

Minutes of the OTFA Board Meeting of February 21, 2004

Holiday Inn Express Hotel, Toronto 7:30 p.m.

Present: Albert Tschirhart, Denis Landry, Marc Christie, Joe Sax, Mike Illingworth, Roman Olszewski (staff).

1. Minutes of November 14, 2003.

Motion: That the minutes of the November 14, 2003 Board Meeting be approved as amended.

The amendment was in reference to the Josh Smith Transfer Request item. The paragraph should read: "Roman **presented** the request and clarified points for the Board. The Board approved the transfer **and** reiterated the need to have each request for transfer come to the Board for review on a case-by-case basis."

Christie/Sax

Carried

2. Business Arising.

Albert asked if there had been any action taken with respect to the athletes who competed in events at Supermeet '03 without being properly entered and after being told that they were not allowed to compete. As John Craig was not present the question could not be answered.

The Richard Borek case is still in progress. Apparently Mr. Borek had met with Elaine Lake since the last Board meeting.

Marc Christie has assumed the role of Privacy Officer for the OTFA.

3. Agenda.

Motion: That the agenda as amended be approved.

Landry/Sax

Carried

Note: the following items were added to the distributed agenda: Coaching etiquette/code of behaviour; Stanley Samuel proposal; Brooks sponsorship; Rolf Lund Bursary; Hamilton Indoor Games request.

4. Schedule changes at competitions.

There was discussion on this subject as a result of a complaint from a coach that the schedule at an OTFA-sanctioned meet had been advanced too much, not allowing enough time for warm-up. The coach suggested that once times are published they should be adhered to.

Roman stated the policy with regard to championships. There is no policy for other sanctioned competitions. The meet in question did have a disclaimer regarding the possibility of an

advancement of start times. Most meet directors, being or having been coaches, are quite sensitive to the need for adequate warm-up time and are reasonable in advancing start times.

It was agreed that every sanctioned meet should either have a disclaimer or should adhere to the published schedule. This directive will be added to the sanction package.

5. Advancement Policy – Out-of-Province Participant Impact on Sprint Events.

Roman presented some data showing that the number of entrants in a sprint event has much more bearing on how many Ontario athletes qualify for a second run than does the number of out-of-province entrants. Roman did, however, concede that the impact of these athletes is much greater on the Ontario entry in the advancement from semi-finals to final and therefore proposed that a second timed final (not B final) be added when an Ontario athlete is displaced from the final by an out-of-province athlete.

The members present approved of this approach.

6. Time Management at Competitions.

Marc said that we should study the causes of delays in getting races underway at our big meets. He suggested that at the Indoor BMJ's, which was half completed, some savings could be made by having a computer with a hub and another monitor. Roman said that better coordination between the announcer and the start team could save a few seconds here and there as well.

Notwithstanding the above, Roman said the average time taken for a 400m race at the BMJ's was 2 minutes and 40 seconds, from gun to gun. This is considered to be fairly efficient.

It was agreed that the second OTFA Indoor Allcomers meet had too many events.

The members decided to create a Meet Management Committee which would communicate ideas, mostly via email, with the object of assisting meet directors of all OTFA-sanctioned meets in organizing and conducting efficient events.

Marc and Mike agreed to sit on this committee. Others from the meet directors' and officials groups will be invited to join.

7. Coaching Ethics/Etiquette – Athlete Tampering and Transfers.

Several recent enquiries on the subject of athlete tampering and transfers have renewed the call for the development of a written policy on this subject.

Roman was asked to put out a call in the newsletter and the internet for coaches to send in comments and suggestions that could be used in the production of a coaches' code of behaviour, especially as it relates to communication with athletes belonging to other clubs.

8. 2005 Canada Games Team Staff.

The following list was submitted to the board for approval:

Team Leader and Head Coach:	Murray Jackson	Petrolia
Manager:	Kelly Harris	Wainfleet
Sprints/Hurdles/Relays Coach:	Harry Stantsos	London
Sprints/Hurdles/Relays Coach:	Rich Gelder	Dundas
Distances Coach:	Dave Christiani	Toronto
Jumps/Combined Events Coach:	Catherine Bond Mills	London
Throws Coach:	Denis Hebert	Windsor
Paralympic Coach:	Amanda Fader	Russell

Alternates:

Distances Coach:	Rob Grepe	Oshawa
Throws Coach:	Randy Millar	Port Elgin
Manager:	Paula Jones	Nepean

Motion: That the list of 2005 Canada Games Team Staff be approved.

Landry/Christie

Carried.

9. Coaching Representative on Technical Committee.

Roman indicated that the Technical Committee was still without a Coaching Representative. It was agreed that a call for nominations should be made as soon as possible and that an election, via mail ballot, be used to determine the representative.

10. Brooks Sponsorship.

This sponsorship was much welcomed by the Board. Denis Landry agreed to look at the contract.

11. Hamilton Indoor Games.

Roman brought forward a request by the organizers of the 2004 Hamilton Indoor Games for a grant from the OTFA to help offset expenses. As OTFA funds for competition support are severely limited and as the Hamilton meet had dropped all club/open events from the 2004 meet it was deemed that the usual level of support was not possible. Members agreed, however, that a donation of \$250 be sent to the organizers along with a letter indicating the OTFA's hope that club/open events would return to the programme next year.

Motion: That a donation of \$250 be made to the 2004 Hamilton Indoor Games.

12. Stanley Samuel Proposal.

Stanley Samuel's proposal re: scoring of points by athletes in Canadian meets and the subsequent reward system was discussed. It was agreed that it could be possible to introduce as early as this summer a scaled down version of the programme if it were to involve a limited number of pre-designated competitions and merchandise awards, possibly to consist of Brooks products. Roman was asked to write a letter to Stanley thanking him for the suggestion and informing him of the direction that our discussion was taking.

13. Phototiming.

There was unanimous agreement that the OTFA should purchase a Finish Lynx system.

14. Rolf Lund Bursary.

A suggestion from a member club that the OTFA coordinate the collection of donations from clubs for the Rolf Lund Bursary Fund was endorsed. The office staff was asked to put out a notice calling for donations for the fund in the March Newsletter and by email.

Adjournment.

Minutes prepared by R. Olszewski February 27, 2004