

Officials Availability 2023 - Report from Kathryn Dertinger – Director of Availability

The Director of Availability is responsible for sending out requests for availability for AO CHAMPIONSHIP meets and assigning officials to roles with input from the Athletics Ontario Officials Executive Committee (AOOEC). While the AOOEC may forward requests and assist in finding officials for other meets (eg. Legion, NxtChamp, OUA etc.), officials are to communicate directly with the meet director for other meets. In addition, while meets such as OUA, OFSAA, Legion, OSG & CSG and local club meets may be sanctioned by AO, they are not organized by AO and officials are reminded to follow instructions provided by outside organizations for those meets.

Officials Management App for Availability

In the fall of 2022 data from Trackie for all registered officials was uploaded to the new Officials Management app with the goal of transitioning to the app for outdoor 2023. During the winter the app was piloted with a small number of officials for the mini-meets in January and for the Rising Stars Festival in March. In March and April I began the task of getting officials to 'activate' their accounts so that they would be able to access the app to enter their availability for the outdoor season. As with any new technology there is a learning curve however we were able to successfully use the app for all availability for the outdoor season.

Responding to the Request for Availability

Officials are asked to reply with their availability as they know it at the time of the initial request for availability for the indoor and outdoor seasons so that planning for the season can begin.

- Check the [AO Website](#) for Championship fixtures, dates & locations
- The AOO President will send out an initial 'call for availability' before each season begins.
- The Officials Management app will be used for ALL AO Championship meets going forward. Officials will log into the app and indicate their availability. Assignment preferences can be added to the comments section. Be sure to put the dates you have given availability for in your calendar!
- Officials will make changes to their availability in the app ASAP on an ongoing basis.
- The Director of Availability will send out meet invitations approximately 1 month in advance.
- Notify the Director of Availability directly by email of any changes to your availability AFTER you have been sent a meet invitation.
- The AOOEC are then able to make the officiating assignments based on qualifications, meet needs and new experiences, and evaluations.
- When responding to meet emails please make sure that you are replying in the correct email thread. (e.g. do not put questions regarding the U20 meet in the confirmation reply to the Masters meet). Please do not REPLY ALL to availability emails.

CHALLENGES IN 2023

- **Availability** - There were a large number of officials who changed their availability both early in the season (beginning of July) as well as many last minute changes after meet invitations were sent out. Many of our officials were also working World Police and Fire Games (Winnipeg) and Legion Nationals (Sherbrooke) so that made staffing for the OMA and U14/16/18 meet a challenge.
 - Officials are reminded that if they find they are no longer available
 - More than 1 month in advance of a meet to change their availability in the Officials Management app as soon as they know
 - AFTER the initial meet invitation has been sent out they should email the Director of Availability as soon as they know before making the change in the app.

- **Other meets** - The NxtChamp / AO CE meet weekend caused much confusion among officials.
- **AO policy** of a registration deadline less than a week before the meet continues to make assigning sufficient qualified officials difficult. Assignments are difficult to finalize before final registration numbers are in and late registrations for a few meets almost doubled the entries. I have advocated for moving the registration deadline so that everyone involved may better prepare for a meet.
- **Meet Schedules** - With a full return to meets since Covid many of the meets were very well attended which made for packed schedules with limited breaks. We continue to advocate with AO for appropriate scheduling of events and break time for officials.
- **Qualifications** - there are several areas where we continue to have limited officials with qualifications - Tech Manager; CE Ref, Track Ref. These positions do require a great deal of knowledge and while we do have officials working to learn these areas in the meantime it falls to a small number of individuals.

Indoor Season 2023 - (initial request sent out Dec 13; Reminder Jan 19th)

This season marked a return to full indoor meets. A Google form was sent to officials to indicate their availability for the indoor season.

