

OTFA Board Meeting

Saturday, February 17, 2007
York University, Toronto
4:24 p.m.

Present: Albert Tschirhart (Chair), Bill Stephens, Mike Illingworth, Roman Olszewski, John Craig, Hugh Cameron (guest), Val Sarjeant (4:56 pm), Anthony Biggar (5:03 pm)

Regrets: Denis Landry, Marc Christie

1. Welcome by Chair: The Chair welcomed the Board and introduced guest Hugh Cameron, head coach of the Brooks Marathon Project and Endurance Program Coordinator with Athletics Canada

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Illingworth/Stephens

Carried

3. Business Arising: John updated the Board on the OTFA donation to the fund established for Mark Graham's daughter, and Stanley Samuel's meet where OTFA literature was handed out.

4. Approval of Agenda

Stephens/Illingworth

Carried

5. Hugh Cameron – Athletics Canada's Endurance Program Coordinator: Albert advised Hugh that the OTFA is keen on having national training centres in Ontario, but expressed concern that these training centres become national recruitment centres for specific clubs. As a sport we put a lot of time and resources into these centres in order to get a good return (results) from them, but some coaches fear that they will lose athletes to these centres. Ideally, National Training Centres would have no club affiliation.

Hugh advised that the goal of these centres was as defined, and athletes were welcome to come to the centre with clubs acting as satellites under the centres. The goal is to have the centres share resources and training ideas and training times – creating training pods – so there remained a club affiliation while athletes enjoyed group training and centre benefits.

Hugh also presented the plan for the Brooks Marathon Project with standards, goals, assumptions, processes etc. The idea is to specialize in the marathon – the intent is for Project athletes to make the Olympic team, and there is some financial backing to help make this happen. Athletes don't have to be in the project to be on National team, but it provides a forum to help make that happen. Current coaches will be recognized as part of the team. Currently there are 6 team members, and current coaches are welcome to come

to workouts and be a part of it all. The purpose is to get them together with financial support and everything else which makes for success, reducing the number of isolated athletes and increasing cooperation.

6. Standards for Junior and Senior Championships: Albert suggested that the OTFA recommend standards that might reduce entries in some of our Championships. Under-age athletes competing in Junior and Senior competitions has contributed to large fields in many events which has, in turn, contributed to delays at some meets. Initially these standards would take the form of entry guidelines to help clubs determine which athletes were of Championship calibre; they would be loose standards which would not keep someone out if they wanted to compete, but would discourage clubs and athletes from competitions in which they clearly don't belong. Hugh suggested that these should be hard standards which would help meets run on time and re-establish the OTFA Championships as the premier meet of the year.

Motion: That the OTFA establish a set of entry standards as guidelines for entry into the OTFA Junior and Senior Outdoor Championships in 2007. All OTFA registered athletes will be entitled to enter their own age group Championships without achieving the standards. However athletes registered in younger age groups should use these standards as entry guidelines. After 2007 the OTFA will apply these standards as 'hard' standards such that athletes have to meet or better the entry standards in order to enter Championship competition in older age groups.

Stephens/Illingworth

Carried

The OTFA will consider doing this for indoor meets in the future as well. We will look at results to see how many Bantams and Midgets compete in the Juvenile events.

7. Coaching Fund: John advised that the OTFA doesn't have the resources to take advantage of some of the coaching programs, funding and support being offered. The Board offered Roman and John discretionary powers to apply for programs we think we can handle on a selective basis.

8. Martin Goulet Meeting: Albert suggested that the issue surrounding National Training Centres (see above) be re-iterated as part of the discussions with Martin Goulet on February 21. Agreed.

9. Children's Fitness Tax Credit Situation: The National Government is coming out with the promised Fitness Tax Credit with criteria that stresses a cardio-respiratory component for all eligible programs (other components include muscular strength, muscular endurance, flexibility and balance). The OTFA needs to clarify the logistics of who issues receipts and who certifies a program. Membership in the OTFA may increase as a result of this initiative and by making sure certified programs are for athletes who are OTFA registered; the OTFA can't recognize a tax credit for an athlete who is not a member of ours.

