

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This marks my second year as president of Saskatchewan Athletics. It has been another busy but successful indoor season. Saskatchewan athletes continue to achieve and succeed. I want to congratulate the numerous athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers for their commitment and dedication to track and field. Clubs, coaches and officials continue to ensure the events are successful. I would also like to thank the board for their hard work and dedication they have shown this year. I look forward to a very successful outdoor season as well.

Sask Athletics continues to thrive and this is only possible due to the hard work and dedication of the many members in the association. The office staff is working hard to ensure the organization provides opportunities for athletes, coaches and officials. I encourage all members of Sask Athletics to take advantage of the many opportunities available during the upcoming outdoor season. Our programs have developed so much this year that as a board and with consultation with the office staff we have hired an additional staff member. This position is held by Sarah Junkin as she will be heading up our Run Jump Throw Wheel program solely. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jill George as our new Program Co-ordinator.

Sask Athletics continues to work hard to recruit athletes, coaches and officials. As the outdoor season arrives, I encourage anyone reading this message to thank the next coach, official or office staff member that they see. Let them know that they are appreciated. Without their commitment and dedication, we would not have track here in Saskatchewan.

Information about the programs, competitions, results, rankings and much more can be found on the Sask Athletics website at <http://saskathletics.ca/>. Sask Athletics information and highlights can also be found on Twitter.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all members of Sask Athletics the best in the 2017 outdoor season. As well, I want to thank all members for your commitment and dedication to the sport of Track and Field in Saskatchewan.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Saskatchewan Athletics continues to offer programs for the development of athletes, coaches and officials. This is largely due to stable funding from Sask Sport and the support we receive from our sponsors such as Brainsport, Jones-Konihowski Enterprises, Track and Trail along with a number of self-help initiatives.

Please help me welcome Jill George as our new Program Coordinator and welcome back Sarah Junkin in the role of RJTW Coordinator. Jill is working hard to get to know all of you and so please be patient while she learns the ropes. Our Run Jump Throw Wheel program is entering its 14th year. Sarah is working hard setting up clinics and school visits. We recently conducted RJTW Instructor training and certified extra instructors so they may be called upon when needed to conduct clinics for Saskatchewan Athletics.

Congratulations, to all the athletes on their medals won or records set this past indoor season and good luck this summer.

The annual Legion Track and Field Camp will be held in Saskatoon, July 4-8 with the National Youth Championships scheduled in Brandon, MB, Aug 11-13. Again, as we did last year we established a funding standard to these Championships similar to the Junior/Senior program that assists athletes to travel to Nationals. We are still committed to supporting the provincial camp, but want to make sure that all athletes have some way of attending nationals if they cannot attend the camp.

Our Road Race Series gets under way on May 13, in Regina. The Provincial series ends in Yorkton, August 20 with the Provincial 10km Road Championships taking place. All members who have a full membership who participate in the Road Race Series will earn points towards the overall Series or accumulate points toward their age group. Please check our web site for the rules and more information on this program. The road race calendars are out in the community now.

The Officials continue to recruit and train new officials in this province. We support this process and if necessary assist with their travel within Canada for upgrading or mentoring. Many of our officials will be busy this summer helping out in Manitoba. Our recognition program for Saskatchewan Athletics Officials is a success and it is just a small way of saying thank you. If you wish to get involved please contact the office and if you have any questions, please contact the SOC Chair, Brenda O'Connor.

The North American Indigenous Games take place this summer in Toronto. The team is training hard to get ready for these games. The First Nation Summer Games are well underway with the development of these games. They will take place from Aug 6-10 in Regina, for athletics. We wish everyone the best of luck as they prepare.

The building of the team has begun for the 2017 Canada Summer Games that will take place in Winnipeg, from July 28 - August 13. Good luck to all the athletes and may you have pb's in all your events.

As we prepare for the summer, I would like to wish good luck to all our Saskatchewan Athletes as they prepare for the National Championship. Congratulation's, if you are selected to a national team this summer.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Saskatchewan Athletics continues the annual clinic delivery program for middle-year and high school aged athletes. Requests are usually booked for the months of April and May, as this matches the Saskatchewan High School track & field season. The invitation to start booking clinics was sent out to last year's schools in January. Currently there are 19 schools booked. The delivery model allows schools to book half day or full day clinics, schools can book a one-time clinic or book multiple clinics. Our clinics provide an opportunity for mentorship of local coaches, teachers, and community leaders along with quality technical instruction in urban, rural, and northern regions of the province.

Invitations were sent out to 85 athletes in late October for the Sask Excellence Program. The top three athletes were identified for each event in each age class from the 2016 indoor/outdoor rankings. A total of 67 athletes, 26 midgets and 41 youth, joined the 2017 program. Athletes that joined the program received a water bottle, t-shirt, certificate, a discount to attend Spring Camp and a chance to compete at Tri Province. The purpose of this program is to identify younger athletes to give them opportunities that help nourish their development in the sport.

