

May 17,  
2020

# BC Athletics Officials' Newsletter

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Into the garden.

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## Official's Development

### Your Branch Officials' Committee for 2020 Brian Thomson - Committee Chairperson

Bill Koch  
 Marnie Benz  
 Carol Cull  
 John Cull  
 Cheryl Elke  
 Wayne Elke  
 Sue Kydd  
 Jim Rollins  
 Anthony Thomson  
 Jasmine Gill – BC Athletics representative to the Committee

### Wanting to Upgrade your Certification??? Please, look at the following information!

- Evaluations and Mentoring will continue when Competitions resume. Don't forget to complete the Upgrading Tracking form (<https://www.cognitofrms.com/BCAthletics1/OfficialsUpgradingTrackingForm>), if you require evaluations or credits for upgrading.
- If you have already completed the requirements for Upgrading, contact Cheryl at [wcelke@shaw.ca](mailto:wcelke@shaw.ca). More information can be found on the Officials' page of the BC Athletics website.
- You can also speak with your local regional development coordinator if you have any questions.
- Coordinators in the Interior – Greg Nicol ([gregorynicol136@gmail.com](mailto:gregorynicol136@gmail.com)), Alwilda van Ryswyk ([alvan50@shaw.ca](mailto:alvan50@shaw.ca)), Marnie Benz ([m.benz@shaw.ca](mailto:m.benz@shaw.ca))  
Coordinators on the Island – Vince Sequeira ([vince.sequeira@shaw.ca](mailto:vince.sequeira@shaw.ca)), Brian Thomson ([bthomson@alantem.ca](mailto:bthomson@alantem.ca)), Todd Blumel ([toddler@shaw.ca](mailto:toddler@shaw.ca)) (*who will be taking on Vince's duties while he rests and recuperates – Huge thanks to Todd*).  
Coordinators in the Lower Mainland – Carol Cull ([carolcull@telus.net](mailto:carolcull@telus.net)), John Cull ([johncull@telus.net](mailto:johncull@telus.net))  
Coordinator for Zones 7 and 8 – Rob Millar ([millarob@hotmail.com](mailto:millarob@hotmail.com))

## Technical Corner

World Athletics Rule Books (2020 Edition) are now available on Vancouver Island (please contact Brian Thomson or Todd Blumel), in the Interior (please contact Wayne and Cheryl Elke, Greg Nicol or Marnie Benz) and in the Lower Mainland (please contact Betsy Rollins or John and Carol Cull). These books are available for pick-up or possible delivery. Check with the individuals listed for the best way to receive your copy. Please remember that Rule Books are available for all Officials who are Level 2 or higher and have registered with BC Athletics for 2020.

Please note that the BC Athletics Offices at Fortius are closed. Staff members are working from home as they continue the business of the Association.

### BC Athletics

The [BC Athletics Update – Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) - #7](#) dated April 30, 2020 is available on the BC Athletics website.

### Competitions

Competitions for the outdoor Track and Field season in BC have been either cancelled or postponed. The BC Athletics' website lists the status of those Meets which were planned for 2020. There may yet be the possibility of a resumption of Competitions for Cross Country in the Fall. We will keep you posted when we near those dates and are given word by the Organizers of the various events.

## NOC Webinars

The National Officials Committee is sponsoring a series of educational webinars (see schedule below). Andy Walker, Chair of the National Officials Committee, says these Webinars are a great opportunity for Officials to become more familiar with a number of event disciplines.

You can sign up to participate in the free Webinars by going to Trackie at: <https://www.trackie.com/online-registration/find-event/>

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
May 26	Officiating on a Starts Team	Ian Gordon
May 28	WA rules change 2020-2021	Jane Edstrom
June 1	WPA rules change 2020-2021	David Weicker
June 22	Officiating on an Umpire Team	Helen Vasilic
TBD	The Job of a Video Referee	David Weicker
TBD	Officiating in a Call Room	Jennifer Campbell
TBD	Officiating on a Vertical Jumps Team	
TBD	Officiating on a Horizontal Jumps Team	
TBD	Officiating at an International Competition	
Panel: Jane Edstrom, Lisa Ferdinand, Daniel Michaud, David Weicker		

## Reflections... Grandpa speaks

(John Cull)

I was admiring the Service pin that Athletics Canada so kindly sent me recently. It looks good in the lapel of my suit jacket. In case you were wondering I actually have 2 dark suits that I wear alternately for important occasions and appearances. Sadly, they don't get much use right now.

