about 15 athletes from remotely located First Nations (the Ditidaht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations).
- 2019 Tlupiih Games Track Meet (August 6-7). The Alberni Valley Track Club/Alberni District Secondary School Track & Field lent technical and volunteer support to the 2-day track meet that was a part of the games. About 300 athletes from as young as 6 years old to over 70 years old competed in Sprint, Middle Distance and Relay events.

Technical Leadership

Coaches

- Attempting to provide more consistent access to courses in smaller and/or more isolated communities in our Zone course offerings in the north part of the Zone will be alternating each year between Powell River (isolated from the rest of the Zone by ferry) and another north Vancouver Island community.
- There is hope that the clarification and transparency associated with the cost of bringing Facilitators in to train small groups will encourage smaller communities to educate more coaches in coming years. Travel is often a restriction and the option to pay more to bring someone into the community is helpful.
- The 2019 Fall schedule of Sport and Club coach offerings on Vancouver Island is good. The hosting clubs have been reaching out in an effort to market each offering so we hope attendance will be strong.

Competition

Clubs

- Vancouver Island Athletics Association clubs hosted five meets during the 2019 season (Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria, Duncan, Courtenay/Comox).
- The final meet in the series (Comox Solstice) was not able to offer photo-electric timing due to a lack of depth at key technical meet management positions on Vancouver Island.

Schools:

- Victoria secondary schools ran a three meet Lower Vancouver Island School Sports Track & Field League.
- There were three meets (North Island Championships, Mid-Island Championships, Lower Island Championships) held to qualify/make eligible athletes for the Vancouver Island Championship meet.
- The Vancouver Island High School Championships meet (and zone qualifier for the BC High School Champs) was held in Victoria at the University of Victoria's Centennial Stadium after a year hosted in the north part of the Zone.

Facilities

- The Alberni Valley Track Club was forced to host its Bob Dailey meet in the midst of a construction zone as a large irrigation project by the City of Port Alberni ran long over time. Open trenches required many areas inside the stadium to be fenced off and/or flagged.

- The Nanaimo Track & Field Club was forced to undertake track repairs and mitigation work when tree roots pushed up to make the running oval unsafe. Repairs were made in a timely fashion and didn't prevent the hosting of the Elwood Wylie meet.

Officials

- BC Athletics officials support was, as always, very strong for both the VIAA Island Series of meets and for school events.
- A lack of depth in more technical areas of meet management did leave one of the Island series meets (Comox Solstice) without electronic/photo-finish timing and the North Island High School Championships in Powell River uncertain if Meet Management software would be available and useable until the last moment.
- Vancouver Island Clubs are concerned at a lack of depth in some crucial areas of meet management in coming years. Some key people will likely to be scaling back their involvement in the sport as their children age out of local participation. Finding replacements has been difficult.