

Minutes of AO Board Meeting - June 17, 2009

3 Concorde Gate, Boardroom 2
Toronto, ON M3C 3N7
6:30 p.m.

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), John Craig (staff), Roman Olszewski (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff) and by teleconference Harry Stantsos, Stuart Smith (joined at 7:18 p.m.)

Absent: Pat Reid

Regrets: Suzanne Leroux, Val Sargeant (Vice-Chair)

Quorum formed at 7:18 pm

1. **Welcome** - Bill thanked everyone for joining the meeting on a windy and rainy night, especially with everyone so busy with workouts, competitions and family plans.

2. **Motion to Ratify Acceptance of the Minutes of the March Board Meeting**

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

3. **Business Arising**

Agenda Item 5 – *Athletics Ontario Relays Meet*. An action resulting from this item was that a Committee be formed to look at some ideas for improving this competition. No committee has been formed to date. John will contact Suzanne to see if she can form a committee as suggested.

Banquet – Bill has reserved a room on December 5, 2009 at Wyndham Garden Hotel in Toronto. There continue to be problems reserving space on the dates we want for this occasion, especially with conflicts with cross country meets and other Association business.

Joint OOC Committee Meeting – Suzanne provided an update through John. The OOC has met to discuss the OOC Re-organization document but still has some issues to resolve. They will meet again before the end of June, but there is still no plan for a joint meeting to discuss the way ahead. Since this meeting was to have taken place in the spring there continues to be a concern about the timing and the impact on the Association.

Virtual Hall of Fame update. There will be a meeting Wednesday, June 24 to elect a Chair. There is a significant challenge getting people together to meet and we may have to come up with a different structure or methodology.

Action Items Arising From Previous Minutes:

Action: Roman to contact Canada Games coaches and ask them to update the rankings. Anthony to update website.

Action: Anthony to post notification of process for uploading results to AC site including timelines, responsibilities, method, etc. Anthony to ask Suzanne to upload AO Championship results to Athletics Canada in a timely manner.

Action: Anthony to ask Suzanne if she has current rankings for our Canada Games page list on our website. If she has them, Anthony should post them ASAP.

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion to Approve the Agenda as Presented

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

5. **Technical Committee Motions Approval** – with no Technical Meeting there were no motions to approve.

6. **Update on Planning** – There was no discussion of this item as Pat Reid, Chair of the Planning Committee was not at the meeting.

7. **AO Technical Delegate** – Roman suggested that at most meets he works as a volunteer official. Athletics Ontario policy now requires him to also act as a Technical Delegate on behalf of the Association. Sometimes this can cause conflicts and he suggested it would be good if someone else could assume the role of Technical Delegate. Val has offered to do this job if and as appropriate and other names were also considered. If others assume the position of Technical Delegate they will have to be trained.

For the rest of this year, however, Roman says he can cover the scheduled competitions. No action is to be taken at this time.

8. **Announcing** - Bill suggested some new protocols for announcing at the AO Championships in London during the past weekend. This included no announcements during the heats. He received some positive and negative feedback from coaches, and Harry Stantsos said he received no comments from people.

Roman suggested we investigate what the IAAF does with announcing to determine what course we should take. Much of our interest in a standard protocol centres around making sure we stay on schedule and that announcing doesn't put the meet behind schedule.

It was also suggested that the person doing the announcing not be tasked with any other activities or responsibilities to make sure there is no conflict and resulting delays. The new protocols should become part of AO Competition Policy.

9. **Can AO Host and Conduct All Championship Meets** – Bill wondered if Athletics Ontario should be responsible for most of their Championship competitions. This could be an added source of revenue, but would reduce revenue for the host club. However, the services that are provided to the host clubs are, in some cases, extensive, and as newer and better options

become available, it might be time for Athletics Ontario to take another look at revenue sharing or taking control of their own competitions.

Action: Suzanne will form a committee to look at this idea. The mandate of the committee will be to discover the options with respect to Athletics Ontario hosting – or taking greater responsibility for – its own championships, plus the drafting of standard Championships schedules, technical packages, policy and AO/Host Club agreements. This is likely a six month project but it should be in place by the start of 2010.

10. **Ontario vs. Manitoba (vs. Quebec) dual meet in Timmins** - Athletics Ontario should consider staging a dual meet with Quebec and/or Manitoba for one or two of its provincial teams in 2010. It is too late for this year. But this should be a priority – especially in light of the Planning Committee’s document from the spring of 2009. When Bill and John were in Ottawa for the Athletics Canada Annual General Meeting in May, they had a good reception from Manitoba and Quebec for this idea.

11. **Active 2010 Grants – Excellence/Capacity/Participation** – John gave a brief overview of the Active 2010 Funding program and the options and possibilities for Sport Priority Funding. There are three funding streams, and several ideas had been presented for possible grant applications. Specifically:

Excellence – two possible applications were presented:

- **Canada Games Camp** – a two day staging camp was suggested. Athletics Ontario has some money left over from the 2008 Canada Games program, enough to host a one day camp prior to the team’s departure for the Canada Games. Drawing that camp into a two day camp would accomplish much in terms of mandatory instructions, team uniforms, workouts and team bonding and would cost an estimated additional \$8,000.
- **Team Ontario match against Quebec or Manitoba at an indoor meet.**

Consensus was to apply for a grant for a Team Ontario Indoor Match Competition against Manitoba and/or Quebec.

