

BC Athletics Zone 6 Rep's Report

(Darren Willis, 2021-08-13)

In general, COVID-19 continues to dominate activity in the region, though the relaxing of guidelines during the summer has allowed a feeling of normalcy for clubs still active at this point in the year. That has been nice, but with the Delta variant of the virus proving more harmful to younger people we should anticipate a return to stricter protocols in the Fall/Winter.

Competition

There was no VIAA Island Series in 2021. Some clubs hosted in-house performance trials and there were a number of smaller high performance competitions hosted for athletes looking to make international teams this year.

The high performance events were set up to compensate for travel restrictions and the lack of competitive opportunities compared with a normal year. It will be interesting to see if events like these could continue on Vancouver Island beyond the pandemic.

Facilities

- Pandemic & Facilities
 - 2020/2021 has highlighted the sometimes tenuous access the sport has to key training infrastructure, the importance of strong relationships between club and community (or facility owner) and the role that the Athletics community can play in helping each other overcome policies that may have gone too far in restricting access to training facilities by sharing strategies and ideas.
 - One example was the division of Track & Field facilities into a series of distinctly managed areas (track, infield, throwing areas, jumps areas) that allowed communities to let more people be active at one time without compromising social distancing goals and guidelines. This provided flexibility for training and event hosting.

- Facility Upgrades
 - Nanaimo
 - The Rotary Bowl in Nanaimo (home to the Nanaimo Track & Field Club) is being resurfaced over the next two months. Work is set to begin August 18 and be complete sometime in October. This

investment will put the community/club is in a stronger position to host Championship level events.

- The Nanaimo Track & Field Club also created an indoor throwing facility during 2020/2021 to allow its throwers a better year-round training environment.
- Cowichan
 - The Cowichan Valley Athletic Club, with support of the BC Throws Project, was able to get the Hammer Throwing area (cage and landing zone) of their Track & Field facility sanctioned for high level competition. This means that performances registered there can be recognized for Provincial/National Team Qualification, Championship Qualification Standards, or Event Records.