

DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Minutes 13 October 2022

Our Mission is to serve Veterans, which includes serving military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.



**DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
13 OCTOBER 13:30 HRS EST - VIDEOCONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES**

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Contents

1.	OPENING RITUAL	3
2.	SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS	4
3.	NEW BUSINESS.....	4
4.	2022 NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS	4
5.	2023 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS	7
6.	2023 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS	8
7.	BID PROCESS.....	10
8.	PROPOSED SPORTS GUIDE AMENDMENTS	10
9.	CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT	12

**DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES**

PARTICIPANTS:

Sports Committee

Brian Weaver	-	Chair
Keith Andrews	-	Member
Steven Van Muyen	-	Committee Coordinator

Provincial Sports Representatives

Bill Higdon	-	BC/YT
Deanna French	-	AB/NWT
Roberta Taylor	-	SK
Walter Stevens	-	ON
Lisa Dinsmore	-	ON
John Crook	-	ON
Juanita Kemp	-	ON
Norman Shelton	-	QC
Gary McDade	-	NB
Geraldine Lefebvre	-	NB
Harry Jackson	-	NS/NU
Duane MacEwan	-	PEI

ABSENT:

Sports Committee

Jerry Lava	-	Vice-Chair
Nathan Lehr	-	Member
Serge Thibaudeau	-	Member

Provincial Sports Representatives

Patti Paul	-	SK
Roland Fissete	-	MB/NWO
Bob Hoeg	-	NS/NU
Theresa Gallant	-	PEI
Mary Burt	-	NL
Paul Hillier	-	NL

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting commenced at 13:34 Hours, 13 October 2022 via Zoom video conferencing. The chair conducted the opening ritual.

2. SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed all participants and thanked them for attending. Introductions were briefly conducted to welcome the new Provincial Sports Representatives.

3. NEW BUSINESS

The Chair entertained requests to add new agenda items. No new items were added for discussion.

4. 2022 NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A summary of the 2022 Legion Nationals was provided as part of the agenda (and can be viewed as an enclosure to these minutes). The report provides a brief summary of the event. However, the report does not significantly discuss the points to improve for the 2023 Legion Nationals. Therefore, based on collected after action reports and post-event surveys, the following points to improve were discussed:

- A. Food Services and Residences. It was explained that the reviews for the cafeteria were generally poor and that improvements need to be implemented. To provide some context, participants stated there was not enough to eat during breakfast on the Thursday of the competition. Dominion Command staff immediately rectified the situation by purchasing the largest portion available for breakfast at the cafeteria. Additionally, DC provided fruit in the athlete village every morning during competition. However, some participants still stated that the food was of poor quality and quantity. Therefore, it was acknowledged that this needs to be rectified next year.

In the reports, participants also relayed that the staff at the cafeteria were rude and not accommodating. The cafeteria also did a poor job of ensuring dietary restrictions were met. They prepared the appropriate meals but the process for how to pick them up was unclear and unorganized.

Therefore, the sports coordinator outlined all options that would be explored when seeking a solution to the problems experienced with the on-site cafeteria. These options include: moving the residence/cafeteria to Bishops University, working with the existing cafeteria on increasing food options and fixing food services processes, and/or renting the kitchens in the residences and stocking the shelves with dry food, spreads, and fruit.

In terms of the residences, it was emphasized that feedback on the residences centered around the lack of air conditioning in the buildings.

Unfortunately, Sherbrooke, QC experienced the hottest heat wave of the summer during the 2022 Legion Nationals and the Legion Teams had an extremely uncomfortable accommodations experience. However, other than moving to a different location, no major solution exists for the lack of air conditioning.

It was explained that considerable attention is being given to moving the accommodations and rations to Bishops University. Bishops is located approximately 15 minutes away (via ground transport). The accommodations and cafeteria are capable of housing and feeding a group of our size (400 plus) during this time-period. Accommodations are a mixture of single and double rooms with much better washroom accommodation. The menu at the cafeteria is much more flexible and provides all you can eat options. Transporting the teams each morning and evening is not ideal. However, it should be noted that many of the Chaperones complained about having to walk all over the campus and so Bishops would eliminate this negative aspect of staying at UdeS.

