

OTFA Board of Directors Meeting

August 31, 2005
Ontario Sports Alliance Building
7:13 p.m.

Present: Albert Tschirhart (Chair), Bill Stephens, Roman Olszewski (staff), Marc Christie, John Craig (staff), Michael Illingworth, Val Sarjeant, Denis Landry (via telephone)

Regrets: David Watt (treasurer)

1. Welcome: Albert welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking the time to attend.

2. Approval of Minutes: Amendment to item 5 of the previous minutes – Val is a Board member of the Minor Track Association, not the Chair.

Motion: To approve the Minutes as amended **Carried**
Christie / Stephens

3. Business Arising: The relationship that Charlie Francis has with respect to OTFA activities and members was reviewed.

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as revised **Carried**
Sarjeant / Christie

5. Officials Concerns Regarding the 2005 Supermeet: The Board received a letter from several officials who attended the 2005 Supermeet advising that they are concerned about the heavy workload and long hours that were part of the 2005 Supermeet experience. While the meet was successful in most respects, the long schedule and hot weather was very hard on those officials who volunteered at the meet.

Several possible solutions were discussed, including going back to a 2 ½ day competition format, or setting entry standards to reduce the length of the schedule. Also discussed was the possibility of having officials work in shifts to reduce the amount of time any single official was on duty. While this would necessarily mean extra expense for the meet, there were suggestions on how these expenses might be offset.

Michael talked about streamlining the process of requesting and assigning officials for the competition, which would provide longer lead times to the attending officials. This might allow more officials to attend the meet and relieve some of the strain.

Other solutions were considered, including a requirement that attending clubs provide some assistance as appropriate, and a suggestion that the OTFA purchase extra throwing implements in an effort to speed up turn-around times in the throwing events.

ACTION: John and Albert to respond in writing to the author of the letter.

ACTION: The OTFA to consider purchasing extra throwing implements, while bearing in mind the logistics of managing and transporting that equipment.

The OTFA fully recognizes and thanks the attending officials for their long hours of service, especially at this competition.

6. Athlete Transfer Rule: In light of recent concerns and conflicts regarding athlete's club affiliation the existing Athlete Transfer Rule was reviewed with respect to the implications it has on athletes, coaches and clubs. While this issue deals, as much as anything, with ethics, it is hard to police. While there was support for the existing rule at the Board level, the subject should be reviewed at the 2005 OTFA AGM.

ACTION: John to respond to recent correspondence about this issue, acknowledging receipt of the letter and advising of avenues to further pursue the issue.

7. Canada Summer Games: Results and Report: Ontario won both men's and women's track and field competitions again, but the margin of victory was smaller than in past Games and there were some disappointing results, including some events in which Ontario did not have two scorers. There are also concerns with the timing of this meet: many of our best athletes can't compete as they are already in the US for scholarship programs.

ACTION: CSG provincial standings for the track and field competition to be attached to these minutes as an appendix.

Ontario also won the flag competition, which is the overall competition based on all sports. Track and field's contribution to the points total was the maximum.

Full reports are expected from the head coach and the team manager.

8. Hamilton Indoor Games Update: Val provided an update on the program.

9. Funding Initiatives and Reports: John reported on the various sources of funding now available, and the success of submissions so far this year. The OTFA base grant from the provincial government has been increased by 6.8% over 2004, while the Active2010 Initiative was decreased by 1% as one of the proposed programs was not financed.

OTFA provided a Submission of Interest to the Active 2010 Sport Initiative – Participation Project, and will learn soon if a complete application will be accepted. The OTFA proposal involves increased funding for Fun in Athletics equipment purchases.

The OTFA, as with most sports in the province, is now funded by the provincial government's Ministry of Health Promotion, an appropriate agency given concerns about the health of the people of this province and the important role that sport plays in the management of these issues.

The OTFA is eligible for Active 2010 Phase II funding and several possible projects were considered for application. Suggestions include working with a series of school meets to help increase participation and to promote OTFA clubs.

