

## **TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP**

**FRIDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

### **MEETING NOTE**

- Group observed a minutes' silence in memory of John Lofts.
- Chair welcomed Arwel Williams to his first meeting.
- Succession planning for future TAG members to be discussed at next meeting
- Length of competition day for officials. This matter is being dealt with in a wider context through the Competition Strategy Group but also the impact on officials at the England Age Group Championships recently requires a target discussion.
- Restricting officials to one discipline for national meetings needs further consideration.
- Pam Brown won Development Official of the Year Award at Sports Officials UK Dinner. Warmest congratulations offered.
- Angus Cameron won Technical Official of the Year Award from SportScotland. Warmest congratulations offered.
- Details of officials who withdrew from meetings, having been previously appointed were circulated.
- Further discussion required regarding the number of Timekeepers for major events as currently there appears to be high numbers in terms of the technological equipment and process available.
- "Ancillary" to be used rather than "Non-Technical" for non-judging roles at events. This was the preferred term from the group that met at the 2014 Officials Conference. This will need further discussion in light of IAAF and IOC terminology with 2017 Championships advancing, the terminology needs to be similar.
- Affiliation: Northern Track and Field League routinely check to see that competing athletes are affiliated to England Athletics. Northern Cross Country Championships will be similarly checked.
- Northern Athletics will be trialling electronic starting gun at indoor meetings as part of David Brown's study into an affordable "grassroots" version.
- MR will submit formal proposal to Competition Strategy Group of list of records to be kept. Suggested that no event could be a record when it had only held once. In the first year it would be a Best Performance.
- England Council had versed concerns that under the new Track Certification system Referees will be left to rule on safety of a facility on the day of competition. Pointed out that this has always been the case, the Annual Assessment simply being the equivalent of an MOT on the day it was carried out.
- Consider use of Athletics Weekly as a means of raising awareness of "club-friendly" Level 2 courses.
- AW will raise the question of courses being cancelled when not sufficient candidates are recruited, matter for England Council.
- Need to discuss in more detail whether regular online testing of L3 officials, who, once they have qualified, need retesting on rules at a future point.
- All tutors on recent Level 3 course have been contacted for comments on course content.

- Tutor Refresher Training: small pilot course planned for Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April.
- England Officials Forum date to be circulated to set up meeting. Five Level 2 Endurance courses have been run in November and feedback has been excellent. Next course is scheduled for March 2105.
- Endurance Sub-Group will review Level 2 materials, in light of feedback and are planning quality assessment of tutor delivery.
- Successful Endurance Peer Group a couple of weeks ago focussed on Level 2 courses.
- The Rules Advisory Group are currently formulating the timeline for Rules consultation with the sport as per usual. Their deliberations have already included adapting the IAAF Rule with a UKA domestic appendix from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.
- CA to pursue involvement of Home Countries in developing the Four-Year Officials Strategy Plan.
- Analysis of needs with regards to numbers of officials, using data from Permitting is on-going. Aim is to set targets once Needs Analysis has been completed.
- MG presented a summary of the candidates applying for the Competition Management Award and the supporting evidence. All were accepted. There are now 55 holders of the award.
- Details of Level 3 candidates for 2014 were presented. It is for Peer Groups to consider these applications.
- A working group has been established to plan the 2015 National Officials' Conference. This is to be held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Chesford Grange.
- TAG agreed that with the new arrangements for an IMO list, "B" grades without a comment would provide insufficient evidence on which to base decisions. Therefore, comments would always be necessary.
- CC will lead on producing enhanced guidance notes for assessors and consideration is to be given as to whether a smaller, better-trained panel would be the most effective way forwards.
- The 2015 Cardiff Half Marathon is the "test event" for the World Half Marathon Championships in 2016. TAG is considering a selections policy. Selections for the World Mountain Running and Masters Championships is not a TAG responsibility.
- There has been a preliminary meeting held to discuss officials' needs and procedures for the 2017 IAAF World Championships. CA will be writing to all officials in the new year.
- Changes to Officials' Policies and Procedures in reference to mileage only will be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- From the 2016 Indoor Season, please note we will be working towards using the online submission for availability returns, with an exception of course, for those without access to email.

Malcolm Rogers

Chair, Technical Advisory Group.

11<sup>th</sup> December 2014