

**BC Athletics Junior Development Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Sunday, September 14, 2020

2pm by Teleconference

1) Attendance:

Dawn Copping (Chair), Birgit Weaver (Vice Chair), Dan Horan, Alwilda van Ryswyk, Doug Evans, Cristiana Lundman, Tom Dingle (BCA Statistician), Darren Willis (BOD Liason), Sabrina Nettey (Introductory Programs Coordinator)

Regrets: Ross Browne, Christine de la Cruz

2) Acceptance of Agenda

Birgit requested that a discussion of the new coaching awards be added to the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda (Alwilda van Ryswyk/Birgit Weaver). Accepted

3) Acceptance of Minutes

Birgit noted that the minutes include two discussion items numbered 8 and that the discussion regarding the JD Awards Banquet hadn't been included. Sabrina would make updates.

Motion to accept changes (Alwilda van Ryswyk/Dawn Copping). Accepted

Motion to accept amended minutes (Birgit Weaver, Dan Horan). Accepted

4) Items arising from last meeting

None

5) Darren's report

Darren noted that the committee was asked to discuss whether JD Awards would be awarded in 2020. The JD Committees decision that awards be suspended for the 2020 season was brought to the Board. There was nothing significant from the BC Athletics AGM beyond the new coaching award which will be discussed later in Agenda.

A couple of new individuals have been added to the Board of Directors. The Board is currently seeking to fill the Male Athlete Rep position. Dawn asked what criteria was required for the position. Darren clarified that the individual must have been a BC U20 or Senior Team member within the past two years.

The Board is also looking at the budget for the next couple years with COVID creating uncertainty. However, they are optimistic that of how things will progress in comparison to this year. Dawn asked for clarification around current competition guidelines. Darren explained that inter-club competition is now allowed with some restrictions.

6) How are clubs operating in your area?

Each attendee spoke to how their club was operating. Most clubs present had offered a training season for athletes later in the summer, although with relatively small numbers. As well, some clubs only offered programs for athletes in high school or older. Clubs are looking to offer some fall programming for athletes.

Darren noted that some clubs that have restarted still have not been able to access facilities. Others that shut down at the beginning of COVID have not yet restarted. Dan noted that Trail TFC had not yet restarted as he is within the vulnerable population and so could not return to coaching. He also commented that the difficulty in meeting sanitization requirements required for Return to Training, particularly for high jump and throws events, can be a deterrent to restarting.

Birgit commented that, since the BC Athletics newsletter began a few months ago, direct blog alerts have stopped. The result is that, for those that do not actively check the BC Athletics website or social media channels, they are only receiving information once a month. Birgit noted that there are some important updates (ex. air quality alerts, return to training guidelines, etc.) that should not wait that long. Dawn asked for feedback from other committee members. Doug and Cristi noted that it is difficult to stay on top of email updates when they are sent too frequently. Sabrina asked if an email chain or newsletter specifically for club administrators would help resolve this. Dawn noted that this could be a good solution.

7) JD Cross Country Championships

There was discussion regarding the upcoming BC Cross Country Championships scheduled for Saturday October 24, 2020 in Saanich, hosted by the Prairie Inn Harriers and BC Athletics. If the decision is made to go ahead with the BC Cross Country Championships, it would hurt the host club financially if the JD portion was cancelled. An increase in the entry fees for this year's championships was agreed to at the AGM. With the new competition guidelines there must be a 15 minute period between each group.

Motion: If the BC Cross Country Championships go ahead, the JD committee agrees to support it, just as long as everyone can be kept safe. Moved by Birgit, seconded by Doug. All agreed.

8) 2021 BCJD Championships

Sabrina said that the Okanagan Athletic Club in Kelowna would like to host the 2021 JD Pentathlon and Ocean Athletics would like to host the 2021 BCJD Track and Field Championships. Both of these clubs had originally planned to host the respective 2020 JD Championships.

9) JD Banquet

The BCJD Banquet has been cancelled and the banquet venue has been closed due to recent provincial guidelines.

The BCJD AGM will be held on Sunday October 25 via video conference. Sabrina will advertise it and set it up.

10) Document stating JD differences in rules from IAAF rules.

There was discussion about this document and further editing is needed. The document will then be passed on to the Officials committee for their input and then returned to the JD committee.

11) Discussion about the changes in the coaching and officials awards.

At the recent BC Athletics AGM, there was a motion to change all the coaching and officials awards to female and male coaching and officials awards. Darren mentioned that having a female coaching award will not necessarily bring more female coaches into the system and will not result in more females coaching at the elite athlete level. He thinks that BC Athletics needs to look at what impedes women from rising to the higher levels of coaching at the elite athlete level. Christy's reaction was that it would make women coaches feel like it was an inferior award to the male award. Birgit agreed and said that her first reaction was that it was insulting to women to have a separate award from the men. Birgit felt that there should have been a poll or more discussion with women coaches before this was approved to see if they think there is a need for this. Also, there are so many awards at the AGM that the evening is long enough and this will make it even longer. It is already difficult to get nominations each year for one JD coach award, let alone two. Sabrina mentioned that the JD Coach award emphasized long term coaching and development of JD athletes, which is different that the criteria for the coaching awards of older and elite athletes. Dawn mentioned that the criteria for the coaching awards for older athletes should be reviewed.

12) Motion to adjourn: Doug moved and Alwilda seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.