The annual Spring Camp will be held April 22-23, 2017 in Saskatoon at the Field house. Registered athletes will enjoy four training sessions, meals and accommodations at the Park Town Hotel and a Sport Medicine & Science session. Spring Camp is intended for athletes in the grades 9-12 that reside in rural communities. The camp accommodates up to 45 athletes yearly.

The 2017 Midget and Youth teams will be confirmed by June 16, 2017. Saskatchewan Athletics plans to send two full teams for midget and youth to Tri Province. Tri Province will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba from July 14-16, 2017. Most of the team will be made up of Sask Excellence athletes that declared their intentions and paid the trip fees prior to the deadline. The rest of the team will be selected at the Saskatchewan Athletics Provincial Championship on June 10-11, 2017 in Regina.

Coach development remains to be a priority at Saskatchewan Athletics. For the first time ever, Saskatchewan Athletics hosted a One-day Teacher Sport Coach Course. This course is shortened from the regular Sport Coach Course and is envisioned for educators. The morning of the course covers theory and the afternoon of the course the group picks one event area to cover. The first delivery of this course took place on April 1, 2017 in Dalmeny. The course was delivered through a partnership with the Central Valley Athletic Conference. A total of 12 educators attended the course and are now partially trained in the National Coaching Certification Program. There is also a Club Coach Course planned on April 28-30, 2017 in Saskatoon. This is the first time the course will be delivered in two years. Lastly, there is a Sport Coach Course planned for May 12-14, 2017 in Regina. Communication on upcoming coaching courses is posted on the Sask Athletics website, newsletters, social media outlets and emails to club contacts.

For more information about these programs, contact Saskatchewan Athletics.

RUN JUMP THROW WHEEL COORDINATOR

Program Description

Athletics Canada First Contact Programs objective seeks to engage 500,000 kids (aged 6-14) annually in Athletics related events and programs. Regionally, Saskatchewan Athletics has successfully delivered the program for twelve years. Based on current distribution of youth populations in Canada, the target for Saskatchewan will be 20,000 participants in the year 2020 and given current reality of building towards that goal over the next several years, 2017 interim target is 12,000 kids. While Run Jump Throw Wheel (RJTW) remains the primary vehicle through a network of delivery partners for First Contact Programming, the goal is to connect with any opportunity to introduce kids to our sport.

In 2017, continued programming along with several new and restructured initiatives are underway. Clinic delivery program continues with 16 RJTW spring clinics booked in Beechy, Kyle, Dinsmore, Hepburn, Borden, Outlook, Glaslyn, Saskatoon and Regina.

Annual spring school RJTW programming restructured via grant application funding to increase reach into Saskatoon and Regina elementary schools primarily targeting community/Dream Broker schools where children are in need of sport opportunity. Program takes place from May 1-June 2 and is offered to 40 schools (19 schools booked in Saskatoon and 11 in Regina to-date). Participating schools receive a half-day school visit including a talk provided by a motivation speaker (Olympian/Paralympian/HP athlete), followed with hired RJTW instructors leading play-grid/obstacle course for participating classrooms for the remainder of the half-day booking (target grades 1-6). In 2016, 5 Regina and 4 Saskatoon schools booked the past program delivery model. 2017 reach is expected to be enhanced from 1,202 to as many as 9,000 participants.

Saskatchewan Athletics continues growth via partnership and at special events. In 2017, attended Canada 150/Jeux de Canada Games Showcase event; 3rd Biannual Community Association Networking Tradeshow, Saskatoon; Tradeshow booths at Saskatoon Marathon and SPEA Conference; RJTW “try-it” play-grids held in partnership at Montgomery Place Community Association Easter Event, and with Saskatoon Marathon via MaraFun and Queen City Marathon via the McDonalds Mini Marathon). Community Association partnerships with RJTW spring programming (Lakeview & Adelaide Park Churchill CA).

NCCP RJTW instructor and teacher coaching courses continue to be offered. Courses have been delivered for Jumpstart Sask Sport INC. Afterschool inaugural program leaders/mentors; to teachers and non-teachers at annual March delivery; to physical education teachers at May 12 SPEA Conference; expected training for 155 City of Saskatoon summer hired employees (outreach to 130,000 children expected to register in summer programming), and for summer camp staff at both University of Saskatchewan and University of Regina (outreach to thousands of children registered in programming).

Coach Developer capacity building underway with 4 RJTW leaders working towards certification in roles of Learning Facilitator and Coach Evaluator; 3 Sport Coach/Club Coach leaders working towards Learning Facilitator or Coach Evaluator roles. Core training was attended in February and Content-Specific training took place in Regina and Winnipeg in April. Next steps include co-facilitation/co-evaluation and observation for certification in these roles.