

N O C N O C

NATIONAL OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 3

October 2008

N.O.C. Chair Report

The National Officials Committee (N.O.C.) consists of seven members who meet twice a year. The committee sets policy for and oversees the education and upgrading of National (level 4) and International (level 5) athletics officials. The committee keeps a directory of officials from all provinces for levels 3 (provincial), 4 and 5. It also assists meet officials coordinators with the selection of officials for all Athletics Canada sanctioned meets. Using a "nearest and best" criteria, NOC's goal is to see that each National Championship is staffed with the most qualified Canadian officials as possible.

NOC puts out two newsletters annually to keep officials abreast of the news in Canadian officiating and of rule changes and rule interpretations. This year the newsletter is being distributed by email to save mailing costs.

The IAAF oversees an international (ITO) and area (ATO) technical officials program. Canada has two ITO's (Alice Kubek and Jane Edstrom) and two ATO's (David Weicker and Dennis Beerling). This year, Jane attended the World Junior Championships in Poland as an ITO and Alice went to Stuttgart for an IAAF final competition in September. Because of our high quality of officials, IAAF has seen fit to allow NOC to administer the NTO (National Technical Official) program in Canada. There are 11 referees in Canada that have been certified as NTO's. Recently Athletics Canada has used some of the ATO's and NTO's to act as technical delegates for the National Championships.

IAAF also certifies international walks panel judges. Daniel Michaud is on the international panel and Peter Hocking and Luigi Giordano are area panel judges. Daniel was named assistant walks referee for the 2008 Olympics.

The NOC education program has 55 national clinicians spread across the country who can give clinics in the various track and field disciplines. The NOC has been working for the past two years at updating our clinics in twelve disciplines to a power point format and these

were distributed to Branch Officials Chairs in April 2008.

Upgrading of an official's certification is a prime focus for NOC. There are just over 100 national mentor/evaluator officials in Canada that are able to conduct mentorings with our officials. The National Junior and Senior meets are important to officials as an opportunity for gaining experience at a high level competition and for testing an official's ability to act as a referee or chief of national event.

In 2009 PEI will host the Canada Games. There are no certified athletics officials in this province. Although there has been some attempt to recruit officials, the time has been too short to develop the numbers required for this event. Hopefully the event organizers have included in their budget a plan to bring in qualified officials from the other Atlantic provinces as well as Quebec and if need be, Ontario.

The World Juniors will be hosted by New Brunswick in 2010. NOC member Leroy Washburn is assisting with officials' clinics and officials upgrading for this event. We hope that by that date the Atlantic Provinces will be able to supply the bulk of officials for this meet.

Awards 2007

A.C. Wall of Honour

Three officials were named to the Athletics Canada Wall of Honour. All three award winners are experienced and well respected by their colleagues across Canada.

Barrie Callaway began his starting career in Australia. In 1969, he came to Canada and set up residence in Calgary. He continued his love of starting by officiating and training new starters throughout Alberta. He enjoys working at all levels of meets and sharing his great wealth of knowledge on starting. Barrie has officiated for the last 39 years! Barrie served as Branch Officials Chair from 1973 to 1977, has conducted numerous starting clinics as well as mentoring many officials. He

has been a contributor to the NOC NOC newsletter and to Alberta Officials' Bulletin.

Jane Edstrom has been an official for 29 years in athletics. She is an IAAF International Technical Official, one of two in Canada. She earned this honour in the fall of 2005. Jane has served on Manitoba Track and Field Officials Association and Athletics Canada's NOC in numerous executive positions. She is currently serving as NOC's Vice Chair: Meet assignments. Jane is also a board member of Sports Officials Canada since its inception in 2004 and is a National level volleyball official.

Jane has worked on the NOC National Level 4 Officials clinics, conducted clinics on throws as well as mentored many officials. She has worked all levels of meets during her career as an official.

Keith Newell has been an athletics official for over 35 years. He has served as chair of the BC Athletics Officials Committee and is currently the Chair of the National Officials Committee. Keith has been very active in the development of the NOC clinic material for Mentors and as well for all the NOC National Level 4 Officials clinics.

