

OTFA Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, February 29, 2008

SAO Building, Room 3A

6:31 p.m.

Present: Bill Stephens (Chair), Pat Reid, Suzanne Leroux, Stuart Smith (7:00 p.m.), Roman Olszewski (staff), John Craig (staff), Anthony Biggar (staff), Harry Stantsos (8:48 p.m.), Val Sarjeant (Vice-Chair) by telephone (8:27 p.m.)

Note: Considerable snow fall on the evening of this meeting prevented some members of the Board from arriving on time. The meeting began without a quorum at 6:31 p.m. with discussion of items which did not require a vote.

Quorum: Achieved at 7:07 p.m.

1. Welcome: Bill welcomed those in attendance and recognized that some were late in coming because of the snow.

2. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Motion to Approve:

Smith and Leroux

Carried

3. Business Arising: Bill asked if a lawyer had commented on the recently adopted OTFA Code of Conduct. John advised that the Code of Conduct had been sent to Andy Buckstein who provides legal advice to the Association, but that no comment had been received.

Action: John to ask Andy Buckstein again to review the document.

4. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to Approve:

Reid and Smith

Carried

Agenda approved without amendment.

5. New Charitable Funding Opportunity: John described recent changes to legislation which now allows companies to donate stocks (as opposed to cash or in kind donations) to a charity in exchange for a tax receipt. The OTFA has been approached by someone who wishes to act on the Association's behalf in this regard. There was some discussion about the possibilities and implications of such a program. The Board agreed to try this idea on a six month trial basis.

Action: John to confirm the Board's interest and enter into an agreement on the Association's behalf.

6. National Championships – Expenses: John provided some background on a request from Athletics Canada to assist the Windsor Legion with expenses (specifically official's travel expenses) incurred at the 2007 National Track and Field Championships. Athletics Canada has also made a request that OTFA assist with officials travel for the 2008 National Senior Championships.

John advised that he had indicated to Athletics Canada that the OTFA was not prepared to cover expenses over which it has no control and without a prior agreement. Further, the Board affirmed that, without a three party agreement, the OTFA could not guarantee to cover expenses that are part of a national program.

Action: John and Bill to suggest at the President's meeting at the Athletics Canada Annual General Meeting that, in future, the National Junior and Senior Championships be held at the same time and place, which may alleviate some of the financial risks the hosts undertake in staging a National Championships.

7. SPF Initiatives and Application: John advised that it is now time to apply to the Ministry for Sport Priority Funding and asked the Board for direction on which programs to apply for and the possible costs of new initiatives. He reviewed all the suggested options for program applications. Applications can be made in the areas of Capacity, Participation and/or Excellence. There was discussion around all possible program initiatives, with some of these suggestions coming from Board members, some from staff, some from coaches and one from an outside agency.

On the Participation initiative (a community oriented relay program), the Board considered a program that would, perhaps, not include a championships but which would provide excellent exposure at the community level. This program could include local track and field clubs.

Roman talked about an Officiating Workshop program that relates to the Capacity initiative, and presented some ideas on roll-out and proposed costs.

Action: John was directed by the Board to apply for SP Funding as follows:

Capacity: An NCCP Delivery and Officials Recruitment program combined, which would include three honoraria of \$1,500 each. Roman will rework the program specifics. John will apply for \$17,000 for this initiative.

Excellence: Annual Spring Training Camps - \$15,000

Participation: Community Relay Program - \$18,000

8. Naming of Toronto Track and Field Facility at York: OTFA resolved not to support the renaming of the York University Track and Field Centre, because such action may preclude a sponsors name going on the facility.

9. Athletics Canada Fee (increase?): John asked for direction from the Board with respect to a proposed fee increase from Athletics Canada.

Action: At the Athletics Canada AGM in March, Bill and John are to support a motion for a fee increase provided the money goes to support self funded national teams for athletes of junior age or younger.

OTFA does not support a fee increase which would go to support general programming or elite (senior) athletes.

Action: If a fee increase is passed at the Athletics Canada AGM, the OTFA will ask for a matching fee increase from it's membership at the OTFA Annual General Meeting in November, 2008.

10. OTFA Awards Banquet:

Pat talked about the idea of an annual OTFA Awards Banquet and will examine similar programs in other provinces before making a proposal. Awards would include recognition of athletes, coaches, lifetime volunteers, administrators, officials, clubs and other deserving people and groups. The OTFA will do this on a one year trial basis with the intent of making it an annual banquet if it is well received. The banquet could (should) be hosted in conjunction with the OTFA Annual General Meeting in November of each year.

Action: Val will investigate possible venues, meal options, prices and times and report back to the Board.

Action: Pat will look at the concept with respect to awards, presentations, program etc.

Action: Anthony to see if Athletics Canada is planning on hosting its Technical Congress in conjunction with the OTFA AGM. He will report back to Val and Pat.

11. Athlete Transfers: The Board considered the status of athletes for whom Athlete Transfer paperwork is completed but not received by the OTFA office. This situation arose on a few occasions in the past; athletes represented themselves as 'unattached' in competitions even though the paperwork for the transfer was not received by the office.

The Board affirmed its position that athlete transfers are neither complete nor valid until the paperwork is received by the OTFA office.

