

BC Athletics Junior Development Committee 2021 Annual General Meeting
Sunday, November 7th, 2021
Online via RingCentral

The Meeting was called to order at 2:04pm

- 1 Attendance: Dawn Copping – Chair (1), Birgit Weaver – Vice Chair & NorWesters (2), Kylie Lakevold – JD Committee & Trail TFC (2), Doug Evans – JD Committee & Golden Ears Athletics (2), Lee Hunter – JD Committee (1), Cristiana Lundman – JD Committee & Nanaimo TFC (2), Ross Browne – JD Committee & Prince George TFC (2), Tatjana Mece – Vancouver Olympic Club (1), Besnik Mece – New West Spartans (1), Caitlin Reed – Kamloops Track & Field Club (1), Sue Kydd – Universal Athletics Club (1), Maureen de St. Croix – Ocean Athletics (1), Karen Fish Hagel – Kajaks Track & Field Club (1), Kyndrie, Malmquist – Burnaby Striders (1), Jasmine Gill – Universal Athletics Club/BC Athletics BOD, Tom Dingle – BC Athletics Statistics & Peninsula TFC (1), Darren Willis – BC Athletics Director/JD Committee Liaison & Alberni Valley TFC (1), Sabrina Nettey – BC Athletics Staff

Total Votes: 21

Regrets: Christine Dela Cruz – JD Committee & Air Blastoff

Dawn acknowledged the passing of Alwilda van Ryswyk in October 2021 as she was a vital component of the Junior Development Committee, BC Athletics, and Kamloops Track & Field Club. She will be remembered.

- 2 Acceptance of the Agenda

Motion to accept the Agenda: Doug Evans, seconded Lee Hunter.
Accepted unanimously.

- 3 Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2020 JD Committee AGM

Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2020 JD Committee AGM: Karen Fisher Hagel, seconded Tatjana Mece.
Accepted unanimously.

- 4 Items arising from the 2019 JD Committee AGM Minutes

No business arising from previous AGM.

- 5 Report from the Junior Development Championships

- i. Cross Country

Oral overview provided by Cristi Lundman and Doug Evans as representative of host organization (Prairie Inn Harriers) was not available. Event was well run and well attended by both JDs and U16/U18 athletes, with greater turn out than when the same club hosted in 2019. It was awesome to see kids out running again. The medal ceremony was cancelled in place of mail outs due to COVID and weren't missed. De-emphasizing the placing made it a more fun event for the kids.

Besnik attended the High School Cross Country championships and shared that was also a well-attended event. He noted that at the high school level it would be good to investigate which athletes are aspiring to attend future Olympics and utilize research to support them in maximizing their ability to qualify.

ii. Pentathlon

The JD Pentathlon Championships were cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

iii. Track & Field Championships

The JD Track & Field Championships were cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

6 Awarding of JD Championships for 2021 (Pentathlon & Track and Field)

Ocean Athletics and Okanagan Athletics have first right of refusal in hosting the JD Track & Field and Pentathlon Championships, respectively, as both clubs were initially awarded the 2020 events and re-awarded the 2021 events, with both being cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

Sabrina confirmed that Okanagan Athletics is still interested in hosting the JD Pentathlon Championships as part of the Jack Brow Memorial. Maureen confirmed that Ocean Athletics is still interested in hosting the JD Track & Field Championships. She noted that due to the crowded 2021 Calendar (BC Summer Games and U20/Senior National Championships) there are fewer meet dates available in July. BC Athletics has reserved the July 16th weekend for the JD T&F Championships with a potential alternate date being the July 31st long weekend. Poll of AGM attendees showed strong preference for the earlier date.

Besnik noted that the July 16th date conflicts with the World Championships in Oregon which is an event our youth should be encouraged to attend. General discussion that the distance, expense, and uncertainty around travel make it unlikely that a significant number of our JDs will attend the event. Sabrina noted that Langley is hosting the 2022 Senior National Championships which would be a great event to encourage our JDs to attend to get to watch our senior level athletes compete. Maureen agreed, sharing that the organizing committee is actively looking for JDs to act as basket kids for the races; anyone interested should contact Brent Dolfo.

