

AO Board Meeting

Date: Saturday April 10, 2010, 2:30 pm
Sport Alliance Ontario Bldg., 3 Concorde Gate,
Boardroom #4, Toronto

Present: John Craig (staff), Roman Olszewski (staff), Bill Stephens (Chair), Leslie Estwick, Stuart Smith, Harry Stantsos, Anthony Biggar (staff)

Regrets: Suzanne Leroux, Val Sarjeant (Vice Chair)

Agenda

1. **Welcome** – Bill welcomed to Leslie (her first Board Meeting) who took a train to get to the meeting and will return home by train after the meeting. Also thanks to Stuart who is on his second AO meeting of the day.

2. **Motion to Accept the Minutes of the January Board Meeting**

Motion: Smith and Stephens

Carried

3. **Business Arising**

- John reported on attempts to get the provide greater access to University facilities for our carded athletes. He has had correspondence with the OUA office and with officials from the Ministry of Health Promotion. The Ministry has strong ties with McMaster and University of Toronto and is trying to forge stronger ties with the other institutions. Most other Universities are interested in providing access to elite athletes, but they have issues to deal with first. The Ministry is going to try to get this issue on the OUA agenda for their next Board Meeting.
- Merger of two clubs; Roman couldn't find a rule on whether athletes can transfer if two clubs merge or one club folds. He suggested that in similar situations in the past athletes were allowed to move to the new club, but that in the current environment the athletes should wait to the end of the year as per our current and drafted transfer rules and policy.
- Harry suggested that the Dartfish program continues to be of significant value, but that we don't have enough operators and that we need to provide more clinics in order to get more qualified people handling the equipment and program.

ACTION: Harry will contact Val to see if we can organize some clinics to train more Dartfish operators.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve: Stephens and Smith

Carried

5. **Staff Health, Safety & Wellness (John)** – John noted that Bernie Eckler (staff) turned 70 last week.

6. **Entry Deadline (Bill)** – Bill suggested that the entry deadline for AO Championship meets be moved to 3:00 pm on the Monday prior to the weekend competition (as opposed

to midnight on Sunday) so someone is available in the AO office to respond if there are problems.

Motion: that the entry deadline for AO Championship meets be on the Monday prior to the meet at 3:00 pm
Stephens and Estwick **Carried**

7. **AO Registration Deadline (Bill)** – Bill suggested we should have the same deadline for registering athletes with AO.

Motion: that in order to compete in AO Championship events, athletes need to be registered with AO by the entry deadline of 3:00 pm on the Monday prior to the meet
Stephens and Estwick **Carried**

8. **Camera Course (Bill)** – Tabled. Bill will ask Suzanne if this course has taken place.

9. **Officials Meeting (Bill)** - tabled

10. **Officials Council Response (Suzanne)** - tabled

11. **Officials' Contact List – should these be available to meet directors? (Roman)** – Roman noted that, from time to time, we get a request from a meet director to get a list of officials so they can contact them and recruit officials for their meet. The OOC however, does not like to operate that way. Roman would like to see this list made available, otherwise the meet directors, even the very proactive ones, may have difficulty getting enough officials for their meets.

The Board felt AO should make this information available, and that we should work with the OOC to manage this. Roman suggested that we notify officials on the registration forms that their information will be made available from time to time so that meet directors can contact them. The officials could opt out of this if they want. This service should be for sanctioned or approved meets only and available only on request.

ACTION: Roman will inform the OOC Chair of our interest and intent to make lists of officials available on a case by case basis. He will also ask the AO Registrar to provide this option on future registration forms.

12. **Ontario Summer Games – Selection (Roman)** – Roman has had a few replies to his request for input on OSG selection. All were in favour of selecting a team based on performance standards and not having a selection competition.

ACTION: Roman will draft the schedule, the performance standards and the performance window and post it on our AO website as appropriate. Roman will also advise the OSG committee of this choice.

13. New False Start Rule (Roman) – Roman asked for a motion that Athletics Ontario recognize performances achieved under the IAAF start rule that was in effect prior to 2010. He noted that for a long time the NCAA has had a no false start rule.

MOTION: that for 2010 Athletics Ontario recognize performances achieved under the start rules that were in effect prior to 2010.

Leslie and Harry

Carried

14. Report from AC/Branch Staff Meetings (John) – John reported on the AC/Branch staff meetings, which took place in Cantley, PQ in March. He mentioned:

- That he provided drafts of the AO motion re: the standardization of national championships to other branch representatives and to AC staff. The motion was well received and will likely be supported at the next AC AGM
- Newfoundland is very disappointed that AO will not participate in an Espoir Team event this year. Perhaps we can be part of such a meet in 2011
- The new format for the National Championships received general support, but there was much concern that there had been either no or very little consultation with the branches over the proposals. There is also concern that there are implications to the competition which have not been well considered. Specifics have still to be made public.
- There is a new opportunity to download maps from AC's website which plot some of the information that has been gathered from AC Direct. Details will follow.
- Quebec is interested in a dual meet this summer if possible. Perhaps in Ottawa so they can drive both ways from Montreal on the day of the competition
- AC will provide templates on several policies – including a general Member Policy – which branches are encouraged to copy or use. Such policies will include member conduct, conflict of interest, harassment, team conduct, complaints etc. This is the sort of template we have been looking for. Athletics Ontario was complimented on the work it has done on its own policies to date.

