



Alberta Schools' Athletic Association

September 2013 Issue

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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

Welcome Message from John Paton, Executive Director



Anticipation, nervousness, excitement, fear of the unknown...these are just some of the feelings one can anticipate of students entering high school for the first time. Clearly, we are expecting a variety of emotions from the students and as educators it is our role to welcome them and make them feel comfortable in their new environment. For those students returning to another year of high school, the process is a little easier, but still some enter the school premises with a degree of trepidation - this may be because of social/relational issues, academic issues or other matters. Again, teachers and school counselors are there to assist where necessary and to serve the best interests of the students; that is what is great about the school environment.

Use the same logic above for beginning teachers, and one can anticipate the same emotions as students entering high school for the first time. They are leaving university as students and entering the workforce as teachers. The roles are reversed and it is hoped their training and student teaching experiences have prepared them for the challenges ahead. I understand from experience (albeit many years ago), that the first year of teaching is exhausting and there are many demands the new teacher must meet. There are always those on staff who will step up to support, guide and mentor; without this support I often wonder if those new young teachers stay in the profession. I would hope so, but one cannot speculate. So below is my challenge for this year to Principals, Athletic Directors and coaches.

Work to assimilate new teachers at your school (both beginning and experienced) into the life of your school through athletics. This would ideally be as coach, but even if it starts as a volunteer at a school hosted tournament or event, you are opening the door to assisting the new staff member build relationships with their professional colleagues and students in the school. Ask how they are doing, try to alleviate any anxiety they are facing, and try to educate them on the ways of the school - even be it a couple of minutes when passing in the hall, or when you take the time to sit down with them at lunch or over a coffee.

To School Administrators, please recognize the value that a well supported athletic program can bring to the spirit of your school; in the classrooms, hallways and staffroom. The schools that I have experienced have the most vibrant school community are those with well supported school athletic and other co-curricular programs - where students, teachers, administrators, parents and others are all on board, and recognize the value of athletics in providing a sense of community, and developing tomorrow's future leaders. I strongly disagree with the philosophy some have that encourages beginning teachers to do nothing in the school other than focus on their teaching duties. I understand the reason behind this line of thought; but I believe that in practice one of the best ways to excite a new teacher about school, other than through teacher development is to make them feel part of something special - a sports team, a tournament committee, a drama production, a charitable fundraising event, etc. Involve them, and allow them to "buy in" through their volunteer involvement in one or more of these types of activities. At the same time, please monitor the balance needed in the beginning teachers workload so that schools do not lose out on engaging this valuable member of their staff.

Athletic Directors, please continue to cultivate positive relationships with those you have in your coaching ranks and work hard to recruit new people to your coaching staff. Start with your current teaching staff because as educators, they need a





little less guidance in understanding sport in a school setting than well meaning community volunteers. Also look to your support staff, for there are many gems quietly waiting to be asked to be a coach or assistant coach or manager. As for community coaches, we know from our stats that they are an increasing percentage of the coaching staff in schools and we need to work as effectively as we can to assimilate those coaches into the school program. Education of those coaches about the educational mission of the school and the philosophical expectations of the athletic department is crucial; for my experience at ASAA is that those violating policy (sometimes unintentionally) tend more to be the non-teacher coaches. If we are to continue to be able to promote that school athletics operates under a set of guidelines that stresses accountability, fair play and equal opportunity, then we need to make sure our coaches are educated. To achieve this goal, I recommend all coaches participate in the online courses available at www.asaawecoach.ca. In particular, *The Fundamentals of Coaching* Course is a "must take", as it prepares the coach for their role with students as well as understanding ASAA Bylaws and Policies. All schools should make the Free 30 minute online concussion course mandatory for all coaches as a proactive way to protect students and address a current community concern. A number of other courses are available at the site.

A strong recommendation I have for Athletic Directors is to become involved in the Professional Development opportunities offered through the Alberta Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (AIAAA). Alberta is leading the nation in this initiative and within the month, will have been instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Have a wonderful 2013/14... vow to be a great school or athletic administrator and/or a great coach. Your actions will change lives for the better and you are helping to create the school, community and business leaders of tomorrow.

John Paton



Online ASAA Transfer Form and Appeal Process

Please be aware that hard copy transfers and appeals are no longer accepted. These must now be completed online through the ASAA website by clicking Transfers & Appeals on the left hand side. This year we welcome a new Compliance Officer, Ian MacGillivray. As a Past President of the ASAA and an active member of the association up until his retirement last June we are excited to see his involvement with the ASAA continue.

ASAA On-line Coach Education

Here we go again! There is much to share as we get ramped up for the start of another school year. Last year saw three more courses launch and more people come through the program than ever before. The addition of Safety Guidelines (English & French) and the Legal course to the already stellar lineup of courses allows coaches in Alberta to stay informed in all aspects of being an interscholastic coach.

This year we will be continuing our work developing new courses with sport-specific courses in Volleyball, Basketball, and Track & Field coming out later

in the year. Further to this, the ASAA, in conjunction with School Sport Canada, will be launching its accreditation program to recognize coaches who commit themselves to continuing professional development through both ASAAWeCoach.ca and other means. Stay tuned to the site for more information about this moving forward.

