



BC Athletics AGM Track and Field Report – August 21, 2021

Program Manager – Track & Field

Megann VanderVliet, BC Athletics Program Manager - Track & Field

As per BC Athletics Strategic Plan, the Program Manager's report is framed within the four Pillars of Technical Leadership, Athlete Development, Competition, and Organization Capacity.

I assumed the Program Manager, Track and Field role February 23, 2021. Much of the first six months in role was focused on navigating and responding to COVID-19 and communicating shifting Provincial Health Order to member Clubs, athletes, coaches and officials. In July 2021, we were able to return to sport with full competitions and spectators at all events.

PILLAR: TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP

Track & Field Committee

There are vacant committee positions for which the Program Manager is working with the Chair of the Track & Field Committee to fill.

Current Committee:

1. Tyler Heisterman (Board Liaison)
2. Tara Self (Chair - Sprints/Hurdles)
3. Nicholas Ayin (Male Athlete Rep - Sprints/Hurdles)
4. Jessica Smith (Female Athlete Rep - Middle Distance)
5. Laurie Willett (Throws)
6. Sheldon Gmitroksi (Throws)
7. Ana Karanovic (Para)
8. Pat Sima-Ledding (Combined Events)
9. Barb Vida (Combined Events)
10. Open (Middle Distance)
11. Open (Middle Distance)
12. Open (Jumps)
13. Open (Jumps)

In April 2021, Elena Voloshin stepped down from the Track and Field Committee. We would like to thank you for her years of service to the Committee.



PILLAR: ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

1. COVID-19 Response:

1. COVID-19 presented many challenges to the 2020/2021 Track and Field Program. The shifting provincial health orders required our Clubs, athletes, coaches and officials to remain agile and adapt to the restrictions on short notice.
2. The most significant restrictions occurred between May-June 2021, when travel restrictions within BC were mandated.
3. This posed significant challenges to our high performance athletes seeking competitions for Olympic and Paralympic qualifications. Only Sport Canada carded athletes were permitted to travel for the purpose of sport. This had a significant impact to the Athletics Canada Tokyo Qualifier series which included BC competitions, the Harry Jerome Track Classic and Victoria Track Classic.
4. Travel into BC for the purpose of sport was restricted between November 2020-July 1, 2021.
5. June 15, 2021 we saw an easing of restrictions that allowed for travel within BC and for Clubs to host competitions for all athletes. Many Clubs still chose to host competitions for their member athletes only or inviting 1-2 other Clubs.
6. We continue to review guidance about COVID-19 from viaSport to inform all health and safety recommendations we communicate to our members.

2. NATIONAL TEAMS

1. 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Team

1. 2020 Olympic Games

- Despite the restrictions and uncertainty, we had several BC athletes obtain Olympic standard or qualify for Tokyo based on World Ranking points.
- **18** BC Athletics athletes were named to the 2020 Olympic Team (**32%** of Athletics Canada Team)
- **WOMEN:**
 - Camryn Rogers (Hammer Throw) – 5th
 - Georgia Ellenwood (Heptathlon) – 20th
 - Christabel Nettey (Long Jump) – 22nd
 - Alycia Butterworth (3000mSC) -23rd
 - Elizabeth Gleadle (Javelin) – 23rd
 - Regan Yee (3000m SC) – 29th
 - Natalia Hawthorn (1500m) – 31st
 - Lindsey Butterworth (800m) – 32nd
 - Malindi Elmore (marathon) - TBA
 - Natasha Wodak (marathon) - TBA
 - Dayna Pidhoresky (marathon) – TBA



MEN:

- Jerome Blake (4X100m) – Bronze Medal
- Evan Dunfee (50km RW) – Bronze Medal
- Michael Mason (High Jump) – 14th
- John Gay (3000mSC) – 15th
- Lucas Bruchet (5000m) – 27th
- Cameron Levins (marathon) - TBA
- Ben Preisner (marathon) – TBA

2. 2020 Paralympic Games

- **4** BC Athletics athletes were named to the 2020 Paralympic Team (25% of the team Canadian Team)
 - Nathan Riech (T38 1500m)
 - Liam Stanley (T37 1500m)
 - Greg Stewart (F46 Shot Put)
 - Thomas Normandeau (T47 400m)

3. U20 World Championship Team (Nairobi, Kenya)

- **5** BC Athletics athletes were named to the 2021 U20 World Championship Team (33% of the Canadian Team)
 - Matti Erickson (800m)
 - Aidan Grout (High Jump)
 - Ethan Katzberg (Hammer Throw)
 - Eniko Sara (Javelin)
 - Dylan Uhrich (3000mSC)

