

Minutes of Athletics Ontario Board Meeting

Date: Friday March 6, 2009

Time: 6:37 pm

Sport Alliance Ontario Building Boardroom 1

3 Concorde Gate, Toronto

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair), Suzanne Leroux, Harry Stantsos, John Craig (staff), Roman Olszewski (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff)

- 1. Welcome:** Bill thanked those in attendance for coming and advised that, even with an early start to the meeting, the agenda was full and we were going to have to move quickly. Bill also noted that today is employee recognition day, so he thanked the staff for their work through the past year.
- 2. Motion:** to ratify acceptance of the minutes of the October, 2008 Board Meeting.

Val Sarjeant and Suzanne Leroux

Carried

- 3. Business Arising:** Harry Stantsos advised that there has been no action taken on a revamp of the points system for Championship competition. The committee of Suzanne, Harry and Roman will examine the issue and try to formulate a better option.

ACTION: Once a new points system has been devised Suzanne will do a trial run on her computer to see how well it work under different scenarios.

John advised that the Code of Conduct, passed at the Annual General Meeting in November of 2007, has now been reviewed by a lawyer and the opinion of the lawyer was that there are no legal concerns. The lawyer suggested there be an addition to the Code to include what sanctions could be applied for infractions.

ACTION: John to consider various options as sanctions and make recommendations to the Board.

ACTION: John to thank the lawyer involved for the review and advice.

- 4. Motion:** to approve the agenda.

Harry Stantsos and Suzanne Leroux

Carried

- 5. Athletics Ontario Relays Meet:** Bill discussed some issues related to this competition, specifically with regard to scheduling. Solutions might include having only relays, field events and short sprints. There was also a suggestion that relay teams be declared at least a week in advance, while the names of athletes on each team can be submitted at the meet.

ACTION: Suzanne will chair a committee to look at these ideas. Committee volunteers are welcome.

- 6. Staff Health, Safety and Wellness:** John reported that the staff is healthy and well, and that Bernie Eckler continues to make a good recovery from previous challenges.
- 7. AO Awards Banquet/AGM:** Bill would like to hold the 2009 AO Awards Banquet and AGM at same venue as in 2008, but can't get the date we want. It appears we can only get October 21 which is also Halloween night. Bill and John also discussed the opportunity to host our Awards Banquet in partnership with the Ontario Masters Awards Banquet. The Masters Association made a proposal for a joint banquet and suggested there may be sponsorship opportunities in such a partnership.

There was concern that such a banquet would be too large or last too long and that, possibly, the AO award winners would lose some deserved recognition if they had to share the stage with the masters winners.

There may be ways of working around these potential problems. Val suggests we try it for one year and see how it works. We also need to look at this model with respect to budget.

ACTION: Bill will continue to look for a venue for November 21, which is our preferred date.

ACTION: John to discuss the concerns that were raised with representatives of the Ontario Masters Athletics.

8. **AO Plan for National Senior Championships:** Roman has been at some planning meetings for the National Senior Championships to be held in Toronto in June 2009, and he will continue to be the liaison between AO and the Championships hosts.
9. **AO Plan for the Usain Bolt Meet:** The role that Athletics Ontario will play in the staging of this competition remains unclear. John and Bill have both met with the event organizer, but specific duties and responsibilities have not yet been delegated. Bill voiced a concern that, should the event be very successful, Athletics Ontario may have a capacity problem in dealing with a large number of potential new members who are energized by the meet.

There are a number of camps and programs for kids that will be running this summer. Since the meet takes place in June, this will be a good opportunity to generate some interest and enrolment in these programs.

ACTION: John to canvas member clubs to promotional camp brochures for our use and to assist with enrolment in the camps.

ACTION: John to follow up with the Event Director to further clarify the role of Athletics Ontario and to suggest that Bill and Val are prepared to be advisors for the meet if appropriate.

