

# N O C N O C

## NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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### Call for Nominations

The following two NOC positions, with terms that run from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2010, are open for new appointments or for the re-appointment of the incumbents.

- Vice-chair Communications
- Vice-chair Directory and Upgrading

If you meet the criteria, please consider letting your name stand for nomination.

- Nominees must be an Athletics Canada member in good standing
- Nominees must be an active, registered level 4 or 5 official

For more information about the criteria, please go to: <http://www.athletics.ca/page.asp?id=202>. The page you reach contains links to the Portfolio Summaries and the Athletics Canada Committee Nomination Form. It should be kept in mind that re-assignment of portfolios may take place, depending on the particular skills and interests of the candidates appointed.

Please forward the completed form to:  
David Weicker,  
Nominations Committee Chair, NOC  
1049 Mallard Place  
Qualicum Beach BC V9K 1E8  
phone: (250) 752-7234 e-mail: [dweicker@shaw.ca](mailto:dweicker@shaw.ca)

The form must be postmarked or e-mailed dated no later than January 31, 2008. Electronic nomination forms should be sent by the nominator. David will confirm receipt with all nominees.

### National Upgradings

The fall meeting of the National Officials' Committee was held in mid-November, which was a little later than usual. A large number of applications were considered for national upgrading and ten officials were upgraded to level 4 and six to level 5.

Congratulations are extended to:

Louise Buskas	AB	U-4
Bing Chu	SK	VJ-4
Peter Hesketh	AB/BC	FRT-4
Michel Latulippe	QC	U-4
Aileen Lingwood	BC	HJ-4
Michelle Peacock	BC	HJ4
Ann Ramsden	AB	HJ-4
Jacques Richer	QC	HJ-4
Wally Smeaton	BC	SA-4
Serge Turgeon	QC	T-4
Tom Boyce	NS	U-5
Joan Cowden	BC	SA-5
Cecile Lefebvre	QC	TR-5
Jim Partaker	MB	U-5
Estella Rung	AB	FRT-5
Janet Slocombe	ON	HJ-5

At the meeting, Jennifer Campbell, Vice-chair Directory and Upgrading, commented that many of the upgrading requests were missing pieces of required information. In an effort to help overcome this problem, she plans to prepare a sheet that will set out how the upgrading applications should be filled out.

### NOC's Fall meeting

The minutes of the fall meeting held in Winnipeg on the weekend of November 16 to 18, 2007 are now available on the Athletics Canada website. Some points of interest are listed below.

- Most Level 4 Clinics have now been updated to the recent rules and put into PowerPoint format. It is expected that these clinics will be distributed to branches in April 2008.
- Four officials travelled to the Canadian Juniors in Abbotsford, BC, and nine to the Canadian Seniors/Paralympic Championships in Windsor, ON, with NOC assistance. The technical delegates at these meets were Elaine Lake (Seniors) and David Weicker (Juniors).
- Canadian ITO assignments: Jane Edstrom – 2007 World Championships, Osaka Japan.

- Canadian ATO assignments: David Weicker – 2007 Pan American Juniors, Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- NOC is continuing to assist the Atlantic Provinces identify officials who are qualified to work at the upcoming Canadian and World Championships in 2009 and 2010.
- Fifteen mentorings took place at the Canadian Seniors and 12 at the Juniors.

## Changes to Race Walk Upgrading Criteria

Concern has been expressed by several officials about the difficulties associated with obtaining race walk credits and mentorings. As many meets in Canada do not hold the event, the chances of earning credits are slim. In an effort to alleviate this problem, the National Officials' Committee has changed its upgrading requirements for the various race walk levels.

The following credit system for race walks was approved by NOC and will take effect in January, 2008:

- Local/Regional/Provincial meets = one credit per race to a maximum of two per day
- National (N) meet = two credits per race to a maximum of four per day
- National Championships (NC) = two credits per race to a maximum of four per day
- The credits required for each level will remain the same
- The mentorship requirement for walks judges will be amended to read:
  - Level 3 – one mentoring
  - Level 4 – one mentoring (must be different from the mentor at level 3)
  - Level 5 – two mentorings

## IAAF Rule Changes

For a summary of the more important IAAF rule changes, please go to the Officials' page (General Information) on the Athletics Canada website. Click on the link to "IAAF Rule Changes for 2008." The detailed rule changes can be found at <http://www.iaaf.org/newsfiles/41945.pdf>. The Officials' page also contains a link to the IAAF *Competition Rules 2008-2009*.

