

SASKATCHEWAN OFFICIALS' COUNCIL

The season was abruptly ended at the end of February so a number of plans for some officials to be mentored and attend the Level 3 exam had to be suspended.

One Hundred and seventeen officials registered with Sask Athletics in 2020. This is a 20 percent reduction over last year. There are 39 Level 1, 29 Level 2, 22 Level 3, 13 Level 4 and 14 Level 5. The reduced numbers are found in the Level 1 numbers. Numbers for the other levels are consistent with previous years. The Level 1 numbers were reduced by approx. 50%. This can be explained by the season being cut short and a number of Level 1 clinics had to be cancelled.

Level 1 clinic were conducted on 3 dates in January in Saskatoon with 15 participants. Other dates had been organized but had to cancel.

In January, a NOC training session was held to train officials to be Provincial mentors. It was held in Saskatoon with 14 participants. This is the first step in the NOC new mentoring program. Plans had been made to have other sessions in Regina as well as for the summer season; but these are on hold. Saskatchewan held one the first sessions in Canada, so our participants provided NOC with valuable feedback for the new Mentoring course.

The indoor season completed 7 competitions where a number of mentorships occurred, as planned. One level 5, one level four, 4 level three and 2 level two. Many other mentoring sessions and travel plans to the World Master Championships (17 Sask officials invited) had been and were in preliminary stages when all the COVID cancellations came about.

In March, one successful upgrading application was submitted to NOC: congratulations to Don Hedman attaining Level 4 HJ.

In June we had been invited to participate in the SHSAA "Youth Officials Conference" the conference provided an opportunity for high school students to explore their interests in officiating and to develop officiating skills, but unfortunately has been postponed.

The National Officials Committee (NOC), with feedback from the provincial official committees has been busy completing the Level 1 & 2 on-line courses, preparing the "Back on Track" document with the Covid-19 guidelines for returning to competition and presenting webinars on various topics. The webinars were available to all officials across the country from May thru August. NOC has a new Chair - Jane Edstrom from Manitoba.

Saskatchewan working with The National Officials Education committee reviewed the National Combined Events clinic materials for updating the clinic resources. At the Provincial level, a reviewed the SA Official Event Instruction Folders for new protocols and rules was also completed.

Laura and I along with SaskSport printing services worked to produce and distribute across Sask & Canada the new 2019-2020 World Athletic Rule Books. We also have replenished and added a new incentive: the "Rainwriter" clipboards which were distributed to many

SASKATCHEWAN OFFICIALS' COUNCIL

deserving officials before the season shutdown. The official's database was updated to ensure that officials are receiving their correct incentives.

Congratulations to the following officials who were recognized for Officiating awards: Crystal Fenton and Sherwin Machiskinic (Bob Adams Foundation) and Ron Boden (Sask Athletics Award) and Dennis Beerling (K of C Jurgen Wittenberg Award).

Other officials who met milestones for years of service this year. Many thanks to the following officials for their years of dedication to officiating; Sharon Tkachuk 50yrs, Virginia Gray 30yrs, Ken McKechney, Monte Johnstone & Karen Johnstone 25yrs, Cora Andreas, Sharon Arndt & Claudette McCormick 20yrs, Dave Elder, Mark Gilchrist & Karen Wharington 15yrs and Mary-Stewart Torrie, Kyle Williams, Tim Ziegler & Matthew Cote 10yrs.

I want to again thank my committee members Ken McKechney (L1 & 2 officials coordinator) who works closely with the Saskatoon event coordinators; Don Hedman, Shirley Leung, Marg Hucul & Theresa Laroque. Rhonda Tremblay is heading up the officials' clinics and educational opportunities; Mary-Stewart Torrie is overseeing up-grading responsibilities. Alan Brown is our rep and contact in Regina for all inquiries. Kristin Ottenbriet and Sharon Arndt have come on to help with out-reach to younger officials and Aboriginal officials.