4. 2021 World Athletics Relay Championships – Canada pulled out of Championship

- Jerome Blake
- Nathan George

5. Pam Am Race Walking Cup – Canada pulled out of competition

- Alger Liang
- Tyler Wilson

3. 2020/2021 BC Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

- **38 Athletes** awarded for a total investment of **\$45,500** in February 2021.
- Upcoming Important Dates:
 - **Application Deadline:** Nov 1, 2021
 - **BC Athletes Assistance Program (AAP) Athletes Identified:** February 2022
 - **Circulation of Funding:** February 2022
- **2021/22 AAP Criteria**
 - Draft Criteria sent to Track & Field Committee for review and approval.



4. 2020/2021 BC Athletics High Performance Targeted Athlete Program

- **224 athletes** have been nominated under this program in 2020/2021 and receive access to targeted programming with BC Athletics (ex. BC Throws Project, BC Sprint/Hurdle Project, BC Endurance Project) in addition to the support received through Canadian Sport Institute.
- For much of the COVID-19 pandemic athletes who were identified on the CSI-P high performance list were eligible for training and competition exemptions under the Provincial Health Order.
- In May 2021, CSI-Pacific approved the adjustment of our performance standards in consideration of the lack of competitive opportunities in 2020. This allowed more athletes to apply for the High Performance Targeted Athlete Program, allowing them to compete in high performance competitions in BC.
- [Current High Performance Program Criteria](#)
- Athletes were added to the program as they achieved the performance standard throughout the 2021 season.

Tier	2019/2020	2020/2021
Provincial Dev Level 2	98	102
Provincial Dev Level 1	64	78
Canadian Dev	25	20
Canadian Elite	21	24
Total	209	224

5. BC Throws Project

- **Project Leadership:** Garrett Collier, Sheldan Gmitroski, Laurie Willett, Dylan Armstrong & BCA Staff
- **Funding:** Through Enhanced Excellence BC Athletics has received \$15,000.00 in funding to support this project.
- **2020 Activations:**
 - **2020 BC Throws Project Development Camp; Sept 25-27, 2020; Kamloops, BC**
 - (i) **23** Targeted athletes & Coaches were supported with travel grants
 - (ii) **38** Athletes & Coaches Attended
 - **2020 BC Throws Summit; Nov 7,8,10,12 2020 – Virtual Summit**
 - (i) **60** attendees – virtual format allowed for a global audience
 - (ii) **4** Expert Coaches (Don Babbitt – University of Georgia, Boris Obergföll – German Athletic Federation, Ryan Whiting – Desert High Performance, Ashley Kovacs – The Ohio State University)
- **2021 Activations:**
 - **2021 BC Throws Project Development Camp; Sept 17-19, 2021; Kamloops, BC**
 - **2021 BC Throws Summit; Nov 5-9, 2021; Virtual Summit**

6. BC Sprint / Jumps Project

- Project Leadership: Laurier Primeau, Tara Self, & BCA Staff



- BC Athletics Funding: Through Enhanced Excellence BCA has received \$15,000.00 in funding to support this project.
- **Activations:**
 - This project has been on hold through 2020/2021.

7. 2021 BC Team Program

- Olympic and Paralympic Trials BC Team was comprised of **26 athletes and 3 coaches**.
- Entries into the 2021 Trials were by invitation only – all BC athletes who accepted their invitation were supported by BC Athletics.
- [Team Performance Analysis](#)
- No other BC Teams in 2021 – as all other Championships and Games were cancelled or postponed.

8. Additional Athlete Support

- **2021 Harry Jerome Scholarship**
 - Harry Jerome Scholarship (\$1250 X 3) was awarded to **3 high school graduating athletes** in June 2021.
 - Award recipients:
 - Matti Erickson (Kootenay Chaos)
 - Ella Foster (Royal City)
 - Olivia Lundman (Nanaimo Track and Field Club)

PILLAR: COMPETITION

1. 2021 Pacific Distance Carnival & Canadian 10,000m Championships

- BC Athletics + BC Endurance Project hosted the 2021 Hertz Pacific Distance Carnival and Canadian 10,000m Championships on **June 18, 2021** at Swangard Stadium.
- **102 entries** (200m, 800m, 1500m, 5000m, 5000m RW, 10000m)
- First event that was permitted to include athletes from all Clubs and all regions of the province under the provincial health order.
- Spectators were not permitted in the stadium.
- **10,000m National Champions: Malindi Elmore & Lucas Bruchet**
- Evan Dunfee set a new Canadian Record in the 5000m Race Walk (18:39.08)
- Event was live streamed with over 3300 views.