10. **Checking Coaches' Status at AO Meets as Part of Policy and Procedures?:** Too many non-registered coaches and parents are getting on the competition floor at the Metro Toronto Track and Field Centre. This is a liability issue and a concern for the conduct of the meet. We will have to ask the meet hosts to do the best they can in screening people who try to get in. Centre staff should be prepared to call security to remove people who shouldn't be there.
11. **Volunteers at AO Meets:** The current requirement of having clubs provide volunteers at AO meets isn't working. This should be removed as a Policy. Meet directors need to make sure they have enough volunteers and this will remain their responsibility.

ACTION: Roman to refer this to the Technical Committee and recommend this policy is removed from the Policy and Procedures manual.

12. **Seeding:** The reporting of unproven seed performances is getting out of hand again and the policy needs to be publicized in Technical package and on website. There are also loopholes in the policy which need to be tightened up.

ACTION: Roman to take this policy back to the Technical Committee to eliminate some of the loopholes.

13. **Check-in/Scratch Procedure at Meets:** Bill suggested we use the Windsor model where athletes are scratched one hour before-hand and empty lanes are eliminated. Perhaps clubs should be fined if an athlete doesn't compete but is not scratched.

ACTION: This should be presented as a motion for the outdoor season, but tabled for this meeting. Bill will get lists of DNS athletes from Suzanne and talk to the coaches and urge them to scratch their athletes in the future.

14. Busses for Out-of-town Meets:

ACTION: Anthony will suggest in the AO newsletter that clubs should consider organizing busses for several local clubs to help reduce costs. Clubs could let the office know if there are seats available and we may be able help coordinate transportation with other clubs.

15. Camera Course: It appears that there are lots of photo timing cameras in Ontario but not enough certified operators.

ACTION: Suzanne will get a list of people who are currently operating or who want to operate a camera and she will organize a clinic.

16. Championship Meet Videography: John advised that two proposals for videography have been submitted and recommended one proposal for further consideration. The Board needs to establish the associated costs and membership benefits of this program.

ACTION: John to follow up with the recommended proposer to establish financial figures and consider a partnership which will be forwarded to Board for contract and further input.

17. Sport for More Grants: John advised that Athletics Ontario has received a grant for \$220,500 over three years to provide Fun In Athletics and equipment to 60 Aboriginal communities in the province. A second application for Track Time (Phase II) was not successful.

18. More on Photo-Timing Cameras: Existing policy requires that two cameras be used at indoor competitions if both straight and oval are used at the same time. If there is no overlap, two cameras are not necessary. All meets, however, must also have a backup camera in case one of the primary cameras fail.

19. High Performance Coordinator: A review of the activities and tasks of the High Performance Coordinator through the past month shows Sue Wise continues to be a strong program facilitator and that she continues to do an outstanding job.

20. Uniform Meet Schedules: Bill suggested we develop a standard schedule for all championships. The schedule would remain consistent for all meets, with variations made only in response to local conditions or concerns (like track layout).

ACTION: Roman will refer this item to the Technical Committee, draft a schedule and make it part of our Policies and Procedures.

21. Dartfish Program Update: Val advised that 4.5 operators have now been successfully trained in using the Dartfish equipment and software and that Athletics Ontario will go with an official launch in first week in April. We would still like to finalize some type of service or maintenance agreement with API as required and appropriate, and we still need to train operators in Timmins, Ottawa and Windsor. However half our centres will start next month. There remains a concern that, while these operators and centres have a working knowledge of Dartfish, they don't have the expertise to analyze the videos. The videos should be sent to the coaches or other people who can work with the coaches on analysis.

22. CSG Update: Sue Wise has produced a list of Ontario athletes who have attained over 1,000 points on the IAAF charts, and Roman has a list of athletes eligible for Canada Games.

ACTION: Harry will provide this information to Anthony when it is complete so it can be posted on the AO website. The deadline for this is end of March and should be reviewed by Suzanne Leroux and Dave Christiani (as team leader) prior to posting. The selection criteria should also be approved and posted.