Action: Anthony to make sure the Athlete Transfer Application includes instructions that the move is not complete until the forms arrive in the OTFA office.

The results of the competitions in question, where forms were not received by the office, will stand as is without revision.

12. Ratify Email Motion to Approve Minutes:

Motion: to ratify the motion – made electronically – to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2007 meeting.

Sarjeant and Stephens

Carried

13. Cross Country Distances: Stuart talked about feedback he has received from coaches and others about his research on cross country distances at championship meets across the country. He advised that most respondents felt the OTFA distances were on the short side. He noted that the increase in distances in men's competition provided for boys to progress up to the Athletics Canada distances, which match those used by the IAAF. Women, however, progress up to Athletics Canada distance, but the Athletics Canada distance does not match the IAAF distance.

Stuart's recommendation: That women's cross country distances change with age groups as follow: 3,000m – 4,000m – 5,000m – 5,000m – 7,000m, and that men's distances stay the way they are, changing as follows: 3,000m, 4,000m, 6,000m, 8,000m, 10,000m.

Action: Bill and John to bring this up at the Athletics Canada AGM – why do junior boys progress up to IAAF distances and junior girls don't? Why doesn't Athletics Canada distance for junior women include the 6,000m which is used by the IAAF?

Action: Stuart to disseminate, though emails and Runderz-vous, the above recommendation and receive feedback.

Action: Stuart to put his recommendations in the form of a motion at the next Board meeting based on input.

14. Seeding, Indoor – Outdoor Format:

Bill advised that his research suggests a couple of OTFA clubs are consistently entering seed performances which are not realistic or fair. Generally speaking the seeding at our championship events isn't bad, but we need to find a way of making sure coaches and athletes are being honest about seed performances

Bill suggested that the format used in outdoor championships last year, involving a performance 'threshold', worked well. This tool asks any athlete entering a seed performance better than the threshold to prove the performance.

His suggestion is that we also use this tool indoors.

Action: Roman to try to determine thresholds for each event.

The intent of this initiative is to protect an athlete who enters a legitimate seed performance and is penalized for doing so by being put in a slower section or flight.

15. Jr./Sr Outdoor Meet: Bill reviewed the format whereby bantam, midget and juvenile athletes who wish to compete in junior championship competitions meet a standard to get into the meet. Such standards were used simply as guidelines in 2007, but athletes not making the standard were not stopped from entering.

The Board recommended that we leave these standards as a guide not a hard standard for 2008.

16. OTFA Sanction Policy:

Motion: to approve the Sanction Policy regarding date conflicts as presented .
Sarjeant and Leroux **Carried**

17. Board Update on Contract Positions: John provided an update on the progress of the Track Time program and the Road Warrior program involving Kevin Dunbar and Michael Brennan. He advised that good progress was being made on both programs and that a final report from Kevin is due soon.

The position of Provincial Coach was also discussed. While it is too early in the Coach's term to have any clear indication of success, there was a high level of optimism and confidence in the program. There was a feeling, however, that the OTFA has not provided enough direction; outside a general job description the OTFA has determined few measurable aims or objectives.

Action: OTFA to establish a committee to meet with the Provincial Coach to flesh out a plan which will include work with Canada Games athletes, mentor coaching and other programs. This committee will consist of: Val, Pat, Harry (Chair), Marc and Roman.

Action: Harry to call a meeting of the Committee as soon as appropriate.

18. Honorarium to Entry and Results Manager:

Motion: to provide an honorarium of \$5,000 per year, on an ongoing basis, to a volunteer to:

- manage OTFA Championship entries and results as appropriate
- sign off on OTFA results going to Athletics Canada
- provide OTFA with provincial rankings
- be the OTFA consultant to Athletics Canada on provincial/national issues regarding entries, results and rankings
- to monitor seed performances at OTFA Championships to make sure they are fair and reasonable
- provide direction to OTFA members and clubs with respect to on-line entries,

- assist both OTFA and Athletics Canada on issues related to online registrations, entries, rankings, records and results.

Sarjeant and Reid

Carried

19. Planning Document: Bill gave a brief outline of the planning process to date and the work of the Planning Committee.

Pat then explained the need for a comprehensive review and for the development of a four year plan. He also gave some ideas on what the process should involve and how the current document was developed. The idea is to work toward implementation of the new plan beginning in 2009. Part of this process involves:

- an update of the LTAD for OTFA (John)
- updates on coach, athlete, officials and organizational models (John, Anthony and Roman)
- a change of corporate logo and, possibly, a name change

Next steps involve getting general feedback from OTFA membership. Board members were asked to talk to the membership about the planning document, paying particular attention to the parts of the document which fall into their portfolios.

There was also some discussion about the 'Vision' of the OTFA as presented, and some initial feedback on possible change.

Action: Members of the Board were asked to share the first part of the document, including the four major goals, with the membership on a personal basis. We need to make sure we all share the same vision. Feedback should go back to the Planning Committee and the Committee should use the feedback to redraft and refine the document.

Action: Once the Committee has refined the document, it should be put on the OTFA website for public review, with feedback going back to Pat. Questionnaires should be created to make sure feedback is concrete and constructive.

Action: Val will attend the Ontario Sports Awards on the OTFA's behalf. John to provide ticket if and as possible.

Adjournment: 11:04 p.m.

Stantsos

Carried