### More from the IAAF

Daniel Michaud has been assigned to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing as Assistant-chief walks judge.

## Canadian Track and Field Championships

As part of her duties as the technical delegate for the Canadian Track and Field Championships (Canadian Seniors), Elaine Lake prepared a report on the meet held in Windsor this past summer. Some of the comments from that report are listed below.

- This was the first time that we had full integration with the Canadian Paralympic athletes and although there were many benefits it did cause some problems.
- The results area was handled extremely well although it was complicated because of the integration and the number of classifications.
- A good job was done in the area by the technical manager [and] equipment was readily available. Storage for wheelchairs was a problem.
- Facilities and equipment were excellent.
- The athlete control centre had a few problems because the warm-up area was on the inside track.
- The local organizing committee provided excellent hospitality every evening after the meet ended and all officials were included.
- Scheduling was poor as far as the organizers were concerned and they felt the local organizers should have had more control as they know the events that local spectators enjoy.
- Funding was a huge problem for the organizers.

## From the Mailbox

The last issue of *NOC NOC* described an incident in which a runner was disqualified for delay but the field was not charged with a false start. Four of our officials responded to that scenario and although this situation has now been covered by the addition to Rule 162.5, the comments could still be of interest.

### *Peter Hocking*

A similar situation occurred at the Canadian Seniors in Windsor where one of our top 100-metre hurdlers was extremely slow reacting to the set command in her heat. After some discussion between the track referees and the starters, we came up with two suggestions. First, the chief starter agreed that he would speak to the athlete privately prior to the final (which, by the way, seemed to solve the problem). Second, if the athlete were to delay the start, the starter could stand up the runners and ask the track referee to show the offending athlete a yellow card for unsportsmanlike conduct (Rule 125-4). If the tactic was repeated the athlete would be shown a red card by the referee. Hopefully, this could be a potential solution for the athlete who intentionally tries to disadvantage the other competitors.

*Ken Lake*

I would have said “Stand Up” and warned the athlete involved that if she did not come to the set position more quickly then she would be disqualified. In that way she would not be putting the other competitors at a disadvantage. It wasn’t reasonable to assume that she was deliberately trying to set off the other competitors to false start. Over my many years as a starter I have seen a good many athletes who take longer to come to their set positions. By warning the athlete, you are not putting the other competitors at a disadvantage.

*Elaine Lake*

Here is a situation from the 2005 Junior Pan Ams in Windsor Ontario where I was the starts referee. After the starter had said “Set” and was about to fire the gun, one of the runners during the final of the men’s 100 metres stood up and put up his hand. At that point, two of the starter’s assistants told me that this particular athlete had done the same thing earlier in the heats. I approached the athlete and asked what the problem was. He replied: “I am not ready.” I told him that he had done the same thing in the morning and if he did it again he would be disqualified. After that warning he didn’t try it in the 200 metres and was ready when the rest of the field were in their set position.

*Doug Kyle*

The starter assumed that the athlete was “trying to put all other runners at a disadvantage.” This is just an assumption. If she had wanted to do that all she had to do was false start herself. I think the starter was too harsh and that a yellow card would have been fairer – signifying a false start to that lane. If the athlete delayed a second time, then disqualify her.

**Rule 162.5 (as in the 2006-2007 rulebook)**

On the command “On your marks” or “Set,” as the case may be, all athletes shall at once and without delay assume their full and final set position.

**Addition to Rule 162.5 in the 2008-2009 rulebook**

When an athlete, after the command “On your marks” or “Set,” and before the report of the gun or approved starting apparatus, causes the start to be aborted, for instance by raising a hand and/or standing in the case of a crouch start, without a valid reason, (such reason to be evaluated by the relevant Referee), the Referee will warn him for improper conduct.

*Note: In this case, as well as when an extraneous reason was considered to be the cause for aborting the start, a green card shall be shown to all the athletes to indicate that a false start was not committed.*

## National Officials Committee

### CHAIR

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