

BCA ROAD RUNNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, Aug 30, 2007 (updated 23 Sept 2007)

Sport BC, Room 104, Main Floor 1367 Broadway, Vancouver

Meeting Minutes – Thursday August 30th, 2007

In Attendance: Clif Cunningham (took Minutes), Frank Stebner, Geoffrey Buttner, Maurice Wilson, Greg White, by phone Rick Jenkner and Bob Reid (6:25)

Meeting called to order 6:10pm,

1. Acceptance of Agenda

Agenda accepted. Motioned Rick, seconded Clif, passed.

2. Review and acceptance of June 13, 2007 RR Minutes

Past minutes accepted with correction to item #6 confirming age grade awards being given to “Top Three Male and Female”

Motioned Geoffrey, seconded Rick, passed.

3. Report from BCA board regarding motions from the Road Running Committee.

#1 – Why does the road running committee suggest 8k distance to be added to championships?

Frank – growing in popularity distance, referencing Pioneer 8k, Harry’s Spring Run-Off, Steveston Ice Breaker 8K, Shaughnessy 8k, Labour Day 8K and others.

Maurice – Suggest further investigation into why events are not bidding to host championships and other BCA Awards. For First Half, it is mainly a competitive event and too early in the year to receive benefits or be fulfilling championship requirements.

Limited number of BCA members eligible for awards.

Bob – Suggest BCA, RR Committee and Board find reasons why events won’t bid. Citing reference to high cost especially for National Championship hosting. RVM was prepared to host the BC championships with virtually no promotion from BCA, using their own medals, 5 year age categories and RVM assuming all costs, but was rejected as BCA would only recognize masters as 40+ and BCA would not accept medals other than BCA medals.

Frank – Need to suggest to BCA and AC that a review of hosting of road race championship guidelines is needed.

Greg – Membership meeting taking place in the fall, need to add to agenda, the issue of membership and issuing of championship awards, to ensure fair distribution across divisions of BCA (ie road, track, X-C)

Bob – review the benefit of hosting a championship, there is no short term value , and minor value in the hosting. Eligibility is minimal of who could even qualify for a BCA Championship medal, should be loosened to residency from competitive membership. The number of members do not warrant a championship event, only 173 runners are eligible to run in a competition. Some of these memberships (competitive) are only paid by coaches on behalf of athletes.

Greg – Why are competitive runners not interested in getting memberships with BCA or running for AC? You have to ask the athletes!

Frank – IAAF mix up with “worlds best” masters marathon record as 35 vs 40? World masters marathon record is currently recognized as 40+

Maurice – Highlighting that at Haney 2 Harrison (the BCA Relay Championships) that all 8 members of the team must be members in order to win the medals. There may not be any qualifying team compete.

Frank – At the BCA 5k champs most runners did not qualify, they were the wrong membership level, and most BCA members did not realize that they would not qualify for any awards. Opening up the eligibility could have the potential for increasing membership. In some events JD's are competing as JR's and the definition is becoming ambiguous.

Frank – Can BCA members double dip in a BCA championships? eg Master 35+ also winning the 20+ division?

Maurice – in a championship you must declare what category you are competing in before competition – ie masters or open only what you declare singular.

Rick – suggest it should be first across line in the division as a resident.

Bob - with the current eligibility rules, BCA may need to go 10 deep to find an eligible winner, which is appears inappropriate.

Greg – we need to find out why many of our top athletes are not voluntarily choosing to join BCA, but still like to represent BC and Canada at competitions.

Bob – in road running there is no resources or support to develop talent, no support from COC, AC, Pacific Sport or BCA for Road Running development, no money for coaching, training, competition or cost of living. COC appears to only support you once you are on the podium, but not before that.

ITEM #2 from Board- it is a bylaw and is wide open, needs to be applied throughout BCA

ITEM #4 from Board- Accepting Haney as the Relay champs, note to remind the race that all 8 must be competitive members to qualify for awards, and opportunity to increase membership by opening up eligibility

ACTION – Greg to bring up in Fall membership meeting to review policy
Shifting money in Road Running to provide grants to national championships, staff should review the options and budgeting

Bob – look at application of XC awards/grants and application to road running. And the application of grants in the selection of 2008 Road Running Championships.

