

**Athletics Ontario Officials Annual General Meeting
Saturday, November 19, 2016
Toronto, Ontario**

Minutes

Attendees:

Executive: Peter Hocking – Chair
Tim Slocombe – Vice-Chair
René Van Andel – Treasurer
Ian Reid – Director of Availability
Jacquie Downing – Director of Seminars and Upgrading
Cameal Johnson – Secretary

Regrets: Sherry Purdie – Director of Awards and Incentives

Members:	Ian Anderson	Gumarathas Balasubramanian	Michael Barsam
	Lisa Beardmore	Andy Burgess	John Caulfield
	Michael Chapman	Owen Crane	Kathryn Dertinger
	Wynn Downing	Jane Farmer	Lisa Ferdinand
	Gary Freedman	Alicia Friday	John Gonos
	Valdi Jurek	Brian Keaveney	Larry Mayhue
	Susan Mayhue	Lynn McFerran	Vinesh Midha
	Ted Neptune	Roman Olszewski	Svend Paulsen
	Dan Philip	Sharon Powell	Shari Read
	Alison Rumball	Janet Slocombe	Aaron Stemmler
	Doreen Thompson	Enrico Toscano	Helen Vasilic
	Ron Walker	Lily Whalen	Stafford Whalen
	Mervin Witter		

1. The meeting was called to order by Chair Peter Hocking. Peter introduced and welcomed special attendees Anthony Biggar and Randolph Fajardo from Athletics Ontario.
2. Peter asked if all the attendees signed the sign in form that was at the back of the room. It was then discovered that Ted Neptune was missing from the list. Peter stated that if an individual is not on the list then they would not be able to vote.
3. Approval of the **Agenda** as circulated. **Brian Keaveney/Janet Slocombe**
4. The minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved as circulated. **Andy Burgess/Mervin Witter**
5. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Enrico Toscano had raised a matter at the last AGM regarding tokens of appreciation for officials from the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. Katie Ozolins, former AO Executive Director, was to raise the matter with the Ministry of Sport and Enrico wanted to know what the outcome was. Enrico asked if the officials were to receive medallions from Pan Am Games. Peter stated that he was not aware if

Katie had done what she said she would do. Lisa Ferdinand also shared that she had not received any information to look into this. Tim Slocombe stated that the medallions were available for field and certain events. Tim recalled that Katie stated last year that they were available and that she would look into it.

Enrico asked what the outcome was with respect to the award for Tim Slocombe (for 2014) and Janet Slocombe (for 2015) who were both named to the AC/NOC Wall of Honour. The awards were lost in transit but they have since been replaced and are being presented at today's AGM. Unfortunately Tim's first name has been misspelled.

Wynn Downing referred back to the motion made at the 2015 AGM regarding funds from the Pan Am Games and asked why the government had not put money into the sports organizations. Wynn also asked if an expression of concern went to any level of government. Lisa was not aware of any commitment made by Katie and is not sure she has followed up on the matter. There is some equipment from the Pan Am Games in use at the Toronto Track and Field Centre which is suitable for international and national events. Other than this equipment, athletics has received no other legacy from the Games.

Mervin Witter would like to see the original motion put forward. Original motion was:

“That Athletics Ontario be requested to inform the Government of Ontario and relevant parties of the frustrations regarding deficiencies in recognition materials for Athletics Technical Officials at the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, and that none of the extra funds were, to our knowledge, donated to any sports organizations.”

The motion will be presented to the AO board as it was not forwarded last year. The books are closed with regards to the Pan Ams. Lisa will take the motion forward to the AO Board and draft a letter to the Ministry.

Helen Vasilic asked if we know of any other sports that were disappointed in the funding by Pan Ams. NSO forwarded the equipment to the sport but no monetary funds were provided to the sport. Lynn McFerran recalled that last year Katie stated that all other sports got something except Athletics.

6. Reports

Chair's report – Peter Hocking

Peter highlighted his report by sharing that officials were very busy but unfortunately the opportunities for officiating out-of-province were limited. He was pleased with the opportunity for officials to register on line as it provided him with accurate email addresses as this was a challenge previously

Peter will send out the indoor availability list by early December.

With regards to the NOC restructuring, nothing has been coming out to the branches in a year and a half. There was a meeting scheduled for December 2015, but the information came at the last minute and Peter was unable to attend. There has been no communication and no

minutes since the previous National Officials Committee was dissolved. It has been a constant waiting game for upgrading and for mentoring or clinic requests.

Helen reported that Gilles Rochette from Quebec has written a lengthy letter to NOC from the officials about how upset they are that nothing is going on.

