

**Ontario Track and Field Association
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Friday, October 13, 2006
Sport Alliance of Ontario
7:30 p.m.**

Present: Albert Tschirhart (Chair), John Craig (staff), Roman Olszewski (staff), Val Sarjeant, Bill Stephens, Mike Illingworth, Marc Christie

Apologies: Denis Landry, David Watt

1) **Welcome by Chair** – The Chair welcomed everyone and asked for an update on Denis' health.

2) **Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Motion to Approve

Illingworth / Sarjeant

Carried

3) **Business Arising** – no business arising.

4) **Approval of Agenda** - items added as items under new business

Motion to Approve Agenda

Sarjeant / Stephens

Carried

5) **Athletics Canada's LTAD Model**

Albert led a discussions of the model as developed by Athletics Canada, and the unfolding of the phases. Roman expressed concerned about the implications for our World Youth teams. There was general support for the Model and agreement that the Association should be involved in, and support, this program

6) **Succession Plans**

Albert advised that he would only be on the Board for one more year and that some planning for the future was needed. He suggested that the Board has progressed a long way during his tenure, that it was a well functioning Board at present, and we need to plan for new elections in 2007 when 4 positions are up for election.

There is lots of work still to do, so we need to plan for continued success.

7) **Competition Seasons for Junior/Senior and BMJ**

Albert talked about the need to have more than the Top Three meet before the Eastern Canadian Series begins. There is a need to create some competitive opportunities beginning mid-May. We could get something going in the London area. Bill might put on a competition in the Toronto area, and maybe we can plan for something in the southwest (Hamilton/St. Catharines). We need to create opportunities – this might also help reduce numbers at Top Three and Championship meets. Also need to make sure we include all of the technical events. Perhaps we need a committee to coordinate it to make sure we have a complete schedule.

8) Results and Web Capabilities

Albert is interested in tracking hits on the OTFA website, especially on the results page, to see if there is potential for sponsorship or ad sales. Anthony advised that we are already tracking activity, and he produced a report showing ‘hit’ information.

There was consensus that the page should show results of road races, high school and University competitions. John expressed concerns about the time that would be required to manage the results and links, but there was some enthusiasm for high school results at least...this could attract kids to our site who will browse and maybe become involved.

Action: Anthony to ask high school directors to send results to us. Anthony to create high school page and see if he can get high school meet directors to forward results to us.

John also explained the possibilities of future involvement with the Running Network website for our magazine. This would bring in results from major sources and link directly to our site. This is a few years away because of logistics, but something to think about.

9) Rotation Format for Championships Competitions

Albert thought there was a need to rotate championships and other top quality meets through our regions to make sure all clubs have an ability to host competitions, and make or save money by doing so. There are several bids for 2007 championships which represent the different regions, but should we be doing this as a matter of policy?

To do this we would have to define – or redefine - our regions.

Rotations could be every two years so each region would know when their turn was coming, and could plan ahead. Clubs could work together to host competitions. Clubs could plan financially for years when they are going to have to travel a long way.

This will be considered in the future as it will take some time to study and implement.

John expressed concerns that, while this would provide opportunities for all clubs, it could also mean that clubs which are very good at hosting competitions would only have the opportunity to do so every 10-15 years. If that was the case, not only would the

OTFA lose some of it's best sites, but the clubs would likely lose the accumulated ability and knowledge required to host good competitions.

Action: Committee to be struck to study this idea. Committee to consist of Mike Illingworth, Bill Stephens and Albert Tschirhart.

Action: This item to be presented at AGM.

10) Guest Speaker for AGM

Anthony asked for Board support for a speaker to talk at the OTFA AGM about liability, risk management, club insurance (including Officers and Directors Liability insurance), coach responsibility, due diligence, harassment etc. Maybe also talk about the obligations of clubs and athletes when money is owed – what recourse does a club have?

Action: Anthony to send an email to clubs asking for specific questions and areas of interest for discussion.

11) OTFA Rep on MTTFC Board

With Cecil's resignation from the MTTFC Board, the OTFA is looking for a representative to sit on the Board.

Action: Marc will consider the position and advise at next meeting, or see if Brian Keaveney would sit on our behalf (Marc to follow up with Brian).

12) Update on Quest for Gold

The Board supported the idea that we need to fill all 54 cards if possible, and this was to be done by whatever mechanism will provide us with the maximum number of cards. The Board expressed confidence in the Quest for Gold Selection Committee's ability and authority to make final decisions.

13) Coaching Coordinator

The OTFA has applied for a grant to hire a Coaching Coordinator. No work yet on whether the application has been successful. There will be a need to define the position and advertise. The grant for this project, if successful, must be spent by March 31, 2007 so timelines are short.

Action – John to get job descriptions from other PSOs in building.

14) Run, Jump, Throw

Val volunteered to try to work with the RJT program and attend sessions or meetings etc. as necessary and appropriate to stay on top of developments. However, he believes the real program we want to keep going is Fun In Athletics.

The Board also agreed that IFTA needs to get more OTFA clubs involved when they are visiting area schools.

RJT is a good vehicle for the schools, but haven't been able to sell it yet to a sponsor.

Action: John to get information and dates from Donna Kaye about what is coming to Ontario and see if Val can get involved.

15) CAIP

John outlined the Canadian Athlete Insurance Program and the benefits to our athletes. There is some administrative burden on the OTFA, so the Board suggested that we start working with the program by first offering it to our successful Quest for Gold candidates, and see how the program unfolds during 2007.

Action: Wendy is to invite our Quest for Gold athletes to subscribe to CAIP and report for the next Board meeting on progress, workability and response.