JD Pentathlon Championships: July 2, 2022. Host Club: Okanagan Athletics

JD Track & Field Championships: July 15 – 17, 2022. Host Club: Ocean Athletics

7 Report of JD Chair to the BC Athletics AGM

Dawn explained that as Chair she prepares a report to present at the BC Athletics AGM on behalf of the JD Committee. Sue asked for clarification about the document listing JD rule differences from World Athletics. Sabrina explained that they weren't new rules but rather rules that BC Athletics already used compiled into a single document (ex. JDs are not to use blocks). Besnik asked about the new rules pertaining to lane violations. Sabrina explained that those Maureen asked for clarification regarding All Time Top Ten performances being "considered" for inclusion. Dawn explained that awards are always considered against the qualification criteria with such factors as performance standard and meet sanctioning being reviewed.

8 Feedback on Zone Challenges in 2021

Dawn asked for feedback on the Zone Challenges that were held in lieu of the JD Championships events and whether it is something that should be continued. Ross spoke to the Zone 8 Challenge, viewing it as a great success with attendance from both club and unattached athletes. Would definitely do it again, although would look to promote it better in the future. Kylie explained that the Zone 1 Challenge wasn't able to occur as they are a small zone with only a couple relatively small clubs. If Challenges were to happen again in the future would like to combine with Zone 2. Karen spoke to the Zone 5 Challenge, saying that the event went very well with the 185 participating athletes being a good turnout aligned with their capacity and that they would do it again. Tatjana commented that the Zone 5 Challenge was very well organized with the kids and parents very excited to participate with other clubs. It would be nice to have a variety of meets for 2022 and she would be happy to see this again. Cristi spoke to the Zone 6 Challenge with it being relatively well attended, considering that many clubs were no longer offering programs by that time. She noted that within her club, accessibility is an issue and that it would be nice to maintain regional Challenges for those who are unable to travel to JD Championships. Sue spoke to the Zone 3/4 Challenge which she attended as an Official. She said that the meet was extremely well organized, the kids had a great time, and thanks Sabrina for the organization of these events.

Maureen asked if there was a sense of whether having Regional Challenges would reduce attendance at the JD Championships. Cristi spoke to this, feeling that those who planned to attend would still attend, however a regional event would increase opportunities for families without the capacity to make that trip.

Doug noted that the great thing about the Challenge Meets were that they were single day, JD focused meets without a full slate of events. It would be good to look at having more of these types of events as compared to the traditional 2.5 day meets.

9 JD Crests and Awards

Tom noted that there were significantly more meets in 2021 than in previous years so it is taking more time than previously to process results. He hopes to have them complete by December.

10 Impact of Reduced Training/Competition in 2021

Dawn noted that fewer clubs are ordering Gold Crests this season and asked if other clubs had noticed a difference in the development of their athletes. Karen noted that her club had only had one athlete earn a Gold Crest, however there was also much fewer competitions that they typically participated in. Caitlin noted that Kamloops had 6 or 7 in club meets, however there were limited opportunities for athletes to travel to compete with other clubs. The main challenge with COVID wasn't a lack of motivation with athletes but in family participation with the club. They are looking for ways to get parents volunteering again. Kylie also noted that lack of motivation wasn't as much a factor as a lack of opportunities for full scale competitions, particularly as Zone 1 athletes always have to travel to meets. They found that their high school athletes who were able to attend a couple competitions in Alberta performed very well. Caitlin asked for a clarification of what Crests are. Sabrina explained that they are badges that JD athletes can earn by achieving a performance standard. The standards are set so that every athlete should be able to earn a Crest, as compared to JD Awards which only about 80 athletes will earn each year.