2. 2021 BC Event Group Challenges

- 4 Event Group Challenges were hosted in lieu of the Provincial Championship Jamboree.
 - Combined Events – Okanagan Athletic Club **(11 athletes)**
 - Jumps, Sprints, Wheelchair – Langley Mustangs **(331 athletes)**
 - Endurance - Prairie Inn Harriers **(185 athletes)**
 - Throws – Kamloops Track and Field Club **(40 athletes)**



3. 2021 Calendar of Events

- **2021 Key Dates:**

- **Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Trials** – June 24 – 27, 2021 – Montreal, QC – invitation only (U20 National Championships cancelled)
- **BC Track & Field Championships Jamboree** – July 9-11, 2021 – Prince George, BC – **cancelled**
- **BC Event Challenges** – July 17-18 & July 24-25, 2021 – Kelowna, Kamloops, Langley, Victoria – in lieu of Provincial Championship Jamboree
- **2020 Olympic Games** – July 23 – August 8, 2021 – Tokyo, Japan
- **National Youth Track & Field Championships** – August 6-8, 2020 – Sherbrooke, QC – **cancelled**
- **Canada Summer Games** – August 6 – 21, 2021 – Niagara, ONT – **postponed to 2022**
- **2020 Paralympic Games** – August 24 – Sept 5, 2021 – Tokyo, Japan

- **2022 Key Dates:**

- **Harry Jerome Track Classic** – June 11, 2022 – Burnaby, BC
- **Canadian Sr and U20 Track & Field Championships** – June 23 – 26, 2022 – Langley, BC
- **FISU World University Games** – June 26-July 7, 2022 – Chengdu, China
- **2022 BC Track & Field Championships Jamboree** – TBD – Kamloops, BC
- **2022 World Athletics Championships** – July 15 – 24, 2022 – Eugene, USA
- **2022 BC Summer Games** – July 21-24, 2021 – Prince George, BC
- **2022 Commonwealth Games** – July 27 – August 7, 2022 – Birmingham, England
- **2022 National Youth Track & Field Championships** – August 5-7, 2022 – Sherbrooke, QC
- **2022 Canada Summer Games** – August 15-21, 2022 – Niagara, ON

- **2021 BC Athletics Event Congress**

- BC Athletics Track & Field Events Congress is a meeting held annually to discuss scheduling on the BC Athletics Track & Field Calendar of Events for the upcoming season, and next 2 seasons.
- 2021 Date: TBA; Virtual Format

2. Event Sanctioning

- Oversaw the BC Athletics process for the sanctioning of Track & Field Competitions

Year	Sanctioned Events	Cancelled Events	Male Participants	Female Participants	Males (Para)	Females (Para)	Total Participants	PESF Fees
2021	156	3	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
2020	76	54	575	359	3	0	937	\$332.00
2019	79	3	9,370	8,940	91	35	18,436	\$6,078.07
2018	68	3	11,432	10,691	89	57	22,269	\$6,968.42



Comments:

- Most of the sanctioned track and field events in 2021 were “in-club” performance trials. In July 2021, the provincial health order allowed for travel outside of home clubs for sport competitions to resume.
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PILLAR: ORGANIZATION CAPACITY

1. Communication and Marketing

- **BC Athletics’ Social Media**

- Efforts made to highlight BC Athletics Programs, Services, and Athlete Highlights using our Website, Social Media, Newsletter, and events.
- Our 2021 Summer Student, Jennifer Erickson managed all social media strategy and accounts from May-August 2021.
- Social Media metrics can be found in the Technical Manager, Road and Cross Country report.

- **2020 BC Athletics Award Recipients**

- [Press Release](#)

- **Sport BC Annual Athlete of the Year Awards**

- The 2020 Sport BC Awards were postponed due to COVID-19 – awards were presented in February 2021 at virtual awards ceremony.
- BC Athletes/Coaches Named as Finalists
 1. Senior Female – Rachel Cliff
 2. Senior Male – Evan Dunfee
 3. Junior Female – Camryn Rogers
 4. Masters Female – Myrtle Acton
 5. Para Athlete – Nathan Riech
 6. High School Female – Jasneet Nijjar
 7. Female Coach – Lynn Kanuka

- **BC Athletics Graduating High School Student-Athletes Celebration**

- **28** high school graduates athletes will be moving to post-secondary athletic opportunities
- [Press Release](#)