ACTION: John to send an email to OTFA clubs suggesting these options, and then asking for other ideas:

1. Increased youth participation through a series of competitions.
2. Increased youth participation through a series of training days.
3. FIA in our northern clubs.

ACTION: John to canvas known school meet directors to see how we might enhance their programs.

ACTION: John to contact OTFA clubs in Northern Ontario and see if we may be able to increase local participation by providing funding for existing or new programs in the north.

10. Harassment: A current harassment concern from a member of an OTFA club is being dealt with by the club. Further action is not required by the OTFA unless satisfaction is not achieved through the club's initiative.

ACTION: John to make sure there is reference to the all appropriate OTFA Policy on our Website so clubs and members are aware of existing policy and available options when concerns arise. Reference should be made to the availability of complete Policy and Procedures manuals to clubs and members as required.

11. Appeals Process: The OTFA needs to make sure that current policies and procedures are followed in dealing with appeals and complaints. The OTFA needs to tighten up definitions of complaints and appeals to make sure due process is being applied.

ACTION: John and Val to re-examine current OTFA policies on Complaints and Appeals and perhaps consider the Athletics Canada models if appropriate. Val and John to make recommendations for changes if necessary.

12. Eastern Canada Series: Albert reported that there is lots of interest in this concept from other eastern provinces, but nobody prepared to commit money yet. Quebec has yet to respond, but Nova Scotia wants to be included.

The Series will be situated sometime between the track series in BC and the national series in middle of July. The Eastern Series will include prize money, four or five sites,

and prizes based on an accumulation of points. Each competition will be 1.5 to 2 hours long with 10-12 athletes competing in selected events.

AC has promised it would be involved, but the extent of their commitment is unclear.

Preliminary estimates suggest the OTFA will need to put some significant money into this to cover transportation, meals, accommodation, prize money etc.

13. Indoor 400m Tracks: While there is no specific schedule established yet, Esther Shiner Stadium in Toronto will get a bubble sometime this year. The OTFA should consider staging a competition there this winter, by the second week in February at the latest. The track has a 4 lane oval and 6 lane track straightaway. American universities will be sure to come to a competition like this as they can achieve qualifying marks on a track of this size.

The new facility in Ottawa is already up and running. There are some concerns about the status of the raised curb and, therefore, the measurement of the track.

Facility manager Andy McInnes has some ideas about use of this facility. They want to run some high-end meets, and the OTFA should consider sending some athletes if the weather is appropriate.

ACTION: Roman to ask Ottawa to clarify the situation re: curb.

14. AC Staff Changes: More valued employees at Athletics Canada have left to seek opportunities elsewhere. Possible reasons for this were discussed and possible actions considered.

15. Bingo: A review of the OTFA's eligibility to conduct a bingo has taken place and a new license has been granted with guidelines on how and where bingo proceeds are to be spent. These guidelines differ from previous ones and OTFA will now have to spend these lottery funds on programs as outlined in the agreement. Other sources of income will have to be spent on previously funded programs.

16. Snowmobile Association of Ontario: The OTFA Board supports the initiative by the Snowmobile Association of Ontario called Protect our Volunteers.

ACTION: John to correspond with the Snowmobile Association of Ontario and provide support as appropriate.

17. World Cross Country: The OTFA is in receipt of two letters from athletes who represented Canada at the World Cross Country Championships, thanking the OTFA for its support. Good to get this sort of feedback. A similar letter was also received by an athlete who attended the USA Indoor High School Track Championships in New York in the spring.

18. Cambridge Mile: While the OTFA endorses this meet and wishes it success, The OTFA cannot consider a request for a contribution to a bursary unless the meet is sanctioned.

The OTFA will consider a request to keep competition from other middle distance centered events to a minimum on the date of this event, but will make no guarantees as priority will be given to sanctioned competitions.

ACTION: John to respond to the Director of the Cambridge Mile, advising that we support the meet but can't participate in a non-sanctioned event.

19. 2006 Fixtures: The Board had a look at a preliminary fixtures list and discussed the philosophy of fixtures planning, with consideration that several competitions are not staged on the same weekend, and that the competitions don't run too late in the season.