11 Motion re: Volunteering at Junior Development Championships

Dawn asked Maureen to speak to her motion. Maureen said that current BC Athletics policy stipulates that all participating clubs must help with the organization or operation of this JD Championships. However, as participating clubs are supplying entry fees and athletes to the event they should not be burdened with running the event. Parents and coaches chose to bring their athletes to the meet so that they can watch and coach their athletes without being burdened with running the event. They pay entry fees, travel, and accommodation for that privilege. Host clubs reap the financial benefit, gain the opportunity to train officials and volunteers, and increase community recognition and support for their club and the sport by hosting the event. Should a club feel that they can't host the event on their own then it is an opportunity to partner with another club to host the event and have both clubs benefit. She has reviewed past meet hosting requests and the amount of support that is being asked for is significant with attending clubs taking care of over 70% of the event volunteering

Sue shared that when Universal Athletics had hosted the JD T&F Championships in 2014 her single biggest challenge as Meet Director was nailing down volunteers. Often clubs don't know which athletes will be attending until the week before the meet and so can't commit volunteers until the last minute. However, often this commitment isn't properly communicated to parents who will show up at the meet unaware that they are supposed to be helping at an event at a specific time. Tatjana offered support for the motion, noting that parents don't like to volunteer at meets. Kylie also found that parents don't like to volunteer when they've travelled to attend a meet. She also noted that Zone 1 hasn't hosted a JD Championships in several years because they anticipate much lower participation numbers if the event was held in the Kootenays.

Birgit spoke to the history of this motion, noting that it was brought forward at the 2017 JD Committee AGM. As it was brought forward during the meeting it couldn't be voted on but was

discussed. A survey was sent out to the membership to gauge the feeling around the motion. At the January 2018 JD Committee Meeting the Committee reworded the motion so that clubs were only required to volunteer if asked 60 days in advance of the meet, but that host clubs had the option of not requesting support. Sabrina reminded the committee that a vote at this meeting didn't equate to an automatic change in the rule but would mean that the motion would be brought forward as a recommendation to the Board of Directors. She also noted that as a provincial championships it's important that the event be hosted throughout the province to increase the opportunities for athletes in various regions to attend. Given that most clubs host their own meet and are able to have parent volunteers support those event through a refundable bond, she is concerned that a change to the rule may reduce the ability for clubs outside the Lower Mainland to host the meet as they'll already have utilized their parent support for their own meet. Karen noted that removing the volunteer stipulation may encourage more parents and athletes to attend the Championships.

Cristi commented that Nanaimo trains their parents to expect to volunteer with the explanation that volunteering helps keep the costs of the sport low. She also noted that without volunteer support it could be more difficult for smaller island clubs to host. Birgit commented that volunteering at meets is a great way to encourage parents to get into Officiating. General discussion of what wording in the BC Athletics Operating Policies and JD Manual would allow for continued volunteering without requiring it of attendees. Doug asked if those present can vote on the motion and allow the Board of Directors to determine the wording. Darren clarified that the Board would want to see specific wording, so a vote could occur now but the wording would need to be addressed before being presented to the Board.

Motion to remove the stipulation that participating clubs must supply officiating help at the JD Championships: Maureen de St. Croix, seconded Sue Kydd.

**In Favour – 12 / Against – 3 / Abstain - 6
Accepted.**

Dawn asked Maureen to put together the wording she would like presented to the Board of Directors and send to herself, Birgit, Sabrina, and Darren. Maureen agreed.

12 Election of JD Committee Members

Dawn called for nominations for Zone and Member at Large positions.

The following individuals are nominated for a two year term:

Zone 1	Kylie Lakevold
Zone 2	Catilin Reed
Zone 3	Doug Evans
Zone 4	Christine Dela Cruz
Member at Large	Tatjana Mece
Member at Large	Kyndrie Malmquist

Motion to accept election of these JD Committee Members for two years:

Accepted by Acclamation.

It was noted that the following individuals have one year remaining of their term of office.

Zone 5	Dawn Copping
Zone 6	Cristi Lundman
Zone 7	
Zone 8	Ross Browne
Member at Large	Birgit Weaver
Member at Large	Lee Hunter

Dawn noted that the Zone 7 position is never filled because no JD focused programs exist in the region. She proposed seeking a fifth Member at Large to fill the vacancy.

13 Motion to adjourn: Maureen de St. Croix, seconded Tatjana Mece.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Jan 16, 2022 via teleconference
- April 3, 2022 via teleconference
- Sept 11, 2022 via teleconference
- Oct 23, 2022 BC Cross Country Championship weekend