23. Run Jump Throw Update: With capacity an issue for our sport, we need to figure out how to accommodate new members (see concerns above). RJT programs will continue through the summer and we may be able to apply for some grant money for RJT and FIA programs.

24. AC High Performance Centres: John outlined his concerns with respect to recent announcements by Athletics Canada about the establishment of National High Performance Training Centres. These centres are now located in Victoria, Kamloops, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa, with a parasport centre in Sherbrooke.

ACTION: John to communicate with AC and invite them to enter into some dialogue on this issue. Perhaps we need to take the lead and establish a centre that AC can piggy back on.

25. Back Check – Background Check Service: John discussed this program and services and mentioned the benefits of it to our members. He also suggested that it is time we take another look at our policies regarding volunteer screening; current thinking is that we need to request screening more often than our current policies call for.

ACTION: John to initiate a revision of our policies with respect to volunteer screening and to recommend changes if appropriate.

ACTION: John to contact the BackCheck company and begin negotiations for a contract.

26. Addendum to Transfer Policy: John suggested a change to the current Transfer Policy which would require notice to a club when an athlete leaves, even if it is at the start of a new membership year.

ACTION: John to redraft the Transfer Policy and present recommendations at the next Board meeting.

27. Relay Championship Appeal: The BOD heard the appeal presented by a club whose relay team had been disqualified for an infraction of rules which require team members to wear the same uniforms. Background information was also considered; apparently no such AC or AO rule exists. However, the BOD determined that the appeal should have been made at the meet to be legitimate. *Appeal is denied.*

ACTION: This is referred back to the Technical Committee which should recommend a policy with respect to uniforms.

ACTION: John to respond to the person who drafted the appeal advising of the decision of the Board of Directors.

28. Quest for Gold – 2008 Program and Future: John outlined potential changes to the Quest for Gold program including fewer cards and/or less money to athletes. After three years of the Quest for Gold program the Ministry is trying to determine if the money they are spending is going to the right places and in the right proportions. They want to determine if they are giving the money to the people who are our next tier national team members, not good athletes who are only good at the provincial level. John is working with the Ministry on several different surveys to assist in this process.

29. OOC Re-Structuring: Suzanne suggested that the committee charges with working out the details of the re-structuring will be ready by the end of March 2009. Harry Stantsos, Suzanne Leroux and Stuart Smith have already agreed to sit on the committee and other volunteers are being courted.

30. Virtual Hall of Fame: Roman and Anthony presented a document about the Virtual Hall of Fame, and the guidelines, timelines and process for nominations and voting.

Motion: to approve the document as amended (final document to come from Roman)

Bill Stephens and Harry Stantsos

Carried

ACTION: Roman to forward the amended document to the Board.

Motion: to approve the appointment of Committee Members Andy Higgins, Phil Steele, Enrico Toscano, Preet Atwal (and someone to be appointed)
Bill Stephens and Suzanne Leroux **Carried**

31. New Business:

- **Base Grants:** John advised that the application for the base grant was received today. This is the start of a new three year funding cycle and there are some significant differences between this application from and previous ones. There appears to be significant emphasis on LTAD and Sport for Life, and there will be requests to clubs and other members for input. There are also more sports applying for the same amount of funding in more sophisticated ways.
- **ACTION:** Anthony to put information about the successful Sport for More grant on the Athletics Ontario website.
- **New Athletics Ontario Logo: Motion:** to adopt the proposed logo which receives the most votes on the Athletics Ontario website poll as of Monday, March 9, 2009.
Val Sarjeant and Harry Stantsos **Carried**
- Anthony advised that our new domain address and name are: www.athleticsontario.ca
- **Staff Salaries:** John made a proposal to reduce approved cost of living increases in order to be more responsible to the current budget. Staff then left the room and the issue was decided by the members of the Board of Directors.

Adjournment : 10:22 pm