

Meeting of the Board of Directors of Athletics Ontario

Date: Friday December 4, 2009, 8:33 pm

Location: 3 Concorde Gate,
Lobby Boardroom,
Toronto, ON, M3C 3N7

Present: Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Suzanne Leroux, Harry Stantsos, Roman Olszewski (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), John Craig (staff), Stuart Smith, Bill Stephens (Chair)

Regrets: Pat Reid

1. **Welcome** – Bill welcomed everyone to the final Board meeting of the year.
2. **Motion:** to accept the Minutes of the October Board Meeting
Smith and Stantsos **Carried**
3. **Business Arising** – John reported on the request from the organizers of the AO Bantam-Midget-Youth Championships in Timmins to consider their suggestion with respect to levy fees and host clubs. John advised that an accounting was received by AO this day and that the club has paid what it believes is owed in levies.

ACTION: Suzanne to determine if the accounting figures match our AO records. Wendy to invoice further if and as required.

ACTION: AO to further consider the suggestion at the next Board Meeting.

Suzanne advised that dates are still to be confirmed for the camera courses.

Roman advised that the wording of the Board Motion of the last meeting requiring payment for all meet entries by the final deadline was discussed by the Technical Committee, which decided to recommend that the policy read as follows: “*Entry fees are to be paid prior to the release of bib numbers.*”

ACTION: From now on, if a club does not pay fees prior to competing in a meet, or if a cheque is returned marked ISF, Wendy will send the club a letter advising that “*for a period of three years all fees must be paid by certified cheque, cash or credit prior to receiving their bib numbers.*”

The Board confirmed the 2010 outdoor Athletics Ontario Championship dates.

Motion: that the dates of the 2010 outdoor Championships be approved as presented and as follows:

- **Indoor Combined Events and Prep Meet #1**
Sunday, January 31, Toronto
Host: York University Track Club

- **Indoor Relays and Prep Meet #2**
Sunday, February 14, Windsor
Host: University of Windsor Alumni Club
- **Indoor Youth-Senior**
Saturday/Sunday, February 20-21, Toronto
Host: York University Track Club
- **Indoor Bantam-Midget-Junior**
Saturday/Sunday, March 6-7, Toronto
Host: Athletics Ontario
- **10,000m Track**
Date TBA, London
Host: London Runner Distance Club
- **10km Road Walk**
Date TBA, Toronto
Host: Ontario Racewalkers
- **Outdoor Combined Events/Relays & National Standards Meet**
June 12-13, Toronto
Host: Athletics Ontario
- **Outdoor Bantam-Midget-Junior (Supermeet 1)**
July 24-25, London
Co-Hosts: London-Western/St.Thomas Legion TC
- **Ontario Summer Games & 1st AO Espoir (U24) Championships**
August 12-13, Sudbury
Host: Ontario Games Committee
- **Outdoor Junior-Senior (Supermeet 2)**
August 14-15, Sudbury
Host: Athletics Ontario
- **20km Roadwalk**
September 12-TBC, Welland
Host: Athletics Ontario
- **Cross Country**
November 14, Guelph
Co-Hosts: Guelph TFC/Mississauga TFC

Leroux and Stantsos

Carried

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda as amended

Sarjeant and Stantsos

Carried

5. Technical Committee Motions Approval: See motions of Technical Committee as appended.

Motion: To approve the Technical Motions as above and as appended.

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

6. Staff Health, Safety & Wellness: John provided a verbal report.

7. Motion to Change AC Rule 086: John reviewed a motion presented by the Ottawa Lions with respect to Athletics Canada rules regarding the status of foreign athletes in National Championship competition and their exclusion from some levels of competition (i.e. finals). The motion is to be presented at the Annual General Meeting on December 5, 2009.

The Board position was that Athletics Ontario needs to see what AC's response is to the proposed amendments and better understand the implications and proposed solution before we can determine a position.

Statement on Proposal: that AO recognizes the inconsistencies of AC Rule 086 and the need for a reconcile, but that a position can't be determined until there is further discussion and a better understanding of the implications.

Stantsos and Leroux

8. Budget for 2010-11 – John reviewed the budget, the need to request a membership fee increase, and the various options on the form or manner of such an increase. He advised that an increase should be considered given inflation over the past few years, the introduction of the HST in 2010, and the substantial funding cuts the Association has been given this year.

There are lots of options and the Board should have a recommendation when the issue is presented to the membership at the AGM. Options include differential increases depending on category and age, incremental increases for seasonal members, and increases limited to memberships after July 1.

Background: The last membership fee increase was a \$5 increase across the board in 2007. The HST, which will be introduced on July 1, 2010, means we will have to pay an additional tax of 8% on every membership. Funding cuts from the Ministry are in the range of \$50,000/year from 2007.

Stuart reviewed current membership numbers and there was discussion about the loss of athletes to the MTA because the MTA membership fee is relatively low.

