

Brian Thomson

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**ON TRACK 3.2:
NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE
THE NEWSLETTER FOR OFFICIALS, ATHLETES, COACHES
AND ADMINISTRATORS**

[FRANCAIS](#)

LERROY JAMES WASHBURN
1934-2019



ATHLETICS CANADA AND THE TRACK COMMUNITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF LEROY WASHBURN. HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE ATHLETICS CANADA'S HALL OF FAME IN 2014 AS A BUILDER.

SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY, LEROY WASHBURN PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY AT HOME ON APRIL 13TH, 2019. LEROY WAS BORN ON JUNE 16TH, 1934, IN BLACKVILLE, NB, THE ELDEST SON OF THOMAS AND DOROTHY (MOUNTAIN) WASHBURN. HE WAS EXTREMELY PROUD OF HIS MIRAMICHI ROOTS AND WOULD OFTEN TELL STORIES OF GROWING UP ON THE BACK ROAD AND HIS GRANDMOTHER'S BUTTERSCOTCH PIES.

AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL, HE MOVED TO FREDERICTON TO STUDY. IT WAS THEN THAT HE MET LORETTA GOODINE. THEY WOULD SPEND THE NEXT 63 YEARS TOGETHER RAISING THEIR FAMILY, SUPPORTING EACH OTHER, AND CREATING A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES. AFTER ATTENDING TEACHERS' COLLEGE HE STARTED HIS TEACHING CAREER IN BOIESTOWN BEFORE MOVING HIS FAMILY TO THE NEWLY CREATED TOWN OF OROMOCTO IN 1959. HE WAS HIRED AS THE HIGH SCHOOL PHYS ED TEACHER. DURING THIS TIME HE ALSO ASSUMED THE ROLE OF RECREATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE TOWN. IN 1969 HE WAS APPOINTED THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY, A JOB HE HELD FOR 30 YEARS. DURING THE EARLY 70'S HE WAS A TOWN COUNCILLOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR BEFORE

ENTERING PROVINCIAL POLITICS IN 1974 AS AN MLA FOR 8 YEARS. HE HAD A BACHELOR OF ARTS, A BACHELOR OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND A MASTERS IN ARTS, ALL FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

LEROY WAS GUIDED BY THREE PILLARS IN HIS LIFE; HIS FAMILY, HIS LOVE OF SPORT, AND HIS DEEP BELIEF IN GIVING BACK TO HIS COMMUNITY. HE WAS EXTREMELY FAMILY ORIENTED RARELY MISSING A GAME, DANCE RECITAL, GYMNASTICS COMPETITION, SCHOOL PLAY, OR BIRTHDAY. HE WAS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION AND LEFT HIS FAMILY MANY IMPORTANT LIFE LESSONS. LEROY WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETE, EXCELLING AT WHAT EVER SPORT HE PARTICIPATED IN (EXCEPT BOWLING). AS AN EDUCATOR HE FELT SPORT SHOULD BE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE. HE WAS AN AVID BELIEVER IN FITNESS AND A TIRELESS ADVOCATE FOR FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY IN SPORTS AT ALL LEVELS.

ON HIS MANY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRIPS HE WAS A PROUD AMBASSADOR FOR ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY AND THE TOWN OF OROMOCTO. HE WAS ACTIVE IN HIS COMMUNITY SERVING ON NUMEROUS COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS. SOME OF THE MOST NOTABLE WERE HIS WORK WITH THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAM FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS AND ATHLETICS CANADA, WHERE HE OFFICIATED IN SEVERAL OLYMPIC, COMMONWEALTH, PAN AMERICAN AND WORLD STUDENTS GAMES. LEROY WOULD OFTEN SAY SOME OF THE MOST REWARDING VOLUNTEER WORK HE DID WAS WITH SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND AS A COACH FOR PARALYMPIC MEDALIST HAL MERRILL. FINALLY, LIKE HIS FATHER, LEROY WAS A FOURTH DEGREE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS.

OVER HIS EXTENSIVE CAREER LEROY HAS RECEIVED MANY AWARDS AND ACCOLADES. HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE NEW BRUNSWICK SPORTS HALL OF FAME, ATHLETICS CANADA HALL OF FAME AND SEVERAL NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL WALLS OF FAME. IN 2016 HE RECEIVED THE PALM LEAF AWARD FROM THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION. IN 2018 THE LEGION

CREATED THE PRESIDENTS AWARD, THE HIGHEST RECOGNITION GIVEN FOR TRACK AND FIELD. LEROY WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THIS AWARD.

