

Minutes of O.T.F.A. Board Meeting

Date: Sunday April 20, 2008
Time: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Sport Alliance Ontario Building
1185 Eglinton Avenue East
Room: Boardroom 3D

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

1) Welcome: Bill welcomed everyone for coming on a Sunday morning and apologized for having to meet at such an inconvenient time.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting:

Motion: to Approve the Minutes of the last Board Meeting:

Sarjeant and Reid

Carried

3) Business Arising:

Action: John to ask again for a legal review of the new OTFA Code of Conduct.

No other business arising.

4) Approval of Agenda:

Motion to Approve the Agenda:

Sarjeant and Smith

Carried

5) OTFA/CSC-O/CGTDP Review: John provided a power point presentation explaining the relationship between the OTFA, the Canadian Sports Centre-Ontario and the Canada Games Team Development Program. Short time lines and problems with start up led to some miscommunication between partners. Provincial Coach Marc Christie also provided perspective and underlined that the complications of the system and relationships have led to some concerns for the program.

6) Provincial Coach Review: Roman discussed the conference call meeting of the Committee which is guiding the Provincial Coach program, and the resulting

revisions to the job description for the Provincial Coach. Bill and Roman met after the conference call with Marc to discuss the addendum to the job description.

Marc reported on his activities to date and the new tasks he has been asked to look after. He also outlined some changes that need to be made in the contract to better reflect the reality of his role and the number of hours he is working on behalf of the OTFA. Marc commented on the testing camps and his relationship with the Canadian Sports Centre-Ontario and the labs associated with the PEP program. He believes we need to test both Tier One and Tier Two athletes as they will be defined later.

The relationship between the OTFA and the CSC is evolving, but it appears that the OTFA can have more direct input into the program than originally believed. The document outlining new tasks of the Provincial Coach will be added as an addendum to the existing contract.

Marc suggested that we need to add the identification of our top 20 athletes to his job description, and well as adding a component of athlete testing.

Motion: To approve Addendum to the Provincial Coach Job Description with the addition of the following tasks:

- an Athlete Testing requirement
- identification of top 20 athletes
- identification of Tier One and Tier Two athletes
- an appropriate adjustment of coaching hours
- the prioritization of the tasks

Reid and Stantsos

Carried

Action: Roman and Marc to identify major and minor tasks and establish timelines for those tasks.

Action: Roman to rewrite the Addendum to include the above added tasks.

Action: John to attach the addendum to the contract to make it part of the contract and Job Description.

7) Revising the Ontario Corporations Act: John explained that the Ontario Corporations Act is going to be re-drafted and that the Ministry in charge is conducting consultations. Proposed revisions will affect the OTFA, but will not likely be enacted until 2009. The OTFA will have to respond by re-drafting it's By-laws, though revisions will not likely be extensive. Such revisions may be able to

incorporate changes brought about by the OTFA Planning process, though they may not coincide with the 2008 OTFA AGM.

8) Planning Update: Pat provided an update of the planning document, with a brief review of progress to date. Feedback on the original document from member coaches and clubs was minimal, but Pat received some comments. Most of the feedback suggested the Committee take another look at the proposed Vision so that it better reflects reality.

Pat also said the OTFA seems to be viewed as a communication organization, not a programming organization. We need to be seen as delivering programs. The OTFA membership continues to ask "what do you do for us". We need to think in terms of Form follows Function; we need to ask 'what do we want to do, then how do we do it'?

Pat took the Board through a presentation on the "Team Ontario" concept at each membership level. He outlined the benefits, programs and costs associated with each Team at each level.

Roman commented that some of the goals for the Bantam age division were not in keeping with the LTADM. While we want to attract athletes at this age and engage them, we don't necessarily want to have them training this hard. Perhaps we need evidence that athletes at this age who are training hard will continue in the sport.

Harry also had concerns with commitment of bantam-aged kids, believing a program such as that outlined might provide too much pressure for young athletes.

Pat noted that soccer and hockey have more kids than track and field does. Perhaps we need to provide programs to get these kids into our sport instead. Maybe we need to provide programs for bantam-aged kids without having a Team Ontario Bantam.

Val suggested we need to strike a committee to review and research how this fits into the LTADM and how to implement it. We don't need to implement this all at one time. Perhaps start with one or two categories and work through the rest of the system.

Pat will try to package something for sponsorship. It is clear we need to have Teams if we are going to sell programs to a sponsor.

Our new vision is that the OTFA should be sport organization offering programs, not just a sport governing. This may be a return to what the Association used to do and be.