After much discussion the Board will recommend to the membership at the AGM on December 5, 2009, that membership fees be *increased*, beginning January 1, 2010, by the following amounts:

Full Membership

Bantam - \$5
Midget - \$10
Youth - \$15
Junior - \$20
Senior – \$20
Independent – \$20
All combinations of athlete, coach and official - \$20
Self coached independent - \$20
Coach and Administrator – no increase
Non-Competitive - \$5
Masters - \$15

Indoor, Outdoor and Cross Country

Bantam - \$5
Midget - \$5
Youth - \$10
Junior - \$15
Senior - \$15
Independent - \$15
Self Coach Independent - \$15

These increases will be to support the Association budget and the Association will absorb the HST when it is applied in July 2010. There will be a re-examination of the budget in December 2010 to consider further measures.

9. **Working from home** - Bill suggested that the office pursue means and ways of working from home if and when necessary – for example when illness or weather cause staff have to stay home it would make sense if there was a way of continuing to work and be productive. Recommendation that AO pursue this to see if we can make it possible

ACTION: John to see about options, costs and requirements for a work-at-home opportunity.

10. **Answering emails** - Bill asked that Board members and staff respond to emails, even if it is to let people know that the email has been read. Gathering consensus of opinion is hard when no response is delivered.
11. **Proposed Travelling Hall of Fame** (Val) – tabled until next meeting.

12. **Insurance** – John advised that a new insurance policy was being considered and mentioned the benefits in both Directors and Officers coverage and member benefits.
13. **AC/AO/CSCO/U of T MOU Update** (John) – tabled until next meeting
14. **CSCO** (John) – tabled until next meeting
15. **Cecil Smith Library** (John) – tabled until next meeting
16. **SIRC** – John advised that a new Sport Information Resource Centre branch has been opened in the Sport Alliance Building and that all AO coaches and officials could become SIRC members upon joining Athletics Ontario. Each member is entitled to SIRC services and can access up to seven million pages of sports related information including training information, new studies, general information and injury prevention advice.

Motion: to make access to SIRC services a benefit of membership to all our coaches, officials and administrators on a yearly basis and as a program of Athletics Ontario.

Sarjeant and Leroux

Carried

17. **Toronto Marathon(s)** - The City of Toronto seems poised to solve some traffic problems by working with both of the Toronto Marathons to find solutions to the congestion caused by these events. Specifically, the City appears ready to move one event to the spring, to cancel the permit for one of the events, or to try to find a means of getting the events to work together. John outlined some of the issues surrounding the situation.

ACTION: Stuart suggested that John draft a letter on behalf of Athletics Ontario that supports races which have a claim to a traditional date.

18. **Athletics Magazine** (John) – tabled
19. **Officials AGM** - Suzanne attended the OOC AGM and provided an update. – disappointed that she was the only AO representative. Forty-two member officials attended. The report:

“I attended this meeting wearing two hats; as an official and as an AO board member. As the only AO Director in attendance, I did my best to shoulder that responsibility. It was a long, exhausting six hour meeting. More than half of it was an open discussion on the OOC response to the Athletics Ontario document titled ‘*Organization and Function of the OTFA Officials’ Committee (new structure proposal)*’ presented to the OOC at the 2008 OOC AGM.

Upon request, AO extended the March 31, 2009, action deadline in order to facilitate this response.

John Metcalfe chaired discussion on the proposal. John reported that the OOC's counter-proposal(s) entitled 'Organization and Function on the Athletics Ontario Officials Executive Committee Part 1' and 'Operation of Athletics Ontario Officials Part 2' was emailed or posted to everyone two weeks prior to this meeting. Basically, their paper is a rehash of the AO's with some differences pertaining to elections and finances. Their Operation document ignored the Officials' Provincial Development section, which is a key component in the Athletics Ontario document.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the OOC was to amend their document and set a date for the OOC and Athletics Ontario to meet by mid-December 2009. As of January 8, 2010 no date has been set. Copies of both proposals are available upon request.

ACTION: John to email Enrico and set a date for a meeting.

- 20. Athlete Transfer Policy** - The board supported the idea of reforming an Athlete Transfer committee and having Marc Christie sit on it. Stuart also agreed to sit on the Committee and Stuart will seek other members at the AGM on December 5, 2009.

ACTION: Stuart to form the committee and invite Marc – and others - to sit on it with him.

21. New Business:

- **Volunteer screening and police record checks** – tabled until next meeting
- **AO Meet Director** - Athletics Ontario needs to find a meet director to be in charge of Athletics Ontario Championships which we will host. Bill will seek possible candidates.

Adjournment: 11:17 pm.

Technical Committee Meeting Motions from the Meeting of December 4, 2009 Presented to the Athletics Ontario Board of Directors for Approval

MOTION: That the list of new records, as recommended by the Director of Technical Services be accepted.

MOTION: That Sue Wise be made an ex-officio member of the Technical Committee.

MOTION: That the changes and additions proposed in the documents supplied by Suzanne Leroux and Roman Olszewski to the Policies and Procedures for the Staging of Provincial Championships Handbook, be approved as amended.

MOTION: That the 4x1500m event be dropped from the championship programme.