

**BC Athletics Junior Development Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Sunday, September 15, 2019

10am by Teleconference

1) Attendance:

Dawn Copping (Chair), Birgit Weaver (Vice Chair), Dan Horan, Alwilda Van Ryswyk, Carolyn Emon, Ross Browne, Doug Evans (Special Guest), Tom Dingle (BCA Statistician), Darren Willis (BOD Committee Liaison), Sabrina Nettey (Introductory Programs Coordinator)

Regrets: Christine Dela Cruz

2) Acceptance of Agenda

Alwilda requested that discussion of 2020 Committee positions be added to the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda (Alwilda Van Ryswyk/Carolyn Emon). Accepted.

3) Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from April Meeting were incomplete. Sabrina to update based on Committee discussion and to distribute for acceptance via email.

4) Items arising from April Meeting

No items arising from April Meeting

5) Report from Darren

Darren offered his thanks to the JD Committee for their prompt efforts and responses to last minute discussions regarding rules for the 2019 JD Track & Field Championships. He also discussed the various resolutions related to JD programs that had been brought to the BC Athletics AGM including:

- Resolution 2 – Stems from a desire to see better reporting by meet organizers, and aims to provide guidance that we don't currently have
- Resolution 3 – Board of Directors support the idea of creating zone councils to help organize regional track & field competitions
- Resolution 4 – Length of meets is to be reviewed by a sub-committee with the aim of increasing participation and better supporting volunteerism
- Resolution 6 – Pertains to the awarding of medals at JD relays. Vote confirmed the policy the Board of Directors had created in the spring.
- Resolution 7 – Pertains to recruitment policy guidelines. A sub-committee will be created to look at the practices of recruitment between clubs

6) Review of the JD Award Nominees

The Committee reviewed the list of award nominees compiled by Tom Dingle. Tom noted that only two-thirds of athletes are nominated by a parent/coach. He also noted that fewer athletes had met all the criteria for awards and that no 2009 Girls (10YO JD) had qualified.

Motion to approve presented list of Award Nominees (Dan Horan/Alwilda van Ryswyk). Approved.

7) Discussion of the JD Awards Luncheon & AGM

Dawn discussed changes in the menu that she'd made with the venue. Sabrina explained that the cost of the venue had increased significantly compared to 2018 and 2017. Committee discussed the appropriate price of tickets in relation to the increased cost of hosting and the reduced number of awardees and decided to increase ticket prices to: Children (\$25 + tax), Adults (\$35 + tax), and Ceremony Only (\$8 + tax). Birgit asked if BC Athletics would still support the JD Committee to attend event for free. Darren confirmed that BC Athletics has a budget for Committee activities.

Motion to approve increased tickets prices of \$25/\$35/\$8 + tax (Dawn Copping, Birgit Weaver). Approved.

Discussion that it would be good to price compare venue options in future years. Discussion that JD Committee should also review trends to determine reduced award eligibility with 57 awardees in 2019, 64 in 2018, and 71 in 2017.

Committee discussed jobs for JD Awards Luncheon:

Dawn – Decorations

Dan – Organize stage

Alwilda – Photos

Birgit – Distribute JD certificates, XC Awards, Front Door

Sabrina – Bring BC Athletics projector and signage, put out notice for door prizes, secure additional photographer

Darren – 50/50 Tickets

Tom – Attendance TBC. If attending will run PowerPoint. Will see if able to bring projector screen

Christine – Attendance TBC. If attending will do Front Door + Draw Prizes

Ross – Attendance TBC

Caroline – Unavailable to attend

Committee should arrive by 10am to begin event set up.

Discussion of difficulty in seating with groups reserving tables to include individuals attending for the ceremony but not the luncheon. Sabrina to determine which portion of event individuals are attending for when taking reservations.

Sabrina asked if the JD Committee had any Guest Speakers they would like to invite. Dawn mentioned that she would like to invite Dylan Armstrong. Alwilda stated that he was quite busy but that she would ask him. Sabrina mentioned that she was concerned that a speaker of Dylan's stature would expect the committee to cover the expenses associated with his attending the event. Alwilda said that she would

cover his expenses should he come. Sabrina also provided Django Lovett, Natasha Wodak, and Tristan Smyth as other possible options. Birgit suggested she should reach out to them all, and that it would be good to bring another Para-Athlete if possible.

8) Business arising from BC Athletics AGM

Dawn explained that this item had mostly been covered during Darren's Report (Item 5). She restated that a motion went forward regarding the relay awards that was not passed at the AGM, therefore the rules put in place by the Board of Directors will continue. Dawn also stated that during the resolution discussion Brian McCalder (BC Athletics President/CEO) had indicated that 2nd claim memberships had been created for the purpose of relay teams. She would like to encourage more athletes to use this policy rather than creating last minute mixed teams. Sabrina explained a difficulty with this is that most relay teams are put together last minute during the event and that 2nd Claim memberships need to put in place prior to that. Birgit said that Championships should be about quality rather than quantity participation, with athletes coming to the meet having prepared for their events. Discussion of whether unattached athletes could use 2nd Claim membership to compete as part of a club relay team; Dawn to follow up with Sam Collier to confirm BC Athletics policy related to this. Darren explained that the Board would look unfavorably on any recommendation put forth by the Committee that would look to limit who could participate/be awarded in the relays.

