

BC Athletics Junior Development Committee 2019 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 27th, 2019 – Riverside Palace Banquet Hall
14431 Knox Way, Richmond, BC

Meeting called to order at 2:17pm

1. Attendance: Dawn Copping – Chair (1), Birgit Weaver – Vice Chair & NorWesters (2), Dan Horan – JD Committee & Trail Track & Field Club (2), Alwilda van Ryswyk – JD Committee & Kamloops (2), Christine Dela Cruz – JD Committee & Air Blastoff Lions (2), Lanie Man – Kajaks (1), Karen Fisher Hagel – Kajaks, Ted de St. Croix – Ocean Athletics, Maureen de St. Croix – Ocean Athletics (1), Cristiana Lundman – Nanaimo Track & Field Club (1), Sue Kydd – Universal Athletics (1), Marsha Kurucz – Universal Athletics, Besnik Mece – New West Spartans (1), Tatjana Mece – Vancouver Olympic Club (1), Graeme Fell – Vancouver Thunderbirds (1), Darren Willis – BC Athletics Director/JD Committee Liason & Alberni Valley Track & Field Club (1), Sabrina Nettey – BC Athletics Staff

Total Votes: 17

Regrets: Carolyn Emon – JD Committee & Prince George, Ross Browne – JD Committee & Prince George, Tom Dingle – BC Athletics Statistician & Peninsula Track & Field

2. Amendment to the Agenda: Addition of Item 14 “Review of Junior Development Program Finances”

Motion to accept amended Agenda: Maureen de St Croix, seconded Dan Horan.
Accepted unanimously.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of 2018 JD AGM

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2018 JD AGM: Alwilda van Ryswyk, seconded Birgit Weaver.
Accepted unanimously.

4. Items arising from the 2018 AGM Minutes

No business arising from previous AGM

5. Reports from the Junior Development Championships

- i. Cross Country

Oral overview provided by Graeme Fell and Maureen de St Croix as representative of host organization was not available. Very good event with great weather. Noted that Junior Development participation was lower than in past years. Also noted that there was no race commentator.

- ii. Pentathlon

AGM attendees reviewed written report provided by host organization. Sue Kydd noted that some of the suggestions for improvement would be difficult to meet, noting that BC Athletics Officials are volunteers and therefore BC Athletics can't “supply” them. Sue also noted that it is a BC Athletics policy for Championship meets not to begin before 11am on the first day of competition, therefore starting at 10am would require a rule change. Maureen noted that a rule change could reduce the possibility for athletes from out of host area to attend due to travel while Graeme felt that a rule change could occur without

hurting participation as most people already travel the day prior to competition. Sue noted difficulty in catching the first ferry and the desire to reduce potential accommodation costs contributed to the implementation of the 11am Championship start time rule. Cristi was asked to speak to her perspective on this rule, being based on Vancouver Island. She noted that it is beneficial for events like the pentathlon as families will try to make a one day trip, leaving and returning to the island the same day. For the Track & Field Championships families will generally make a weekend of it but have more expensive accommodation costs. Dan noted that due to the commute distance, one has to travel the night before when travelling from the Interior, therefore the rule doesn't serve them.

**Motion that the Pentathlon start time remain the same: Maureen de St. Croix, seconded Alwilda van Ryswyk.
Approved.**

Dawn asked opinion of Pentathlon event fee, currently \$25 per athlete. Graeme noted that fee had been \$25 for a few years, with Maureen noting that athletes receive a single award for that fee. Maureen also noted that, due to increasing meet fees, track & field is no longer the inexpensive sport it promotes itself as.

**Motion that the Pentathlon entry fees remain at \$25 per athlete: Sue Kydd, seconded Dan Horan.
Approved.**

Besnik commented that, when approving bids, it should be confirmed that the facility is able to properly host, noting that one of the Long Jump Boards was too close to the sand pit, and that there should be someone at BC Athletics to review details of meet organizing. Dawn noted that is the role of Chris Winter. Maureen noted that clubs hosting new meets or who have had facility changes/upgrades have to submit a list of equipment and other information demonstrating ability to host.