Pat introduced some proposed logos and name an accompanying name change. We are not yet ready to endorse the new name and logo, but they were well accepted.

The Planning Committee has to meet again to take determine and implement next steps, which includes working with the Minor Track Association, the Royal Canadian Legion and clubs in all parts of the province to get feedback on ideas.

Suzanne suggested we use our Championships as opportunities to interact with our members. Perhaps we can set up a booth, hand out questionnaires, present graphics and plans. The focus needs to be on where we are now and where we want to go.

Action: Bill and Pat to call for another meeting of the Planning Committee.

9) Soliciting Advertising Agencies (pro bono) for branding: Anthony discussed ideas for soliciting pro bono work from Ad Agencies.

This may be something we want to do in the future, though we probably aren't there yet. Maybe we need to get a firm to review what Pat has already done and provide comment. Pro bono work may not actually be free; once we re-brand an agency may expect to continue to work on our behalf on a paid basis.

Action: Table this item for now and, perhaps, revisit as the planning process moves forward.

10) Reimbursement for New York Indoor Championships, National Juniors and World Juniors: Bill took a look at the Team Ontario approach from 2007 and noted concerns with bad behavior etc. on the New York trip.

Marc and Bill suggest that, for the three competitions mentioned above, athletes should be reimbursed after the fact, depending on performance: 20% to NY Trip, 40% to National Juniors, 40% Ontario athletes on World Junior team.

An athlete can only access the fund once.

About \$16,000 from several sources will be pooled to assist with travel costs for the above mentioned trips. To access this funding, athletes will need to be able to meet OTFA criteria. Bill noted that all the money doesn't need to be spent if athletes don't meet the criteria.

Motion: Current Quest for Gold athletes will not be able to access money from this source.

Reid and Stephens

Carried

11) Trip to New York Indoor Championships and Results: Bill provided results of New York Indoor Championship meet of the last two years. On analysis it appears too many kids went in 2007, some with poor results or no results. This year 11 people went on their own and the results were better than when we sent an Ontario Team. Ontario athletes got more medals this year than last with ¼ the team size. It appears that re-imbursing athletes for travel is more effective than sending an Ontario team.

12) Officials clinics: Bill noted that we are half way through the year and, while we have all identified the need to have more officials and more clinics, there is little movement on this.

Action: Val will work on this task. He suggests we identify some dates for possible clinics and get clubs to provide clinics as well, in part to assist them with their own competitions. The OTFA will pay honoraria, travel and accommodation to clinicians; the only expense a club has to cover are costs associated with the venue.

Bill advised that the Toronto District School Board will stage a clinic again this year.

Ontario Summer Games hosts likely should host some clinics, as should Timmins in preparation for Supermeet Two next year. This could save both hosts some grief when their competitions are hosted later.

The OTFA needs to provide greater recognition of Officials at meets and, perhaps, at our championships this year at York. Need to identify officials (Official of the month) on our web-site.

Action: Suzanne to ask Enrico to identify an Official of the Month and provide a short write up and photo.

13) OTFA Cross Country Championship Race Distances: Stuart discussed the feedback he has received regarding the competition distances of OTFA Cross Country Championships. Most of those canvassed agreed that women's distances need to be adjusted. Men's distance progress reasonably, but women's don't.

Motion: That the OTFA adopt the following distances for OTFA Championship cross country at the provincial level:

Females:

Bantam – 3,000m
Midgets – 4,000m
Youth – 5,000m
Junior – 5,000m
Senior – 6,000m

Men

Bantam – 3,000m
Midgets – 4,000m
Youth - 6,000m
Junior – 8,000m
Senior – 10,000m

Smith and Reid

Carried

Action: At the AC AGM Bill and John will ask why national championship distances for women do not progress in line with IAAF distance as men's do.

14) Awards Banquet: Val provided a couple of options for scheduling our planned OTFA Awards Banquet:

Option A) host our AGM in conjunction with the AC Technical Congress, which would place both our Awards Banquet and the AC Awards banquet on the Saturday evening and, potentially, in conflict

Option B) host our AGM on Saturday in conjunction with AC Technical Congress and host our Awards Banquet on Sunday afternoon

As neither option was ideal other possibilities were discussed.

Motion: That the OTFA AGM and Awards Dinner be held on the Saturday evening before, and in conjunction with, the OTFA Cross Country Championships.

Reid and Sarjeant

Carried

Site to be announced.

Award winners will get a complimentary ticket.

Action: This is a major undertaking. We will need a committee to assist in coordinating this program.

Action: Anthony to put a request for assistance for this initiative on the OTFA website.

