

May 15, 2025

Athletics Manitoba - Masters Committee Report

- 1.) Based on AM membership reports, there were 102 registered Masters members in Manitoba. There were 499 MRA Masters Athletes including 39 AM members.
- 2.) WMA Indoor Championships were held in Gainesville, Florida – March 23-March 30. There were over 3000 athletes from around the world including just over 200 from Canada and 6 from Manitoba. There were some outstanding performances including a Bronze medal for Byron Goodwin in the M50 – 400M; Silver Relay medals for Greg Athayde, Claude Faucher and Omena Babalola. Johnny Coffin, Ken Friesen rounded out the provincial athletes and had season best performances. (See summary below)
- 3.) 48 Individual and 10 Relay Provincial Masters Indoor records were set this past season.
- 4.) The 2025 Outdoor season began with the AM Spring Open this past weekend, with around 25 Masters athletes participating in individual and relay events. Gord Flett has been tireless in his efforts to recruit people to run relay races. Hopefully we can include some mixed relay races (although the official rules are currently a bit stringent on team makeup).
- 5.) The Manitoba 55+ Games will be held on June 3-5. We have been approached by the organizers for assistance. The 2026 Canada 55+ Games were supposed to be held in Winnipeg but apparently have been postponed to 2028 due to funding challenges and growth in participation.
- 6.) AC Letter to CMA from Mat Gentes – Transitioning responsibilities for age group athletics in Canada (aka: Masters Athletics) under the Athletics Canada umbrella.
 - a. A formal letter terminating the agreement effective December 31, 2025 has been received by the CMA Board.
 - b. CMA members have been notified of this change, with trepidation being expressed by some members.
 - c. The CMA has formed a working committee and are committed to work collaboratively with AC on this transition. While there are still several details to be discussed, the CMA Board remains fully engaged in their current role. We are working collaboratively with AC to ensure that current services will continue, and any transition of services is as seamless as possible.
 - d. AC has proposed several initiatives, including the creation of a full-time staff position dedicated to supporting and coordinating masters athletics, as well as the establishment of an AC Masters Committee focused on strategy, programming and service delivery.
- 7.) The AM Masters committee is continuing to look at ways to recruit Masters athletes, improve communications and provide information on training options for Masters Athletes.

Greg Athayde
AM Masters Committee Chair
CMA Provincial Director for Manitoba

World Masters Indoor Championships – MB Results:

Omena Babalola – 60M – 9.85

Omena Babalola – 200M – 34.23

Claude Faucher – 200M – 27.10 – PR

Bryon Goodwin – 400M 54.57 – Final – 55.08 Bronze

Claude Faucher – 400M – 1:00.15 – PR (Tie)

Greg Athayde – 400M – 1:00.16 – Final – 1:00.03 5th

Ken Friesen – 400M – 1:07.69

Claude Faucher – 800M – 2:16.98

Greg Athayde – 800M – 2:18.67 – Final – 2:16.37 4th

Ken Friesen – 800M – 2:41.63

John Coffin – 1500M – 4:20.3 – PR – Final – 4:21.49 11th

Ken Friesen – 1500M – 5:35.0 – Final – DNS

Mixed 55 4x200 – Omena Babalola, Claude Faucher – 1:55.14 – Silver – CR

Men 55 4x200 – Claude Faucher – 1:45.51 – Silver

Men 60 4x200 – Greg Athayde – 1:48.23 – Silver – CR