



## **AO Town Hall meeting – Wed Apr 1, 2020**

### **Opening**

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Athletics Ontario Coaches & Club Town Hall meeting. I am Paul Osland, CEO of Athletics Ontario.

Today is our 2<sup>nd</sup> Athletics Ontario Coaches and Club Town Hall meeting and we will continue holding these calls, every Wednesday at noon for as long as we are in lockdown, or until you decide they are not of value to continue.

Today is also the first day of our new fiscal year. It is definitely shaping up to be a year that none of us will ever forget!

During our interactive session I would like people to chime in on activities and support ideas that they are doing with their athletes and clubs to help them through this challenge we are all in. By sharing our stories and ideas we can help each other to think of ways to support our athletes and club members.

I will also suggest a few ideas that AO has to engage our community more and also for ideas from all of you on things that AO can do to engage our member community.

Before I get started with some brief updates I would like to take the opportunity to introduce the AO staff. Some of them you may know or recognize by name and face while others you may have not had any exposure to.

I will ask each AO staff to introduce themselves and give you a brief overview of their role within AO. Anthony will start us off;

*\*Team introductions on audio file\**

Thanks, team, for introducing yourselves, now you all will know who to contact if you have any specific questions in the future.

### **Updates**

This week the Province announced that the lockdown would continue for at least another two weeks. And yesterday the schools announced no classes before May 4. Shortly after OFSAA announced that all OFSAA sporting events would be cancelled for the remainder of this school year. That means the OFSAA track & Field Championships scheduled to be held at UofT Varsity stadium the first week of June is cancelled.

AO will be announcing today that all events scheduled for May will now be cancelled or postponed, as we had anticipated last week.

The City of Toronto also announced yesterday that all City of Toronto events scheduled in June will be cancelled. As such we will be cancelling all events scheduled in Toronto in June and it is anticipated that this will extend to all areas outside of Toronto as well. We will update as we get more information from the Province or other cities.

We are still working on a few scenarios with meets starting in July and or August, with the season potentially going into September. As I mentioned last week, any start to track meets in Ontario will be dependent on when folks can actually start unrestricted training. We are trying to build into our scenarios a schedule that would include 4 weeks of unrestricted training prior to any major competitions.

At this point the Ministry has not yet made a decision on the Ontario Summer Games currently scheduled for the last weekend in July. We believe that they will have to make a decision before the end of April in order for all sports to be able to plan appropriately. Based on everything that is happening with event cancellations we believe that the Games will not occur this year. In the event that they Games can't occur as scheduled we have told the Games committee that our preference would be to postpone the games to the same time next year.

At this point the AC competitions committee is discussing whether the 2021 Olympic Trials will be held in Montreal, as planned for this year, or if they will be out west in Langley as the AC 2021 outdoor Championships were scheduled for.

We anticipate that the Cross country season will be unaffected and we will be announcing the location very shortly.

Last week AC held a coach education committee meeting and the primary topic was about online coaching. Specifically online coaching for Sport Coach and Club Coach courses. AC has almost completed the necessary online course content and are investigating which platform to use. In the meantime the branches have been reaching out to determine which of our Coach Learning Facilitators are comfortable and interested in leading online education courses. We will keep everyone informed once we get a schedule together to hold some online courses. In the meantime all in person courses have been cancelled or put on hold until further notice.

As a reminder, we have listed a large number of online professional development courses for coaches. Look at the AO website under coaching courses. Saheed and John have compiled a number of good suggestions for our coaches.

## **Ideas for member engagement**

I would now like to start an interactive dialogue to share ideas on what some of us are doing with our athletics and clubs to keep them engaged. I'll first ask Emily to provide a brief update on what AO has been doing to date with some of our social media platforms and I will also throw out a couple of ideas I had on a community engagement opportunity.

*\*Please refer to the April 1<sup>st</sup> AO Town Hall audio file to listen to the interactive dialogue\**

## **Closing**

We will be posting the recording, of this call, on the AO website under our COVID-19 updates and AO Town Hall page, you can find the link on the main AO website page. We will also send out a brief survey that we would appreciate you taking a few minutes to complete.

Thanks everyone and we look forward to continuing this dialogue next Wednesday at noon.