15) Run, Jump, Throw: Val advised that Kelly Bethune and company will run an RJT program for kids in Toronto through the Toronto Parks and Recreation department. Kelly has applied for grants, and engaged a process to hire instructors.

The OTFA should talk with them about how we can create a relationship to assist them in their delivery, and how we can roll the program out to other communities in the future.

Action: Val and John to work with Kelly Bethune and API to establish a partnership with respect to RJT clinics.

16) OOC Development Fund: Roman advised that the Ontario Officials Council has a large amount of money. The OOC voted to invest this money but doing so is probably in contravention of OTFA By-laws and the Ontario Corporations Act. This money comes from the \$1 they receive from each championship entry and should be spent on official's training and clinics.

The OOC needs to provide the OTFA with a plan to spend the money on the proposed purposes.

Action: Suzanne will talk to the OOC membership to discuss this and work with the OOC to resolve this issue.

Action: Suzanne, Roman and Stuart will see how the OTFA can work with the OOC to make sure this money is used in a manner in keeping with the OTFA and OOC directives. They will do some fact finding and talk to the OOC Board to determine direction and next actions.

17) OTFA Travel Funding for National Youth Championships: Roman advised that Athletics Canada will now have a National Youth Championships, to be held in conjunction with the Legion Championships.

Motion: That for 2008 the OTFA not fund Ontario athletes going to the National Youth Championships .

Stephens and Sarjeant

Carried

18) Canada Games Development Grant – Final Report: Pat advised that we have been successful in the proposal to use unused CGTD program funds to buy Dartfish software and hardware.

There will be some significant training required for this, but the program will be meaningful.

Action: OTFA to ask for proposals from clubs for the use of the equipment and the purchase of it.

Action: Marc Christie to contact Athletic Performance Improvement to discuss and schedule Dartfish training.

Action: An ad-hoc will be formed to draft an action plan. Committee will include Harry, Marc and Pat. This action plan should include priorities and specifics on the purchase of software/hardware and insurance, responsibilities, accountabilities, recommendations on the best venues for this support, and plans for training and reporting.

19) Records Ratification: Roman

Moved: To accept as OTFA records the performances recommended by the Technical Committee (records to follow from Roman).

Leroux and Stephens

Carried

20) Subsidization of AC Technical Congress Participants: John discussed a suggestion by Athletics Canada that the OTFA subsidize the costs of attending the AC Technical Congress for our coaches and administrators. The consensus of the Board, however, was that the OTFA not subsidize OTFA Coaches to come to the AC Technical Congress. If AC develops a good enough agenda, coaches will come.

21) OTFA Membership Structure/Rankings & Records: – John discussed concerns surrounding membership (and non-membership) with respect to provincial and national rankings and records. While AC and the Branches feel that recognition of ranking performances and records should be a benefit of membership, there is concern about how to handle performances set while athletes are not AC members. This is a typical situation for our athletes in the US on scholarship.

Additionally, having performances and records recognized while athletes aren't members is dangerous as athletes have not signed Anti-doping agreements or agreed to abide by AC and IAAF rules.

On the other hand, not recognizing these performances can be hazardous; performances that belong on rankings lists, which should be recognized as records, or which meet qualification standards, should not be voided because an athlete has been on foreign soil and has not filled in his or her application form.

Action: Bill and John to take to AC AGM a suggestion that performances made by Canadian athletes should be recognized regardless of whether the athletes are members of the Association or not. What that performance entitles the athlete to has still to be determined.

22) 2009 Canada Games Team Staff Selection Criteria: Roman

Nominations for team staff must be in by May 15th.

Action: Roman to draft a Letter of Interest for staff, which would commit them to go to training camps after September 2008 (if applicable) and into 2009.

23) Web Cast of Ontario Athletes: Anthony suggested we try some different formats for webcasts or interviews live or taped on our Website.

Action: Anthony to explore costs, resources and time to make this happen. He will draft a proposal for further presentation to the Board.

24) Dates for Future Meetings:

Friday June 13th is the date of our next Board Meeting, which will take place at the SAO. A Technical Committee meeting will be held at 6:00 pm., with the Board meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

25) New Business: Val advised that his club will hold an officials clinic on May 3rd and he challenged other clubs to do the same thing.

Adjournment: 3:42 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn: Stantsos

Note: Chair Bill Stephens had to leave the meeting at: 3:18 p.m. At that point Val assumed the Chair for discussions of Canada Games Team Selection Criteria and the rest of the meeting. A quorum remained for the duration of the meeting.