



Competition Committee Report September 2024

Committee Members:

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Summary

The committee focused on feedback received from the membership on issues with previous championships. Improvements in event experience was a key initiative in the 2023 – 2024 fiscal year. This included the introduction of the call room for the U20 and Open Championships for a more controlled and structured delivery of the provincial championships. The addition of a call room to our provincial championship brought our premier championship another step forward. Official experience was another priority for this fiscal year with the introduction of a dedicated and managed private space for officials and the regular checkups by volunteers. This ensured that officials and other volunteers received what they needed while working at an event. Further building of the AO equipment inventory to ensure event disciplines have exactly what they need once officials arrived instead of relying on officials to provide many of their own personal equipment.

Ontario has provided the U16 Dual Meet for the second of two years in Toronto and the Ontario Summer Games for our U14 and U16 divisions. The competition has served as a development pathway for our grassroots programs and a chance for these athletes to experience team environments with athletes they don't train with on a regular basis.

Committee members have discussed what we can do differently or things that we can introduce to bring added value to the Ontario championships. Additional strategies will need to be developed to increase or incentivise more individuals throughout the province to help deliver provincial championships in Ontario.

Issues

Meeting Issues

- Spectator experience still requires improvement.

- Desire for live streaming to be brought back as well as better use of projectors and main scoreboard during indoor championships
- Music at championships continue to be a positive and negative if not managed properly.
- Other interactive ideas need to be tried
- Look and feel of the championships still do not distinguish itself from other competitions.
- Washrooms/facilities continue to be an issue at XC and during the indoor track and field season.
- Long hours for larger championships. Desire for sessions with longer breaks for officials.
- Still require a comprehensive championship evaluation form that includes sections for officials, volunteers, participants, spectators, coaches, and host organizers.
 - Provide an outlet for technical rule recommendations/adjustments.
- More thought needs to be put together for Rising Stars sanctioned competitions.
 - There is a desire for Rising Stars focused meets but no growth has happened.
- Adjust the championship bidding requirements. Will need to roll out bids for the 2026/27 Outdoor U14, U16, U18 Athletics Championships, and 2026/27 Cross-Country Championships.

Near-Term Plans

Finalize a first public version of the Athletics Ontario Championship Playbook which will help with administrative and event day operations.

Mandate

The Competitions Committee shall:

- Establish the annual fixtures list for championships in consultation with the Technical Committee.
- Be responsible for the non-technical aspects of the Bid Application for the hosting of AO Championships.
- Ensure that consistent operating procedures are adhered to with respect to the meet management as outlined in the Policies and Procedures Document.
- Recommend to the Finance Committee, amendments to the Hosting Agreements, as appropriate.
- Ensure that the Hosting Agreements are delivered to the HOC and retained at the AO office.
- Establish and implement regular evaluation of AO Championships, through both committee evaluation tools and membership surveys.
- Evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of sanctioned competitions in meeting the Athletics Ontario Development and High-Performance objectives.

- Review reports and surveys for Championship meets and determine the implications for future planning and coordination of these meets.
- Provide post summary report to HOC's outlining successes and areas for improvement.
- Evaluate, identify, or monitor those activities and areas, which currently (or have the potential to) pose significant risks to the association.
- Recommend measures for the board, as required, on associated policies or procedures that will assist in avoiding or controlling association risks.

Roles

The Committee Chair shall lead meetings, set the meeting schedule, arrange meeting place/call, prepare the agenda, and keep (or ensure the keeping of) minutes to record discussions and actions taken at all meetings. In addition, the Chair is responsible for reporting progress, project timelines, or providing written recommendations and reports. Committee members must participate in discussions and share the workload. Each member's expertise, whether it is a skill or knowledge, contributes to the Committee's success. When assigned a task, it becomes each member's duty to complete the task and report back to the Committee.

Report submitted September 12, 2024.

Randolph Fajardo
Competitions Committee, Staff