I am not the oldest codger on the team (35-year pin), and there are lots of other long-serving officials for me to admire from a distance, like Alwilda and Anne Lansdell, each with more than half a century of experience in the field of play. None the less, I can use this idle time to look back at earlier days in track and field, and comment on some of the changes I have seen.

Tell us about the good old days in track and field Gramps.

Thirty-five years ago, we used to produce good track results by hand, the old-fashioned way. Really knowledgeable officials like Ken Bogas would assemble a team of 8 or more hand timers with stop watches, assign them to places, and record the times on a form. The Chief finish Line Judge (hello there Louise!) would hand in the place results from her 8 or more Judges. The results would be attached to a clothesline, to be winched up to the Competition Secretaries with their typewriters and 3-part NCR paper. It was state of the art stuff, and impressive to watch. It is not disrespectful to these highly skilled officials to note that current Photo-timing is incredibly fast by comparison, has fewer opportunities for errors, and uses only 3 or 4 people.

Good field results were produced by well-trained officials who measured with tape measures, and recorded by hand on pieces of paper. In recognition of the "approximate" nature of measuring in long throws, we measured in even centimetres only.

Wait a minute! 35 years later, we are still doing things the same way!

Yes, despite our impatience with slow and clunky methods of field results processing, and the impatience of participants waiting for their medals; at the local and even National level we are still using the "time-honored" legacy procedures and technology. We have made dramatic improvements in the speed and accuracy of results for track events, but for field events..... not so much.

Technical devices and systems for field events are available at the international level, and may even be required for World Athletics events, but are not (yet) regularly used at events in Canada. Costs and training issues have been the barrier to implementation at the Provincial and National level. Let's look at some of them, and speculate about how they may be implemented in order to bring some benefits to our local athletes.

### Electronic Distance Measurement

EDM has been available in one form or another for many years, and is a well-established technology. The FieldLynx package is the best-known version in this part of the world. Well-designed software makes set-up relatively easy for the layperson. Measurement is pretty quick for practiced officials, and there are clear savings in manpower.... This is a big consideration, in these days of a shrinking volunteer base. So, what's not to like?

Cost is a barrier. The only successful installation in BC is in Kamloops. Judy reports that the all-in price tag for the package was \$5,000 (Canadian). Certainly, a big Club with a few successful annual meets is able to look at an investment like this. Clubs in other regions could look at "consortium" purchases, notwithstanding the complexities of shared ownership and logistics.

The BCA Officials Committee is currently working on development of a "mobile" EDM unit that could be made available for Championship level meets. We are grateful to Kajaks for the loan of an EDM unit. Donated funds will cover the software costs, and we expect to trial the equipment at meets in 2021... Yes, training will be available.

The Host Organizing Committee for Nationals in 2022 plans to use 2 EDM units at least, and produce results for all long throws.

### Digital processing of Field Results

The greatest benefits of EDM show up when used in combination with tablet or laptop-based results recording. Results that are directly entered into devices by the field teams can be uploaded to meet management software and "go live" in real time. Even results which are measured using traditional techniques can be sped up. The barriers here are:

- Cost of licensing
- Training of officials and volunteers for data entry

The best recent demonstration I saw of the benefits of this technology was in Winnipeg, at Canada Games 2017. Every field team had a trained volunteer with a tablet. Results were verified in the field, and up on the scoreboard within minutes. Plans for Langley 2022 call for electronic scoreboards for each field venue, so that results and standings can be viewed in real time. This will be a big improvement in event presentation for the spectators.

### Video Review

Changes to the rules for horizontal Jumps allow judges to replace plasticine indicator boards with a fairly simple video-based tool that shows position of the athlete's foot during take-off. Eagle-Eye seems to be the first out of the blocks with this one.

See the [toe board review](#) system here.

The review system essentially takes a series of video clips identified by time or by an athlete -identifier supplied by meet management software. Review and decision on close calls using a laptop can be immediate.

Cost of the system is around CD\$ 2,000, not including the laptop.

