



ORIENTEERING C A N A D A

President's report to the 2008 COF AGM

One of the COF Board's main goals is to make the COF more relevant and useful to all Canadian orienteers. To this end the Board of Directors creates an annual plan to set priorities and goals for the COF. Here is a brief summary of each priority area and progress made in the past year and the areas that still require work.

OFFICIALS/TECHNICAL

We have a draft framework for a new officials program and have started to update some of the materials. The COF Board has talked about the feasibility of hiring a project manager to help this important project move forward. We have a draft update of the COF rules completed. We'll have a special meeting of the COF membership this fall to approve these changes. We have commitment from the USOF to share costs to have an event advisor clinic in North America. We need to decide on location/dates for clinic(s). It'll be very useful to have more certified WRE advisors in North America. We have gathered experience with the championship course guidelines and we need to adapt these guidelines to the smaller events (eg provincial championships). We have put the officials list on-line with each province having access to update their list. Will look at enhancing this system after the officials program update has happened.

EVENTS & SCHEDULING

It's great to have the Canadian Orienteering championships schedule determined so much in advance. Our next goal is to have the national team selection races determined with more lead time. National Orienteering Week went well again this year and some national promo materials were created. There is lots of potential to keep building the profile of this week. Sage Orienteering (Kamloops) hosted the 2008 Canadian ski-o championships and plan to have the championships every two years from here on. We would like to see more ski-o and mountain-bike o events on the schedule. We continue to host 3 World Ranking Events per year which is important for our elite athletes.

HIGH PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

We had great results from Emily Kemp at Junior World Orienteering Championships and had Patrick Goeres in the sprint final, Sandy Hott in the middle and long finals and Louise Oram in the long final at the World Orienteering Championships. The top results were from Sandy who finished 26th in the middle and long finals. We have some enthusiasm building to create a more effective High Performance Program structure and plan to make good progress on this over the next year.

GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT

We are working on creating more generic promotional materials for clubs to use. We would like to see more information sharing about junior programming and grassroots development across the country and would like input as to how to best achieve that.

COMMUNICATIONS

The COF web site continues to evolve. Plan to update the overall look with new graphics. We have a new COF logo designed and are working with the graphic designer to create graphic standards for the COF and a new corporate look. The newsletter was published 3 times. Nina Wallace is stepping down as newsletter editor. Need to make a decision on the future of the newsletter. COF Board meeting minutes have been added to the web site. We are striving to improve the profile of orienteering within the Canadian amateur community by attendance at conferences, press releases circulated via the Sport Information resource Centre, involvement with Athletes CAN, etc.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

We are discussing the creation of an on-line system for event registration, results database, membership, etc. and we are looking forward to getting wider input regarding this idea. There is great potential to ease volunteer workload across the country. We have organized the second COF conference and are very pleased with the numbers of people registered. We see this developing as a strong annual event. The orienteeringcanada@yahoogroups.com email list is being used, but would like to see more usage as this is an excellent tool for information sharing across the country. We have talked about the creation of a volunteer award system but haven't moved forward on this yet. Also want to add more templates to the website so that clubs/volunteers are always re-inventing the wheel.

COACHING

It's been a year of great accomplishment for the revamped coaching program. We received approval for the Coaching Association of Canada for our new Community Coaching program and the first official course under the new program is being given this week as part of the COF conference. The next steps include the development of some relevant video, the creation of a short trail-o guide and starting to think about the development of the next level of the course. We are also at the beginning stages of creating an orienteering-specific long term athlete development model.

ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

Our yearly plan creation has been a useful process for the COF Board to guide our work throughout the year. We have recently created a 3-year draft budget and it makes sense to formally create a 3 year plan as well. One of our highest priorities is the creation of an up-to-date policy document. This will be a key goal over the next year. There is a possibility that the COF could be in a position to apply for Sport Canada funding in up-coming years. This requires us to update and improve a number of our policies and programs. We are discussing additional ways to increase revenues to the COF and we hope to establish an endowment fund over the next year. We are trying hard to get message out that the COF Board is very open to receiving ideas, suggestions, etc year-round from the orienteering community.

The Board has worked to convey the message that the COF is not a small group of individuals, but that it is in fact the entire Canadian orienteering community; and that the COF Board is an elected group of dedicated volunteers whose job is to provide leadership to the national membership. Thank you to my fellow COF Board members: Andrée Powers, Ian Sidders, Nina Wallace and Paul Looker, and to the many Canadian Orienteers who are contributing their time, efforts, experience and energies to improving orienteering for all of us in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte MacNaughton
President