IN ADDITION TO HIS PARENTS, LEROY WAS PREDECEASED BY HIS BROTHER, TOM, AND NEPHEW, JASON JENSEN. HE IS SURVIVED BY HIS WIFE AND BEST FRIEND, LORETTA; HIS CHILDREN, MIKE (KATHY), LORI (BRAD), DEREK (LINDA), TERI VANIDERSTINE (JIM) AND PATRICK; GRANDCHILDREN, HEATHER (RORY), JAYME, THOMPSON, MACKENZIE, MATTHEW, MIKE JR., ANDREW, AND RYAN; GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER, HAYLEE. HE IS ALSO SURVIVED BY HIS SIBLINGS, BETTY, IRL, DIANA JENSEN (LLOYD), ALLAN (KAREN) AND ALBERT STURGEON.

THE FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO THANK DR. KRISTEN BROWN, DR. BEA SAINZ, DR. DAVID BEWICK AND "DAD'S JANE". THANKS ALSO TO THE STAFF OF THE OROMOCTO EXTRA MURAL PROGRAM.

MANITOBA OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR FOR 2018 IS LLOYD YARN



NB 2018 OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

CHRIS ALWARD



BC NEWS

BC INSPIRATION TO OFFICIALS (2018)—BOB ADAMS



BOB, AT 94 YEARS OF AGE, IS AN ACTIVE, PERSONABLE, RELIABLE AND INSPIRING Official. HE PROUDLY RECEIVED HIS 55 YEAR ATHLETICS CANADA SERVICE PIN THIS YEAR. A FORMER OLYMPIC DECATHLETE, BOB TRANSITIONED FIRST TO COACHING THEN OFFICIATING—TO BE THE CHIEF JUDGE OF POLE VAULT AT THE 1976 OLYMPIC GAMES IN MONTREAL. THESE CREDENTIALS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE BOB ADAMS FOUNDATION (SASKATCHEWAN) DESIGNED TO DEVELOP TRACK AND FIELD ATHLETES, OFFICIALS AND COACHES TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

" **PLEASE NOTE** : SINCE THIS SUBMISSION FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA, **BOB ADAMS** HAS PASSED. ATHLETICS CANADA, NOC AND ALL OFFICIALS ACROSS CANADA SEND THEIR CONDOLENCES TO HIS WIFE MARGE AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY. OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY. "

BC ATHLETICS AWARDS FOR OFFICIALS (2018)

BC Official of the Year (2018)—Jason Swan



Jason Swan is a level 4 PFCJ from Abbotsford, BC. Jason is a very active official—working close to 50 meets a year in BC. Jason started officiating in 2004 (15 years) and is currently half way through his upgrading to Level 5 PFCJ.

A long time BC photo timer, Jason has excelled during 2018 for his extensive travel supporting events outside his home region. Jason travelled to Cranbrook for the BC +55 Games, hauling a trailer full of equipment; electronics, wires cables and tables. He arrived early and did all the setting up and taking down. Working with a very basic venue which has not previously hosted this kind of event, Jason competently worked the four day meet as a photo timer. Jason was the Photo Finish Chief Judge at the Canadian Track & Field Youth Championships (Legions) in Brandon, Manitoba (August 2018).

Jason has developed a tremendous set of equipment, including a very large tent, which he brings to meets in a trailer he pulls behind his truck. He spends hours setting up and taking down this very technical timing system, and is a constant and dedicated member of the Lower Mainland officials group. Jason has shown exemplary service to Athletics in British Columbia.

Every one who has ever worked with him believes he is very worthy of the Ian McNeil Award as BC Official of the Year, especially when he shares his boxes and bags of food treats.

BC New Official of the Year (2018)—Anthony Thomson



In his first four years, Anthony has quickly progressed to a very proficient Level 3 Starter's Assistant. In 2018, Anthony officiated at two provincial championships and the Canadian Track & Field Youth Championships (Legions) in Brandon, Manitoba—in addition to numerous club and school meets. Anthony joins the BC Officials Committee in 2019.

BC Longstanding Service to Athletics (2018)—Dale Loewen



A long time Level 5 Starter, Dale has served in numerous capacities at the club level and provincially. Dale has been the Provincial Advisor for athletics at the BC Summer Games for many years. As well, Dale has been our “official” photographer and has produced outstanding videos providing entertainment and honouring BC's officials at our annual recognition events.

NOC 50 Years of Service Recognition



NOC recognized six officials from BC with 50 or more years of officiating service.

