

**BC Athletics Junior Development Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Time 2:04pm by Teleconference

1. Attendance

Dawn Copping (Chair), Birgit Weaver (Vice Chair), Alwilda van Ryswyk, Doug Evans, Christine Dela Cruz, Cristiana Lundman, Ross, Browne, Tom Dingle (BCA Statistician), Sabrina Netthey (Introductory Programs Coordinator)

Regrets: Darren Willis (BOD Committee Liaison)

2. Acceptance of Agenda

Motion to accept agenda (Christine Dela Cruz/Alwilda van Ryswyk). Accepted.

3. Acceptance of minutes of meeting

Motion to accept minutes (Doug Evans/Christine Dela Cruz). Accepted.

4. Items arising from last meeting

No items arising from last meeting.

5. Report from Darren

Dawn reviewed the report submitted by Darren. Two main components were Alternative Photo Finish Device (sprintTimer) and JD Differences from World Athletic Rules.

Regarding JD Differences from WA Rules, Darren's report noted that these rules would be presented at the next Board meeting for approval although the committee was asked to review feedback regarding a few rules (see report for full details):

The Starting Position Rule

- This has been reworded as: *Starting blocks are not to be used. Athletes may use a Standing or Crouch Start. If a Crouch Start is used then the "On your mark" position requires both hands and at least one knee to be on the ground. Both knees will be off the ground in the "Set" position.*

The Pole Vault Rule

- This has been reworded as: *The bar is to be raised by 10 cm increments until only 3 competitors remain. At this point, the bar is to be raised by a minimum of 5 cm. When a single competitor remains, the height to which the bar is raised shall be decided by the competitor in consultation with the Official.*

Tom was asked on how hand times are converted for middle and long distance races (ex. 600m, 800m, and 1200m). Tom notes that World Athletics doesn't convert hand times for these distances.

6. Alternative Photo Finish Device

Regarding the Alternative Photo Finish Device (sprintTimer), Darren's report noted that it has been reviewed by BC Athletics Officials and that it should not be considered an alternative to Fully Automatic Timing (FAT) in 2021 (see report for full details).

Dawn asked the Committee for their thoughts on if there is an issue with using the system this year. Cristi asked what the purpose would be in using them, as sprintTimer is just a piece of a bigger conversation regarding what we're doing for JDs this year. For instance, are we doing Top 10s and awards?

Dawn asked what each club is planning to do in terms of competitions.

- Doug (Golden Ears) noted that they will host a sanctioned meet with having FAT.
- Christine (Air BlastOff) is not looking to host club meets with FAT, although they may do hand-timed meets. Their parents are more interested in development than competition since they athletes have missed so much training. She also noted that they are a relatively small club without officials. Sabrina clarified that hand timed meets can be sanctioned and that there are now online officials training opportunities. Christine explained that she's aware of officials training opportunity but that their parents aren't very receptive to volunteering.
- Cristi (Nanaimo & District) said they have spoken to other clubs to get officials registered as 2nd claim to allow for competitions. However the main planning has been for the older/high performance athletes.
- Alwilda (Kamloops) shared that they have already hosted club meets with FAT and have a number of officials.
- Ross (Prince George) noted that Prince George will start their JD program shortly but don't currently have plans for JD in person or virtual competitions.
- Dawn (NorWesters) shared their coaches are interested in providing competition opportunities and they will look at hosting sanctioned events as they do have a number of officials but will primarily have unofficial competitions within practice.

Cristi noted that most parents aren't interested in Top-10s and Awards, but in having their children be able to get back to training. Doug agreed, saying that whether FAT or hand timing is used, athletes are not as interested in comparing themselves to others and many aren't interested in provincial medals. As there may not be a provincial competition, maintaining rankings would just be for self-motivation.

The Committee discussed and agreed that things will likely remain the same for a while in terms on the restrictions around sport. The bigger challenge will be reinstating provincial championships next year.

7. JD Pentathlon and T&F Championships

Dawn asked the Committee to discuss whether the JD Pentathlon and Track & Field Championships should be hosted this year. She posed the question of whether people would want to travel to a provincial championships. Cristi also asked, if we want to be encouraging travel by hosting a provincial championships. Doug noted that the JD season is just starting and that it would be nice to host a Championships if the Provincial Health Orders (PHO) allows for it.

Sabrina reminded the Committee that there currently isn't a host for the JD T&F Championships as the Ocean Athletics track is being resurfaced this summer. She also noted that due to restrictions around training group size, membership numbers may be lower this year. Recognizing that JD participation drops off when the school year ends, should Championships be able to occur, it may be worthwhile looking at a June event that would have greater participation. General agreement that this would be a good idea. Dawn suggested postponing a decision on whether to host Championships but to hold a special Committee meeting in May to finalize a decision. Committee agreed to a meet again on May 9th.

8. Meets and Criteria for JD Awards

Tom informed the committee that 15 athletes had achieved All Time Top 10 results, primarily in field event specific mini meets. Dawn noted that at the January meeting the Committee had only been aware of 2 athletes achieving All Time Top 10 performances and had approved their addition to the list.

Motion: That all eligible athletes who have achieved All Time Top 10 performances in 2020 be added to the Top 10 List. (Dawn Copping/Alwilda van Ryswyk). Approved.

Tom also noted that there are many results from club athletes who had training memberships. Dawn stated that Training Members are not eligible for rankings or awards. She asked if Training Members who are part of a club allowed to compete. Sabrina clarified that they could compete so long as they paid the Day of Event entry fee. Dawn asked if she could follow up with Sam to confirm this.

Discussion that the focus of this year should be in club competitions and in club awards rather than JD Awards Banquet. Will revisit this during May 9th Committee Meeting.

9. Report from the JD Competitions Working Group

Doug noted that most of what the Working Group had been discussed had already been discussed during this meeting, with the Working Group primarily discussing in house competitions, sanctioning, FAT and hand timing. Cristi added that the Working Group has thought of trying to create a fun competition format that incorporates a point system that could connect the athletes provincially. Dawn thought this was a good idea and that it should be revisited at the May 9th meeting.

10. Budget

The Committee reviewed the JD Financial documents provided by Brian McCalder. Dawn asked if the document means that the JD programs operate at significant losses each year. Sabrina confirmed that the JD revenues from membership and championships do not offset the expenses. However, BC Athletics received additional funding from other sources that allow for our successful operation and support a healthy financial position. Dawn also asked about the discrepancy between the costs for Coach Education and Officials Training and Development. Sabrina explained that hosting Coaching Courses is more expensive than hosting Officials Training, and that participants costs for Coach Education are not set at a for-profit level. Agreement that it is good to review the financials and would like to review them again at September meeting.

11. How are you operating in your area – problems?

Dawn noted that this had been discussed throughout the meeting. She did share that the NorWesters hosted a well-attended Spring Break Camp and had a large Track Rascal program. Cristi asked what strategies clubs are using to have their athletes maintain 3m social distance. Dawn said that they use a lot of cones and keep athletes in alternating lanes. They have also cut up 3m poles so that athletes know what the distance looks like. Doug shared that they also use staggered starts for runs but noted that you have to remind athletes frequently because young athletes do like to gather together and interact.

Motion to adjourn

3:22pm (Cristi Lundman/Doug Evans). Adjourned

Next Meeting: May 9, 2021