This price argues in favour of a consortium purchase for regional use, or perhaps Provincial purchase for a trial. While there is no saving in personnel, it potentially can create greater confidence in judges' decisions, and produce lower stress levels all round.

### Video Measurement

VM is in place for horizontal jumps and throws at the International level. It has not, to my knowledge been used in Canada. The potential saving in personnel is substantial. The remotely placed cameras zoom in on a mark in the landing area. This eliminates the need for an official to enter the landing area, and makes the measuring tape obsolete. There is also an improvement in event presentation, by "de-cluttering" the field of play. The costs are substantial (12,000 Euros, CD \$ 18,000) You can get a preview of an installation [here](#)

Video measurement may be a remote prospect right now. The complexities of installation limit its "portability", so the consortium purchase route may not be appropriate. However, ... if costs come down.....

jc

## In Touch

Our thoughts are with fellow-Official, John Akehurst, who suffered a massive stroke on April 2nd. He has been in hospital in Acute Care since that time and is now awaiting placement in a care facility in either Parksville or Qualicum. Nicole, John's daughter, wrote to Vince Sequeira to say that John can speak but does not start conversations on his own. He still has paralysis on his right side and loss of trunk control and motor functioning. His gains since the stroke have been considered minor. Sadly, because of continuing quarantine restrictions due to the coronavirus, John is not able to receive visitors.

Kathy Terlicher, who, as you will remember, suffered several breaks in her ankle due to a fall, is recovering strength and mobility but is still not up to walking unaided. Our best wishes for her continued mending and a return to her usual busy life.



Yes, that's our own Vince Sequeira on one of his daily walks, this one on the Campbell River Sea Walk. Vince says he is making steady progress toward a return to his previous good health since his heart attack two and a half months ago. Vince is now up to walking 2 kilometres a day but is missing close contact with family and friends and all his former much-loved activities.

Ken Christensen sends these ideas if you are looking to find something to do on those days keeping you out of the garden and indoors. Get your imaginations and cameras ready!



## Membership Renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership with BC Athletics for 2020. Unattached members can sign up online through the BC Athletics website and members of BC Athletics clubs should sign up through their club registrar.

## Officiating Q & A

### Questions

*New Questions – still using the 2018/2019 Rule Book*

#### Q 1

An Athlete in a laned event on the straight part of the track, runs out of his lane for three steps. He does not impede any other athletes in the event. What is the ruling of the Referee?

a) the athlete is disqualified b) the athlete is disqualified from all further competitions c) the athlete is not disqualified

#### Q 2

What is the width of a Pole Vault runway constructed after 2004?

a) 1.25m b) 1.22m +or- 1cm c) 1.22m +or- 2cm

#### Q 3

What is the maximum number of lanes allowed on an indoor track?

a) 4 b) 6 c) 8

## Items from the Branch Officials' Committee

Our next BC Athletics' Officials Committee Meeting will be scheduled when we have more information concerning our Sport in the larger context of the Health and Safety of all participants.

## Officiating Opportunities

We are not aware of any Competitions that are scheduled to take place in the next several months. We will keep you informed when we hear of a resumption of Officiating opportunities.

Message from the Universal Track Club

Thank you to all the officials who, if this was a regular year, would have come to our meet in the sunshine on April 11. Even though it wasn't meant to be for 2020, we appreciate every one of you, and hope to see you as soon as we can gather again. Please put us in your schedule for next year...as always, there will be samosas!

With gratitude and looking to the future,

Jessie, Sue, and everyone at Universal Athletics

## Upcoming

November 28 Canadian Cross-Country Champ. Abbotsford NC

We have not yet heard whether this event will take place as originally scheduled.

AND .... Into the More Distant Future:

### Canadian Track and Field Championships

The Championships which were to be held in Montreal this year have been cancelled. Montreal will instead host the Championships in 2021 on June 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

Langley will be the host of the Canadian Track and Field Championships in 2022 and 2023.

2022 – June 23 to June 26

2023 – June 22 to June 25

### The Francophone Games

The Games which were to be held in Victoria this year are now scheduled to be held in 2021, July 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

Stay well!

Carol

## Officiating Q & A Answers

### A1

c) the athlete is not disqualified (Rule #163.3 and #163.4)

### A2

b) 1.22m +or- 1cm (Rule #183.6)

### A3

b) 6 (Rule #213.1)