

Athletics Ontario Officials Annual General Meeting
Saturday, November 16, 2019
Brampton, Ontario

Attendees:

Executive: Lynn McFerran – Vice-chair
René Van Andel – Treasurer
Kathryn Dertinger – Director of Availability
Phil Martin – Director of Seminars and Upgrading
Barbara Mero – Secretary

Regrets: Peter Hocking, Sherry Purdie, Michael Barsam

Members:	Gumarathas Balasubramanian	Jan Berneche	Robert Burton
	John Caulfield	Michael Chapman	Kathryn Dertinger
	Wynn Downing	Jacquie Downing	Bernard Dubois
	Lisa Ferdinand	Alicia Friday	John Gonos
	Michael Herron	Laura Houston	Kristie Irving
	Brian Keaveney	Lynne Kozina	Doug Krall
	Ben Lawton	Phil Martin	Larry Mayhue
	Susan Mayhue	Lynn McFerran	Barbara Mero
	Vinesh Midha	Ted Neptune	Yvan Picard
	Sharon Powell	Shari Read	Ian Reid
	Alison Rumball	Janet Slocombe	Tim Slocombe
	Aaron Stemmler	Doreen Thompson	Enrico Toscano
	Rene Van Andel	Ron Walker	Rick Watkins
	Stafford Whalen	Liliana Whalen	Mervin Witter

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Lynn McFerran, Vice Chair. Lynn introduced and welcomed special attendees Anthony Biggar from Athletics Ontario. She also thanked members from Ottawa and Windsor for making the trip to Toronto to attend. Reminders were given to all in attendance to pick up new AO t-shirts and water bottles and volunteer pins from AC today.

2. Attendance and Voting Procedures – All attendees must sign the attendance sheet to be able to vote. You also need to be a paid up member to vote (must have registered for 2019) – make sure you sign the attendance sheet.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda – Merv Witter Seconded: Doreen Thompson

4. Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes: Tim Slocombe Seconded: Brian Keaveney
- Motion carried

5. Business arising from the minutes of 2018

- No comments arising from the minutes from last year.

6. Reports - All reports were sent out by email for all members to review in advance. Members were asked to bring a laptop/device or print their own copies to the AGM.

CHAIR REPORT – Peter Hocking – due to his absence, his report was read by Lynn McFerran. During the past year, official numbers were down from the previous year by a bit (160 vs 164). There were some new faces seen at local meets. Many invitations went out to officials for meets this year. Mentoring was done in many disciplines. He reminded officials to let AO know about information for the AO website and encouraged level 2 officials and higher to attend a clinic about the new mentorship program.

- No questions or comments were made about this report.

VICE CHAIR REPORT – Lynn McFerran

Lynn assisted in recruiting new officials at a clinic in Guelph to train officials for 2019 OFSAA. She discussed the survey that she and Anthony Biggar developed and reminded officials that they can do the survey at the AGM today.

- No questions or comments were made about this report.

SEMINARS & UPGRADING REPORT– Phil Martin

Phil discussed the various clinics held this past and stated that it was hard to measure if the new officials who attended the clinics had registered with AO. There were 3 national clinics in the last year but there needs to be a clinic specifically for starters and throws as many level 3's are working toward a level 4. The-master trainers for mentoring were trained in Winnipeg this year (Helen Vasilic and Merv Witter).

In the area of mentoring, out of the 160 registered officials– over 25% got one mentoring in the previous year. He reiterated that officials need to make themselves available for an assortment of meets if they are to be mentored. He also mentioned that officials need to be timely with their requests for a mentoring session. 9 out of the 19 AC officials being mentored in Canada came from Ontario.

One matter that remains unknown is the names of those officials that are registered with AO but have not obtained their level 1. He received some names from Ottawa and Windsor but needs to receive this information from a regional level.

Questions?