2013-14 also marks the second year that the online coach education program has been available to a national audience - having been rebranded and launched for coaches outside Alberta at www.SchoolCoach.ca.

Several provinces have shown their support for the program and it continues to grow across the country.

Also of note, the ASAA again this year has it in policy that one person in each school MUST complete the Fundamentals of Coaching course, and one school official on each team must complete the free half-hour concussion course in order to be eligible for competition in ASAA athletics. If your school has not satisfied these requirements for the upcoming year or if you have any questions you should contact Mike with the ASAA @ michael@asaa.ca.



Current Course Offerings:

- Fundamentals of Coaching
- Teaching & Modeling Behaviour
- Engaging Effectively with Parents
- Athletic Injury Management
- Concussions in Sport: What You Need to Know (FREE COURSE)
- Be the Norm: Choose to Be Tobacco Free (FREE course for students)
- Safety Guidelines (English & French versions available)
- Legal Course for Coaches

Alberta Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (AIAAA)



Thank you to all of the Board members, volunteers and conference delegates who showed great flexibility and

understanding at the 2013 Athletic Directors Conference in Canmore, which was significantly affected by the flooding. We were able to run a very modified conference schedule with less than 25% of the delegates able to get into Canmore. The AIAAA Board will be looking at rebooking options for the conference.

In April 2013 the AIAAA Board of Directors approved the creation of the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators

Commissioner Vacancies & Welcomes

May 2014 will mark the end of term for one of our ASAA Sport Commissioners, if you are interested in the role of Commissioner, the following Boys Basketball position will be vacant. Please contact the current commissioner to let them know of your interest in the position.

We would like to welcome the following Commissioners who joined the ASAA team in May 2013:

- Badminton – Kevin MacAlpine
- Girls Rugby – Jerry Flaws
- Team Handball – Kate Greabeiel
- Girls Volleyball – Erin Martin
- Wrestling – Neil Domstad

Contact information for current commissioners can be found on the ASAA website and in your 2012/13 Policy Handbook and on Wall Calendar.

2013 Hall of Fame & Routledge Award

Recipients

ASAA would like to congratulate the 2013 Alberta High School Sports Hall of Fame inductees:

- Athletic Administrator – Myron Buryn
- Coach – Robbie McNab & Dianne Greenough
- Special Achievement – Parrish Tung (Official) & The Ralph Family

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 Lawrence King was the recipient of the 2013 Robert H. Routledge Award. He will be accepting this award at the APM in Red Deer this December.

The nomination deadline for these awards is February 1, 2014. Please be sure to recognize the people in your school and community for all their hard work and dedication.

Association. (CIAAA). In partnership with the SIAAA in Saskatchewan, this new national non-profit association will oversee the development and administration of the Leadership Training Program across Canada. The AIAAA is excited to support this new initiative and looks forward to formally launching the association this fall. One of the first new initiatives of this association will be the offering of online LTP courses set to launch in early fall.

In September 2013, Indiana State University accepted students into the first cohort for the Masters of Science in Sport Management program where students can earn Masters level credits for their LTC course completions. Visit the AIAAA

Alberta Sport Plan

At AlbertaSportPlan.ca, Albertans can indicate how they would prioritize six different areas of sport:



it's your call

Help us pick Alberta's amateur sport priorities. Take the survey. AlbertaSportPlan.ca



- physical literacy;
- introduction to sport;
- recreational sport;
- competitive sport;
- high performance sport; and
- sport for development.

The online survey will be available until end of day on Friday, October 11.

Reminder to AD's

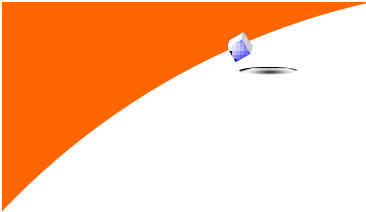
Some important reminders for AD's

- 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 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.

website for more information on this program.

For course delivery dates or information on certification, please visit www.aiaaa.ca.





Alberta Schools' Athletic Association

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School Sport...Empowering Alberta Youth.



www.asaa.ca

ASAA Executive

President:

Garret Doll, St. Albert Catholic High

Vice-President:

Joyce Loucks, Foothills Composite, Okotoks

Executive Member at Large:

Marg McCuaig-Boyd

Past-Director of Athletics:

Daryn Galatiuk, Glendon School

Director of Athletics:

Ken Zelez, Centennial High, Calgary

Director of Athletics:

Heather Bartling, Bonnyville Centralized

ASAA Staff

Executive Director:

John Paton

Deputy Director:

Michelle Ross (On Mat Leave until May 2014)

Assistant Director, Provincial Championships

Fiona McCallum

Assistant Director, Athletic Director Initiatives:

Tyler Callaghan

Program Coordinator, On-line Coach Education:

Mike Steele

Administrative Assistant:

Cori Wallace

Compliance Officer:

Ian MacGillivray