16) On-Line Registration

John advised that we are targeting a launch in December 2006. There are hopes that we can reduce office workloads by being able to implement the use of Visa or MasterCard, or Paypal, but those details have not yet been worked out.

Action: Anthony and Wendy to work on this together by developing Question and Answer sheets, password and user ID protocols, and step-by-step lessons. Anthony to post these lessons and pages on the OTFA website.

17) Children's Fitness Tax Credit

John filled everyone in on the status of this federal program and on PSO Committee recommendations. While there will be a tax benefit to athletes who are members of the OTFA, there are many other programs which will also qualify. This will offer some membership benefit to OTFA member athletes.

18) Transfer Policy

The Board reviewed the Transfer Policy as presented by the Committee. There is a clear emphasis in the policy on trying to cut down on athlete 'poaching'.

Motion to Approve:

Sarjeant and Christie

Carried

Action: Bill to send thank you, on behalf of the Board, to Committee members; Bill Stephens, Stuart Smith, Marc Christie, Ian Critchell, Gary Lubin.

19) Restriction of Athletes at Top 5 and Jr/Sr Championships

To be dealt with later under Technical Meeting proposals.

20) Athlete Poaching

Val asked about appeals to the above mentioned policy; what happens with a dispute? He was advised that the OTFA has a complaint procedure which deals with such situations.

Action: John to get a legal opinion on how the OTFA acts with respect to an athlete owing a club money and trying to move to another club.

21) Sports Festival

Val explained the concept of the Sports Festival in conjunction with the Hamilton Indoor Games and the way the organizers could make some money – booths for sales and displays. Lots of sports will be demonstrated and this will not be confined to track and field. There will also be products for sale etc. The organizers may want to see if OTFA can get an insurance rider to cover all activities of the Festival.

Action: If required by Val, John will approach the OTFA insurer to see if a rider can be added to the OTFA insurance policy to cover all activities of the Festival.

22) Bids and Awarding of Championships

Roman to take notes and send final list to John for inclusion in the minutes.

Motion: to approve recommendations of Host Sites and Clubs for 2007 Championship competitions.

Tschirhart and Sarjeant

Carried

23) OTFA Statistician

Roman re-iterated the need for a statistician who will work with the Association since the formulation and maintenance of statistics (records and rankings etc) is very labour intensive and time consuming.

Action: John to investigate time lines and possibilities of AC Direct doing rankings and records. Can we do this now, does Ontario have the permission to do this as opposed to

AC, what needs to happen to allow this to become part of the normal course of events.
John to advise Roman.

Maybe Coaching Coordinator – if we get one - can assist with this.

24) Technical Committee Recommendations (see attachments below)

Motion to Approve as Presented

Sarjeant / Stephens

Carried

25) Other Business

a) Technical Congress

This item not discussed at meeting because of lack of time. The OTFA has \$3,400 to provide honorariums to coaches who want to go to the AC Technical Congress in November.

Action: John and Anthony to advertise this on the Web next week and ask for applications. Offer to go to Mentor Coaches first.

Action: John to send link to Bill.

b) CAC Grants Pamphlet

Item not discussed at meeting because of lack of time.

Action: Anthony to send this information out via OTFA website.

c) National Championships Fee for Independent Athletes

The Board determined that it would be inappropriate to ask Independent athletes to contribute to the National Championship Fee.

d) AC Awards

Action: Roman to make some suggestions regarding Athletics Canada awards and email them to the Board for input.

Suggestions: World Junior silver medal athletes, relay team.

e) Code of Conduct

Action: Bill to send to Board members and all Board members to read in time for AGM.

Feedback should be provided to Bill within one week.

Motion to adjourn

Tschirhart: 11:08

Next Meeting, Friday, November 10 at the SAO.

Albert Val and Roman need accommodation: Wendy to arrange

Technical Committee Motions Recommended for Approval by the OTFA Board at its Meeting of October 13, 2006.

Motion: That the following events be added to the list of events for which Ontario records are recognized:

*Girls Juvenile U-18 and Juvenile U-17 2000m Steeplechase
Girls and Boys Midget U-16 and Midget U-15 300m Hurdles.*

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

Motion:

a. that the following sentence be added to 060.2 of the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Staging of Provincial Championships:

To assist athletes in the planning of their warm-ups the final meet schedule shall include the anticipated number of races to be conducted for each event and age group.

b. that section 153.1, 153.2 and 153.3 (800m Start) be replaced with:

153.1 Athletes in the 800m event, indoors and outdoors, shall be divided into two groups with one group of approximately 65% of the athletes on an arced start line run for the inner lanes and the other group on a separate arced start line marked across the outer half of the track.

153.2 Cones shall be placed approximately 3m apart on the inside lane line for the outer half of the track. The breakline for the 800m indicates where the athletes in the outer group may join the athletes using the start line on the inside half of the track.

153.3 The number of athletes in a race shall not normally exceed 12 outdoor and 8 indoors.

Modify 145.7 to reflect the above proposed changes.

c. that: 145.1 be amended to show a maximum of 1 round to be run for outdoor Junior and Senior 800m and 400m Hurdles (from 2 rounds).

d. that: 190.1 be replaced with:

190.1 Athletes shall not be required to declare their intention to compete at the competition venue. Coaches of athletes (or the athletes themselves) who will not be competing in an event should advise the Competition Director through the procedure announced prior to the commencement of competition.

Renumber current 190.2 to 190.3.

Renumber current 190.3 to 190.4

e. that the following be added:

190.2 Track athletes shall check-in at the start line or designated area no sooner than 30 minutes prior to and no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled or re-scheduled start of the athlete's race.