Action: Wendy Lee to find information that is available and research the program.

Action: Anthony to advise clubs with summer programs that the participants must be OTFA members (if in fact this is the case).

10. Active 2010: The Board recommended that applications for Project Specific funding through Active 2010 be targeted at programs as follows:

For Capacity – Coaching Coordinator (part II);

For Excellence – Espoir Program. This could provide financial support for athletes going to the Eastern Canadian Espoir Championships in August, and in particular those athletes who will be eligible for the 2009 Canada Games;

For Participation – OTFA Developmental Program. Hire a Program Coordinator to glean the best of all the developmental programs in Ontario and produce a manual outlining a series of program options, including content, lead-up, advertising, grants available, samples of press releases etc. This should tie the developmental program into RJT which will bring RJT into Ontario and support our own program.

Action: John to show Roman the application for Excellence for review prior to submitting it.

Motion: That John should submit applications to the Active 2010 program as above.

Sarjeant/Stephens

Carried

11. Eastern Canadian High Performance Series – Alberta

AC is now running this Series. It is being advertised on the AC website. Some of the competitions will actually have IAAF permits (for some events) as qualifying competitions to the Olympics.

OTFA should provide some funding for our senior level athletes - about \$4,000 as last year.

Action: John to include this as part of Technical Program expenses.

12. Eastern Canadian Espoir – CSG – Active 2010 Links – Alberta

Newfoundland is keen on hosting the Espoir Championships in that province this August. There was some discussion about creating a couple of elite events for this meet in the future. These would be high profile events to attract out of province athletes.

Ontario would like to send about 30 people to NFLD, which could cost as much as \$21,000 for this and which should come from an Active 2010 program grant (see No. 10 above).

13. Harassment and OTFA Policy – John and Albert

Albert recognized that the OTFA needs to react and investigate when we have reason to believe that a member of the OTFA has been harassed, even if a formal complaint has not been filed. We have to be able to provide guidance to members and to advise them of options, while protecting confidentiality.

We need to adjust our existing policies to include a statement saying the OTFA has a due diligence obligation. We may also have to rethink the appointment of Harassment Officers as this additional work may take extra resources, time and leadership and maybe shouldn't be added to the duties of a Board member again.

Action - John to try to re-assign Harassment officer position.

Action - John to check what is posted on OTFA website and make sure policy (complete) is posted.

14. Secession Strategy - Albert

Action: Albert to present a possible list of candidates and circulate to the Board for review. Other names can be added and Board members should advise if they are comfortable with approaching someone about running for election.

15. Officials Working at Non-sanctioned Competitions - Albert

We should include something in our sanction kit to the effect that the OTFA is not responsible for any charges the meet hosts incur for the conduct of the meet.

Action: Roman to add this disclaimer to the OTFA Sanction Kit.

16. Budget - John

There was a review of the proposed budget.

Action: John and Roman to review budget to incorporate Roman's Technical budget items and to better reflect the proposed expenditures on the technical side.

17. Dual Membership – John and Roman

The Ontario position on membership was confirmed. An athlete can be a member of one branch and one club only and cannot have a second claim club. An athlete can only represent their branch club and not a second club. An athlete can join and train with another club in another branch, but can't represent them.

If the current AC rules don't read this way now, then we should lobby for this change at the next AC AGM.

Action: John to send AC membership changes to Board for consideration and more changes.

18. Approval of Dietary Supplements - John

Position statement; the OTFA is not in this business of approving the use of dietary supplements.

Action: Anthony to include this statement in our Rundevous newsletter.

19. Trillium Foundation Application - John

John presented the application for Trillium Foundation funding in support of the new Road Warrior program.