Front row (l to r):

- Anne Lansdell, Victoria—already a 50 year recipient. Celebrating 70 years of officiating service.
- Ken Porter, Victoria.
- Alice Kubek, Victoria.
- Bob Adams, Victoria

Back row (l to r):

- Rafael Melendez-Duke, Victoria.
- Keith Newell, Victoria.
- Iain Fisher, Coquitlam

HOWARD BRANDT MIGRATES TO COLUMBIA

Long time and very experienced starter Howard Brandt has left British Columbia and Canada for his country estate (AKA “Finca”) in the foothills above Santa Marta, Columbia, where he will enter his new career as a gentleman farmer (although he will be taking his style book and computer and will continue his paid work as a copy editor). He has promised to maintain his involvement in track and build the team of starters in Santa Marta, when not growing tropical fruit. We will all miss Howard’s skills, presence, banter, and frequent correction of the announcer’s grammar. We wish him the best.



P.E.I. NEWS

PEI OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR is Andrew Walker

ONTARIO NEWS

IAN REID AND RICK WATKINS RECEIVED THEIR AWARDS FOR BEING NAMED CO-OFFICIALS FOR THE YEAR 2018 FOR THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO. CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH OF YOU.



NACAC NEWS



I attended a 3 day IAAF – NACAC Level 2 Area Starter’s Training Seminar in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on December 14-16, 2018. The lecturers were Alan Bell from Great Britain and Lisa Ferdinand from Canada who are both on the International Panel of Starters.

There were 14 starters attending the seminar and were from a variety of member countries; I was Canada’s representative, there were three starters from the US, and one from many of the Caribbean and Central American countries.

This was a very intensive course. There were 2 simultaneous seminars, with the other seminar for photo finish judges. Both Starters and Photo Finish Judges met for introductions at 9:00 am on December 14, and then broke into our respective groups. Starters finished the formal portion of the seminar around 6 pm. We were given a homework assignment which many worked on until about 10 pm.

On December 15, we boarded a bus at 5:00 am and traveled to Salcedo, which took us 2 ½ hours to get to. We were divided into 3 groups, and each group started a race or group of races, alternating between groups. Within each group, positions were rotated so that all started, recalled, was a start referee, or was a starter’s assistant on the track. At the end of the day, we met for dinner at the restaurant on the way

back to Santo Domingo.

We began our final session on December 16 around 10:00 am, and finished about 4:30 pm. This was truly a very beneficial seminar, as not only did we discuss a variety of issues with our lecturers, but we were able to discuss a variety of issues with other starters. I learned a tremendous amount, and hope to disseminate much of my learnings to other start line officials in the future.

Ian Gordon

I attended a 3-day training - IAAF NACAC International Chief Judge Photofinish in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 14 to 17 December 2018. The lecturers were David Weicker (CAN) and Josh Klein (US).

We were 12 participants for this training. Participants came from Canada, the US and the Caribbean. The purpose of this training was to establish a list of Chief Judge Photofinish for NACAC.

Following the opening and use presentations, we did a theoretical exam on the regulations. For the rest of the day, we had discussions in small groups and with all the participants on different topics (roles, relationships with other officials and regulations, etc.).

As described by Ian Gordon in his presentation, Saturday morning departure around 5 am, we headed to Salcedo for an U18 national competition. It was a 2 hour drive! We were divided into teams of three, during the competition to share the following roles: operator photofinish, national chief judge and international chief judge and we were evaluated on our work. After our competition in Salcedo, we went back to the residence. That was a long day!

Sunday morning back in class, for a presentation that we had to do in front of the group, that's was also part of our evaluation. Each of us had to send a situation that we had experienced or not. Each of the presentations lasted 5 minutes.

Following our presentations, we retired from the room so that the lecturers could complete the evaluations. 20 minutes later, we started to scroll past them to get our results. We were graded on knowledge and skills, including Communications, Leadership, Problem Solving and Participation in the Classroom.

After the seminar the NACAC board endorsed the lecturers recommendations on who was to be selected on the NACAC panel for the 2019- 2022. I was happy to hear recently that I was one of the 6 selected for the panel.

Serge Thibaudeau



Congratulations are in order to Ian and Serge for their stellar performances at the training in December! They both made the NACAC Panel for (Starters and Photo Finish respectively)

IAAF AND WPA NEWS

We need to be **PROUD** of Canadian officials all over the globe!

Jane Edstrom and Jennifer Campbell for being selected as ITOs(athletics) for the **2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games** in Abu Dhabi .