ACTION - John to report to the Board on how many athletes we have registered in each age category – specifically the junior age division - and to have the information available for the next meeting.

ACTION: Roman to find out how many relays teams participate in OTFA relay competitions when the relay events are contested at different competitions throughout the summer as opposed to when we run a single relay meet.

20. Bids and Bidding Process for 2006 Championships: Some clubs have expressed an interest in hosting the 2006 Supermeet and Cross Country Championships. Roman suggested a final date for bids for these meets should be Sept. 30-Oct 1.

ACTION: Roman to send out a memo to all clubs asking for bids for all our competitions. If bids aren't forthcoming Roman will ask specific clubs or groups if they are interested.

ACTION: As part of the bid package Roman will outline the specific requirements and expectations of hosting such a championship.

ACTION: Roman to review and revise the policies regarding Championships, make sure the process is a formal one, and then make sure the guidelines are followed by the successful clubs. This agreement should form a major part of a proposed Meet Directors Handbook. The Ontario Masters have a Meet Directors Handbook that may be useful.

21. AGM Date for 2005: November 11-12, 2005 was set as the date for the OTFA AGM. The general format and time-lines will be the same as last year.

Options for making attendance at the AGM attractive were discussed including draw prizes and guest speakers.

ACTION: John to make sure agenda gets out in newsletter to see if we can attract more clubs.

ACTION: John to review possible topics for a lunchtime speaker, consider possible speakers and advise Board of options and ask for feedback.

22. Fee Structure for 2006: The Board opted for no fee changes this year.

While there may be additional membership costs associated with an on-line registration program, the status of that program is unclear and it seems appropriate to wait for the program to get up and running smoothly.

ACTION: John to make sure that some of the additional funding from the government is available if this online registration actually is up and running.

ACTION: John to ask Athletics Canada about the status of the National Database program and when we can expect delivery of the Beta program.

23. Ontario Summer Games: Roman reviewed the specifics about the OSG and reminded the Board that the OTFA has opted back into this competition. Format, age divisions and other logistics were discussed.

24. Other Business:

a) Retirement: John reminded the Board that Hazel will be retiring at the end of February, 2006. As programs in the office have changed, a replacement employee should have a different job description than the one Hazel is operating under. The Board was asked to consider a job description for the new employee, and to be involved in the hiring process.

ACTION: John to remind Board of Hazel's current job description and make some suggestions for changes. John to consult with Roman and Marc in terms of programs and future directions for a replacement and then send recommendations out to Board for consideration.

b) Athletics Canada Technical Congress: Roman wondered if Ontario should send delegates to this congress.

ACTION: Roman and Marc to liaise with respect to the Congress and determine who, if anyone should go representing the OTFA.

c) Sanctioning of non-registered events. Some groups and member clubs are not sending in non-registered fees and lists to the OTFA. Current guidelines need to be followed more closely. The OTFA should try to make the system easier for clubs to implement the program by putting our \$10.00 one day Membership form on the website and making sure it is as part of the entry kit on line.

Motion to Adjourn:

Christie and Stephens

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 p.m

**2005 JEUX CANADA GAMES ATHLETICS
PROVINCIAL RESULTS**

<u>MEN</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
ONTARIO	4036
ALBERTA	3796.5
SASKATCHEWAN	3711
QUEBEC	3683
BRITISH COLUMBIA	3203
MANITOBA	2999
NOVA SCOTIA	2713.5
NEW BRUNSWICK	2343
NEWFOUNDLAND	1895
YUKON	1072
PRINCE EDWARD IS	643
N.W.T.	150
AFTER	24 EVENTS
<u>WOMEN</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
ONTARIO	3893
SASKATCHEWAN	3585.5
QUEBEC	3578
ALBERTA	3480
BRITISH COLUMBIA	3261
MANITOBA	3047
NOVA SCOTIA	2429
NEW BRUNSWICK	2191.5
NEWFOUNDLAND	2030
PRINCE EDWARD IS	941
N.W.T.	208
YUKON	0
AFTER	23 EVENTS