



Alberta Schools' Athletic Association

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Important Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

September 12: Golf opt-up and registration deadline

September 30: School enrolment taken to determine ASAA classification

October 1: Volleyball registration and Football registration/declaration/opt-up deadline

October 1: Nominations for Zone Award of Merit

October 5: Cross Country registration deadline

October 10: School registration deadline

October 15: Volleyball opt-up deadline

September 2015 Issue

Welcome Message from John Paton, Executive Director



And so starts another year, and with it the excitement of a new school for so many of our student athletes entering grade 9 or 10, or for those in a K-12 or 7-12 school, a chance to move up to the senior ranks – how exciting is that! For those students moving up a year after having already experienced a year or two of ASAA sport, let's hope they enter school with the excitement and enthusiasm and are ready to make a contribution to their school outside of the classroom.

We are so fortunate in school sport to be the most visible and widespread co-curricular activity in schools today, but let's make sure that we recognize athletics is only one cog (a very important one nonetheless) in a very large system that involves band, drama, art, debate, robotics club and a multitude of other co-curricular activities that equally contribute to the life of a student. All of these things together create a vibrant and lively school community – one that is inviting to students, and it is often co-curricular activities like sport and other things that act to keep “at risk” students in school.

The school sport experience has the ability to leave lifetime impressions on students, and research supports that those involved in sport and other extra-curricular activities in schools generally perform better than their non-academic peers, have more successful careers, display lower incidence of substance abuse and much more. School Sport is so much more than the running of championships; it is the building of character through education, experience, mentoring and coaches and Athletic Directors leading by example. To that end, I am proud of the strides the ASAA has taken in creating the AIAAA and subsequently the CIAAA to be able to help Athletic Directors be the best they can be in running effective, efficient and respectable school sport programs. I am also proud of our efforts in creating schoolcoach.ca so we could provide school coaches with the tools they need to better understand school sports, handle safety issues and manage risk, and to learn the skills they need to provide the best possible experience for the student athletes they coach. Finally, I credit outgoing Deputy Director of the ASAA Michelle Ross for working so closely with the ASAA Executive Committee to ensure that the new student leadership initiative we have created (IMPACT workshops), helps team captains be great leaders in their schools and communities.

For those who have taken the initiative to become involved in AIAAA/CIAAA, schoolcoach.ca or IMPACT workshops, I commend you and I thank you. For those who have not, I recommend you give it consideration; you will be so pleased you did, based on the feedback we have received on all three initiatives.

As we enter a new school year, my challenge to all of you is to seek out opportunities for growth; status quo may be a level of comfort for many, but for true leaders and educators, status quo is not an option. My best wishes for a great 2015/16.



SUBWAY & Alberta Milk Peel-A-Deal Fundraiser

We're proud to announce that the Peel-a-Deal fundraiser cards will be back again this year. New this year, another ASAA partner, Alberta Milk, has signed on to support the program as well this year so you can expect the coupons on your cards to include Milk products as part of the included deals. Like last year – schools will be able to purchase cards for \$2 + GST each and sell them as a fundraiser within their schools for \$10 each.

Cards are valid until the end of June 2016 and are limited in quantity. Place your order by filling out the form found at www.asaa.ca/subwaycard.htm and you will receive your cards in 3-5 weeks time. Your school will be invoiced for the cards ordered (\$2 per card + GST).

Hurry and order – limited quantities available!



National Coaches Week

September 19-27, 2015 marks the first ever National Coaches Week, which is a week to celebrate the tremendous positive impact that coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. This week is an opportunity for Albertans and all Canadians to recognize coaches for the integral role that they play by simply saying #ThanksCoach.

Visit the ASAA site for more information and tools to assist you in promoting and recognizing the coaches in your school and community.