1. Do we know how many new officials are coming in each year? – Phil stated again that he doesn't know. We are gaining new members but also losing older members. Kathryn Dertinger wants to be informed of who is new in your area.
2. What is the proper terminology being used for Master Trainer? (Enrico Toscano) – The term Ontario Master Trainer is used on the official list at present. Phil Martin will look into it.

3. When introductory clinics are done, do we get phone numbers from the people attending the clinic? (Tim Slocombe) It was suggested that people might need a follow up phone call or an email to be welcomed into the realm of officiating. Kathryn Dertinger does direct them to a specific person on the track so they know who their contact is at a facility. It was suggested that a phone call after a clinic or meet should be done to reduce the intimidation one might feel in becoming a new official.

DIRECTOR OF AVAILABILITY REPORT – Kathryn Dertinger

Kathryn noted that there have been many challenges in availability this past year. The numbers in her report looks like there are a lot of officials but many officials are only available for part of a day and/or weekend. She has noted in her report that she generally informs officials of their duties for a meet approximately one month before the date of the competition. For the upcoming year, the best thing for officials to do is to fill in your availability with what you know now and then update her if things change.

A few points she noted from her report were:

- conflict with legion meet and the AO meet which resulted in lots of scrambling for officials
- 20 higher level officials were not available at all this past year– hard to assign positions of responsibility

She is trying to encourage people to use the Google drive form for availability and to also send in responses on a new email rather than replying to her emails

The email to use is aoavailability@gmail.com

For this upcoming year, she is encouraging all officials to check on the AO website for dates of competitions and will send out availability for winter after the AGM.

Questions/discussion?

1. It was asked if a link could be put in the availability email to Kathryn (Tim Slocombe). This is generally done (Kathryn)
2. This year all legion meets had conflict with AO meets(John Caulfield) Kathryn felt people should show a following to AO meets as funding comes from AO for officials. It was stated by John that the legion has a history in regards to the founding of track meets in Ontario and we should respect this as well. This conflict brought up a question concerning whoever co-ordinates the meets for AO should also be aware of the legion meets (Merv Witter). It was stated that this is part of Randolph Fajardo position. Ian Reid also stated that it is the competitions committee that determines meet dates and that there are a lot of items to look at when determining the dates of meets (ie. city, venue, other meets, qualifiers).
3. There is a need for more throws officials and technical managers in the future.(Kathryn)
4. It was asked by Vinesh Midha where our priorities should lie since there are lots more opportunities for officials to go to club meets. (Kathryn) Our priorities should lie with AO run meets. She stated that if you sign up for a meet you will probably be used.
5. It was stated by Vinesh Midha that there were issues with availability for the AO cross country meet this year. Kathryn stated that the problem was the result of the host club gathering officials on their own and not passing on information.
6. It was clarified at the AGM that AO sanctioned meets do not gather their officials from the AO Director of Availability. Clubs pursue officials on their own, often using local officials.

7. It was asked how do we advertise for new officials. Kathryn stated that it is done through the AO website, but some people do it at high school meets and often volunteers are invited to become officials.
8. Laura Houston asked if covering travel expenses for lower level officials might help to attract more people and help to keep them. Jacquie Downing stated that from the AO perspective we want to get people to commit before we spend money mentoring officials and that the travel expense policy is stated in AO's terms of reference.
9. Ian Reid wondered if it would be possible to assign referees/level 5's to AO meets first and tell other sanctioned AO meets that these people aren't available. Kathryn stated that she tries to do this and will continue with this directive.
10. Going forward, Kathryn notified all officials at the AGM that they will sign into/out of meet with the time written down. The sheet will be found at Randolph's desk at the meet and that expense forms can be handed in here as well. There will be a binder at the results table with sign in sheets, expense forms and an envelop for completed expense forms.