Capacity – four possible applications were presented:

- Athletics Canada’s AC Direct membership registration system has the capacity to be downloaded and become a tool of the Branches. Some branches see this as a business opportunity in working with the events within their province. This will require start-up capital and much research to determine its viability.
- Legal re-draft of Association Policies and Procedures. The Association’s legal responsibilities and obligations are in need of a re-draft given changing boarders and in light of recent court decisions. This is a risk management project aimed at making the Association more secure, less open to catastrophic legal action, and more responsible to its membership

- New Coaches in under-represented areas. A project aimed at engaging and teaching minorities, women and other groups to be coaches, using Level I RJT programming, to bolster our capacity at the club level.
- Officials' Clinics. Athletics Ontario would host clinics across the province, with the assistance of the Ontario Officials Committee, in an effort to develop more officials at the local level, help reduce stress on the existing OOC officials, and bring some youth into our ranks.

Consensus to apply for a grant to obtain a legal review and redraft – as required – of our Policies and Procedures. This is of more immediate concern.

Participation – only one project application was presented:

- The Road Warrior Program has been successful, but there is a need for some additional promotions and prize funding to drive the program. We also need to continue to adjust the software and cover the accompanying expenses. This is largely a membership program that may provide a revenue stream if and when it gains popular acceptance.

12. Report on the AC AGM – John provided a brief summary of the important issues coming out of the Athletics Canada Annual General Meeting in May in Ottawa. Mentioned were:

- That Catherine Bond-Mills and Atlee Mahorn were both elected to positions of Directors at Large on the AC Board of Directors. They join several other people from Ontario on the Board, and provide us with a chance to provide an Ontario perspective. Gord Orlikow is the new AC Chair.
- The committee working on methods of increasing membership fees has been unable to develop an idea or program that would meet branch approval and be implementable.
- Presentations by both Sport Canada and Road to Excellence support the existing AC semi-centralized model of High Performance Centres across the country. Most of the funding that AC receives is targeted and must be spent as provided. With a country our size and with our population, this seems to be the best fit, given a comprehensive study of successful programs in other countries.
- A new ability to provide rankings and records etc., will be tested throughout the summer and should be rolled out before the end of the year. The new system should make it possible to collect almost any ranking data and provide almost any information that is available.
- Athletics Canada is interested in changing the qualification opportunities for athletes seeking registration in the National Championships. AC wants to improve the quality of the product on the field, and needs to eliminate some of the rounds in the short sprints and make sure that all athletes competing at the national championships are of championship calibre. This will be discussed at more length at the AC Technical Congress in November in BC.

Athletics Ontario should make sure we have representation at the AC Technical Congress to discuss this item.

Action: John to bring this up at the next board meeting.

13. **Ontario Records/Rankings/Performances by Non-registered Athletes as per AC**

Rule - A recent Athletics Canada's rule does not allow for the recognition, for ranking or record purposes, performances set while the athlete was not a member of the Association. Does Athletics Ontario adopt the same rule as AC? There was some discussion about the pros and cons of this rule, but the item was tables since it won't take effect until 2010.

There was also a discussion on how Athletics Ontario can respond to make sure clubs and athletes – especially those away in the States on scholarship - have a reasonable way of registering so they can be bona fide members without paying the full club fee. Maybe this should be a club policy as opposed to an Association policy.

Additionally, there should be a review of the registration process to make sure the clubs are collecting signed membership registration forms from each athlete. Perhaps this can be done in a review of Policies and Procedures if we get the Active 2010 grant for this project.

14. **Membership Categories: Dates vs. Categories** - Some athletes this spring risked having performances not recognized because they registered as outdoor members but raced outdoors before their membership began (May 1). Consensus was that membership categories should be "Indoor" and "Outdoor" so as to recognize any performance in a track meet outdoors regardless of when it is attained. While this may create new problems, it might reduce others.

15. **Team Ontario Reception and Send-off for CSG** - We need, and have the funds for, a one day pre-CSG camp. Having a reception and some presence for the team send-off is a good idea. If it is a one day camp this will be a very short reception, but if it is a two day camp we can write the cost of this into the Active 2010 proposal.

16. **Selection Criteria for Awards** - Bill talked about the AO Awards Banquet and asked if we should make changes to the way we determine our award winners. Last year worked well but perhaps we should examine the BC model. Maybe we can publish the names of potential winners – top three nominees in each category. If so we need to modify the criteria so there is some subjectivity: narrow down nominees, publish the finalists, then have the committee choose based on results, titles won, records set etc.

17. **Issue From AO Jr Champ/NQ meet** - we had a successful meet with lots of entries. There were some problems with registration and passes for coaches. Coaches must be registered with AO to gain free access.

For relays we should consider a system in 2010 whereby teams are entered prior to the meet with the names of team members declared on the day of the meet.

Harry was concerned that some athletes who are registered as Unattached are entering and then not showing up. This makes it very difficult to collect entry fees, which isn't fair to the clubs.

AO will provide contact information for these athletes to see if we can make it easier to collect fees.

18. **New Business**

Action: John will write up the proposal to provide videotaping services to athletes and send a copy to Board members for review and approval at the next Board meeting.

Results - Bill reiterated that we need day by day results at our competitions, usually posted within a couple of hours of the competition itself. Live results would be good and are provided in some sectors. We are taking too long to get them out.

Action: Bill to propose this for next Board Meeting as a policy.

Motion: To ratify the Motion to accept the Selection Criteria for the 2009 Canada Games team be approved as circulated.

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

Motion: that the Board ratify the motion previously carried, which states:

In order to secure points for their clubs, athletes must achieve the minimum standard set for each event and age group. Minimum standards are equivalent to Step 1 in AO's Step Up! To Excellence Programme. Athletes who fail to achieve the standard in a final but did so in a qualifying heat are eligible for scoring based on their finishing position in the final.

Stantsos and Smith

Carried

Motion to Adjourn – 8:56 p.m.

Moved by Stantsos