All the participants provided support in attempting to move the Legion teams to Bishops University for their housing and feeding requirements. Therefore, the sports coordinator will work with the Local Organizing Committee and Bishops University in an effort to secure these services.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

- B. Air Travel. The sports coordinator outlined that air travel was extremely poor with multiple flights being delayed. Team SK did not arrive until Thursday evening due to cancelled and delayed flights. Although this was completely out of everyone's control, it had a significant impact on the event. As a potential solution, the sports coordinator will investigate the feasibility of having a travel agent manage the flights for Legion Teams.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

- C. Free Time. It was explained that many of the participants on the Legion Teams expressed the desire to have some more free time during the evenings. The schedule was very busy and the athletes would appreciate more time to rest during the competition days. Therefore, the sports coordinator will work with the LOC to reduce the number of activities, provide some non-mandatory activities, and provide a place to socialize without a timeline.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

D. Athlete Clinic Day. The sports coordinator emphasized that splitting the teams into two different groups proved to be logistically difficult when trying to communicate to the teams where to be at what time. Therefore, for the 2023 Legion Nationals, the athlete clinic will be provided to all teams at the same time. The tentative plan is that Thursday morning will see all teams congregate in a large auditorium (lecture hall) on campus. They will be given a welcome brief by the Dominion Sports Chair which will highlight the purpose of the Legion, the history and importance of the event, the remembrance theme for the event, and a warm welcome. This will be followed by a guest speaker and former high performance (ideally Olympic) athlete. At the completion of the guest speaker, all teams will have the afternoon to practice.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

E. Closing Banquet. The reports indicated that the closing banquet had two major issues that need to be rectified. First, the food service was poor and took an extremely long time. Secondly, the sound system was inadequate for the large space. Therefore, next year will be a buffet style and the sports coordinator will ensure a better sound system is available. The sound system will be rented if required and used for the duration of the event (to ensure all speaking events are clear).

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

F. Legion Participation. The requirement for a greater level of Legion involvement for the 2023 Legion Nationals was discussed. To achieve this, the sports coordinator will work with additional local Legion Branches. The receptions (coaches and chaperones) will be split between two different branches if possible. Additionally, every effort will be made to have a Legion booth on-site where information on the Royal Canadian Legion is available, membership information is available, and merchandise is sold.

ACTION: All

G. Technical. It was acknowledged that there were some technical difficulties during the on-line registration process related to entry standards. Meetings have already occurred between the sport coordinator, technical rep, and meet director to rectify the issue for the 2023 Legion Nationals.

ACTION: Technical Rep / Sports Coordinator / Meet Director

- H. Communication. Feedback from the coaches and chaperones indicated that their arrival was chaotic due to a lack of information. Many of them had not seen the information packages that were sent out in May 2022. Some suggested that it would be beneficial to conduct a meeting prior to arrival to orient everyone to the event. Therefore, the sport coordinator will incorporate a pre-event meeting with the Provincial Head Chaperones and Coaches, via videoconferencing, to help the teams with their arrival and ensure they have important event information. It was outlined that this meeting would take place sometime during the week prior to the event.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator / Dominion Chaperones

- I. Athlete Profile Form. It was suggested that the Athlete Profile Form needs to be updated to clearly outline that those who participate as part of a Legion team must stay for the duration of the event. If they decide to depart early without the authorization of the Dominion Sports Committee Chair, they will be charged for the FULL costs of the residence, food, and transport for that individual. This will be rectified after the Sports Guide is updated.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

5. 2023 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was explained that the 2023 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships would be held in Sherbrooke, Quebec from August 9 – 15, 2023 (August 11 – 13 competition dates). The Sports Committee will do everything possible to incorporate suggestions and lessons learned from the 2022 Legion Nationals. Additionally, the sports coordinator requested that the Provincial Commands confirm their attendance so that appropriate logistical planning could begin. It was noted that P.E.I. Command had carried a motion to cease participation in the national track and field program. However, the sports committee has requested P.E.I. Command reconsider their decision prior to the 2023 Legion Nationals.

