



Technical Committee Report November 17, 2015

Committee Members

1. Albert Tschirhart, Former Committee Chair
2. John Stevenson, Acting Chair
3. David Mills, Member
4. Bob Tucker, Member
5. Harry Stantsos, Member
6. Lisa Ferdinand, Member
7. Dave Moncur, Former Committee Chair
8. Roman Olszewski, Staff
9. Randolph Farjordin, Staff

Committee Meetings

1. January 20, 2015, conference call
2. January 31, 2015, conference call
3. April 3, 2015, conference call
4. May 23, 2015, conference call
5. June 22, 2015, conference call
6. October 21, 2015, conference call (with Competition Committee)

Summary

This past year can only be described as chaotic for the AO Technical Committee. The Committee had three Chairs at the helm which provided for many challenges. Unfortunately, the Committee membership seemed fluid based and driven by issues at hand rather than a work plan. With the chaotic year, most Committee members missed at least one meeting, mainly due to the last minute nature of the meeting call AND a perceived lack of value and input by the members.

The Committee instituted the use of an AO Records Form to bring some discipline to Record Submissions. In previous years AO has relied on a manual process of scanning papers or online for results and comparing against record sheets or memory. It was suggested that the onus should be similar to the Canadian Masters, AC and IPC process, which would transfer the obligation to the athlete and coach.

The Technical Committee conducted a Members online survey of Hurdle / Endurance Coaches with respect to rule changes for 3000mS/C, 5000m; Youth B and G 400mH; YG YB 5000mW; YB Decathlon. The results were tabulated and served as the basis of recommendations to the Committee in June.

Issues

Agenda Meeting Focus

- Proposed P&P amendments
- Records approval
- New technical rules or procedures



- New events - Indoor Steeplechase (not add to Indoor Championship Format at this time)

Accomplishments

- Amendments to AO P&P recommended to Board for approval
- Indoor Weight Throw Rules – added to Rules Section
- Records process, ratified and recommended to Board for approval

Goals Not Yet Met

- New Technical Committee process formalized
- Audit of the 2015 agenda items and resolutions
- Need for discussion on 2014AGM proposals for updating XC Team Rules
- Midget Pentathlon (Combined Events, LTAD)
- Pole Vault Issue (marks on the runway)

Near-Term Plans

- Reengagement of Committee
- Appointment of Committee Chair from Board
- Formalize Committee Terms of Reference
- Formalize Committee Meeting Calendar
- Address all unresolved issues of the Technical Committee after the AGM

Formal Motions to the Board

None at this time

Informal Recommendation(s)

- a) There is a huge potential with respect to the Technical Committee. There have been some discussions of merging the Technical Committee with the Competitions Committee however; this may not serve the best interest of the Association, as it may result in an unmanageable scope of work for committee members.
- b) Committee should have only 8 members. List of 2014 invited members was 14.
- c) With Staff change over, there is an opportunity to standardize a number of procedures. For example formalizing meeting formats -- include printed meeting agenda, technical briefs for issues distributed ahead of time to Committee before meeting. Members would also like two-week lead time to book, review and participate.
- d) There is an opportunity to engage the technical mindset to become more proactive, and offer leadership in the direction of the Sport; next year should provide for more Committee input into the issues and discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Stevenson
Technical Committee, Acting-Chair

cc: Technical Committee