



**Minutes of the Athletics Ontario
Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: Wednesday January 27, 2010

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Boardroom 1, 3 Concorde Gate,
Toronto, ON, M3C 3N7

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), Roman Olszewski (staff), Suzanne Leroux, John Craig (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), (Val Sarjeant, Stuart Smith and Harry Stantsos were present via conference call)

Regrets: Leslie Estwick

Welcome: Bill welcomed everyone for a Wednesday evening meeting, possibly the first on record. He noted that some of our conference call Directors were only available for a short time so we would have to work fast to get our business done while we have a quorum.

- 1. Motion:** to ratify acceptance the minutes of the December 4, 2009 Board meeting.

Sarjeant and Leroux

Carried

2. Business Arising:

- The status of the issue regarding levy fees for host clubs, which came from the Timmins Porcupine Track Club, is still to be resolved.

ACTION: Suzanne will follow up when Vital Shank returns from Florida.

- Meeting with Representatives of the OOC: a meeting date is still to be set.

ACTION: Bill and John will ask Enrico Toscano to confirm a meeting date and to confirm his representatives.

- AO camera courses - Val suggested that this course should be mandatory for people who are going to be timing AO Championships.
- A phototiming clinic is set for Toronto on March 5th. There is also an interest in hosting a similar clinic in Sudbury prior to the OSG.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Smith and Stantsos

Carried

4. **Technical Committee Motions Approval:** The Directors considered a motion from the Technical Committee (Item 40.1) regarding identical club tops for athletes. This motion reads:

040. Uniforms in Relay Events

040.1 In Provincial Championship events the four athletes on the team shall wear identical club tops.

Motion: to adopt the motion as presented.
Stephens and Stantsos

Carried

5. **Staff Health, Safety & Wellness:** John advised that staff is healthy and well.

6. **Approval of new Technical Committee member, Karla del Grande from the Ontario Masters Association**

Motion: to approve Karla del Grande as a new member of the Technical Committee
Leroux and Sarjeant

Carried

7. **AO Hosting of Indoor Meets:** Val asked that the staff and directors be prepared to assist Sue Wise as required for the indoor championships we are hosting. Of specific concern is the need to have responsible people manage the new check-in procedure. Val said he is available for day one for this task if required.

ACTION: Suzanne will look after the junior officials. She will seek help from some of the clubs who had unsuccessful bids for this meet since they may have a real interest in assisting.

ACTION: Roman and Suzanne will discuss accommodations.

ACTION: John, Val and Bill will meet to discuss a plan to make sure we budget properly to maintain the High Performance Coordinator position.

8. **2010 Ontario Summer Games Format Update:** Roman provided an update on the OSG and suggested the Association entertain the idea of reducing the \$75 athlete fee. Harry said that a subsidy would be a good idea.

ACTION: John to review this option in terms of the AO budget and get to Roman on it.

ACTION: Roman to develop a recommendation on a trials competition for this, our first ever Espoir Championships.

The Directors agreed that we should have some local talent available to fill empty spots at the last minute, which will make sure all spots are taken and provide local athletes with the opportunity to compete.

9. **Two Marathons:** John presented an assessment of the situation regarding the City of Toronto's interest in finding a solution to the problem of having two marathons in the city.

Resolution: That Athletics Ontario support both events and suggests that Athletics Canada take the same position.

10. **AC Junior Combined Events Championships:** John explained that he had received a request from Scott MacDonald at Athletics Canada that Athletics Ontario consider hosting the National Junior Combined Events Championships in conjunction with the AO National Standards Meet on June 12-13 in Toronto. Scott had a concern that there are too many meets too close together to be conducive to high performance for our junior CE athletes.

ACTION: John to advise Scott that AO is willing to host the AC Junior Combined Events Championships with our Provincial CE competition. This opportunity must have no negative financial affect on the HOC or Athletics Ontario and is contingent on the approval of the HOC.

