



Committee Report to 2020 AGM

Committee Name	Athlete's Representative
Committee Members	Emma Waddington
Report Date	July 2 nd , 2020
Submitted By	Emma Waddington

Past Year's Work

- After the stepping down of former Athlete Representative (AR) Pia Blake, I was elected as Athlete Representative in February 2020. Since then I have been a voting member on Orienteering Canada's (OC) Board of Directors and a member of the High Performance Committee (HPC).
- As members of the OC Board and HPC, I have brought forth the ideas, comments, and views of the High Performance Program (HPP) athletes into all discussions.
- During my short time as AR since February, I have had many small but important roles within the HPC. I have: provided information and summaries regarding HPC meeting notes to athletes, provided resources to athletes within Basecamp regarding the cancellation of the 2020 race season, COVID-19, Black Lives Matter Movement, etc. I have also always passed along the information, resources and survey links from AthletesCAN to the HPP. I continue to advocate the voices of HPP athletes during OC Board meetings.
- A highlight of my time as AR since February has been meeting individually with athletes to understand their current stance on the organization of the HPP. From this, I compiled notes that were shared with the HPC and with the HPC Strategic Planning/Visioning Process Committee (to which I am a member) to help develop out 5-year strategic plan for improving the HPP.
- I have helped update the OC website with information about the HPP and the athletes that comprise this group.
- Finally, I have made myself readily available to all athletes to communicate. This includes discussion on Basecamp, group chats, social media, etc.



Future Work – Projects and Goals

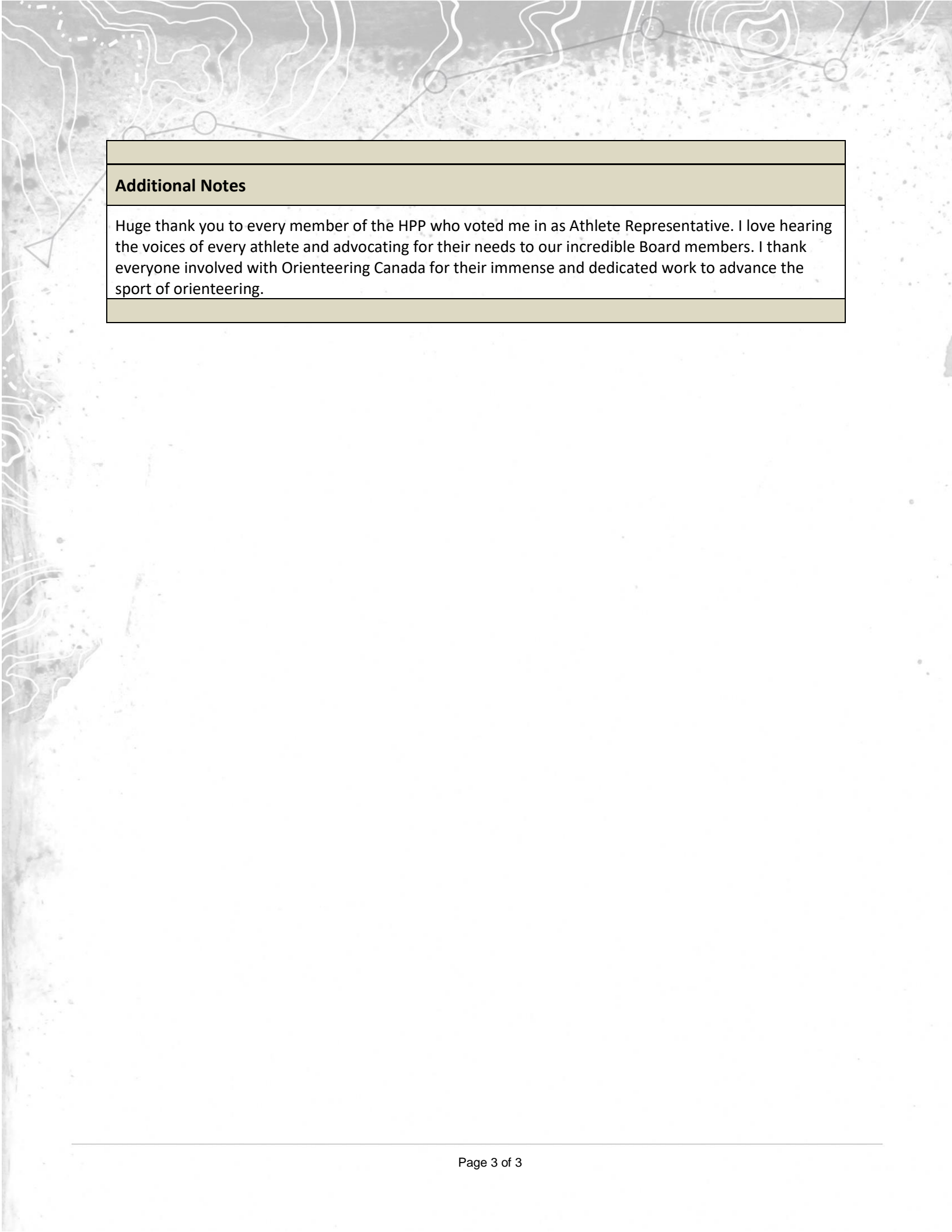
- I will continue to make myself available for communication with athletes on all subjects.
- I plan to re-introduce an online group with HPP athletes for orienteering -specific discussions, online training groups, idea sharing, learning, etc. I would also like to introduce an HPP Speaker Series to help build communication, provide resources, and to have fun.
- Should the AthletesCAN forum occur, I plan to attend this meeting. Should it become virtual due to COVID-19, I will attend virtually. Should I decide to continue my post-graduate education overseas, I will find someone to represent myself at this forum in person.
- My most major project for the future includes working with the Strategic Planning Committee on creating a 5-year plan for developing and moving the HPP forwards. For this I will advocate the voices of all athletes, and balance their needs with the feasibility and direction of the HPC and OC.
- I plan on helping to improve Orienteering Canada's policies regarding Racism, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with other OC Board members.

Successes and Challenges

- Since the frustration by the HPP athletes regarding selection races for WOC 2020 (which occurred at COCs 2019), the athletes have been given some more say on large decisions through surveys. The general response from athletes has been positive.
- There have been many challenges since my election as AR due to COVID-19. First of all, it has been difficult to build social connections within the HPP athletes since races have been cancelled. The development of OC's Speaker Series has helped in some way, as has our HPP group chat, but overall team morale has been down.
- Again, due to COVID-19, athletes have communicated that some of the HPP volunteer coaches have not had time to continue coaching, or athletes have not felt motivated to train.
- Due to COVID-19, there have been few opportunities to bring the HPP community together to socialize and compete. With this, there is also relatively few topics discussed during HPC meetings to date, and little to report to athletes. For these reasons, most of my time has been spent trying to improve communication between the HPP athletes and HPC, as well as working on the Strategic Planning Committee.
- As has been the issue in the past, a lack of funding has limited the HPP program, specifically for coaching and for training camps.

Finances

- No finances directly related to athletes' representative.



Additional Notes

Huge thank you to every member of the HPP who voted me in as Athlete Representative. I love hearing the voices of every athlete and advocating for their needs to our incredible Board members. I thank everyone involved with Orienteering Canada for their immense and dedicated work to advance the sport of orienteering.