The Provincial Command sports representatives confirmed their team numbers for the 2023 Legion Nationals in accordance with the below table:

2023 LEGION NATIONALS				
LEGION TEAM NUMBERS				
TEAM	ATHLETES	COACHES	CHAPERONES	TOTAL
PEI	10	2	2	14
NS/NU	38	4	4	46
NB	36	4	4	44
QC	40	4	4	48
MB/NWO	36	2	4	42
SK	25	2	4	31
AB/NT	36	4	4	44
BC/YK	40	4	4	48
ON	40	4	4	48
NL	17	2	2	21

It should be noted that all logistical and administrative planning will be completed based on the above team numbers. Changing the number of participants on a team is extremely difficult once travel arrangements have been made.

6. 2023 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

It is with great excitement that the Dominion Sports Committee confidently stated that the Dominion Member Sports Championships will be returning in 2023. The Dominion Sports Committee expressed their gratitude to the Host Branches who have had to postpone multiple Championships and have been extremely flexible. The sports coordinator outlined that the host instructions for all 2023 Dominion Sports Championships have been sent to the Host Branches and that detailed planning would commence following the Poppy Campaign. The details for the 2023 and 2024 Dominion Championships were presented as follows:

2023 Dominion Member Sports Championships

Cribbage: 21 – 24 April 2023

Host: Branch #02-015 Men of Vision
PO Box 183 Stn Main, Cochrane, AB T4C 1A5

Darts: 28 April – 1 May 2023

Host: Branch #01-265, Aldergrove, BC

26607 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove, BC V4W 3L1

Eight ball: 26 – 29 May 2023

Host: Branch #02-104 Innisfail

1-5108 49 Ave, Innisfail, AB T4G 1R1

2024 Dominion Member Sports Championships

Eight Ball: 24 – 27 May 2024

Host: Branch #10-051 Happy Valley-Goose Bay

PO Box 335 Stn B, Hpy-Vly-Goose, NL A0P 1E0

Cribbage: 26 – 29 April 2024

Host: Branch #07-033, Shediac, NB

386 Main Street, Shediac, NB, E4P 2G1

Darts: 3 – 6 May 2024

Host: Branch #06-251, Laval, QC

2000 Boul Cure-Labelle, Laval, QC, H7T 1L3

The sports coordinator will be requesting the dates of all Provincial Championships from the Provincial Command Sports Representatives via email. This information is important for the planning and preparation of the Dominion Member Sports Championships.

ACTION: All

Additionally, it was stated that the Dominion Sports Committee is in the process of selecting the representatives for the 2023 Dominion Member Sports Championships. Once they representatives have been confirmed, the Host Branches and Provincial Commands will be notified.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator / Sports Chair

Some discussion occurred regarding the continued development of member sports at all levels. For 2023, Dominion Command's primary focus will be on getting back to a normal state of operations for member sports. However, the Dominion Sports Committee will continually consider ways to develop the program. It was expressed that the Provincial Commands are constantly considering new ideas for member sports development. For example, BC/YT Command stated that they are looking at running a ladies only trail darts program in 2024. Ideas of this nature should continue to be shared among all sports representatives so that member sports continue to meet the needs of members.

7. **BID PROCESS**

The sports coordinator provided the details for the upcoming 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships, and 2026/2027 Legion Nationals, bidding process.

A. 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships.

The Host Branch Call for Applications process for the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships will begin in January/February of 2023. In accordance with the Sports Manual, the deadline for submission to their respective Provincial Command will be end July 2023. The deadline for submission to Dominion Command will be end August 2023. Those selected to host the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships will be selected in November 2023.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

B. 2026 and 2027 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships

Dominion Command will be looking for a host city for the 2026 and 2027 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships in the new year. The bidding process will begin in February of 2023. The closure of the bidding period will be near the end of July 2023. The host for the 2026 and 2027 Legion Nationals will be selected in the October 2023 timeframe.