Lisa noted that there are monthly Branch calls with Athletics Canada and AO has raised this issue along with other Branches. Lisa is hopeful that we will have a response by the AC AGM in Ottawa this December (2016).

Vice-Chair's report – Tim Slocombe

Tim reported that Peter had everything under control and that the on-line registration took effect so he did not have much to do. Tim advised that with respect to NOC that officials should keep copies of their Mentoring Reports as Ian Gordon just wants to know if the official passed or failed. Susan Mayhue shared that she was told to send to both Ian Gordon and Scott MacDonald.

Director of Seminars and Upgrading – Jacquie Downing

Jacquie reported that we did not have a comprehensive clinic in 2016, however there was a volunteer workshop (a pilot project) in which 6 individuals were in attendance, and 2 National Clinics were held. Next weekend there is a clinic scheduled but registration is low. We were quite busy with mentoring both in and out of province. Thank you to those who conducted the mentoring. There were quite a few upgradings as well. The website has a new look and Jacquie asked officials to let the AOOEC know if they have any concerns regarding the officials' section of the website.

This will be Jacquie's last year on the AOOEC and if anyone is interested in her role next year Jacquie would be happy to speak with them about this role.

Helen asked that lap scoring, protest and wind gauge forms be included with the umpire form on the website. There are master copies of some combined forms if they can be located and put up as well. It was asked that if officials have other forms, they should send them to the AOOEC and they will be upgraded with the new logo.

Brian Keaveney asked if everyone is familiar with what the high tech software can do. He suggested that we can use a template from this software for the forms we need.

Director of Availability – Ian Reid

Ian reported that a minimum of 30 officials are needed to effectively run a meet. He highlighted that he is only hearing back from half of the 150 registered members. Helen provided Ian with the number 53 which was the number of confirmed officials for the meet in Windsor. Ian shared that the meet directors handle the logistics and asked for suggestions on how to improve the process.

Roman asked Ian if officials are automatically selected when they send in their availability. Only those selected are sent to the meet director but at present this has not been an issue because we are usually short of officials. Roman thanked Ian for his assistance with a recent meet.

Director of Awards and Incentives – Sherry Purdie

In Sherry's absence, Peter shared her report. Individual emails will be sent out in December to verify years of service for the provincial years of service pins.

Treasurer – René Van Andel

Rene reported that there was a new set of internal processes along with the transition to a new location for the AO office. There have been challenges with approval of claims and due to these challenges, officials will have 2 weeks after a meet to submit their claims. There will no longer be the opportunity to fax; officials are to email their claims to Rene as well as to the AO office. Old claim forms are not accepted. Copies of your claim form will be sent with your cheques. Claims can be given to any member on the AOOEC. The plan for the future is to eventually have an on-line claims process.

Rene clarified that he meant there was a decrease in turnaround time rather than an increase as stated in his report.

Roman asked if it is possible to have a photocopier available at meets since you give it in at the meet and it may get lost and the official no longer has a copy. Roman also expressed concerns that the 2 weeks is a quick turnaround time and that it may not be feasible. He is wondering if this can be adjusted.

Rene commented that host clubs have to close their books before they can receive payment for a meet.

Lily Whalen asked if Level 1 officials receive any reimbursement. Peter noted that Level 1 officials are reimbursed 50km each way and this is outlined in our Terms of Reference. Registered Provisional officials receive no travel funding unless approved in advance.

Lisa clarified that the amount for officials' travel has not been captured for the 2016 year-end budget. Smaller meets are covered by the officials' budget but championship meets are covered by revenue from each meet. Championship meets as listed in Rene's spreadsheet should not be captured in the Officials' operational budget. It was clarified that the proposed budget is for smaller meets. The budget for travel is to accommodate those going out of town for mentoring.

Secretary – Cameal Johnson

The Secretary does not present a report.

All Reports were accepted together as presented. **Susan Mayhue/Brian Keaveney**

7. Elections

Peter noted that there are 4 positions up for election – Vice Chair, Director of Availability, Secretary and Treasurer. Peter asked for two scrutineers and Gary Freedman and Lynn McFerran volunteered.

Vice-Chair: Tim Slocombe has been nominated by Gary Freedman. Peter asked three times for nominations from the floor and there were none. **Andy Burgess** moved that nominations be closed. Tim was acclaimed.

Director of Availability: Ian Reid has been nominated by Dan Philip. Peter asked three times for nominations from the floor and there were none. **Tim Slocombe** moved that nominations be closed. Ian was acclaimed.

Secretary: Peter asked for nominations from the floor. Kathryn Dertinger was nominated by John Gonos and accepted the nomination. Alison Rumball was nominated by Helen Vasilic but declined the nomination. John Gonos was nominated by Dan Philip but declined the nomination. Wynn Downing was nominated by Enrico but declined the nomination. **Brian Keaveney** moved that nominations be closed. Kathryn was acclaimed.

