

## **AO Coaches, Officials & Clubs Town Hall meeting – Wed July 22, 2020**

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

Today's agenda:

- Weekly CEO updates
- Athlete Panel discussion on race and racism in sport
- Q&A

### **Back on Track Update:**

The National Back on Track guidelines have now been updated, and posted on the AC website, with the addition of back to competition recommendations.

These recommendations include guidelines for Track & Field, Cross Country and Road Race events.

Randolph is finalizing the nuances that will be specific to Ontario competitions, this information will be posted shortly.

The National guidelines contains some general information for officiating and the National Officials Committee is currently working on more detailed specifics for guidance to the officials.

If you are planning to have any athletes compete this summer, please ensure to read the new recommendations and advise your athletes to do the same. The message we need to get across is that these competitions will be very different from what people are used to and we need everyone's cooperation to ensure that we avoid any outbreaks. The last thing we want is for one of our events to become a super spreader event.

What is happening in the US with States like Florida, Texas and California should be examples of what can happen if people don't respect the recommendations to reduce the risk of contagion.

Last Friday the first official, post COVID pandemic Track meet in Canada was held in Quebec City. Quebec has announced six track meets that will be held across the Province of Quebec by the end of the summer.

On Monday, this week, AO facilitated a discussion with a group of approximately 15 coaches and facility operators across Ontario to discuss options for holding sanctioned track meets in Ontario. The plan is to develop a list of meets across

the Province that can be posted for all members to see and plan for their return to competition. We are striving to have a list of meets put together by next week.

Facility closures remains the number one challenge, but several folks have indicated that they will work with others to help gain access to facilities that are open for meets to be put on.

This week Ford also announced that all areas of Ontario, except for Toronto, Peel and Windsor-Essex will move to stage 3 as of this coming Friday. Hopefully the 3 remaining areas will open by next Friday.

We have clarified with the ministry that the 100 participant rule for outdoor events means that we can have up to 100 participants on the field of play and up to 100 spectators in the stands as long as the spectators are separated from the participants and the minimum 2m social distancing is followed.

### **Answer submitted questions**

- What efforts are being made to expand the limited indoor training facility resources?
- More details related to competitions
- Estimated number meets for Youth-Senior aged athletes?
- Can we get some insight as to what cross-country season and races will look like?
  - Look at the Athletics Ontario Road & Trail Risk Assessment and safety recommendations, the National Back on Track Guidelines are following these guidelines.

### **AthletesCAN Athlete Panel**

In addition, on today's call we were lucky to have four special guest speakers representing the AthletesCAN Athlete Council. Angela Whyte, Segun Makinde, Kate Van Buskirk, and Jillian Drouin formed an athlete panel to discuss race and racism in our sport. The members on this call are the leaders in our sport, therefore we continue to focus our efforts on providing educational resources and raising awareness around anti-racism, and hope it will encourage participants to take the lead within their own sport environment.

To hear the full athlete panel discussion please listen to the audio/video summary.

### **Angela Whyte**

Angela Whyte is a proud three-time Olympian, having competed in 2004, 2006 and 2016. She is a 7 time IAAF world championship team member and 2 time finalist, a 3 time commonwealth games medalist and a two time Pan American Games medalist. Angela went on to coach in the NCAA for 10 years, and has since become a mental training consultant for athletes and the performing arts.

### **Segun Makinde**

Segun Makinde is a 2x Canadian Olympian, 3x International Medalist, 13x National Team Member, OFSAA record holder, and marketing graduate from the University of Ottawa. Segun is also a keynote speaker and serves as a Community Ambassador for the Ottawa charity Christie Lake Kids, and as a member of the Athletics Canada Athlete Council as a way of giving back to the community and his sport. Segun is currently preparing for the 2021 Olympic Games which will be held in Tokyo, Japan.

### **Kate Van Buskirk**

Kate Van Buskirk is a 1500m and 5000m specialist. She is a 2-time National Champion in the 1500m and the former Canadian indoor 1 mile record holder. Kate has represented Canada on 10 National teams in Cross-Country and Track. Her proudest sporting moment came at the 2014 Commonwealth Games where she won her first International medal, a bronze in the 1500m.

Kate is the host and producer of Canadian Running Magazine's podcast, "The Shakeout". In addition, she is a freelance broadcaster who has worked extensively with Canada Running Series and ACTV covering major Canadian races and meets. She is proud to be the Athletics Canada Female Athlete Director. In her spare time Kate loves to sing, cook and listen to audio books.

### **Jill Drouin**

Jillian Drouin is a retired National Team athlete who has had the honour to represent Canada on the International stage numerous times throughout her 14 year career. She is a 4-time National Champion in the high jump and heptathlon and earned All-American and Academic All-American honours during her undergrad at Syracuse University.

Jillian has been a member of Athletics Canada's Athletes' Council since 2013 and served as the Female Athlete Director for Athletics Canada from 2015-2019. She is also on the board of directors of AthletesCAN, for which she is currently the Vice President. Since finishing her athletic career, Jillian works as a chiropractor in her hometown of Corunna, Ontario and continues to coach and do admin work for her local track and field club.