In closing, Anthony Biggar stated that 47 people had completed the survey and that he has his IPAD at the AGM for officials to complete the survey. Kathryn stated that for this coming year she would continue with recruitment of officials (finding officials for various meets on same weekend), track data on new officials, and provide training opportunities (changes to rules, interpreting rules). She thanked all officials for their professionalism and concluded that AO officials always pull off a great meet

DIRECTOR OF AWARDS – Sherry Purdie – read by Lynn McFerran

Sherry stated that AC pins were available for officials reaching their 5/10/15/20/25/30/35/40/45 year of officiating on the side table for pick up. Ontario is the only group who does this. Ontario officials need to be registered with AO to get a provincial pin.

Lynn thanked her for all the work she has done over the last 7 years.

Questions/discussion:

1. Enrico Toscano wanted to know how Sherry knows who is registered with AO. It was clarified that this information is on the website Trackie. Enrico questioned some of the names on list for AC volunteer pins. He was asked to give a list of names to Lynn who would forward them to Peter to check against the list of awards
2. Bernard DuBois wanted to know, if when registering on Trackie, can you register as both an official and a coach. Anthony Biggar stated that in 2019 you could not do both unless you paid twice. In 2020, you will get a discount on your second registration but you pay more for registering for both an official and coach, compared to those registering as just an official.

TREASURER REPORT – Rene Van Andel

Rene stated that AO is looking at changing how expense submissions are handled. The proposal is to only payout expenses twice a year to save time and money on AO's end of handling paperwork. He also reminded everyone that they must get receipts for everything – ie. Parking. When officials need to book travel, such as train or air, that they should go through the AO office.

Rene informed everyone that the travel policy is being rewritten for clarity reasons. It will clarify meal coverage. Rene reminded everyone that meal coverage does not begin until the day of the meet. Ian Reid and Vinesh Midha felt transit time should be considered in accordance with meal coverage. Jacquie Downing stated that travel allowance is generous and can cover part of your meal cost and

that these questions at the AGM are why this policy is being rewritten. Jan Berneche suggested that maybe we should include this cost in entry fees to cover this extra expense. Lisa Ferdinand stated that AO should look at tiered carpooling expenses.

Question/discussion:

1. Enrico Toscano wanted the \$500 cost for rules books explained. Lisa Ferdinand stated that the books cost \$20 and AO charges \$15. AO orders these books from AC and pays AC. AC tell us when they will order for all of Canada. AO then will tell people when they are available and what meets you can buy them from and who you will see to purchase one.
2. Send Lynn McFerran an email if you have any questions about the expense policy. Give 10 days for feedback as the information is sent to the board to get their feedback

Anthony stated that the proposed budget will be discussed at AO AGM tomorrow (November 17).

SECRETARY– Barbara Mero - The Secretary does not present a report

Motion to accept reports – Jackie Downing Seconded: Tim Slocombe – passed

7. Survey

Lynn McFerran stated that there had been a 25% response rate as of earlier this week to the survey and that officials can complete the survey today.

8. Police Checks and Registration fee for 2020

Upon directive from AO insurance, police checks must be done for 2020 and can be done online. As a result, AO is raising the registration fees for 2020 to cover the cost of the police check. The cost will be \$35 a year for police check/registration as an official and will be done on an annual basis.

Questions/discussion:

1. Ian Reid asked what type of police check needs to be completed. Anthony Biggar clarified that the vulnerable persons check is being phased out and that the personal police check is the newer type being done.
2. Rick Watkins stated that sometimes people are turned down on their police check, when their gender and date of birth is entered in the form. Anthony Biggar stated that this does happen to about 7% of the population.
3. Jacquie Downing thinks that this cost will cause new people to not sign up and wonders if AO is going to do something about this.
4. If someone already has a police check done in the last 3 months, they have to submit the original copy to AO.
5. Brian Keaveney wanted to know if we need a process if officials are denied. Anthony will look into it.
6. WMA does not require a police clearance. Volunteers will not need to do a police check for AO meets.
7. Kathryn reminded everyone that if you are injured at an AO sanctioned meet, you are covered by the AO insurance.