Jane Edstrom as being selected as ITO for the **World Relays Championships** in Japan

David Weicker as being selected as an International Chief Judge Photofinish for the **Pan Am Games** in Lima.

David Weicker as being selected as Technical Delegate for the **ParaPan American Games** in Lima

David Weicker as being selected as Video Referee for the **World Para Athletics Championships** in Dubai

Daniel Michaud as being selected as Race Walk Chief Judge at **the World Championship** in Dohu.

Daniel Michaud as being selected as Race Walk Judge for **IAAF Permit Race Walk** in Mexico.

Daniel Michaud as being selected as ITO for the **Pan Am Games** in Lima

Louise Buskas as being selected as ITO for **World Para Athletics Championships** in Dubai

Louise Buskas as being selected as ITO for the **Open International Toyota** in El Salvador.

Bob Cowden (BC) Judy Armstrong (BC) and Phil Martin (ON) for their invitation to Officiate at the **2019 World Masters Indoor Championships** in Torun,

LET'S TALK ABOUT STARTS REFEREE DECISION FROM THE EYES
OF LISA FERDINAND

Email sent to L5 Starters Assistances and L4 & 5 Track Referees (41 Technical Officials):

- Comments received from approximately **50%** of the group.
- Responses by discipline: **58%** Track Referees (L4 & L5) and **42%** Starters Assistants (L5) & Misc.

- Response to situation: **84%** agreed where as **16%** disagreed.

The majority of responders agreed with allowing the athlete to startle his fingers over the outer lane line. The main rationale being that **NO** athlete has gained an advantage and **NO** athlete was disadvantage.

Below, for your reference, is a summary of the majority of comments received.

Disagree

- “Both Rule 162.3 and 163.3(a) state that each athlete must "start" and remain in their allocated lane. The size of the athlete is not mentioned in any of these rules. How tall is tall enough to apply this exception? This would bring too much subjective decision making into the process. As far as Rule 163.4(b) is concerned, in my opinion, the athlete concerned in this scenario would gain an advantage as he would perhaps have a more comfortable start then the other athletes in the race who are abiding by the rules and starting within their allocated lane.”
- “The McGill track bank issue is well known. The rule book is very clear and the athlete had warm up time to get use to the bank, blocks and the turn. Officials cannot adapt the rules to deal with an athlete’s size or/and the construction on an indoor track.”
- “...The Athlete must start within his lane. It is correct that the back of the start block can extend outside the lane, but the athlete must stay within their lane. The lanes for indoors are restricted for all athletes, so no one should gain an advantage by having their hands or fingers extend outside their lane.”

Agree

- “You are in NO way giving an athlete an advantage and you are reducing a disadvantage of a "tall" one. A banked track produces enough of a challenge in itself. I would extend the line with tape as we do outdoors for Para athletes with guides and as we do outdoors with extending curved start lines outside lane 8 when using the same surface {162.1(i)}.”
- “The I.A.A.F. regulations are very strict and well-defined on the composition of an inside track according to the Rules (210, 160.4, 212.2, 213.2, 161.1). “We should let the athlete to position his fingers outside the corridor to its starting line because he derives no gain and keep a better balance. We already allow for the starting block to extend beyond the lane line. (Rule 161.1)We find this problem especially on the oval tracks 6 lane. McGill is a good example.”

- “1.0 m is also likely too narrow for many to be comfortable in their set position, and an athlete should not be penalized because of this. The rules should be modified to account for this.”
- “...I would interpret the 162.3 and .4 about 'completely within his allocated lane' as being applicable to the straight or any instance where there is the potential to be interfering with the outside neighbour. Since on the oval, the outside neighbour is further up the track, there isn't the potential for interference and so reasonable encroachment would be allowed. Note that 'reasonable' is a subjective call. You'd also want to ensure you could confirm their fingers were still behind the imaginary extension of their start line to wherever they have place their fingers in that adjacent lane.”
- “The old indoor board track in Saskatoon was 165 meters and the bank quite significant. To me it doesn't matter the size of the athlete, balance may be a factor. In Saskatoon balance was a big factor. I see no reason why any athlete starting on a banked track couldn't put his fingers in the next lane provided he was not interfering with anyone else. The objective of any starter is to try to provide a fair start for all athletes.”
- “The main principle is make sure there's no advantage has been gained by the athlete or no disadvantage has been caused to another athlete...It is a matter of a common sense. In that kind of situation I would [have] allowed the athlete to put his fingers on the outer lane. Especially with an echelon start race.”
- “...The key is there is no implemented to other participants in the event.”
- I agree with the decision, “and in addition I might have asked the Chief Starter's Assistant to tell all of the athletes that this was being allowed. This would preclude any coach from being able to protest against an athlete after the fact!”
- “...don't think that there was any violation at all. No interference with hands on the outside of the lane on the outer side.”

