



Kevin O'Connor

Non-Stadium Program Manager

Road, Cross Country, Mountain, Trail, and Ultra Running (Appointed on February 6th, 2023)

Kevin.oconnor@bcathletics.org

Reporting Period February 6, 2022, to August 18, 2023

Committees

BC Athletics would like to thank all members of the BC Athletics committee's, which volunteer their time to contribute to athletic programs in our communities. I look forward to continuing working with both our BC Road and Cross-Country committee's.

We would especially like to thank Bob Reid who after serving on the Road Committee for several years a happy retirement. We are glad to hear that Bob intends to remain active in the BC and Vancouver Island running community.

The Road Committee welcomes Mariah Kelly who is involved with the Royal Victoria marathon organization team.

Road Running Committee

- Eric Chene (Co-chair)
- Jared Hulme (Co-chair)
- Geoffrey Buttner
- Ryan Chillibeck
- David Guss
- Mariah Kelly
- Jake Madderom
- Jordan Myers
- Bob Reid (Retired)
- Frank Stebner

Cross Country Committee

- Rachael Cliff
- Dawn Copping
- Colin Dignum
- Malindi Elmore
- Newton Hoang (Board Rep)
- John Machuga
- Brian Nemethy



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- Leslie Sexton
- Hillary Stellingwerff
- Alex Ulazonek

Lower Mainland Cross Country Committee

- Dawn Copping
- Phil Ellis
- Graeme Fell
- Jake Madderom
- Paul Self
- Maureen St Croix
- Mark Williams
- Chris Winter

Programs

Identifying Non-stadia program priorities on my appointment

- Hosted and attended Athletics Canada road race measurement seminar facilitated by Paul Adams and Geoffrey Buttner. 10 participants from across Canada and one from Mexico.
- Participating in Athletics Canada "off track" committee.
- Managing sanctioning and calendar listings of non-stadia events.
- Assisting the Track and Field Program Manager Megann VanderVliet with the Pacific Distance Carnival and "Embrace the Pace" 5000m.
- Facilitating a sponsor for Embrace the Pace 5000m.
- Facilitate a financial donation for the Canadian National Championship 10,000m.
- Support event directors when sanctioning events especially newer directors.
- Support the Sun Run 2023 Elite seeded field of 123 applications. The 2024 contract has renewed.
- Attend all BC Road race Championships.
- Connect with road race events and organisers.
- Attend Vancouver Island Road race series AGM and committee meeting.
- Identify sanctioned races where BC Athletics membership could be increased and engage with the event organiser.
- Identify Non-BC Athletics member clubs and educate them on the benefits of becoming a member club.
- Increased the number of sanctioned events.



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- Setting BC Team selection criteria alongside Richard Lee (BCEP) for Canadian National Championship.
- Communicating with Canadian National Championship event funded athletes to represent BC in addition to the funded BC selected team to inspire and have a larger representation.
- Selecting alongside Brian McCaLder a new Whistler 50 event director Simon Burley (Sea2skyevents) and working close together to make the event successful, secure event sponsors and to grow the participation especially in Whistler area which is only 5%
- To connect with the major trail running community to increase BC Athletics membership and understand the growing sport population. Attend the Squamish 50 Canadian National Championship this August.
- On my appointment my immediate role was to support my colleagues and support Non-Stadia events, event directors, clubs, coaches and athletes. The first few months were spent learning my Non-Stadia role and setting priorities and catching up on items between Cliff Cunninghams departure and my arrival.

Road Race committee

1. The Road Race Committee have met twice since February and will be selecting hosts for the 2024/25 BC Championships. Currently 13 events have applied across all distances from 5k to the marathon.
2. For the 2024/25 BC Championships we are reviewing to return to recognizing master's awards for overall 35 years old athletes prize money while maintaining the age group ribbons.
3. Exploring a 2024/25 BC Championship team title for each road distance. Potential benefits could lead to bigger fields and introduce team comraderies where BC Athletics club members would join force together training for the same events. The introduction of teams could also benefit clubs in recruitment given the number of unattached participant's and the clubs geographical location.
4. To encourage event directors, to support one another.
5. I have seen a significant increase in road race registrations and participation on the day. Several recent events have sold out.

BC Super Series

January 8 to October 8, 2023

The BC Super series comprises of 12 events. They range in distances from 5k to the marathon and currently 2 events remain.



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We would like to thank David Parker for continuing to maintain the website and scoring system.

In the 2024/25 series we will encourage BC Super Series events be World Athletics sanctioned to support BC high performance athletes and maintain a high standard of events across the province. Within a few years we would hope that some of these events will develop into Athletics Canada Road Race Label Program and series.

BC Cross Country committee

The BC Cross Country Committee have met twice discussing moving the BC Provincial XC Championships date from Saturday October 21 to Saturday October 14. Several U Sports high performance coaches requested a change of date. Through an open transparent process, a vote was unanimous to the date change, and the host club Oceans Athletics Track and Field Club secured the permit. The U Sports coaches committed to sending 150 athletes to the championships, increasing the number of participants and quality significantly from the 2022 event.

Lower mainland Cross Country Committee

September 16-December 2, 2023

The lower mainland Cross Country Committee have met once and all past events have committed to the series. During the meeting all 2022 series events confirmed their race dates, the first event will be a team relay race, a great early introduction to the series. The overall points and total races required to count in the series was agreed upon and the website updated.

We would like to thank Jake Madderom for continuing to maintain the website and scoring system.

Whistler 50

The Whistler 50 has a new Event Director Simon Burley after the retirement of Dave Clark (Whistler friends society). Simon and I are working closely together to manage and increase the participant numbers. Currently registered are 67 Ultra solo participants and 46 teams which is higher than this time last year.

Simon and I are also working together with Tourism Whistler and the Resort Municipality of Whistler

With the BC Athletics Cross Country Championships on the same date Saturday October 14, 2023, there was some initial concern that participation numbers could be reduced. However, during my research there is very little or no cross over between the two-event participant's. Therefore after consulting with interested parties the date remained Saturday October 14, 2023.



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August onwards

For the remainder of the year, I foresee my program continuing to strengthen as I become more settled in my role and have an improved knowledge of what is happening on a month-to-month basis. My intention is to attend more events and generally be widely known throughout the province so that a personal connection is made, and a support network is strengthened which allows quicker and more efficient programs.

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