ASAA Welcomes New Staff

In the last e-newsletter of 2014/15, we informed you that Michelle was leaving the ASAA to take on the Athletics manager role at Edmonton Metro. The ASAA will greatly miss Michelle's involvement, but appreciate the fact that Michelle will still be involved with the ASAA in a zone secretary role. Josh Boyd from NAIT Athletics/Recreation is replacing Michelle and brings 5 years of event management, marketing and sponsorship experience with him, so we welcome him to the ASAA and wish him all the best of success as he navigates his way through the many mazes ahead. After this newsletter goes to print, the ASAA will have hired an additional staff person to coordinate the launch and growth of Unified Sports (see back page).

ASAA On-line Coach Education

SchoolCoach.ca continues to grow. Last year we saw the launch of our two first sport-specific courses. *Coaching Volleyball Fundamentals* and *Coaching Basketball Fundamentals*; we saw a broader acceptance of the program across Canada in other provinces – showing once again that Alberta is a leader in this country and is at the forefront of coach education in high schools; and finally we witnessed a huge amount of work taking place behind the scenes which will have an impact on course development and other projects for years to come. It's going to be another busy year in 2015-16 and the following will provide a brief update about what to expect this year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mike Steele in the ASAA office – michael@asaa.ca.

Proudly Supporting SchoolCoach.ca



New

Courses

Coaching Volleyball Fundamentals and *Coaching Basketball Fundamentals* both went live during 2014-15. They provide a mix of introductory and advanced coaching methods in their respective sports. While primarily targeting newer coaches, they also offer new perspectives on old aspects of coaching that are relevant to new and experienced coaches alike. Feedback received from coaches has been very positive. As a special start-of-year promotion – anyone who purchases one of these courses during the first weeks of September 2015 will receive a free license code for a second person to take the course as well – 2 for 1! More info on this is on the ASAA website and SchoolCoach.ca. Launching this year will be our next sport-specific course; *Coaching Track & Field Fundamentals* will be released in time for the start of the 2016 track season. Developed in direct partnership with Athletics Canada, the course will take the form as 5 separate modules each focusing on a different event category. Stay tuned to the ASAA Website and SchoolCoach.ca for more information.

Licensing

We will be re-launching the learning management system this year. Most of the upgrades will take place in the back end, but one new feature that users will notice is the licensing feature. Groups will be given the option to pay a set fee which will give their members unlimited access to courses for free! Details on this are still being worked out but stay tuned for more details.





Alberta Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (AIAAA)

The AIAAA is looking forward to hosting its 4th Athletic Director's conference from June 16-18, 2016 in Edmonton. The conference will feature 9 Leadership Training Program courses (including the launch of two brand new courses), 10 brand new workshop topics, a conference banquet/keynote address, vendor trade show and several social networking functions.

During the 2015 Teacher Conventions, the AIAAA delivered two workshops to over 250 attendees across the province. Session feedback was outstanding and we have applied to all 2016 teacher conventions to host a workshop on "Hosting Quality Athletic Events". Check your teacher convention schedules early in the new year for workshop dates and locations.

Looking to pick up additional Leadership Training

Program courses? The AIAAA's national partner, the CIAAA, will be hosting a series of online LTP courses throughout the school year. Our provincial counterpart in Saskatchewan (SIAAA) will also be hosting a Leadership Training Institute from April 22-24, 2016 in Saskatoon offerings 8 courses (2 for the first time in Canada).

The AIAAA's Leadership Training Program is proudly partnered with Grace College's MSc of Athletic Administration. This flexible degree is completed 100% online by completing LTP courses through the CIAAA and submitting accompanying project work to the university. This program has been approved for salary purposes by the Ministry of Education.

For more information on upcoming courses, conferences, or Masters programs, visit the CIAAA website at www.ciaaa.ca

Commissioner Vacancies & Welcomes

May 2016 will mark the end of term for the following ASAA Sport Commissioners:

- Curling, Football, Golf, Track & Field, & Sportsmanship

Please contact the current commissioner to let them know of your interest in the position or to ask any questions.

We would also like to welcome the following Commissioners who joined the ASAA team in May 2015:

- Girls Basketball – Wade Hicks
- Boys Volleyball – Nathan Hodgson

& welcome back Darryl Smith – Cross Country and Greg Forsyth – Boys Rugby for being reelected to another 4 year term.