Changing lanes....sometimes?...ABSOLUTELY!! Feb. 2002

RULES? To ensure fairness

I strongly believe we should do everything possible, within the rules, to enhance an athlete's performance, and ensure fairness in every situation.

Officials can never give one athlete an advantage over another BUT we should **ALWAYS** attempt, when possible, **to lessen a disadvantage** one or more athletes may face provided, of course, it is within the rules.

In races 100m to 400m and short hurdles, lane position is a huge factor so when there is an empty lane(s) we should move athletes out of less favourable lane(s).

What I mean by lane change is... compacting or moving athletes sideways **not** having an athlete leapfrog another athlete. Leapfrogging may affect seeding.

The IAAF Rule Book assumes all lanes are full so it doesn't directly deal with this situation.

Rule 166.5 "An athlete shall not be allowed to compete in a heat or lane other than the one in which his name appears **except** in circumstances which in the **opinion** of the referee **justify an alteration**"

What does the word *opinion* mean? –"a personal view, attitude, or appraisal; a belief or judgment that rests on grounds insufficient to produce absolute certainty"

How does one form an opinion? I believe through rational thought; asking oneself what is fair? ; and through experience.

I firmly believe that being at a disadvantage **justifies an alteration** (if made possible by an empty lane).

What constitutes a disadvantage (thereby justifying an alteration..lane change)? I know for certain that the majority of athletes (I always ask an athlete if they would prefer to be in another lane) feel the following examples constitute a disadvantage and are unfair;

- pooling water or flooded lane
- An outside lane (8 or 9) "close" to physical structures or unrestrained spectators
- A lane that is two or three removed from fellow competitors eg. Lanes 2 and 3 empty....solution?...move lane 1 into 3
- Indoors (200m track) lane 1 is at a HUGE disadvantage to the outer lanes..therefore lane 1 should always be avoided when possible however the outside lane could pose a huge **safety risk** with the "three-ring circus" environment of some indoor meets so perhaps moving everyone "in" is a greater need.

IAAF **COMPETITION RULES 166.4 (iv)...**"When there are more lanes than athletes, the inside lane(s) **SHOULD ALWAYS REMAIN FREE**". Not enacted until 2016/17 rule book...many years after I was advocating this move.

Other factors

Starters prefer an compact field...especially in an echelon start...in the extreme, think of the spread of a 1600m Relay start...one less lane reduces considerably, the angle they have to cover

Spectators have a more challenging time determining race positions (when empty lane[s]) in echelon start races (200m & 400m) before the athletes enter the final straight.

Athletes want to be "in contact" with their competitors at the start of a race. That is why lane 8 is considered the least favourable (outdoors). "Contact" is why the fastest runners are seeded into lanes 3-6.

Empty lanes can divide a race into separate competitions. Eg. Lanes 4 & 5 empty - turns a race into 1vs2vs3 and 6vs7vs8 not appealing to **athletes, spectators or television viewers**.

The **IAAF** is always concerned about presentation and advancing our sport (IAAF **Starting Guidelines**, April 2012, p.1 "**enhance the way in which the sport is presented**") I believe an empty lane between athletes detracts from the presentation. That is why the fastest athletes are in lanes 3-6. The "V" formation running down the straight is pleasing to the eye and makes it easier to determine position during the race

Safety must always a factor (IAAF **The Referee** 2010 p.25 "**A Note on Safety**) It may necessitate reducing the number of lanes used in a race or even cancelling or postponing

**** June 22, 2012 USA Olympic Trials, Eugene...Decathlon 110hurdles...5 sections...**athletes in lanes 1, 3, 5, and 7 only**. The 110m Hurdles has the greatest potential for "incidents". **Safety and fairness**

(?)...enhances everyone's chance of maximum points. This was the opposite of compacting but still considered **what was best for the athletes**. **Subsequently, the IAAF wasn't happy with this move and tried to "scold" the Americans**

Yes, changing lanes may present some challenges (for umpires, timers, and finish line management) and yes, they **should** factor into the decision whether or not to change lanes but we should **always** consider **What is best for the athletes (?)**.

If you have any comments on the issue, please send your comments to Helen Vasilic email address.

Also, if you have situations to share with other officials in order to get their opinions and as well as the correct interpretations. do not hesitate to send the situation to Helen Vasilic and we will publish the situation, the answer and the justification.

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