ACTION: The AO Quest 4 Gold Committee consider ways of providing our Ontario CE athletes with alternative means of scoring points for the 2010 Quest for Gold program.

11. **AC/Branch Planning:** John advised that Athletics Canada is interested in initiating a planning process which will help integrate National and Branch programs into a single comprehensive plan which is beneficial to all parties. This initiative is to replace the individual NSO/PSO contracts which have proven to be hard to manage. The process will begin at the March staff meetings in Quebec. John will advise that AO supports this initiative.

12. **Letter to AC:** Bill said he had been approached by a coach about the National Junior Championships in Charlottetown. The coach has written a letter suggesting AC policy and procedures with respect to championships need updating and need to be followed. The letter asks AC to be consistent in it's P&P and to revise its P&P so that it makes sense for all participants including athletes, coaches and officials.

A number of specific concerns were addressed.

ACTION: Roman will review the letter and address it at the Technical Committee level. Once vetted, it will be sent to AC with support from AO. Copies will also be sent to the other branches for review and information purposes.

13. **Certification Problems:** Bill advised that some coaches are concerned that coaching certification seems to be taking too long and the process needs to be sped up. He asked if this can be made a priority.

Roman said that this is a time consuming job. Perhaps this needs to be given to the Course Conductors to do.

ACTION: Roman will see about getting a summer or coop student to help with the workload.

14. **Carded Athletes Access to Facilities:** Bill suggested there is a need for our elite or HP athletes to have unfettered access to University facilities across the province.

We can encourage this. That would benefit all athletes in the province.

ACTION: John to pursue this with staff in the OU office to see if such a program is possible and to consider ways of implementing a province wide partnership which would provide access to identified athletes in all sports.

15. **Seed Times:** Bill wondered what results should be allowed as seed performances at our indoor competitions. Such seed times should be automatically generated from our results of the past year. Indoor seed performances should be used unless they are not available in which case outdoor performances are used.

ACTION: Beginning in 2011, for Athletics Ontario Indoor Championships, only indoor performances from the current year will be used as seed performances. Roman to incorporate this into the P&P for Championships meets.

16. **Mentor Coaches:** While this agenda item was introduced, discussion was tabled. The concern centres around complaints that some of our mentor coaches are recruiting athletes who contact them for advice.

ACTION: Bill and Sue will re-examine the effectiveness of this program to see if it is meaningful, if it continues to be funded, and if our Mentor Coaches are trying to use their positions to recruit athletes from other clubs.

17. **Transfer Rule:** Stuart advised that he has lots of input on this issue and that ideas are still coming in. Bill mentioned that there is a concern that athletes who go to universities are being recruited by the university clubs. Stuart will address this in his paper.

18. **Merger of Two Clubs:** Anthony advised that two AO registered clubs wish to merge into a single club, which would have the affect of transferring athletes from one club to another.

ACTION: Roman is to check the P&P to see if there is already be a policy that states, should a club disband, athletes are allowed to join another club. If such a policy does not exist then Anthony is to advise the clubs that they can merge if they like, but that the athletes can't compete as one team. Transferring athletes will have to compete as disassociated athletes for the remainder of the current membership year. The clubs can merge and the athletes can move to the new club at the beginning of the new year provided they follow the correct transfer procedure.

ACTION: If there isn't a rule in our P&P to address this situation then Stuart is to make sure this is addressed by the Transfer Committee.

19. **Insurance Proposal:** Bill has been approached by an insurance company dealing with the OBA and OVA. This program would provide benefits to our members, but would offer the company the opportunity to contact our members.

ACTION: John to ask OVA and OBA about this, how it works and if it is perceived as a good program and a benefit to members. John to make a recommendation to the Board next meeting.

20. **Ministry SPF:** John mentioned that it is time once again to apply for the MHP's Sport Priority Funding. As in the past, there are three priority areas in which AO can apply: Excellence, Capacity and Participation.

The Directors discussed different projects and priority areas, keeping in mind the results of the planning which had been conducted in 2008-09.

