



AO Coaches & Club Town Hall meeting – Wed Apr 29, 2020

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Athletics Ontario Coaches & Club Town Hall meeting.

I have muted everyone for the moment, to keep background noise to a minimum. Once I have provided a brief update, I will unmute everyone so we can take questions and continue our interactive discussions.

Our Agenda for today is:

- 1) CEO updates
- 2) Guest speaker Kevin Jones of Odyssey Medical
 - event medical and risk management services for the mass gathering industry in Canada.
- 3) Interactive Q&A
- 4) Collaborative discussion

As a reminder all AO staff are still working, remotely, during this time and are available to answer any questions through email or phone. Contact information is available at: <https://athleticsontario.ca/about/staff/>

CEO Updates

The Ministry has still not announced any decisions about the Ontario Summer Games. During this Town Hall we would like to discuss a recommendation to preemptively communicate to the Ministry our intention to not participate in the Games this summer.

Last week Premier Ford announced the Provinces Restart plans. While it did not provide much in the way of specific timelines it did provide some general phases of the rollout. It was clear that at this time mass gatherings at sporting events will not happen in the foreseeable future.

It looks like we are still in a bit of a waiting period regarding any possible outdoor events and if they happen what format they may take. Below is a note I received

this morning for David Bedford, CEO of Athletics Canada regarding Return to Play Protocols:

Yesterday (Monday) Own The Podium held a national Zoom conference call on this subject. The invited audience was NSO CEOs, NSO HPDs, COPSI Network Presidents and Performance Directors, CMOs, COC, CPC and Sport Canada. Over 200 people across Canada attended. The call was led by the Chief Medical Officer group based on their expertise and specific advice from the World Health Organisation.

On the call they presented a very detailed tool for sports to use to consider when it safe to return to group training, the stage before return to competition. The tool used a risk and risk mitigation approach to decide how and when return to activities (training or competition) would be safe. From what was presented the tool seemed more focussed on team sports than an individual sport like athletics, however it appeared to be extremely thorough and evidence based and I'm sure will be adaptable to match our needs. They promised to distribute the tool to NSOs by the end of this week.

The NSOs were tasked with developing a return to activity plan (training and competition) based on the tool and their sport's needs. Once we get a copy of this tool we start developing our strategy for return to athletics activity (training and competition). Exactly what the strategy looks like is TBD, but it will certainly have to have a multiple layer approach that covers National, Branch, club and individual training group needs. At every stage the local, Provincial and National health guidelines will always take precedence.

There is a call this Friday with all Provincial PSO's and Athletics Canada to start conversations regarding potential Return to Play guidelines. We will discuss this a little more in our interactive portion of this Town Hall and I will also update everyone at next weeks Town Hall meeting on the AC branches discussions.

Thank you to everyone who either submitted information directly to me or passed the word on to other groups to provide details on potential infrastructure projects for the Federal Government's \$500m stimulus plan for 'shovel-ready' projects <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-mckenna-seeking-shovel-ready-projects-for-post-shutdown-stimulus/>

We had 12 projects, from across the Province, submitted which we have passed along to Athletics Canada for consideration. Several municipalities will also be submitting their projects directly to the Federal Government.

Coaching

1. AO will be delivering Foundations of Coaching Online Modules over four evenings beginning May 11, 12, 19 and 20, 2020. Each session begins at 7:30pm to 9pm. If interested these four modules are the required theory for Sport or Club Coach levels of the Coaching Pathway. Cost is \$80 which will be deducted from the total cost of Sport or Club Coach levels of Coaches seeking those levels. For trained or Certified Coaches, completing these modules will earn you four PD Points. Register on Trackie.ca. [NCCP Course - Foundations of Coaching in Athletics](#)
2. Tonight, (April 29) Athletics Canada is offering a free webinar on Video Analysis. If interested see the Coaching Development page on the AO website for link.
3. More ONLINE learning still available. Easy, free ways to work on your Professional Development (PD Points) requirements for maintenance of your Coaching Profile.

Guest speaker

I would like to introduce Kevin Jones, the President and Chief Operating Officer of Odyssey Medical. Odyssey provides event medical and risk management services for the mass gathering industry in Canada. Kevin has extensive experience in risk management, emergency communication and event operations. Kevin's experience spans from remote wilderness expeditions to large scale urban events. He has lead event medical programs for many large obstacle course events, live music events and triathlons. Building on a background in insurance and education, he is committed to evidence-based decision making and systems development.

** On today's call, Kevin discussed foreseeable criteria for the return to play process, safety protocols and procedures for when mass gatherings, including track meets, resume, how culture and expectations of the "new normal" may affect future operations and interactions at sporting events and much more.**

See "COPS Infographic" for an in depth summary of what was discussed during Kevin's speech

Review questions submitted

Interactive Q&A and collaborative discussion

Coaching resources

Athletics Canada has updated the NCCP Athletics Manuals. They can be found for all LFs and interested Coaches in the coaching section of the AC website:

https://athletics.ca/coach/fac_docs.php

Athletics Canada also launched their online Webinar series today. In addition, there are a host of AC approved online athletics courses available, some FREE, some at cost. They can be found in the programs section of the AC website:

<https://athletics.ca/programs/coaching/e-learning/>

AC created a 10 minute YouTube video explaining the NCCP in Athletics Pathways for Coaching Development. It is a strong overview and a part of the new Online modules being rolled out next month. LF training begins next week.

<https://athletics.ca/programs/coaching/coaching-education/>

Reminder that this isolation period is the best time to work on and submit your Portfolio towards your Certification.

Risk Management & Insurance reminder

Athletics Ontario's advice is that each coach needs to evaluate the age appropriateness of the information that is being provided to athletes and if providing specific training plans could potentially promote risky behaviours like running in remote isolated areas or breaking local municipality rules in order to get workouts in.

Our insurance brokers have provided the following direction on holding virtual training sessions, in order to be covered under the AO Liability and Accident insurance plans.

- All online coaching sessions must be private sessions with no recording available after the session that is accessible to the general public. This includes no live streaming sessions to the general public (Facebook live etc)

- Video's posted online fall under broadcasting rules and is not covered under AO insurance policies.
- When something is pre record and put over a broadcast medium you become a broadcaster that requires errors and omissions insurance.
- All coaches delivering the online training sessions and the athletes participating in the online training session must be current AO members in order to be covered under the AO insurance plans. You can register members as recreational athletes (\$20 or \$5 for U12) and then upgrade them to competitive memberships later when we know what the outdoor season will look like.
- Any coaches participating on a session who are not members of AO must have their own Liability insurance as they will not be covered by AO's plan.
- Coaches delivering an online session must record the date and time of the session, the names of the people in attendance and if there were any injuries.
- If a club or coach posts video links to workout examples online the owner of the video is liable and not the person sharing the video link.
- No issues for athletes or others who post Instagram or Facebook posts about workouts they are doing as long as the post is not deemed to be an instructional video post.
- As normal, Coaches are covered by AO Liability insurance for any written workouts sent to athletes