Treasurer: Rene Van Andel was nominated by Mervin Witter. Peter asked three times for nominations from the floor and there were none. **Janet Slocombe** moved that nominations be closed. Rene was acclaimed.

8. Safety – athletes, officials and spectators

Lisa Ferdinand was given the floor to share two things that AO is working on.

Lisa reported that there are two lawsuits currently underway regarding a throws incident and a master's athlete incident that have sparked the need for enhanced policies for AO events.

Roman has been working on a safety policy with respect to throws for the past 6 months. He thanked Mike Barsam for sending a similar policy which he utilized as a template. A safety checklist has been developed and will be sent to Lisa and to officials for their input.

Brian Keaveney shared that master's meets have a safety officer and that this person is responsible for the safety of the venue and of the athletes. He thought that it is time for AO to look into such a position.

The purpose of today's discussion was to gather input from officials on safety issues. For example, how do officials conduct themselves and what are the safety concerns etc. The technical aspect can be brought over at a later time.

Tim commented that most of the senior officials should advise the new officials of safety concerns.

Enrico pointed out that too many people are on the field and the track and that something needs to be put in place.

The policy that Roman is developing will go to the AO board.

Sharon Powell pointed out that the welcome package is great and suggested that safety information should be included in the package for new officials. It was also suggested that two-way radios should be available in order to get the attention of the medical staff so that they can act quickly. Sharon asked how far we must go to ensure that individuals abide by our request for safety.

The Referees have the authority to shut down an event if it has been deemed unsafe.

Kathryn Dertinger asked how we take care of instances when the officials are not paying attention.

Svend Paulsen suggested that we share the safety document with all the school systems (CIS, OFSA) so that it is being enforced all the way though. All were in agreement.

Lisa is asking the AOOEC to arrange between now and January 2017 to have groups of officials discussing the issues and for these inputs to be sent to her.

Jane Farmer suggested that this policy should go to all the meet directors so that it is known that this is our expectations before we start the meet.

John Caulfield reminded us not to re-invent the wheel as something similar was created by Bob Vigers. A safety policy is only good if we are continuously evaluating and making improvements. There is a risk management document from 1990-1992 that is outdated and we should focus on the safety concerns from the officials.

Larry Mayhue pointed out that headsets are an issue as individuals with these on are often not paying attention. Lisa suggested that maybe AO can invest in portable stanchions/barriers. Larry, referring more to the facilities, stated that there should be barriers or signs in place.

Tim stressed the need for education around the issue and that penalties should be enforced, for example yellow card, red card, and that there should be some consequences.

Anthony advised that there is a safety component in coaching courses.

Peter asked that everyone send their ideas to him or any of the AOOEC and they will put it together and Lisa will follow up with Peter.

The second task that Lisa shared was that in order for AO to be recognized as a sports organization by the Ministry, AO needs to have policies in place by March 2017. Therefore AO developed 3 new policies that the officials need to be aware of: 1) Harassment policy, which is a mandate from the Ministry; 2) Dispute Resolution policy with an appeals process, which has now been formalized; and 3) Discipline policy.

We all should become familiar with these policies as they apply to everyone. These policies will be posted on the website shortly.

9. **New Business**

Dates of upcoming 2017 meets were shared. Ian Reid recently sent out an email.

- * North American Indigenous Games in July at York
- * World Dwarf Games in August in Guelph
- * Invictus Games in September at York

The 2017 World Masters Championship will be held in South Korea and the 2020 World Masters Championship will be held in Toronto across three stadiums: Toronto Track and Field Centre, Pan Am stadium and University of Toronto stadium. Officials are invited to look at the website or email Brain Keaveney if they are interested in any of these opportunities

Peter thanked Cameal Johnson for her two years on the AOOEC.

Ian Anderson stated that the deadline for nominations for long-serving officials for the Hall of Fame is November 30th. He asked that we visit the website for more details.

10. **Date of next AGM** – *tentatively* Saturday November 18th, 2017

11. **Awards**

Peter presented Tim Slocombe and Janet Slocombe with the NOC Wall of Honour plaques.

Peter presented Sharon Powell with the Ontario Official of the Year Award, which she had received earlier at the AO Awards Banquet in September. Sharon expressed her appreciation, commented on the great time that she had at the AO banquet and suggested that we all should try to attend next year.

12. **Adjournment – Brian Keaveney**

A lunch was provided and two National Clinics (Umpiring and Horizontal Jumps) followed.

Minutes prepared by Cameal Johnson