

**Athletics Ontario Board of Directors Meeting  
June 8, 2011**

SAO Building  
3 Concorde Gate,  
Toronto, Ontario, M3C 3N7  
5:00 pm

**Present:** Bill Stephens (Chair), Roman Olszewski (staff), John Craig (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), Suzanne Leroux, Stuart Smith; by conference call: Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Harry Stantsos, Leslie Estwick

**Welcome:** Bill welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bill and John back from OFSAA

**Motion:** to ratify the acceptance of the Minutes of the October Board Meeting:

Stephens and Leroux

**Carried**

**Business Arising:** Bill provided an updated us on the Toronto marathon issues. After protracted discussions with all parties and their representatives, Athletics Ontario determined a final position with respect to the wordmarks. The Association will continue to partner with the Toronto Marathon and will pursue options on a partnership with the Toronto Waterfront Marathon for mutual benefit.

Approval of the Agenda:

Leroux and Stephens

**Carried**

**Approval of Technical Committee Motions:**

Motion to accept the records as recommended by Roman.

Smith and Stantsos

**Carried**

**LTAD Update:** A proposal from AO to Athletics Canada to amend the list of events on the LTAD program was presented. Bill and John reviewed the AO presentation of this motion at the AC AGM and noted that the motion had been sent to Thelma Wright for review by the LTAD Committee. While those present at the AGM were divided on the proposal, there was a consensus that provincial branches could amend event distances and specifications to suit local, regional and provincial interests provided they were within the 'spirit' of the LTAD model.

The AO motion is: That event changes for cross country be amended as follows:

- Youth Girls changed from 3,000m to 4,000m
- Midget Boys changed from 3,000m to 4,000m
- Youth Boys changed from 4,000 to 6,000m

Further: That for Outdoor and Indoor Championships the 2,000m race be added as a championship event for Bantam Boys and Girls, effective for the outdoor season 2011.

**Motion:** That the motion be adopted as presented.

Stephens and Smith

**Carried**

**Motion:** that the bantam girls and bantam boys 2,000m run be added to the AO Championships event list, effective immediately.

Stantsos and Smith

**Carried**

Bill added that, at the AC AGM, reports suggested most provinces had trouble implementing the LTAD within their high school programs, and that Ontario seems to be ahead of the rest in this regard.

**Staff Health, Safety and Wellness:** No report – everyone doing well.

**Work from Home Options:** Anthony reported that he has been able to access his computer from home when circumstances make this a reasonable option. John is still having trouble. John will continue to try to establish a reliable connection.

**Senior Female Participation:** Bill and Suzanne both reported concerns that the number of senior female participants in our sport is low and may be getting smaller; as an example senior cross country ranks have been decimated by loss of Grade 13 as Senior females are at University and the CIS program seems to be counterproductive to anything happening in the summer.

**Athletics Canada AGM Report:** Membership Ideas - John advised of the possibilities for increased membership fees to AC, which would be returned as a grant. Stuart suggested we ask for an increase at the AGM AND support the idea with an increase from our own budget. His suggestion is that we could ask for an increase of \$10 from the membership at the AGM plus increase - John to bring this back to the Fall Meeting for consideration for the AGM.

**Overview of AC Strategic Planning Session:** Leslie reported on the AC Planning session she attended in Ottawa on behalf of the Association. She advised that each province was represented and said there was general discussions on how to develop plans in concert – what are provinces and national roles. There was talk about what provincial/federal government considerations are for funding, and how this affects our own planning. We need to be sure we solicit input from membership. Good meeting – long day. There was also some discussion of partnerships etc.

John thanked Leslie for her participation. John will share some of the Base Funding report questions from the past year(s) so we have an idea of how our planning might progress.

We should advertise that we want to start a Planning Committee and ask for volunteers. Leslie will Chair this committee and supply AC Strategic Plans as a starting point.

**Complaints:** – John provided an update on a current complain under review by the Association. This complaint is complex and the resolution will be difficult and will take some time to be resolved. John has received the advice of legal counsel on the situation.

**ACTION:** John to look into amending our policies to provide a confidentiality agreement for the Board members.

**Defibrillators:** Bill expressed concerns that some facilities don't have defibrillators. We should check on the status of these devices at each facility and make sure that sanctioned meets have qualified

operators. Leslie suggested we check to see if service can be provided or make sure there is a defibrillator is on site and that our medical person can operate one.

