

BC Athletics Junior Development Committee 2020 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, October 25th, 2020
Online via RingCentral

Meet called to order at 2:10pm

1. Attendance: Dawn Copping – Chair (1), Birgit Weaver – Vice Chair & Norwesters (2), Dan Horan – JD Committee & Trail TFC (2), Alwilda van Ryswyk – JD Committee & Kamloops TFC (2), Doug Evans – JD Committee & Golden Ears Athletics (2), Cristiana Lundman – JD Committee & Nanaimo TFC (2), Ross Browne – JD Committee & Prince George TFC (2), Tatjana Mece – Vancouver Olympic Club & New West Spartans (2), Maureen de St. Croix – Ocean Athletics (1), Trevor Wright – Valley Royals TFC (1), Karen Fisher Hagel – Kajaks (1), Kristine Garcia – Royal City (1), Tom Norton – Valley Royals TFC, Scott Svelander – Valley Royals TFC, Tom Dingle – BC Athletics Statistics & Peninsula TFC (1), Darren Willis – BC Athletics Director/JD Committee Liaison & Alberni Valley TFC (1), Sabrina Nettey – BC Athletics Staff

Total Votes: 21

Regrets: Christine Dela Cruz – JD Committee & Air Blastoff

2. Amendments to the Agenda: Addition of Item 13 “JD Graduation Certificates” and Item 14 “Coaching Awards”

Motion to accept amended Agenda: Tom Dingle, seconded Birgit Weaver.
Accepted unanimously.

3. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2019 JD Committee AGM

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2019 JD AGM: Dan Horan, seconded Birgit Weaver.
Accepted unanimously.

4. Items arising from the 2019 JD Committee AGM Minutes

No business arising from previous AGM.

5. Report from the Junior Development Championships
 - i. Cross Country

The Cross Country Championships have been postponed until November 28 – 29. BC Athletics has partnered with the Vancouver Thunderbirds for the hosting of the Championships and are looking at hosting in either Vancouver, Burnaby, or Surrey. Dawn asked if regional health authorities must provide permission before events are approved; Sabrina confirmed this. Tom Norton asked for clarification on which at level the event was waiting on approval; Sabrina explained that the event was being reviewed by the Provincial Health Office. Scott Svelander commented that the Valley Royals had

been able to host events in Abbotsford. Social distancing was in effect at all points, with separate “athlete” and “spectator” areas. The main challenge was the number of athletes who could participate under Return to Sport Guidelines that limit the number of participants and spectators at the site, as well as require large gaps in time between events. Sabrina said she’s pass on this feedback to Clifton Cunningham, Technical Director of Road/Cross Country,

ii. Pentathlon

The JD Pentathlon Championships were cancelled due to the Provincial Health Order regarding mass gatherings and restrictions on sport, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

iii. Track & Field Championships

The JD Track & Field Championships were cancelled due to the Provincial Health Order regarding mass gatherings and restrictions on sport, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

6. Dates for JD Championships for 2021 (Pentathlon & Track and Field)

Dates for the JD Pentathlon and JD Track & Field Championships will be determined once the 2021 Event Calendar is set. Would ideally look to host on traditional weekends (i.e. last weekend in June and third or fourth weekend in July, respectively).

7. Awarding of JD Championships for 2021 and 2021

Dawn explained that the JD Committee had voted to give the 2020 JD Championship hosts first right of refusal to host the 2021 events as the 2020 events had been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The event hosts would be Okanagan Athletics (Pentathlon) and Ocean Athletics (Track & Field). Sabrina proposed that a working group be put together to look at alternative hosting methods, should traditional large scale events not be permitted in 2021. Tom Norton noted that if everyone could not participate due to event size restrictions, the event should potentially not be considered a provincial championship. Maureen suggested looking at a regional championships model.

8. January report to the BC Athletics Board of Directors.

Dawn explained that as Chair she prepares a report to present to the Board of Directors on behalf of the JD Committee, at a joint BOD and Chair meeting in January. There were no questions about her report.

9. 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 on behalf of the JD Committee. There were no questions about her report.

10. List of JD rule differences from IAAF rules

Dawn explained that she is compiling a complete list of all the JD competition rules that differed from those in the IAAF manual. Once completed, the list will be sent to the Officials Committee for review, then to the Board of Directors for approval.

11. JD Annual Planning Document

Darren explained that the document lays out an annual agenda for the JD Committee to help them to prepare for the work of the year. Dawn commented that the document will also help in recruiting and orienting new committee members, and that she and Darren had updated the document in September.

