

**BC Athletics Junior Development Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Time 2:04pm by Teleconference.

1. Attendance

Doug Evans (Chair), Cristi Lundman (Vice Chair), Kylie Lakevold, Caitlin Reed, Lee Hunter, Dawn Copping, Birgit Weaver, Tatjana Mece, Darren Willis (BOD Committee Liaison), Sabrina Nettey (Introductory Programs Coordinator)

Regrets: Christine Dela Cruz, Kyndrie Malmquist, Ross Browne, Tom Dingle (BCA Statistician)

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Dawn requested that Approval of Meets for JD Awards & Crests be added to the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda (Cristi Lundman/Dawn Copping). Accepted.

3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting

Motion to accept minutes (Dawn Copping/Birgit Weaver). Accepted.

4. Items arising from last meeting

Birgit noted that the minutes from the 2021 JD AGM need to be reviewed for editing.

5. Report from Darren

Darren reported that the Board of Directors had reviewed and approved the wording the JD Committee had recommended regarding volunteerism at the JD Championships`

6. Proposal for updates to JD Crest & JD Awards Programs

Doug noted that due to COVID there has been two years without a traditional season, JD Awards, or a Banquet which creates an opportunity to review the JD Crest & Awards program and potentially re-invent. Sabrina was asked to prepare a proposal on potential updates to the program which were shared prior to the meeting, with the committee now being asked to provide their feedback.

Regarding the JD Crest program, Doug noted that although it is designed as an encouragement that every athlete should be eligible for, there is limited participation by clubs. It would be ideal if this was available for every athlete at no cost, which would require funding from BC Athletics. Discussion that the Crest program is something the JD Committee can stand behind as it aligns with LTAD. However, it requires advertising as many clubs don't know it exist, and it would be good for clubs to be able to promote to their athletes what they are working towards. As well, at present Crests are purchased by clubs for their athletes, making it expensive for clubs with large JD programs which can reduce participation. Discussion also on whether athletes still enjoy Crests. Agreement that Committee likes the idea of having something available for every athlete, although it may be worthwhile to look at replacing the actual "Crest"

with a different item (ex. T-shirt) that athletes would value more and can also be used to promote BC Athletics.

Regarding the JD Awards, discussion that, despite changes over the years to include more athletes, it doesn't necessarily align with LTAD, as it encourages chasing standards, over development of sport skills and overall love of sport. It also awards athletes who already receive medals/ribbons at every competition and can create unrealistic expectations and pressure for athletes and their families regarding their future achievements in the sport. Discussion that recognition of top athletes may be necessary to keep them in our sport.

Regarding the JD Awards Banquet, Doug noted that it seems to be a labour-intensive event for relatively few athletes, and accounts for over 50% of the JD Budget. Should it continue or is there an opportunity to reallocate the awards budget in ways that would allow more athletes to be recognized? Discussion of the increasing expense of hosting the banquet as well as the high cost for participants based outside of the Lower Mainland to attend, particularly with rising fuel prices. Discussion around the amount of the budget allocated to a small portion of the athletes. Question regarding potential for virtual banquets.

Lack of unified consensus on what aspects of programs to maintain or update. Agreement to send out survey to clubs for feedback, with the JD Committee to meet again in the early season to make a decision.

7. Approval of Meets for JD Awards & JD Crests

Discussion that a list of approved meets should not be required but rather, all BC Athletics sanctioned meets up to and including the JD Track & Field Championships should be included. Question regarding whether Fall competitions should be included as, in recent years, athletes have attended with the chance of achieving award standard. Sabrina noted that Fall meets were included as part of the list of approved meets as an accommodation for athletes who achieved Award standard during this period. Should the Awards/Crests program update to have a more inclusive focus, while athletes can still compete at these Fall meets, they shouldn't need them to "achieve standard" allowing a firmer deadline to be put in place.

8. JD Para Competition Guidelines

As a follow up to the January JD Committee Meeting, BC Athletics staff in consultation with Athletics Canada have developed guidelines to allow JD athletes to participate in our competition programs. At present, have completed guidelines for Para Ambulatory athletes. Guidelines for Para Wheelchair athletes are still being developed. Discussion on the lack of coach education regarding working with para athletes and how this can best work for meet directors and meet secretaries using the Trackie system.

Motion to add the JD Para Competition Guidelines to the JD Manual (Dawn Copping/Birgit Weaver). Accepted.

9. Club/Zone Reports

Discussion that JD programs were now operational with many programs beginning in early April. Generally good numbers with competitions upcoming. Coaching capacity a limiting factor.

10. Motion to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm (Lee Hunter/Dawn Copping)

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26th, 2022 @ 8pm

DRAFT