ACTION – RR to post in Bulletin a call for 2008 championship events.

ITEM #6 Timex Series – calendar needs to be set in the fall for publication

ACTION – reminder to Timex Series coordinator to have races selected by fall and all must be sanctioned to qualify.

4. Nomination of Vice Chair – Clif Cunningham

Nomination of Clif Cunningham as Vice-Chair, nominated Rick, seconded Bob, unanimous acclimation.

5. Review of New BCA Sanctioning policy

Frank suggested that BCA create a formal agreement between BCA and the sanctioned events clearly defining what is offered by the events and by BCA. Are the benefits, rewards and promised items clearly outlined?

Maurice produced a copy of a sanctioning agreement from Athletics Manitoba which

Greg felt could be a model for a similar sanctioning agreement at BCA.

ACTION – recommend to staff to review the sanctioning benefits promised by BCA regarding BCA booth, BCA does not actually attend many of the events that they say they will be present at.

BCA should make best efforts to attend events, BCA should post in bulletin for volunteers and recruit to have booth at major events.

BCA should collect forms to send to Timex events for race directors to put out for promotion, sending a box of forms to each event as promised in benefits

BCA is still not delivering value to sanctioned events. Staff to review Manitoba Sport race directors package to develop similar material for BCA. Possibly contacting Manitoba sport to use their package as a base. Also reviewing the Ontario Road Runners checklist and levels of sanctioning.

#d, e, f – What are current BCA member numbers and the breakdown by membership level? What is the DOE count?

Frank – What is the definition of 'event' for DOE? Should word "timed" be revised in policy? Not all 'timed' events qualify for sanctioning,

Maurice – timed was used to define competition, if the event is no time there is no competition and therefore no sanctioning.

Frank – sanctioning should be measure of time + standards (IAAF rules)

Greg – committee that formed the new sanctioning policy should review the policy in place to ensure it has all been implemented.

6. Road Running Calendar of events (online & printed)

New programmer now in place, 2007 calendar is incomplete. 2008 should be the focus for staff, print calendar edition due in December.

Bob – The 2007 calendar is still not fully updated.

ACTION – **Greg** to emphasize to board, that the calendar is the biggest benefit that BCA can offer and BCA has consistently failed to deliver. CALENDAR NEED TO BE ONLINE, ACCURATE AND FULL OF LISTINGS, PRINT CALENDAR ALSO NEEDS TO BE ACCURATE AND DELIVERED IN A TIMELY FASHION (December/January)

BCA membership is club based, memberships and clubs continue to decline. Road runners in general are independent and not focused in clubs, the reasons people look to clubs are for coaching, facilities and camaraderie.

Item 6 addressed in discussions.

Board Calendar (Fixtures) Sub-Committee – are they meeting, what is happening?

ACTION- request update from calendar Sub-committee

7. BCA/AC Road Running Championships

National Championships – policy is too expensive and demanding for most events to consider hosting, sponsorship restrictions are too limiting;

ACTION – request BCA to express concerns to AC to relax HOC requirements for Canadian Championships.

8. Road Race officials

RR Officials –No response yet from the Officials committee (appear to focused on track) What does road running require for officiating? From IAAF? What would be needed to train officials pool for road running? Recommendation to remove requirement of officials from sanctioning application as officials do not appear to exist for most races. Officiating requirement may actually discourage events from seeking sanctioning.

Suggestion to recommend officials committee what kind of officiating we need for Road Running.

9. Road Race records - Provincial and National.

Records policy from Maurice – need clarification of policy for record keeping of current BC records and Canadian Records.

10. Timex Series 2008 Deadline – November 30 to establish final list of events

Timex Series – 2008 calendar should be in place by Nov 30th for printed calendar

ACTION – make sure board and Timex coordinator are aware of deadline

11. New manager of Road Running and Cross Country

Road Running Staff Job Opening –Jopf Description posted in late August, Distributed to RR Committee Key point - BCA Road Running & cross country Calendar coordination should be included.

12A. Regional Road Series

Regional Series – do we need more?

If there are enough events in an area and they wish to form one, they should approach the committee for recognition.

Other Items in 12 tabled for future meetings,

Meeting concluded at 8:20pm

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 6pm in order to submit resolutions to next BCA Board Meeting (Nov 17) for the BCA AGM.