Action: Darren to speak to Board of Directors regarding the state of facilities prior to use for Championships, particularly if there is the potential for injuries.

Sue noted that, to her knowledge, technical individuals are sent to evaluate a facility when there have been major upgrades, not prior to championship events. Karen noted that, as this factors into insurance, this is an issue for all meets.

iii. Track & Field, including survey regarding length of meet

Maureen discussed the results from her initial post event call for feedback, noting an overwhelming concern regarding the event was accommodation costs. The results of her follow up survey saw that many were in favour of a two day meet. She noted that she doesn't believe that a two day meet would require starting earlier than 11am but simply requires proper scheduling and having enough volunteers. She noted again that when the Championships begin on Friday night it requires an extra night of accommodation for those travelling from out of town and time off from work for parents. Having to take time off from work for Friday events was also an issue for those reside within the region, as well traffic. Sue noted that a two day meet would also be better for officials. Darren asked if there were

other options to reduce accommodation costs. Maureen explained that many Ocean Athletics families had offered billeting in 2017 when hosting the JD T&F Championships but very few individuals took it up.

Motion that the Junior Development Track & Field Championships have a two day meet on a one year trial: Maureen de St. Croix, seconded Sue Kydd.

Approved.

Action: Darren to communicate decision to Board of Directors.

Action: Maureen to put together tentative meet schedule to submit to JD Committee

6. Dates/Timing of JD Championships (Pentathlon and Track & Field)

Dawn explained this was a conversation of the timing of these events in a general sense rather than simply for the 2020 Championship events. She noted that it isn't ideal to have them back to back. Cristi commented that the timing of the JD T&F Championships is the biggest barrier to participation for athletes from her club, with families wanting to get on with their summers, travel, and have unstructured time. She noted that when surveyed, this was the primary issue affecting participation at JD T&F Champs ahead of accommodation costs. Would prefer to see T&F Championships in earlier or mid July. Karen also noted that they see a significant drop off in T&F participation through July.

Maureen noted that the T&F season has shortened each year, with it previously going until late August; she doesn't believe the club season has to align with the school track season. Darren asked what the purpose of the Championships are. If it's to be a showcase event it should be earlier in the season when there will be the largest participation numbers; however, if it's to be culminating event, then it should be the final weekend of the season. Besnik spoke that BC Athletics should organize a task force to help review and create a standard for each year. Karen agreed with Darren, noting that we must first determine what the goal is (i.e. quantity, exposure, etc.) before we can address the dates/timing issue. Dawn commented that we are caught between what the parents want and what is best for the athletes with Maureen commenting that the organizations mandates need to be based upon what is best for the sport.

7. Report of JD Chair to the BC Athletics AGM

Dawn explained that as Chair she prepares a report to present at the BC Athletics AGM in September. It has been published on the BC Athletics website.

8. Awarding of Championships for 2020 and 2021

Maureen explained that Ocean Athletics is withdrawing its bids to host the Pentathlon Championships as another bid has been submitted by Okanagan Athletics. Discussion that this year is a pilot of if the Pentathlon can be hosted within an existing meet rather than as a standalone. If successful, could present opportunity for other clubs to host within their own meets. Dawn noted difficulty in receiving bids two years out from event when uncertain of calendar. Sabrina communicated that Chris Winter (BC Athletics Technical Director, Track & Field) would ideally like tentative dates provided for the AGM Fixtures list, published in August.

Motion that the Junior Development Pentathlon Championships be awarded to Okanagan Athletics to be hosted within the Jack Brow: Maureen de St. Croix, seconded Sue Kydd. Approved.

Dawn noted that the Pentathlon must be a one day event.

Dawn noted that the July 18th weekend didn't currently have any meets and was available for the JD T&F Championships. Maureen explained that Ocean Athletics were only available to host on their bid date of the August 1st weekend. Cristi asked if there would be financially feasible accommodation options, considering that it's a long weekend. Maureen stated that she'll put in a block booking early to secure good rates.