9) Report on JD Pentathlon

Doug Evans, the JD Head Coach with Golden Ears, was invited to expand on the written report provided by Derrick Stevenson (Club President & Meet Director). Doug stated that the club had all the required facilities and that the day went according to schedule. Awards needed better handling, and could be given out as soon as an age groups final results are tallied rather than after the entire meet is concluded.

Difficulties for the meet organizers included the Pentathlon date being moved to mid-July, compared to late June, which resulted in reduced registration numbers (~160 compared to 200+ in previous years). He also felt that being held back to back with the JD Track & Field Championships also affected registration numbers. Another hosting difficulty was that there was poor volunteer turn out from attending clubs, particularly those that only sent a couple athletes. Discussion that there needs to be better communication when calling out for volunteers, separate from the meet package.

Doug also noted that the Pentathlon is not a great money making event with the Golden Ears profit on it approximately \$2000, compared to \$7000-8000 for the Eagle Classic, the one day meet hosted by the Golden Ears. Doug felt this was due to similar operating expenses but less athlete participation at the Pentathlon compared to the Eagle Classic (~400) with a single entry fee of \$25 compared to the \$40 athletes would pay at most meets to participate in 5 events. Additionally, Championship hosting requires a 25% return to BC Athletics on entry fees. JD Committee to discuss potential price increase at JD AGM.

Dawn thanked Doug for his report and invited him to attend the JD AGM. Doug expressed an interested in joining the JD Committee at the JD AGM.

10) Report on JD Track & Field Championships

Committee reviewed the Post-Event Feedback collected by Maureen de St. Croix (Meet Director). Sabrina explained that it had been recommended that the JD Committee use the feedback as a basis to create a survey to determine opinions on various aspects of JD Track & Field Championships with the aim of increasing overall event participation. Dawn and Birgit to take lead in preparing survey.

Dawn stated that she'd like to see regional championships as a lead up to the provincial championships, to encourage participation. Dan explained that the relatively few clubs and competitive athletes in the Kootenay's would make it difficult to create a Championship environment around such an event. Carolyn indicated the same would be true in Northern BC. She stated that part of the issue is that track & field needs to be promoted as a competitive program, and illustrated other programs in which a competition is a required part of team participation.

Sabrina noted that regions outside the Lower Mainland don't have competition opportunities in July, and asked if that affected participation at Championships. Dan stated that he runs program through to end of JD T&F Championships but there is a drop off in participation. Sabrina asked if reduced competition opportunities has affected ability of athletes from these regions to qualify for JD Awards. Tom mentioned that majority of awardees do come from the Lower Mainland. Ross stated that if clubs create a competitive program athletes should be prepared even with limited competition opportunities.

11) Items from Cross Country Meeting

Dawn reported that the Cross Country Committee is looking to increase the entry fee for JDs at BC Cross Country Championships from \$7 to \$9.

Motion to support Cross Country Committee recommendation (Birgit Weaver, Ross Browne). Approved.

Dawn explained that the cross country committee is looking for a simpler way to score the JD Club Team Awards and asked Tom if he'd be willing to investigate possible solutions. Darren stated he'd also be willing to help.

12) Athletes training but not competing

Discussion that it is important for clubs to create a culture of competition and attending competitions. Tom pointed out that BC Athletics memberships (i.e. training and competitive) don't necessarily reflect the actual activity of members, giving the example that some training athletes may be competing frequently. Discussion on whether athletes with training membership could compete. Sabrina to confirm with Sam Collier competition policies for athletes with training memberships.

13) Questionnaire re: school district participation in track & field

Discussion of the difficulty in completing project due to the number of school districts that exist across BC and the importance of connecting with the actual track & field person. Purpose of survey is to create opportunities to connect clubs with schools.

14) Document stating JD differences

Dawn explained that, while the JD Manual had a number of JD rules, there is not a single document that lists all the JD rules that differentiate from IAAF rules and that it would be good to put together such a

document. Sabrina indicated that it could become a large project as a review of the IAAF Manual with an Official may be necessary. Birgit suggested that rules could simply be taken from the JD Manual with the addition of the rules put forth prior to the JD Track & Field Championships. Dawn to begin putting together document.

15) Discussion of 2020 Committee Positions

Dan was uncertain if he'd sit again for the Zone 1 position. Alwilda stated that she would not sit again for Zone 2 but that she recommends Truman Tremblay from Kamloops Track & Field Club. Dawn said that she and Birgit would continue and that Besnik Mece was also interested in joining as a Member at Large. Carolyn looking for a replacement for Zone 8; Ross indicated interest in continuing with Committee. Sabrina mentioned that Doug Evans had been interested in the JD Committee and could potentially be the Zone 3 representative. Darren to continue looking for a representative from Zone 6. Uncertain if Christine intended to sit again as Zone 4 representative.

16) Motion to Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 12:37 PM