

AOOEC Chair AGM Report 2020

2020 was certainly a year that was memorable mostly for all the wrong reasons. After a successful indoor season, the world, track world included came to a standstill due to the pandemic. Normally our registration numbers increase substantially during the outdoor season but unfortunately our total registrations took a dip to 124 from last year's 160.

Our executive updated the Officials' travel expense policy as well as adding a meet sign in process to assist the director of availability with assignments and insurance requirements.

I would like to thank the large number of Ontario officials who contributed to the discussions that lead to the Back to Competition document compiled by AO and Athletics Canada. Several of our officials in high risk groups due to age, health, etc were wise to heed our advice and stayed away from potential risky situations. However, when the lockdown eased, with the guidance of AO and the enthusiasm and commitment of meet directors, coaches and officials, there were almost 30 events offered during the summer season. There are also a few cross country events planned for the fall season. Thanks to our officials who were able to commit to assisting at these events across the province from Ottawa to St Catharines. Including several in the GTA area. Reports indicated that most of these events went off very successfully with positive comments on their professionalism in following all suggested protocols for safety.

Athletics Ontario hosted a series of 'Town Halls' on Zoom, that a number of officials took part in. In recent times we have initiated an Officials' Town Hall that has been well received and provided information to officials including the initiation of our new Safe Sport policy. For the time being we are planning to continue these Town Hall events on Zoom as well as having a virtual Annual General meeting in November.

Unfortunately, education, mentoring, upgrading of officials took a huge setback. However, we did manage to upgrade 4 new Level 4 officials at the spring NOC meeting and additionally add 2 new Level 3 official and a handful of new Level 2 officials to our list. We also have several potential new officials who have completed the new online courses for Level 1 & 2 and are now waiting opportunities to add the practical experience needed to complete their qualifications.

A special thanks to Paul Osland, Anthony Biggar and the AO office for their energy, leadership and concern for officials in this trying year. A special thanks to Vice chair Lynn McFerran who attended meetings in my absence, taking a leadership role on several projects and basically keeping me in line during these troubled times.

I was pleased to represent AO officials at the annual NOC meeting last December in St John, New Brunswick. This year's meeting will take the form of several Zoom sessions that will be attended by Lynn and I.

Our goals for the upcoming year will be to offer the best possible we can for officials' education, officiating opportunities, and communication until we are once again back to normal.

Respectfully submitted
Peter Hocking
AOOEC Chair