Contact information for current commissioners can be found on the ASAA website, in your 2015/16 Policy Handbook and Wall Calendar.

2015 Hall of Fame & Routledge Award

Recipients

ASAA would like to congratulate the 2015 Alberta High School Sports Hall of Fame inductees:

- Athletic Administrator – Norma Smith
- Coach – Bruce O'Neil, Cochrane High
- Coach – Chuck Hebert, Wetaskiwin Comp
- Athlete – Pat Filipenko

The Robert H. Routledge Award of Merit is presented annually in recognition of outstanding service to the students of Alberta schools in the promotion and operation of an athletic program. ASAA is proud to announce that Kelle Hansen, of Mayerthorpe High was the recipient of the 2015 Robert H. Routledge Award.

The nomination deadline for these awards is February 1, annually. Please be sure to recognize the people in your school and community for all their hard work and dedication.



Meghan Lim of Western Canada jumps 3.70M to smash the ASAA Girls Pole Vault record in June 2015

Reminder to AD's

Some important reminders for AD's:

- If you are a new Athletic Director at your school and do not have the passwords you need to register your school online or access Online Transfers & Appeals please call the office at 780-427-8182 so we can give you this information securely over the phone.
- Please be sure to update the school and contact information in ExNet because this is the contact information that ASAA uses to send out all communication.
- All deadlines are shaded on the ASAA wall calendar and there is a checklist for all AD's included in the ASAA mailout, so please pay close attention to these, so as not to miss any of the deadlines throughout the year.
- School registration (includes total # of eligible students) must be submitted online by October 10.
- ASAA registration fees are to be paid directly to your zone secretary, **not** to the ASAA office.



Government of Alberta



New ASAA Transfer Policy in Effect

As voted on at the AGM in May 2015, ASAA will be implementing a new transfer policy effective immediately for the 2015-16 school year.

The new policy states that if a student cannot satisfy the requirements for athletic eligibility and cites 'other' reasons on their transfer application; then that student will not be eligible for any ASAA sanctioned sport that was played in the previous year at the sending school. The student may be declared eligible by the ASAA Compliance officer for any ASAA sanctioned sport that they did not participate in during the previous school year at the sending school.

Please refer to the 2015/16 Policy Handbook pages 45-51 for the policy in its entirety or refer to the Transfer Policy Brochure included in your mailout.

For any and all questions related to the policy please contact the ASAA office or the ASAA Compliance Officer.

Unified Sport – New to the ASAA

New for 2015/16, ASAA is launching a Unified Sports program thanks to grant funding from the Government of Alberta, Alberta Sport Connection and Sport Canada, and in partnership with Special Olympics Alberta. Unified Sports promotes social inclusion through shared sport training and competition experiences for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities. Athletes with and without intellectual disabilities will be joined on a single team to compete against other unified teams. ASAA will be hiring a program coordinator to work with member schools to build the Unified Sports program in Alberta; it's expected that schools will be able to begin competition in ASAA sanctioned Unified activities in the 2016/17 school year. In the meantime stay tuned to the ASAA website for any updates about Unified Sports!



School Sport...Empowering Alberta Youth.

Follow us on Online!

Keep up to date with ASAA news, photos, videos, championship information, scholarships, contests, online education and much more, by following @ASAA on Twitter!



@ASAA

www.asaa.ca

<http://provincials.asaa.ca> (Championship Host Websites)

www.asaa.ca/app/ (Appeals and Transfers)

ASAA Executive

President:

Tom Christensen, Olds High

Past-President:

Dave Jones, Harry Ainlay High, Edmonton

Executive Member at Large:

Joyce Loucks, Foothills Composite, Okotoks

Past-Director of Athletics:

Heather Bartling, Bonnyville Centralized

Director of Athletics:

Michael Vaughan, Three Hills School

Director of Athletics:

Hank Smid, St. Paul Regional

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