

Athletics Manitoba

May 2017 President Report

There has been less activity than during the period leading up to our last board meeting. The Branch Council has been concerned about a proposal from AC, initiated by IAAF, to switch our national championships (senior and junior) from July to June. There is concern that July is already too soon to give athletes in the colder parts of the country a chance to prepare for the premier competition of the year. The reason that the IAAF wants June is because of potential conflicts with Diamond League and other international competitions. AC has suggested that we switch to June and the Branch Council has unanimously objected and asked for more consultation before a decision is made. For the next 2 years at least, the competition will be in July.

There is a companion issue about whether we should continue to hold seniors and juniors together, with many factors supporting each side of that decision. Having national junior championships in June would be manifestly unfair to high school student-athletes, who need to complete their final examinations near the end of June. Even early July is an onerous time for them.

These issues will be fully debated at the AGM meetings in Ottawa in early July, and Donna and I will be there to speak on behalf of our Manitoba Branch.

Preparations for the tri-province meet in mid-July, the Canada Summer Games at the end of July and into August, and the Legion championships in Brandon in mid-August all seem to be progressing well, and the necessary officials appear to be available and committed to make all of these competitions possible. Our success in staging these events will be a springboard for our ability to host future national meets. Our office staff have put in long hours to make sure that things go as smoothly as possible and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Our entire executive is up for re-election at this year's AGM and it remains to be seen who will run against them for our board. While continuity is a positive element, getting fresh ideas and more people involved is also important. Hopefully our membership will strike the right balance. We hope as many stakeholders as possible will attend our AGM on June 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Sport Manitoba.

Grant Mitchell, AM Board president