As an official he has worked every level of competition, from local school meets to top international championships. Keith's expertises are in the areas of Starter's Assistant, Track Referee, Starter, Umpire, Mentor, Clinician and Meet Director. He is also a NTO.

A.C. Official of the Year award was presented to **Jane Edstrom** of Manitoba.

Provincial Officials of the Year

BC	Diana Hollerfreund
AB	Bud McInnis
MB	Richard Winton
ON	Darryl Snyder
QC	Jacques Richer
NB	Richard Chadwick

Congratulations to all award winners.

Spring N.O.C. Meeting Summary

(The complete minutes are available at <http://www.athletics.ca/main.asp>)

The Spring N.O.C. meeting was held in April, 2008 with eight provincial chairs in attendance. Branch Chairs met independently on Friday and then joined the N.O.C. for the remainder of the weekend.

Branch Chair Concerns:

1. Concern was expressed that Canadian officials not

lose the opportunity to chief or referee at Canadian meets as happened in Windsor 2007, when U.S. officials were assigned to these positions.

2. Officials Coordinators of Championship meets follow the NOC Guidelines for Official's Coordinators with reference to travel to these meets.

3. Communication: The email distribution of NOC-NOC was a good idea. It is still a bit difficult to find information on the Officials section of the Athletics Canada website.

4. The requirement that 8 meet credits after a clinic for level 4 upgrading was questioned and suggested that this could be eliminated. It was explained that the reason for this requirement was to allow the official to put into practice the lessons learned at the clinic. This issue will be discussed by NOC in the fall.

Motion Passed

In response to the issue raised by the Branch Officials Chairs (see #1 above), a motion was passed to add to the NOC Handbook in section 5.1.3 c ii and d ii for chiefs and referees, include the phrase "and residents of Canada".

N and NC Meet Designations

Meets for upgrading from 2007, 2008 and some for 2009 are listed in the minutes.

Officials Travel

After receiving lists from Branch Officials Chairs and consulting with Meet Officials Coordinators, a travel list is compiled annually to assist with travel to the Senior and Junior Championships. Twelve out-of-province officials travelled with NOC funding in 2007:

(BC 2; AB 2; SK 1; MB 2; ON 1; PQ 1, NB 3)

Fifteen out-of-province officials travelled with NOC funding in 2008:

(BC 4; AB 3; SK 4; PQ 3; NB 1)

Upgrades for Spring 2008

Congratulations to the following people who have successfully upgraded their officiating credentials:

Leo Shapiro, ON	Umpire 5
John Caufield, ON	Horizontal Jumps 5
Shawn MacFarlane, ON	Photo Finish National
Jack Leman, AB	Track Referee 4
Cathy Simpson, AB	Umpire 4
Richard Stocker, NB	Starters Asst. 4
Janice Loewen, BC	Umpire 4

Canadian Championships Report

Elaine Lake, Technical Delegate, reports that this was the second year the Senior Championship meet was fully integrated and as a result, things ran a little easier for everyone. This year, the majority of track events for the Disabilities were held on the Thursday, before the main part of the Championship started. This was much better for everyone. The meet director for the disabilities also provided each official with the 2008 updated IPC book.

Highlights of the report:

The Officials working the meet were well qualified. The results were handled extremely well. Food services were open most of the time so officials could get a meal when they were free. Too many red armbands at the finish line! Referees should remove their armband when they are not working. The indoor track adjacent to the track made an excellent warm-up area. Future meets are reminded that the Call Room requires a very large space to accommodate wheelchairs as well as able bodied athletes. Combined events should have two referees present and a separate rest area should be provided for these athletes.

Is a Start Coordinator Needed?

As you know, the position of Start Coordinator was brought into the IAAF list of officials some time ago. The duties are outlined under Rule 129.1.

For many years in Canada, all of these duties except 129.1(c) have been carried out by the Chief Starter. The duty listed under 129.1(c) (informing the Starter that all areas are ready for the start) has been under control of the Chief Starter's Assistant. This has always worked well at Canadian meets. This "Canadian" system was, in fact, approved by the IAAF at World Championships in 2001 in Edmonton when the Chief Starter's Assistant continued to cover 1(c) of the duties. Because of the successful working of the "Canadian" system, the Start Coordinator position has always been a bit of a "fifth wheel" for the Starting Team.

