



2025 BC Athletics Annual General Meeting

Board of Directors

Chair Report

Report Prepared by: Darren Willis

Key items from the past year:

- 1. Auditor/Year End** - The price of BC Athletics annual audit has been rising. Reducing costs led to an invitation from other firms and consideration of moving the audit to a different time of year. Audits can cost less when they take place outside of tax season. The timing of our audit is dependent on the date of our Fiscal Year End. BC Athletics has filed an application with the Canadian Revenue Agency to shift the year end to August 31. This will not only allow us to reduce audit costs but to shift BC Athletics AGM to a time of year that is more convenient for members and BC Athletics staff.
- 2. Governance** - The governing structures, policies and practices of sport organizations in Canada is a priority for our major partners and funders...and it is essential work if we want to do a better job for our members. Our membership voted to approve new governing documents (Constitution & Bylaws) on October 1, 2025. The Special Meeting attracted an encouragingly high percentage of BC Athletics total voting delegates, with over 75% voting to adopt the new documents. The vote was an important initial step as BC Athletics makes investments in governance. Those investments will continue so that future BC Athletics Boards have better tools, practices and policies in place to execute their role effectively. Support for governance reform at the club level will become a focus as well.
- 3. Safe Sport** - The past year has been busy with Safe Sport matters. While we all want sport to be an inspiring, supportive and safe place for everyone involved in Athletics, the sad truth is that this is not the reality for everyone. Safe Sport represents the single biggest financial risk and reputation risk that we face. The governance work highlighted in the previous section is not just work for BC Athletics as an organization; it will be the work of our entire sport community. Most Safe Sport complaints originate with our clubs, with complaints against officials being the next highest source.
- 4. Officiating** - There has been significant change in the last couple years in how BC Athletics manages officiating. Most of those changes came from recommendations of our Officiating community itself; a community that is seen as a leader in the Canadian Athletics community. While much of the focus has been on what we can do in BC to improve, there was a unanimous push by Athletics Canada's (AC) provincial/territorial branches last year to conduct a comprehensive review of Officiating in Canada. AC hired Vantage Point Sports Consulting to conduct that review in 2025. The work was excellent, and AC is now actively working to implement recommendations from the Vantage Point review. This promises to

bring more transparency and consistency to the Officiating Pathway for everyone...and bring much needed alignment between the national and branch Officiating communities.

Final Remarks

This will be my final Chair's report. The new set of Bylaw's we adopted at our October 1, 2025 Special Meeting left me in a conflict of interest related to the current position(s) I hold with my home track & field club in Port Alberni. I resigned my position as a Director, effective October 21, 2025, to resolve that conflict. I have been appointed by the BC Athletics Board of Directors to Chair the AGM on October 29. Chairing the 2025 AGM will be my final official duty.

The Board of Directors has appointed Brent Dolfo, a highly respected member of our Athletics community, to fill the vacancy that my resignation created for the remaining year of my term. Brent brings a wealth of professional experience in governance training and reform that will be an ideal match for the work the Board has ahead of it.

I leave this role thankful for the trust that our membership and the organization placed in me during a period of significant change. For me, the work has been an education and a chance to meet and learn from a far wider group of people in our sport community than I would otherwise have had. Athletics is full of tremendous, passionate people. While there are real challenges and unpleasantness to tackle, I am left encouraged about the future because I see how so many individuals step up each day to try and make it better.

This AGM is notable for the relatively high number of nominations for positions on the Board. Those numbers most certainly reflect concern about the direction of the sport. With several positions open on the Board this year, nominees who support the direction we have been moving in and nominees who have concerns about that same direction are all stepping up to try and make a difference. We need this type of energy. We need talented people from all parts of our sport community to step forward to participate in its governance.

Darren Willis
BC Athletics Board of Directors, Chair