

BC ATHLETICS OFFICIALS TOWNHALL

VIRTUAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY JUNE 25, 2026

7:00–9:00pm – Zoom

This meeting was open to all BC Athletics officials who hold an issued BC Athletics Officials membership at the time of the meeting. 63 officials registered for the meeting and 50 attended.

Meeting Notes

Introduction of BC Athletics Officials Advisory Council

Council Members:

- Dawn Driver – Lead
- Aileen Lingwood – Assistant Lead
- Lanie Man – Secretary
- Anthony Thomson
- Bill Koch
- Connie Halbert
- Denise Bonin
- Jake Madderom
- Joan Harris
- John Cull

Review of Officials Advisory Council Terms of Reference

SUMMARY:

- The Advisory Council is made up of 10 individuals, 5 selected by BC Athletics and 5 elected by the officials membership.
- The Officials Advisory Council exists to provide informed advice, perspective and feedback to BC Athletics staff, in support of the BC Athletics strategic plan.
- To act as a point of contact for BC Athletics officials and liaise between officials and BC Athletics staff on matters related to officiating.
- The Advisory Council is advisory in nature and holds no decision-making governance or operational authority.
- The Advisory Council shall identify and communicate perspectives, trends and issues relevant to officials.
- The Advisory Council shall provide input to the Lead Executive on priorities and initiatives related to officials.
- Support the Lead Executive in understanding the impact of policies, programs, and practices on officials.
- Please refer to the [Officials Advisory Council Terms of Reference](#) for more details.
- The council has 3 designated votes at any meeting of the Members – voting members on behalf of Council will be Dawn Driver, Aileen Lingwood, Lanie Man.

Engaging with the Advisory Council

There are several ways that officials can engage with the Advisory Council:

- Utilize the Officials Communication Form to provide feedback or ask questions or can submit uncommon situations or queries about rules etc.

- The form will be received by the Council Lead, Council Secretary, and BCA CEO for review and response.
- This form can be submitted anonymously.
- This form will collect some demographic information to capture themes of questions and/or feedback.
- Email the Council – official@bcathletics.org
 - This email inbox will be monitored by the Council Secretary.
- The Council will review all correspondence for discussion at Advisory Council meetings and report back to Officials through quarterly townhalls and/or monthly Officials newsletter.
- Please note that the Council is not a complaints mechanism for officials. Those wishing to file a complaint should do so in accordance with the BC Athletics Complaints, Dispute Resolution and Discipline Policy.

Council Priorities

- The overarching priority is to improve the officiating experience for all across British Columbia, initiatives to support this include:
 - Develop a vision for the future of officiating in BC
 - Inform and develop an officials recruitment strategy to be implemented by BC Athletics staff
 - Audit, review and develop resources for officials at all levels
 - Support improved working conditions for officials at sanctioned events
 - To provide opportunity for officials to communicate and engage with BC Athletics on a regular basis
- The Advisory Council may choose to create working groups (led by a Council member) beyond the Council to achieve the Council priorities and deliverables.

Athletics in Canada Officiating Policy and Officiating Pathway

- Athletics Canada has released the new Athletics in Canada Officiating Policy and Officiating Pathway update.
 - <https://athletics.ca/blog/2026/06/25/athletics-canada-introduces-new-national-officials-pathway/>
- These updates are a result of significant consultation across the country, with the goal of providing a more consistent development experience for all officials at every state of their journey.
- This model presents a centralized approach to officials development across the country, recognizing the urgent need of recruiting and developing hundreds of new officials each year to support sanctioned events.
- As a result of the current work and investment that BC Athletics has put into officials development over the past year, we are positioned well to adopt this policy and pathway in 2027.
- Athletics Canada will be hosting a townhall for officials on Thursday August 13 at 5:00pm PT
 - Sign up [here](#).

Event Sanctioning and Officials Management System

- In 2025, BC Athletics introduced the implementation of the minimum number of officials required for event sanctioning.
- In 2026, we updated and refined these requirements with the following in mind:
 - BC Athletics obligation to govern and certify results from sanctioned events in British Columbia.
 - To ensure that officials are not being asked to oversee the safety and fairness of

events alone.

- To advance recruitment efforts by highlighting the number of officials required to sanction an event.
- Recommended minimums by World Athletics and Athletics Canada.
- [More information of sanctioning minimums.](#)

- **Early Wins**

- An increase in the number of new officials in the system.
- More sustainable event schedules and strategic scheduling by meet directors.
- Improved quality of sanctioned competitions.
- Confidence that all results submitted to AC Ranking and World Athletics are legitimate results.

How can officials support the sanctioning process?

- Sign up for meets in the OMS early! The more quickly we can fill officials assignments, the more quickly we can notify an event that they are sanctioned.
- If there are specific areas that you would like to work, ensure that you enter that into the comment box when expressing your availability.

Open Floor Q&A – Frequently Asked Questions

BC Athletics Officials Memberships

- Anyone who is interested in becoming an official is eligible to receive a complimentary BC Athletics officials membership. Currently, a coupon code is available from BC Athletics staff for them to use at check out in AthleticsReg.
- Safe Sport Screening requirements include, a Criminal Record Check and Safe Sport Training.
- The coupon code reminder will be sent out to all clubs.
- It is important that anyone acting in an officiating capacity has a membership and has completed the safe sport screening requirements.
- BC Athletics Officials legacy members who are no longer actively officiating can still enjoy the officials membership as long as they have met the safe sport screening requirements.
- BC Athletics staff can provide phone support to officials needing help with computer access for above.

Officials Management System / Assignments

- Request to streamline the coding of level and discipline for each official in OMS.
- BCA staff will provide a legend on OMS and will work on updating our coding system to align with the new officials pathway.
- Request to make the “comment” box a mandatory field, where officials can share what positions they are interested in.
- Request to include the facility and accommodation address on the officials assignments.
- Request to indicate any evaluations taking place on officials assignments.
- Level 2 officials, if not on pathway to Level 3 – can still request to be put in specific discipline even if not upgrading.
- Officials should indicate availability for any out of region competitions to be considered for assignments.

Communication

- Request for officials to be able to communicate directly with one another for the purposes of ride sharing, officiating questions etc.
- BC Athletics staff will explore ways to implement a system that supports officials communication between one another. Suggestions made to use Microsoft Teams, or WhatsApp.

Number of Officials / Meet Scheduling

- Request for more umpires at meets.
- Request for less required officials and request to know earlier if sanctioned (this requires officials to sign up earlier).
- Request to remember pole vault officials need 2 hours before the event, impacting the start time of the event (ie. no earlier than 10am).
- Request to clarify if new officials can still start at level 2, if experienced.
- Request to avoid conflict of having meets within the same zone.
- BC Athletics staff reviews and communicates with meet directors about schedules.

Recruitment

- Should clubs be required to recruit a greater number of officials if they intend to host competitions? Consider what other sport organizations do to support officials recruitment.
- Clubs can train volunteers to support at competitions.
- Suggestion for clubs to host volunteer orientations prior to competitions, so they can learn about how to best support officials and what they can expect at a competition.
- Suggestion for clubs to host level 1 officials clinics at the beginning of each season.

Future Townhalls

1. Athletics Canada – National Townhall – Thursday August 13 – 5:00pm PST
2. September 2026 – Tuesday September 29, 2026 – 7:00-9:00pm
3. December 2026 – Date TBA
4. March 2027 – Date TBA