It was requested that once potential host locations confirm their intent to bid that Dominion Command inform the respective Provincial Command so that they can coordinate potential bids within their respective areas if required. The sports coordinator confirmed that they would ensure this process is followed.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

8. **PROPOSED SPORTS GUIDE AMENDMENTS**

A required amendment to the Dominion Sports Guide, which was realized during the 2022 Legion Nationals, was proposed to the committee. The amendment is as follows:

A. Section 709. There was some confusion at the 2022 Legion Nationals about whether athletes needed to attend for the duration of the event, and what the consequences were if athletes were to leave early. Therefore, the wording in section 709 of the Sports Guide should be updated to clearly state what the consequences are for departing early without the authorization of the Sports Committee Chair.

SECTION 709 CURRENT: “All athletes must attend the Championships for the duration of the event. Early departure is not permitted. Athletes must adhere to this rule upon signing their registration form or forfeit their position on their Provincial Command team. **Parents of athletes who withdraw from the Championships without authorization from the Sports Committee Chair will be liable for the costs incurred for transport, room and board, and registration.”**

SECTION 709 RECOMMENDATION: “All athletes must attend the Championships for the duration of the event. Early departure is not permitted. Athletes must adhere to this rule upon signing their registration form or forfeit their position on their Provincial Command team. **Parents of athletes who withdraw from the Championships without authorization from the Sports Committee Chair will be liable for all transport, room and board, and registration costs incurred for the athlete to attend the Championships from the first day of the event to the last day of the event.**

The same language will be used to update the Athlete Profile Forms (registration forms). Additionally, the sports coordinator will customize the form for each Provincial Command to give them an idea of the costs associated with transport, room and board, and registration.

MOTION: A motion was moved to amend the Dominion Sports Manual, Section 709, to read “...will be liable for all transport, room and board, and registration costs incurred for the athlete to attend the Championships from the first day of the event to the last day of the event.”

CARRIED

This update will be proposed at the 2022 Fall DEC meeting. If approved, the Dominion Sports Manual will be updated.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

It was also noted that some other sections in the Dominion Sports Manual may require updating. For example, Section 205 speaks about Senior Championships, which member sports no longer runs. It was decided that the Sports Committee would conduct another review of the Sports Manual and recommend any further required changes in the near future.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

9. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking the participants for attending. The closing ritual was conducted by the chair. The meeting was adjourned at 14:25 hours EST.



Brian Weaver
Chair



Steven Van Muyen
Coordinator

DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Dominion Past Presidents

Dominion Sports Committee Members

Provincial Command Executive Directors

Provincial Command Sports Representatives

Dominion Command Committee Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators

Enclosed: 1

2022 Legion Nationals – Post Championship Report



2022 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Post-Championships Report

The 44th Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 3-9 August 2022 in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The total attendance was 690 athletes, including 255 Legion sponsored athletes, representing 8 of 10 Provincial Commands, and 435 open category athletes. The athletes were supported by 29 Legion sponsored chaperones and 25 Legion sponsored coaches, as well as 60 open category coaches. There were approximately 2,000 spectators, officials, and volunteers from all parts of Canada in attendance which included veterans, both retired and serving, covering all branches of service.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, instructional clinics, practice sessions, social activities, and the actual meet. For 2022, a remembrance theme of the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid was prominent throughout. For Provincial Command athletes, the highlight of the event day (8 August) was visiting the Parc de la Gorge, Foresta Lumina. Legion athletes described the experience as something they will remember forever.