Meet	Date/ Location	Available #Officials/ #Confirmed	Total # Level 1 / Provisional	Only Partial Day Availability
AO ICSM#1 - CE U16/U18/Open & Relay Championships + U16	JAN 28 - 29 TTFC	36 / 33 Confirm Date: Dec 30	7	9
AO ICSM#2 - OMA	FEB 5 TTFC	32 / 25 Confirm Date: Jan 12	6	N/A
AO ICSM#3 - U18 / OPEN	FEB 11/12 TTFC	44 / 38 Confirm Date: Jan 16	7	12
CANADIAN MASTERS	FEB 25/26 TTFC	35 / 28 Confirm Date: Feb 4	7	7
AO ISCM#4 - U16/U20	MAR 4 / 5 TTFC	42 / 36 Confirm date: Feb 14	6	8
AO ISCM#5 Rising Stars U8/U10/U12 Festival & U14 Championships + CE	APR 23 - 24 TTFC	32/ 29 Confirm Date: Mar 7	6	6
Total Responses to call for indoor availability		77 (81 in 2022, 67 in 2020*; 53 in 2019)		
Unavailable for indoor		21 (28 in 2022, 18 in 2020*; 17 in 2019)		
Total available		56 (53 in 2022, 49 in 2020*; 36 in 2019)		

*no data for 2021 indoor due to Covid

Outdoor Season 2023 (Initial request sent out April 16 Reminder June 1)

By the spring a list of tentative dates/locations for outdoor meets were set and the outdoor season began to take shape. The outdoor season was once again very busy with 4 major multi-day championship meets dates plus 6 smaller one day championships. Athletics Ontario officials were also at the Legion National meet (Sherbrooke) as well as the World Police & Fire Games (Winnipeg) and the Ian Hume Invitational (Sherbrooke) which impacted availability at some AO championships.

AO Summer Championship Meets

- **Available officials** - There were 144 registered officials this season (2023). A total of 79 officials responded using the Officials Management app. Only 55% of the registered officials were available for AO outdoor championship meets. This is up 5% from 2022.

AO OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS SUMMARY 2022

Meet	Date/Location	Available # Officials/ # Confirmed	Total # Level 1 Provisional	Only partial day Availability
AO OCSM#1: 10,000m	MAY. 13 Newmarket	12 / 10 Confirm Date: April 21	0	n/a
AO OCSM#2: Para Championships	MAY 27	24 / 21 Confirm Date: May 8	2	n/a
AO OCSM#3: 10km RW	MAY 28 Toronto Island	17 / 15 Confirm Date: April 26	1	n/a
AO OCSM#4: *U16/U18/20/Open CE	JUN 24 - 25 TTFC	46 / 36 Confirm Date: May 25	3	8
AO OCSM#5 - U20 & Open	JUL 14 - 16 TTFC	50/ 44 Confirm Date: Jun 2	5	11
AO OSCM#6 OMA	JUL 29 - 30 TTFC	38 / 27 Confirm Date: July 2	2	5
AO OSCM#7: U14/16/18	AUG 4 - 6 LONDON	47/27** Confirm Date: July 6	5	6
AO OSCM#8: Distance Medley	AUG 13 Hamilton	3/1	0	n/a
AO OSCM#9: OMA Throws Pentathlon	AUG 19 TTFC	14/7 Confirm Date: July 26	0	0
AO OSCM#10: 20km RW	SEPT 30 Ottawa	6/6 Confirm Date: Sept 20	0	n/a
Total Responses to call for outdoor availability		79 (82 in 2022, 67 in 2020&21; 96 in 2019)		
Unavailable for outdoor		n/a (14 in 2022, 15 in 2021; 20 in 2019)		
Total available		*79 (69 in 2022, 52 in 2021; 52 in 2019)		

* CE meet was run in conjunction with NxtChamp

**16 officials removed their availability less than 4 weeks out. 4 officials unavailable due to a car accident enroute to the meet.

AO 20km RACE WALK CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

- Held in Kanata, ON in cooperation with the Bytown Walkers Fall Classic Race Walks.
- 6 racewalk officials were assigned to this championship meet.

AO CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

- The XC meet was held in Toronto on November 12th and hosted by AO
- A starter, a referee and 4 officials were assigned to the meet and worked with volunteers to run the start and finish lines.

Submitted Oct 31, 2023