Motion: that the Board approve the application as written and endorse the application being sent to the Trillium Foundation for consideration.

Sarjeant/Illingworth

Carried

20. OTFA Logo Anthony

Anthony suggested a logo change for the OTFA, and Mike wondered if this should incorporate a name change as well.

Action: John to investigate the cost of a name change and how it is done?

Action: Anthony to ask Membership what we should include in a new logo.

21. Mandatory Registration for Officials for Provincial Championships – Anthony

Motion: That beginning June 1st 2007, to be eligible for travel expenses or other OTFA benefits an official must be registered as an Official by the date of the competition for which he or she is claiming benefits.

Sarjeant/Stephens

Carried

22. Club Membership for Meets and Records – Bill

Motion: That effective June 1, 2007 athletes residing in Ontario and entering in an OTFA Championships must be registered and their clubs affiliated with the OTFA by the time their entry forms are received by the competition secretary (final deadline).

Sarjeant/Stephens

Carried

Other changes to the Policies and Procedures for the Staging of Provincial Championships are:

020.1 (4th paragraph) – Change to Read: “Athletes residing outside Ontario must be registered with their provincial, state or national associations by the final meet entry deadline.”

Action: Anthony to make sure OTFA registrations numbers listed on our website are both by club and alphabetically. Also Anthony to ask Wendy to send these lists out regularly to clubs.

Action: Anthony to make sure these rule changes be well advertised on the OTFA Website and in the Newsletter

23. Review and Approval of Mentor Coaches - Roman

Roman suggested that two more mentor coaches be added to our list of mentor coaches and he nominated Carl Georgevski (high jump) and Brian Risk (pole vault).

Roman also re-confirmed that all mentor coaches need to be members of the OTFA.

The Board approved Roman’s recommendations.

24. Records Ratification – Roman

Motion: That the Board approve the records as recommended and presented by Roman.

Sarjeant/Illingworth

Carried

25. Technical Program Budget – Roman

Roman presented a Technical Budget for review. After some discussion the Board accepted the figures.

Action: John and Roman to review the Technical Budget and make sure it is reflected in the OTFA general budget.

26. Appeals Committee – Val/John

Val suggested we leave the Policy and Procedures as they stand, with separate policies for Harassment and Complaints instead of amalgamating the two. While there has been some suggestion that these two policies should/could be amalgamated into one, the OTFA will leave things as they are for now unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise.

27. Virtual Hall of Fame – Anthony thinks we need a committee to develop selection criteria and guidelines for a virtual Hall of Fame, or the Hall of Honour or both.

Action: Anthony to put out a call (website and newsletter) for nominations to sit on the committee to establish criteria, guidelines etc.

Motion: That the OTFA form a committee to establish guidelines for an OTFA virtual Hall of Fame.

Sarjeant/Stephens:

Carried

Roman and Michael volunteered to sit on this committee.

28. New Business:

a) Seed Performances: Unsupported and unfair seed performances have become a significant problem with OTFA Championship meets. Unfortunately, policing the seed performances is a time and resource consuming task. Several solutions or partial solutions were suggested and the OTFA will try to address the issue in various ways. While on-line registration and record and rankings may ease the problem there need to be incentives for honesty and penalties for abuse.

b) Track and Field Summit: Val suggested we have OTFA/MTA/OMTFA and other groups get together and talk about issues of common interest: insurance, officials, membership strategies, etc.

Action: Val will lead on this and leave it open to all associations to come – ORA, Disabled, any other groups.

c) Coaches Who aren't Registered with OTFA - this continues to be a problem and puts clubs and athletes in jeopardy. We need to check coaches registration prior to giving out passes at OTFA competitions. Only registered coaches can get into Championships.

Action: John to check OTFA policy on this. Check letters that Wendy sends out (what and how often?).

Action: John to get data on coaches who aren't registered – how many and who hasn't supplied a Police Check.

Motion to Adjournment: 9:14 p.m.

Stephens