ACTION: John is to ask the membership for input via newsletter, email and/or website.

21. **Pan Am Games:** John suggested that we keep these Games permanently on the agenda as we plan for future AO championships and other programs. If the facilities are finished by 2014 we should consider scheduling one or more of our AO Championships at the site, which could act as a dry run for the Pan Am Games. Doing so would engage the local community and help train volunteers and local officials. We also need to make sure there is an infrastructure legacy of the track and/or practice track, plus equipment. There is concern that the current concept is to build a stadium but remove the track once the Games are over.

Val mentioned that there is also an effort to get an indoor track in conjunction with the Velodrome. He is corresponding with the local group working on this project.

22. Marketing Committee Terms of Reference: John asked for comments on the Terms of Reference for the newly struck Marketing Committee, which were previously circulated. Val and Stuart will both attend these meetings if and as they can, acting as liaisons with the Board of Directors, Tony Sharpe was mentioned as a possible committee member. John will contact him to see if he is interested in helping.

23. Strategic Planning – continuing discussion (Val & Leslie) – tabled

24. Budget – continuing discussion (John) – tabled

25. Power of Attorney: Harry discussed the Association's Power of Attorney (POA), saying there have been some meets when he was asked to sign a waiver on behalf of the whole team. There must be a POA forwarded to the club by each athlete – a process which most clubs don't understand. There needs to be more communication from the Association on this

ACTION: Anthony is to send out a reminder in the newsletter and on our website about the use of the Power of Attorney form, it's effectiveness and the way in which it serves the clubs.

26. New Business:

- **Working from home:** This idea is to provide staff with the tools and resources to work from home on the rare occasion when weather or other matters prevent staff from getting to the office. John explained the options available for work at home, the costs involved, and the risks and options which may be available in the future.

ACTION: John is to pursue the option of networking to office computers to get the program going on a limited basis.

Motion: That the Association make work at home options available to staff to minimize the impact when staff can't make it to the office.

Sarjeant and Leroux

Carried

ACTION: Val has access to a policy about this and he will forward it to John.

ACTION: The office will look into getting a basic PC for Anthony so that the above work-at-home program has affect.

- **ACTION:** Anthony to explore the option of having another answering machine installed in the office. This will reduce the perception that staff is not available.

- Concerns were raised that coaches arrive at competitions and want access to the infield so want to register with Athletics Ontario onsite.

ACTION: Roman is to write into the P&P that coaches may not register with Athletics Ontario on the day of a Championship competition. This is in keeping with the requirement that athletes who register for Championship competition must be registered by the previous Sunday.

- **Results:** Suzanne mentioned that she isn't getting results from all meets – especially from meets hosted by some of our bigger clubs. These results are important for seeding and ranking purposes. We need a backup copy which needs to be sent to Suzanne. University meet results need to come to us as Hy-Tek files.

She is also having trouble getting MTA results and they don't appear on the MTA site.

- **Legion Meet:** AC has taken control and some legion meets and in some cases these meets have been combined Legion/Youth meets. Several legion winners aren't getting medals because they are competing against Youth athletes.
- **ACTION:** Anthony is to post Canadian Legion bid information on our website.
- **Eastern Canadian Espoir Meet:** Roman advised that the Eastern Canadian Espoir Meet is scheduled to be held in Moncton on the weekend before the OSG and one week after the national championships. There is concern that this will cause a distraction for some of our meets and that it is also cost prohibitive. Suzanne suggests some athletes will be interested and we should ask coaches if they can support it before we decline it.

ACTION: Suzanne will seek advice from other coaches on this issue and get back to Roman.

ACTION: If the reaction (above) is not positive, Roman will regretfully decline Ontario participation in this meet and see if there are alternatives or if we can join again next year.

- **Banquet Review:** This event had mostly positive feedback, and the relationship with the Masters association was a good one. Bill advised that we are going back to the Crowne Plaza for the event on October 30th in 2010.

Adjournment – Sarjeant

9:15 pm