Recently, the relevance and need for the Start Coordinator position was discussed with a number of Starters, ITO's and ATO's. It was concluded that the Start Coordinator position was adequately covered by the Chief Starter and the Chief Starter's Assistant and there is no need to appoint a Start Coordinator.

As a result of this discussion, the National Officials Committee recommends that there will not be a Start Coordinator position assigned at any Athletics Canada sanctioned meet where a qualified Chief Starter and Chief Starter's Assistant are in place. This will include

all Canadian Championships and Games. The Chief Starter will cover the duties outlined in 129.1 (a,b,d,e,f) and the Chief Starter's Assistant will do the duties outlined in the rules as well as 129.1(c). This recommendation will be presented to the A.C. Rules Committee for consideration.

Summer Clinics and Mentorings

Serge Thibaudeau reports six clinics were given at Canadian Championships this summer. Umpire, Starter, Throws Judge, Throws and Jumps Referee were presented in Windsor. A Start Clinic was also given in Abbotsford at Canadian Juniors.

Bud McInnes had a busy summer with 33 mentorings being done at the 4 major meets. Bud would like to remind Branch Officials Chairs to follow NOC guidelines for level 4 and 5 mentoring; do not arrange a mentorship yourself, but identify the official and suggest the meet for the mentoring and send it to him to organize.

Asking for a Mentoring? Here's what you should know...

*Your **Branch Officials Chair** must contact the NOC Vice-Chair-Mentoring at least one month before the meet

*Your **Branch Officials Chair** needs to identify and prioritize those officials who want to be mentored and provide the following information:

1. discipline/level sought
2. official's contact information
3. the meet and the mentors used for the official's current level (3 or 4).

***You and the mentor** should receive each other's contact information. This will allow you and the mentor to discuss their expectations as well as your expectations.

***You** should arrive at the meet prepared to be in charge and ready to demonstrate and discuss the preparations you have made.

***Both you and the mentor** should get together during the meet to discuss how things are going.

* **You and the mentor** have a final meeting to discuss the results and any recommendations.

* The **mentor** will report back to NOC Vice-Chair and Branch Officials Chairs to confirm that the mentoring took place, and that it was complete or incomplete.

What's your ruling?

1. At the start of a relay at the provincial championships, the Starter's Assistant received a request from one team's lead-off runner that he/she wanted to wear gloves. What do you say?

2. After a vault, the crossbar in a pole vault popped off one of the pegs but remained up, resting on one peg and the top of the upright. The athlete insisted it was a fair jump since the crossbar had not come down. What do you say?

3. At discus, the thrower drops a white towel on the ground behind the circle but inside the cage before stepping into the circle. What do you say?

Have any interesting rules related problems?
(Email your answers and queries to knewell@telus.net)

2008 Rule Books

You may have noticed that this year's rule book is dated for only one year. Paul Hardy at IAAF has informed us that we can expect quite a number of rule changes next year and that was the reason a one year book was published.

A Reminder to Officials

Please be sure you keep your meet record cards up to date and signed. Photocopies or the original cards must accompany your NOC upgrading application request. The next deadline date for upgrade application requests is March 31, 2009. Please forward your submission to your Branch Officials Chair at least three weeks before this deadline date.

Contact NOC Members

Email any questions, comments or feedback to:

Keith Newell, Chair & Communications
<knewell@telus.net>

Jennifer Campbell, Upgrading and Directory
<je_camp@shaw.ca>

Jane Edstrom, Meet Assignments & Communications
<janeedstrom@mts.net>

Bud McInnis, Officials Development – Mentoring
<dsmcinnis@yahoo.com>

Serge Thibaudeau, Officials Development – Clinics
<sthibaudeau@athletisme.qc.ca>

LeRoy Washburn, Awards and Retention
<leroyw@nb.sympatico.ca>

David Weicker, Past Chair
<dweicker@shaw.ca>