**ACTION:** Leslie to send John a contact person for Ottawa re: certification for defibrillator operators.

The Board recommends that our sanction policy be amended to include the provision that a First Aid person who is trained in CPR be in attendance at all Championship events.

**ACTION:** Anthony to Check on the wording for this amendment.

**2011 AGM:** John reminded the Directors that at the 2011 AGM there are four directors up for re-election. There needs to be a Nominations Committee.

Val nominated Stuart to Chair a nominations Committee but Stuart declined.

John has asked the four Directors whose positions become vacant to advise if they are prepared to run for another term.

**ACTION:** Directors whose terms are coming due are to consider their status and advise if they wish to run again for a position on the Board.

**OHPSI Program Update:** Sue Wise advised there has been an increase in funding and that we will be able to provide financial support to 12 athletes this year. Some Directors expressed concern that we will be supporting injured athletes.

John provided an update on the CSCO/CSIO facility at UofT Scarborough. An indoor suspended track with 3 lanes is in the plans for the new facility. This will be of little use to our members and there has been some considerable correspondence between AO, AC and CSCO on the subject.

Downsview Base also has plans to install an outdoor 8 lane track this summer – looks like they will go ahead, even though equipment and field events are not being considered at this time.

Sue suggested we seek to host more meets at the Esther Shiner stadium, or see if elite athletes can train there during the day while York is closed. Bill noted that Birchmount is open to the public all the time.

**ACTION:** Anthony to see if the Bill Crothers track is open to public participation. There are reports that maintenance personnel are kicking people off the facility which may be against the interests of the city.

**Toronto International Track and Field Games Update:** John provided an update on athletes and the budget. There have been struggles in getting funding confirmed by the province which has set a lot of things back. Still there is reason to be optimistic that the meet will have some impact

**ACTION:** John to see if we can implement AO Athletics Supporter membership through online TITFG registration.

**Sport for More Grant Update:** John advised that the Sport for More grant, which funds our Fun in Athletics initiative in aboriginal communities has been extended for another year. Scott Haines will continue to provide this service to these communities.

**Seed Time Policy Review:** MTA and Legion meet results will be accepted seeding purposes for the upcoming Outdoor Championships. Policy will be changed for indoors as well so that MTA and Legion times are accepted.

**ACTION:** Roman will start a discussion within the Technical Committee to deal with this issue.

**ACTION:** John to advise Dave Christiani and Joe Ryder of change in this policy.

**ACTION:** Roman will find the updated policies on our Championships, including how they are awarded to host clubs. There was much discussion on the awarding of these events with respect to the need for experienced clubs vs. the need to rotate the meets to new clubs which submit reasonable bids.

Bill advised that there will be an AC congress in December to establish a fixtures list for next several years. Once this congress is over AO needs to establish the same thing at the provincial level.

**ACTION:** John to put Roman in touch with AC re: Fixtures Congress re; attendance and tickets.

**ACTION:** John will review of our current complaints policy and provide ideas and proposals for updates and amendments.

**ACTION:** Stuart and Val will head up the formation of a new committee to guide the Association through this process. Timeline is AGM

**AO Rankings:** Bill asked why we have our own rankings and do not use AC rankings which are provided free of charge. Suzanne advised that AC misses some meets and some of our athletes and performances are not included.

**ACTION:** Suzanne will contact Andrew (at AC) to see if the AO and AC lists can be merged to make sure we have a single complete list.

**Cross Country Live Chat:** Tabled

**Sanction Policy:** Anthony suggested there is a need for a committee to examine and review problems or issues surrounding sanctioning.

**ACTION:** Suzanne, Anthony and Bill to meet to discuss sanctioning policy and fixtures.

**ACTION:** Anthony to establish the date for the meeting with Bill and Suzanne.

**Pan Am Update:** Tabled

**Budget:** John discussed the current Members Equity balance and what the implications might be re: Base Grants etc. This comes in light of the recent experiences of the Sport Alliance of Ontario.

**New Business:**

**Golf Tournament:** Sue talked about the proposed tournament and asked for support from Board and staff members.

Suzanne advised that 860 athletes are registered this year for the upcoming championships as compared to 760 last year. She also suggested we need to make sure we are doing everything properly and in accordance with the P&P.

**Adjournment**

8:19 pm.