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**ONTRACK 4.3:
NATIONAL OFFICIALS COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER FOR OFFICIALS.**

FRANCAIS

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR BY JANE EDSTROM

This is my first opportunity to address the Athletics officials of Canada as the chair of NOC. I am excited to take on this challenge. Andy Walker, our past chair, has left large shoes to fill. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Andy for taking the reins and driving the Committee back on track during a troubled time. His leadership got the Committee back up and running. We were so fortunate to have him. Andy will be continuing with the Committee as past chair, so we can still benefit from his knowledge and input. I would also like to

thank the following NOC members, who are also stepping down, for their contribution and time serving the Committee: Lloyd Howey, Angela Whyte (Olympic athlete rep) and Jen Brown (Para athlete rep). We welcome new members, Louise Buskas and Greg Stewart to the Committee. Louise resides in Alberta and brings with her vast experience as former officials' chair of Alberta and WPA ITO. Greg Stewart is the new Para athlete representative and resides and trains in Kamloops. The position of Olympic athlete representative has yet to be filled.

I hope that you and your families are continuing to be healthy and safe during these unusual times. COVID and the effect of the pandemic had certainly altered all of our lives including our sport and officiating. In an effort to maintain contact with officials and inspire continued learning, NOC hosted a number of webinars throughout the months of May through September on Zoom. The topics were varied and attended extensively. If any of you missed any of the presentations or would like to revisit them, they are posted on the Athletics Canada website. Thanks goes out to Serge Thibaudeau for spearheading the project and to all of the candidates who prepared and presented the webinars. With the suspension of competition due to the pandemic, sports were required to formulate back to activity plans for safe resumption of training and competition. Athletics Canada requested that NOC formulate a strategy for officials for their Back on Track document. The Committee met over a number of Zoom calls to develop the document then hosted a NOC/BOC Zoom call to release the document to the officials across Canada. With each province under varying health protocols, the Back on Track guidelines had to be massaged to meet the fluid mandates. Check with your Branch to find out the status of your Back on Track protocols.

Even though competition for Athletics was suspended last March, the National Officials Committee has continued to be busy. The Committee meets monthly by conference call for business and reports from members. In addition to the monthly calls, NOC has taken the hiatus of competition time to review numerous documents and policies. NOC will be hosting a shared NOC/BOC Zoom meeting in early November to share the documents and policies that have been revised or developed. Athletics Canada will be having a virtual SAGM in the late fall, so NOC and the branch chairs will not have the opportunity to meet in person either.

It is my hope that our lives return to some kind of normal in the very near future, so we can resume officiating and meet around the track or field soon.

Until that day arrives, I wish you health and safety.

NOC OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR

The National Official Committee want to congratulated the two national Officials of the year, Irene Gaudet (Alberta) and Suzanne Lafrance (Quebec).



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It is with great pleasure and much honour that we announce that a Quebec

official has been named Official of the Year in Canada.

She has over 38 years of experience, having entered the world of athletics at a very young age, following in the footsteps of her father. She is now a level 5 high jump judge, a level 4 long jump judge, and just last year Athletics Canada presented her with her level 5 certification as a jump official. Her qualifications and her competence, a product of her constant desire for improvement, have led her to be invited to a number of international competitions. She is also a certified trainer and evaluator for Athletics Canada, but stays true to her roots by promoting recruitment and local development as a trainer and evaluator with the FQA.

In the last year, she has officiated at the Junior/Senior Canadian Track and Field Championships held in Montreal, as well as the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships in Nova Scotia.

With the number of kilometres put in across the province, she is ever present on our tracks with her energy, professionalism and cheerful attitude; sharing her knowledge wherever she can. She's a role model, well loved by all who have had the good fortune of working with her and she is an example to be followed by all. It's with great honour that today, our Suzanne Lafrance from Pohenegamook, Quebec is presented with the Canadian Official of the Year award.

Congratulations on behalf of every official and of the FQA.

Because of the COVID-19 situation, Irene Gaudet did not received his trophy, Her picture and story will be in the next issue of On-Track.

WORLD ATHLETICS NEWS

AMENDMENTS TO RULE 30.1.1 OF THE TECHNICAL RULES

(Rule 185.1(a) of the 2018-2019 Competition Rules)

APPROVED BY COUNCIL ON 30 JULY 2020, WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT

Rule 30.1.1 of the Technical Rules (amendments in red/ bold font)

30. An athlete fails if:

30.1.1 they while taking off, break the vertical plane of the take-off line with any part of their foot / shoe, whether running up without jumping or in the act of jumping; or

[Rule 30.1.1 amended in June 2019 and in force from 1 November **2021**.

For the current edition of rule please refer to Competition Rule 185.1.]

GREAT NEWS FROM THE YUKON



"This is our Brand New Track in Whitehorse Yukon. The first rubberized track north of 60 degrees in Canada"
Congratulations Kristen! It looks beautiful.

50 YEARS AND MORE OF OFFICIATING

This year we were very excited to Honour 3 of our Officials for achieving their 50+ years of officiating with Athletics Canada. They were; Rick Stocker from New Brunswick, Bill Thompson from Ontario and Kanwal Neel from British Columbia. They will all receive a beautiful Mantle Clock in recognition of their years of service. Congratulations gentlemen. As of this writing Bill Thompson has received his clock. (photos in this issue). Our next issue will have the other 2 gentlemen."



On August 31st Bill will celebrate his 91st birthday. And he certainly has an active life to reflect on as he blows out all those candles.