12. COVID 19 Impacts

Dawn noted that this had been discussed earlier in the meeting in relation to JD Championships. She asked if clubs could share how they were adjusting to operating during COVID. Many clubs shared positive outcomes with Alberni Valley TFC and Kajaks TFC offering T&F programs in the Fall for the first time (as opposed to cross country), and both programs being at capacity. Karen also shared that COVID has created a new opportunity for the Kajaks to campaign the city for exclusive use of the track during practice hours, as there is now concern around how many individuals are at a facility at one time. Tom Norton shared that the Valley Royals were able to run a number of camps and that, as more members of the public have been using the track during this period, it provided a great opportunity to promote their programs and raise the profile of the sport. Discussion that most clubs would train outdoors through the fall/winter rather than seek indoor training spaces as in past years.

13. JD Graduation Certificates

Dawn noted that at the 2019 JD Committee AGM it had been decided to distribute the JD Graduation Certificates at the JD Track & Field Championships. As the event had been cancelled, she asked for suggestions on how best to distribute certificates, noting that there would be a significant expense to mailing them directly to athletes. Maureen commented that part of the importance of distributing the certificates at the Track & Field Championships is that, in starting high school in September, many 13 year olds stop viewing themselves as JDs. Tatjana suggested that the certificates could be sent via email. Maureen supported this idea, adding that Dawn could send a blank fillable document to the clubs for them to print for their athletes. Sabrina said that should work with Dawn to design something using an online template.

14. Female Coaching Award

Birgit explained that at the BC Athletics AGM in August there was a motion put forward and passed to introduce 4 new coaching awards, specifically for females. Birgit noted that she would have preferred that a survey or consultation with female coaches had occurred. Dawn

commented that she had spoken out again the addition of the award category at the BC Athletics AGM and felt that it was a consolation prize; one's gender doesn't impact their effectiveness as a coach. Tatjana stated that she didn't think there was any reason that the award should exist, noting that women face additional pressures in life that can keep them from pursuing coaching to the same degree as men. Maureen noted that the issue may be the nomination process and that there may not be enough women nominated, however increasing the recognition of women is a good thing. Tatjana asked to clarify if the Female Coaching Awards was something that had already been decided. Dawn explained that it had been passed at the AGM but that it could be changed.

Sabrina spoke to the history of the award, explaining that BC Athletics had noted that although there is fairly strong gender balance in terms of coach memberships, the majority of female coaches' work at the JD level, while the majority of male coaches work at the higher performance levels (i.e. U16/U18/U20/SR). Trevor commented that within their club they have found they have a number of young female coaches, all primarily working at the JD level. Sabrina explained that this imbalance has resulted in females being recipients of coaching awards much less frequently than males. BC Athletics has undertaken a number of initiatives to increase the number of female coaches working with older age groups but also recognized that ensuring females are recognized for their coaching service and accomplishments is an important initiative to raise the visibility of female coaches. The awards were never intended to be seen as a consolation prize for female coaches. Sabrina also commented that at the JD level the coaching award is more of a lifetime achievement award, focused on longstanding service and commitment to long term athlete development than on athlete performances; therefore adding a female award category simply provides an additional opportunity to recognize those that support JD programs.

15. Election of JD Committee Members

Dawn called for nominations for Zone and Member at Large positions. Dan Horan announced he would not be seeking re-election as the Zone 1 rep.

Zone 1:

Zone 2: Alwilda van Ryswyk has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zone 3: Doug Evans has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zone 4: Christine Dela Cruz has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zone 5: Dawn Copping has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zone 6: Cristi Lundman has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Zone 7:

Zone 8: Ross Browne has 1 year remaining and has agreed to stay on

Members at Large: Birgit Weaver has agreed to stand and has a 2 year term

Zones 1/2/3/4 have two Member at Large positions unfilled.

Zones 5/6/7/8 have one Member at Large position unfilled.

Motion to accept election of JD Committee Members: Accepted by Acclamation.

Darren extended his thanks on behalf of the Board of Directors to Dawn, Birgit, and the JD Committee.

16. Motion to adjourn: Doug Evans, seconded Tom Dingle.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Jan 17, 2021 via teleconference
- April 11, 2021 via teleconference
- Sept 12, 2021 via teleconference
- Oct 24, 2021 BC Cross Country Championship weekend

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