Motion that the Junior Development Track & Field Championships be awarded to Ocean Athletics to be hosted August 1-2: Sue Kydd, seconded Dan Horan. Approved.

9. JD Rule Differences from IAAF Rules

Dawn explained that there are a number of differences between the competition rules used for JD athletes as compared with Senior athletes, with most already in the JD Manual. She has requested that if anyone notes anything missing that she be alerted. Birgit asked if there was interest in the Committee producing a separate document listing these rules and received positive response. Sue requested that once produced, a copy be provided to the Officials Committee.

10. Athletes Training but not Competing

Dawn noted that she has been trying a new method within her club to encourage competing by creating separate training and competition groups and has seen increased athlete participation in competition. Dan noted that he allows athletes to get the membership (training or competitive) most relevant to them but trains them all together. Tatjana commented that every club must have their own policy as you can't force kids to compete if they aren't ready to. Cristi commented that demographics also play a part in whether athletes attend competitions as socioeconomic constraints effect their ability to travel to meets and pay entry fees.

11. Progress on document being prepared by Darren

Darren reported that he is still working on the orientation book and that it requires a meeting with the Chair/Committee to determine what the Committee Agenda for the year looks like.

12. Survey of School District's Participation in Track & Field

Dawn explained that the survey is still in progress as she had not initially realized the number of school districts that exist in comparison to the number of Committee Members. She will add the information Sabrina has provided her to the information she has collected.

13. Timing of Production of JD Graduation Certificates

Maureen explained that she would like to see JD Graduation Certificates produced in time for the JD T&F Championships as they are more meaningful when received prior to beginning high school and high school competition. She would also like to see a graduation ceremony integrated into the JD

T&F Championships at which certificates could be provided. Dawn said that it would not be a problem to produce them earlier although noted that many clubs like to provide theirs at their end of year functions. Maureen felt that clubs that wanted to give them out later could still do so.

14. Door Prizes at JD Banquet

Maureen explained that she'd asked for this to be added to the Agenda as she doesn't believe that every child needs a draw prize, which is current practice, as it's not reflective of the real world. Birgit noted that the kids get really excited and enjoy the door prizes. Sue stated that she's in support of a few draw prizes but not necessarily with everyone having to get something as it becomes an additional burden on the clubs. Sabrina noted that getting enough door prizes can be difficult to organize as she sometimes receives resistance from clubs when asked to donate. She also stated that BC Athletics is happy to provide door prizes but likely not enough for all 50-80 athletes who are awarded each year.

Motion that athlete door prizes at the JD Awards Banquet no longer be continued: Sue Kydd, seconded Maureen de St. Croix. Those in Favour – 3, Those Abstaining – 4. Carried.

Discussion that 50/50 draw should continue.

15. Election of JD Committee members

Dawn noted that Alwilda van Ryswyk would not be seeking re-election and thanked her for her over 40 years of service on the Junior Development Committee.

Zone 1: Dan Horan has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zone 2: Truman Tremblay has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zone 3: Doug Evans has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zone 4: Christine Dela Cruz has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zone 5: Dawn Copping has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zone 6: Cristi Lundman has agreed to stand and has a 1 year term

Zone 8: Ross Browne has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Member at Large: Birgit Weaver has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zones 5, 6, 7, & 8 has one Member at Large position unfilled.

Motion to accept election of JD Committee Members: Accepted by Acclamations

16. Review of Junior Development Program Finances

Dawn explained that Junior Development finances are released with the BC Athletics AGM documents as part of the overall financial documents. Maureen noted that it can be difficult to find figures specific to Junior Development programs within that document. Dawn explained that the 2018/2019 expense for the JD Standards Program was much higher than normal as she'd put in a large JD Crest Order

17. Motion to adjourn: Birgit Weaver, seconded Dan Horan

Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.