9. World Masters Update by Ian Reid and Brian Keaveney

Presented by Ian Reid and Brian Keaveney

Ian covered the area of officials for WM:

Ian stated that the NACAC masters meet hosted this past summer in Toronto was good from the athletes perspective but not from the officials. A lot of feedback was received from officials.

WMA will have a food catering company handling meals and scheduling will be better due to more days of events and more facilities. The competition is from July 20 to August 1, 2020 and is a world championship. It is the biggest meet Canada has ever hosted with between 6000 and 6500 athletes. There will be 11 competition days at 3 venues. WMA will need over 200 officials for the meet, specifically those with experience at NC level meets, with officials from across Canada/IVO's, ITO's, and the WMA management team. The venues chosen are TTFC, U of T Varsity stadium and the Brampton Terry Fox Stadium facilities. WMA may also use Downsview for 5000m/5000RW.

Ian still needs a volunteer to coordinate volunteer training. He is looking at having 2 levels – captains/volunteers. The volunteer manager will coordinate with this person. Notify Ian and he can explain what the job is. He is also looking for someone to coordinate at each stadium site. This person would answer questions asked by officials.

Travel funding for the meet has budget constraints due to WMA contract. The expenses for NACAC WMA were twice the revenue at this summer's master meet. The WMA management team are looking at having lump sum travel payment subsidies to coverage mileage/food/parking.

Accommodations –Most likely at York Ponds residence.

Food -There will be no breakfast but you can do some food prep in your room/kitchen area. Lunch and dinner will be provided at the venue.

Mentoring –There is a lot of potential for lots of mentoring. Inform Phil for requests in this area.

Non-competition days – 2 days. During these days, Ian will try to get national clinics through the NOC.

There may be some out of pocket coverage you will have to provide but it will be worth the officiating and personal experience.

Send in availability as soon as possible as provinces are already applying. Then WMA can make requests for specific types of officials

Brian covered the WMA from an administrative perspective:

Brian's job at WMA makes him responsible for all competitions. He stated that entries will close by mid May then the schedule will be put together and then officials will be assigned to venues. The management team coordinates with the LOC with what is happening at the competition. Allen Bell has been assigned to WMA in Toronto and will bring in ITO's, and their own photo finish people. The WM will use the latest IAAF rules.

Team managers from each country will come to a competition with their teams and use WhatsApp for instant communication. Brian feels that this might be a good idea for officials to use this to communicate about the WMA amongst themselves.

Questions/discussion:

1. Michael Herron wanted to know how age groups are distributed. He was directed to look online at the WMA website to see this.
2. Wynn Downing wanted to know if there are standards – NO

3. FOP training sessions for volunteers should state the physical activity level required at field and throwing events.

10. – Elections

Lynn McFerran explained that there are 3 positions up for election – CHAIR, DIRECTOR OF SEMINARS AND UPGRADING, DIRECTOR OF AWARDS AND INCENTIVES. There are 3 people who have been nominated and are willing to step in.

The following have received and accepted nominations for the AOOEC.

Chair –

- Peter Hocking will stand again
- Any other nominations from the floor (asked 3x)
- Peter congratulated by Lynn McFerran

Director of Seminars and Upgrading -

- Phil Martin is willing to do this again
- Any other nominations from the floor (asked 3x)
- Lynn congratulated Phil

Director of Awards and Incentives -

- Alicia Friday is willing to stand –Nominated by Lily Whelan, accepted by Alicia
- Any other nominations from the floor (asked 3x)
- Lynn congratulated Alicia

Lynn announced that these people have been acclaimed for a 2 year term.

8. New Business

None

9 – Date of next AGM

Tentatively – 2020 - Saturday, November 14th

Location under discussion

10 – AWARDS

AO Official of the Year

- Congratulated **Gumar Balasubramanian** as Ontario Officials of the Year. Gumar thanked AO officials and will continue to “learn”.

11. Motion to Adjourn – Tim Slocombe/Bernard Dubois

A lunch was provided and a mentoring Clinic followed.

Minutes prepared by Barbara Mero