The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, the Honourable Michel J. Doyon, attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest of honour. Unfortunately, the Royal Canadian Legion Vice-President and Sports Committee Chair, Comrade Brian Weaver, was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, Comrade Norman Shelton, the Quebec Provincial Command Track and Field Chair, represented Dominion Command as the acting Dominion Command Sports Chair. In attendance as well was Comrade Kenneth Ouellet, Royal Canadian Legion QC President; Elisabeth Brière, Member of Parliament; Christine Labrie, National Assembly of Quebec, and Guy Marchesseault, Branch 010 President. The opening ceremony began with a parade led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Michel Rodrique, and his Color Party. The music was provided by piper Sylvain Ross. Legion teams representing the participating Provincial Commands made for a wonderful opening. It should be noted that due to forecasted inclement weather, the opening ceremonies was re-scheduled for noon on 4 August. Additionally, due to airline issues and cancelled flights, Team SK was unable to attend the opening ceremonies. Immediately following the ceremony, Dominion Command hosted a reception on-site at the Université de Sherbrooke. Further receptions were held at Branch #010 Sherbrooke for the coaches and chaperones on Friday and Saturday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the Université de Sherbrooke Sports Centre on Sunday evening. During the closing banquet, the President's Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, support, and service to the Legion Nationals program, was presented to Mr. Kelly Smith.





From the opening ceremony through to the closing banquet, Canada's contributions to freedom and the sacrifices of our veterans formed the cornerstone of this event. This was projected through the content of speeches, event publications, local and national media outlets and event paraphernalia sporting the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid (i.e. on volunteer t-shirts, event bags, hats, bibs, event booklets, etc.). Other areas of remembrance were the medals presented which featured silhouettes that paid tribute to the Dieppe Raid. Additionally, two minutes of silence, the act of remembrance, and the laying of a wreath by the guest of honour, were all done during the opening ceremonies.

The meet was held from 3-9 August under extremely hot weather conditions. The facility at the Université de Sherbrooke was in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three-day period under the excellent organization of the meet director, Daniel Quirion, the official's director, Cecil Lefebvre, and the technical advisor, Serge Thibaudeau. Ten meet records were broken. The top Legion female athlete, receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy, was Sofia Agudelo from Quebec and the top male athlete, receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy, was Jake McEachern from Ontario.

Logistically, the cafeteria provided meals on site for the Legion Teams while the stadium canteen provided food at the track. Although the food at the cafeteria was sufficient it was not ideal and failed to meet the needs of all competitors. The quarters used to house the Legion teams were in fair condition at the Université de Sherbrooke. Although they provided adequate housing for the athletes, the lack of air conditioning in the rooms, during a significant heat wave, was difficult to manage for those using the residences. A concentrated effort will be applied to ensuring the rooms and food provided in 2023 are improved. The transportation provided for staff and Legion teams was great.

For 2022, an digital media campaign was conducted which included Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. The digital media campaign was successful in reaching a large audience and bringing awareness to the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships.

Additional promotion prior to the event was provided through advertisements at high school track and field championships and interviews with local and provincial media outlets. During the championships, the track events were broadcasted via live streaming on AthleticsCanada.TV. The broadcast produced a total of 1183 videos from the live streaming of the event. Total live stream views equaled 3,080 with total minutes viewed of 83,121.

The Sherbrooke community led by the LAC Chair, Judith Lefebvre, worked extremely hard to provide the best possible experience for the athletes, coaches, chaperones, and guests. Additionally, Legion Branch #010, led by President Guy Marchesseault, provided





exceptional support throughout all aspects of the event. The entire Sherbrooke community rallied around the program providing a volunteer base of over 200. Additionally, the 197 Frontenac Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps was involved in the opening ceremony, the medal presentations, the closing banquet, photography, and recruitment. The Université de Sherbrooke, Athletics Canada, Bitfarm, Athlétisme Sherbrooke, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc. were diamond level sponsors, along side many other local sponsors, who made the event possible.

The message of remembrance and the 80th anniversary of the Dieppe Raid was woven throughout all aspects of the event. At the main entrance were large posters which provided a summary of the sacrifices of Canadians during the Dieppe Raid and highlighted the importance of this piece of Canadian History. Pictures of some of the elements of remembrance at the 2022 Legion Nationals are provided below:

1. Medals





2. Shoe Bags



3. Hats

