



AO Town Hall meeting – Wed Apr 8, 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 3rd Athletics Ontario Coaches and Club Town Hall meeting.

Our Agenda for today is:

- 1) CEO updates
 - a. Outdoor events
 - b. Risk Management and training considerations
 - c. Insurance updates
- 2) Review of ideas from last weeks Town Hall discussion
- 3) Collaborative idea sharing
- 4) Any additional questions or business

As a reminder all AO staff are still working, remotely, during this time and are available to answer any questions through email or phone.

CEO Updates

Outdoor season

This week the Legions announced that they have cancelled all Ontario and National Legion events for this summer.

Yesterday World Athletics announced the Olympic Qualification period for Tokyo has been suspended effective April 6 until November 30th of this year. Qualification will resume December 1, 2020 and go until May 31, 2021 for Marathon and 50K walks and until June 29, 2021 for all other events.

<https://www.worldathletics.org/competitions/olympic-games/news/olympic-qualification-suspended-2020>

Last week AO announced that all events scheduled for May and June have been cancelled.

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 previously mentioned, we are trying to build into our scenarios a schedule that would include 4 weeks of unrestricted training prior to any major competitions.

Further to a delayed start time we are anticipating that when various gov't bodies start relaxing the rules around group gatherings it will be a slow roll out before we hit unrestricted number of people allowed to gather. This will impact what our events could look like. Initial track meets could look very different than what we are used to with a small number of

events and only people participating in those events allowed in the facility at a given time.

As things become clearer, we will work with the coaches and clubs to determine what is most needed and the best format possible to deliver those needs.

As of today, the Ministry has still not yet made an announcement 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 and we will update our members immediately. In the event that the 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.

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 are hopeful that the Cross country season will be unaffected and the AO XC Championships, for 2020 and 2021, will be held in Kingston.

Coaching update

New Policy for AO Learning Facilitators. To be listed as an active AO Learning Facilitator (LF), all Coaches need to be active CERTIFIED Coaches, have completed the NCCP Core LF training

and have taken the AC Online Coach Developer Module (found under the Athletics tab on eLearning on THE LOCKER).

If a Coach would like to serve as a Coaching Evaluator (CE), similarly that Coach should email their interest to Saheed Khan, be a Certified Active AO registered Coach in good standing for consideration.

AC and John Stevenson are working on rolling out an Online Coaching Clinic. The target day is April 26 for a Sport Coach initial pilot. If there are any coaches interested in taking Sport Coach then please email Saheed Khan.

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.

Review questions submitted

Risk Management & Insurance updates

There has been a lot of discussion recently about whether coaches and clubs should still be providing training programs for their athletes during this time.

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.

Many coaches that I have spoken with have indicated that they and their clubs have stopped providing specific weekly training programs and instead are providing more general guidance in terms of ways to cope and deal with this period of social distancing. Athletes should only be performing exercise where it is safe and the athlete will feel comfortable to do the activity.

Many coaches and clubs are now providing online coaching sessions. I have spoken with our insurance brokers and they have provided 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

Member ideas discussion

We will be posting the recording, of this call, on the AO website under our COVID-19 update 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 Wed at noon.