Covid 19 has cancelled many track meets and other life events for us all and for Bill it cancelled him receiving his 50 year service award at the Annual AO Gala later this fall. But we arranged to make this a special presentation for Bill.

On August 16th he was presented with this award from AC and NOC for 50 years of volunteering as an official for track and field in Canada. This was done in the back garden of his apartment building in Hamilton, with a few familiar faces AO and the Hamilton track and field community.

Bill has been involved in track and field since his teenage years as a distance runner, an official, later a master's athlete and an honorary life member of the Hamilton Olympic Club. Bill was full of stories about his track and field involvement from a teenage joining HOC in 1947 to being part of a record holding 80+ men's

relay team. He retired as a sprinter in his late 80's

He has officiated for over 50 years, he was on the track in Montreal in 1976 as a finish line judge, timer and umpire. He has been to many international track meets as an official representing Canada. He officiated at the Toronto Telegram Indoor Games back in the 1960's and at the 91st Highlanders Games at the old armories, that became the Hamilton Spectator Indoor Games at Copp's Coliseum.

As a master's athlete Bill always came up to the track officials and thanked them for their time and commitment to the sport.

Congratulations Bill and thank you for your contribution to athletics in Canada.

OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR 2019 FROM ALBERTA

Christine Rapp

Christine Rapp began her officiating career after attending an introductory clinic in January 2008. As a retired lawyer, she assumed (incorrectly!) that she would be able to easily understand and interpret the "rules" governing athletics. After circulating through the various disciplines, she was drawn to the throws events as they provided both diversity and the ability to communicate directly with the athletes. Christine is now a Level 5 throws official and believes that her advancement in throws was partly attributable to the opportunities she was given to officiate at four Canadian National Championships during her initial years as an official. She enjoys working with the friendly and collaborative officials in Edmonton and hopes to continue as a mentor to future officials.



Pat March

Attendance at an introductory clinic in 2009 led Pat March to believe that she had enough understanding of track events to volunteer as an official at the then-Journal Indoor Games. However, she soon realized that what she knew was only the tip of an iceberg, and now has more than 10 years of officiating experience. A highlight of her time on the track has been working at several Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Championships. Currently a Level 5 Umpire, Pat has refocused her attention to achieving Level 3 as a Starter's Assistant. After participating in a National Officials' Committee training session, Pat and Christine have qualified as master trainers and are now providing guidance to Alberta's officials as this province

implements the national mentoring and evaluation program.



Novice Official of the year

Gord Hobbins and Cathy Scott took the officials introductory clinic in January, 2018, and then started spending time at the track officiating. They started working the Dino indoor series of meets, and then the various Calgary outdoor meets. These included the New Balance Series, the Spring Challenge, and the Caltaf Classic meets. They spent some of their time on jumps and throws, but have gradually worked their way to being two of the main umpires in Calgary. They have learned the various aspects of umpiring, including lap scoring, umpire placement, and chiefing. This last January they came to the Golden Bear meet to further enhance their skills as umpires. We look forward to seeing them in the future at the various meets.



NOC ON-TRACK UPDATE FROM BC

What an interesting year 2020 has been for officiating! The spring and summer track and field (T&F) season disappeared overnight as COVID-19 surfaced. Several highly anticipated national T&F meets were cancelled, losing wonderful opportunities to connect with fellow officials across the country!

Officiating in B.C. resumed in August under the “Return to Competition” phase. Officiating events include 17 scheduled club meets in the Interior to over 20 club meets in the Lower Mainland. Vancouver Island officiated cross-country meets and a road race for athletes looking for times and selection to Canada’s team for the World ½ Marathon Championships in Poland (October).

Officiating followed the “Return to Competition” protocols including the use of PPE as modeled by long standing starter—Bill Koch. Individual events were generally limited to no more than 8 athletes with officiating teams of 3-4. After the initial learning curve to officiating under COVID-19, creativity and good humour reigned. Officials, and everyone else, were pleased to be participating again and a great time was had by all at every event.



Other challenges to the “Return to Competition” included severe smoky conditions in mid-September resulting from forest fires in the United States and an unfortunate fire in one of the Lower Mainland’s iconic waterfront piers. Several competitions were cancelled or postponed multiple times until the air quality improved.

A much delayed presentation of the AC-NOC 50 (plus) Year Service Award to Bob Adams occurred in September. Bob’s widow, Marge, and daughter Janice, accepted the service award at a small, yet enjoyable, gathering comprising stories and memories of Bob’s achievements and contributions to both officiating and athletics.



Janice and Marge Adams receive the AC-NOC 50 Year Service Award in memory of Bob Adams. Presented by Brian Thomson, Chair of BC Athletics Officials Committee

Going forward, we continue to receive requests for officials into the November and December timeframe, subject to the west (wet) coast weather. Preparations continue for the Canadian T&F Championships in Langley, B.C. (2022). The enclosed photo shows an aerial view of the newly renovated facility.



Looking forward to crossing paths with our fellow officials soon (under post COVID-19 conditions). In the interim, stay well, stay safe!

Some picture



The National Official Committee want to reconized the Officials upgrading of this year:

SPRING 2020

Don Hedman - Sask. - HJ4
Ben Lawton - ONT - UMP4
Greg Nicol - BC - VJ4
Rob Mero - ONT - HJ4
Rodney Mudie - BC - PFCJ4
Sharon Powell - ONT - T4
Terry Protz - Alb. - S4
Doris Sawatzky-Dickson - MAN, - UMP4
Aaron Stember - ONT. - UMP4
Helen Tremblay - QUE - FRT5

FALL 2020

Dierde Croate - ALB. - VJ5

Congratulations to all

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