15. SPF Funding (John) – John provided a short update on the status of the SPF applications, noting that there is little chance that any of them will be approved.

16. OHPSI Application (John) – John discussed the new Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative which AO has recently applied for. He described the process of the application, the nature of the program and the implications it will have for Ontario if the application is successful.

17. New AC Carding Standards (Bill/John) - Bill outlined some of the new AC carding standards and advised that he emailed Scott MacDonald at AC with information which shows that some standards are tougher than others. Scott advised that some of the concerns will be addressed within week. There is no doubt that these new standards will be very hard to make.

18. Transfer Request (John) – John walked the Board through an appeal to allow an athlete to transfer from one club to another. The information available suggests that the athlete was registered with the ‘first’ club *after* discussions with that club’s coach to the effect that the athlete no longer wanted to compete for said club. Stuart referred to the recent discussions at the Athlete Transfer Committee to provide some context to the discussions.

ACTION: John will advise the athlete that, if he signed a registration form for the first club, then the transfer will not be allowed. The athlete will be able to compete as an disassociated athlete if the proper forms are signed.

19. MyBackCheck – VSS (John) – John discussed the differences between a regular Police Check and a Vulnerable Sector Search with respect to our Volunteer Screening program, and asked the Board if it felt a VSS was necessary for our purposes. This is a result of the loss of the ability by MyBackCheck.com to provide VSS online. The issue was tabled for more information and feedback, and will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

ACTION: John will do more research and update the Board as possible.

20. Scott from the North (John) – John brought the Board of Directors up to date on the progress of the Sport For More initiative in northern Ontario with our aboriginal communities through Scott Haines. The Board congratulated Scott on the fine work he is doing.

21. AO Outdoor Meets - (Bill) – The same organizational team will help put the June National Standards meet together.

ACTION: Bill will try to convene a meeting soon to start work on the meet.

22. Awards at Outdoor Championships (Harry) – the Board confirmed its interest in providing an awards ceremony and recognizing event medalists at AO Championships as soon after each event as possible.

23. Sport Event Congress (Anthony) – Val and Anthony will attend a Sport Event Congress in the GTA on April 21-22 on behalf of Athletics Ontario. This Congress will include a morning session at which each sport will have a booth and municipalities will move to each booth looking for opportunities to host events, providing partnerships which may produce some sponsorship for future events.

24. Laptop (Anthony) - tabled

25. National Championship Fund (Wendy) – AO Registrar and Bookkeeper noted that collecting the National Championships Fund is very difficult after the event has concluded.

Since there is high value in this fund and in having National Championships hosted in Ontario, the fund should continue, but host clubs should be responsible for collecting it. Host clubs have access to the entry lists before hand so they should consider a means of collecting the money before the club is allowed to compete.

Athletics Ontario will support this effort by putting this information on the AO website and by contacting clubs prior to the competition advising them that this is now their responsibility.

ACTION: Anthony, Wendy and Roman will work out a standard wording on this and make it part of the process of providing information to the host clubs and to AO members.

26. National Championship Fund - Canadian Youth Championships in Ottawa (John)
– The National Championship Fund applies to all National Championships and therefore applies to the National Youth Championships being hosted by the Ottawa Lions Track Club in August. In this instance the fund will apply only to athletes registered with Athletics Ontario and will not apply to athletes representing the RCL program.

27. Pan Am Games (John) – John advised that he will attend a Pan Am Games Think Tank on April 24, which may be the first real forum to discuss the sports side of the Games. He will report to the Board.

28. Strategic Planning – continuing discussion (Val & Leslie) - tabled

29. Budget – continuing discussion (John) – John provided a short update on the state of the budget and finances of the Association now that the fiscal year end has arrived. In general, the books show a small surplus of funds despite some funding cutbacks. While this has come at the expense of some programs, the programs that have been cut do not seem to have detrimentally affected anyone very much. John also noted that profit from the AO indoor BMJ meet, the higher membership registration fee, and the new format for Athletics Magazine have all contributed to the surplus.

30. New Business - There are concerns that at least two coaches currently under suspension with Athletics Ontario are still coaching. A further concern has arisen regarding a coach's conduct with respect to one of his athletes..

Incident One:

ACTION: John to check with different sources regarding the ethics of coach/athlete relationships. He will report to the Board at the next meeting.

ACTION: John to draft a letter to the coach in question suggesting further sanctions could be forthcoming if he doesn't stop coaching for the duration of his suspension.

ACTION: John will draft a response to the two letters received by the office regarding this concern.

Incident Two:

ACTION: John will draft a letter to the coach in question suggesting further sanctions could be forthcoming if he doesn't stop coaching for the duration of his suspension. John to seek legal counsel on other options available.

- Bill asked about the SIRC program which we have offered, free of charge, to our administrators and coaches. John advised that the SIRC program is available and that many coaches are using the service.

ACTION: Anthony will check with the SIRC office to see if we can get an idea on how many coaches are using the service, what pages they are accessing, and how often they use it. Anthony will report back at the next Board meeting.

- John is pursuing a Work at Home program.

ACTION: John has made initial contact with Catharsis, the IT support company that works within the SAO, but nothing has been done yet. He will re-initiate the request.

Upcoming Meetings: Thursday, April 15 – John, Roman and Sue will meet to discuss the OHPSI application and possible presentation

All available will meet April 15 at 12:30 for discuss the organization of the AO Standards meet in June.

Motion to Adjourn

Estwick

5:04 pm