

National Sports Teleconference

Meeting Minutes

12 March 2020

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.



**NATIONAL SPORTS TELECONFERENCE
12 MARCH 2020, 1400 HRS EST
MEETING MINUTES**

File: 42-2

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**NATIONAL SPORTS TELECONFERENCE
12 MARCH 2020
MEETING MINUTES**

ATTENDEES:

Dominion Sports Committee:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Chair | Brian Weaver |
| Member | Serge Thibaudeau |
| Member | Melvin Crowe |
| Coordinator | Lia Taha Cheng |
| Asst Coordinator | Angela Keeling Colkitt |

Provincial Sports Representatives:

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| BC/YT | Norm Scott |
| BC/YT | Linda Candelaria |
| BC/YT | Bryan Lutz |
| AB/NT | Gordon Morrison |
| SK | Roberta Taylor |
| SK | Les Trayhorne |
| MB/NWO | Don Lemon |
| ON | Walter Stevens |
| ON | Lisa Dinsmore |
| ON | John Crook |
| QC | Norman Shelton |
| NB | Gary McDade |
| PE | Theresa Gallant |
| NL | Mary Burt |

ABSENT:

Dominion Sports Committee:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Vice Chair | Dave Flannigan |
| Member | Jerry Lava |
| Member | Keith Andrews |

Provincial Sports Representatives:

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| MB/NWO | John Edwards |
| NS/NU | Robert Hoeg |

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting commenced at 1400 hours EST via teleconference on Thursday, 12 March 2020. The Sports Committee Chair conducted the opening ritual.

2. SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed the committee members and the Provincial Command sports representatives, thanked them for joining the conference call and applauded their hard work and dedication to the Legion Sports Program.

3. NEW BUSINESS

The chair entertained requests to add new agenda items. The following items were added

for discussion:

- a. Legion and Impact of Coronavirus COVID-19
- b. Provincial Legal Drinking Age and Member Sports
- c. Provincial Member Sports Championships

4. **2020 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 2020 Dominion Member Sports Championships are scheduled to be held as follows:

Cribbage: 24 to 27 April 2020

Host: Branch #10-050 Conception Bay

60 Legion Road, Conception Bay South, NL A1X 6Y7

Sports Committee Representative: Berkley Lawrence

Darts: 1 to 4 May 2020

Host: Branch #05-060 Burlington

828 Legion Road, Burlington, ON L7S 1T5

Sports Committee Representative: Brian Weaver

Eight ball: 29 May to 1 June 2020

Host: Branch #02-104 Innisfail

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

Sports Committee Representative: Keith Andrews

Information packages were distributed to the Provincial Command executive directors and Provincial Command sports representatives in February 2020.

As approved by DEC in November 2019, Dominion Command will provide up to \$700 towards *transportation and mileage* for four competitors per member sport event from *their place of residence* to the national airport nearest the site of the Championship and return. For Provincial Command team members choosing to travel by car to Dominion Member Sport Championships, each member whose vehicle is utilized for this purpose is provided the equivalent of the lowest available fare-saver airfare *and mileage* up to \$700 (from *their place of residence* to the national airport nearest the site of the Championship and return) OR the distance in kilometers as calculated by Dominion Command, whichever is less. All flight bookings will be made through Dominion Command.

Provincial Commands must verify the provincial winners before any travel arrangements are made. Team lists should be sent to the Sports Committee Coordinator as soon as possible.

As per DEC direction, it is mandatory that all Legion sponsored competitors attend the awards banquet held at the completion of every Legion Members Sport competition. In addition, all competitors attending a national tournament must adhere to a mandatory dress code to include, as a minimum, collared shirts, slacks and closed shoes. It has been

suggested that Provincial Commands provide matching collared shirts to their teams who attend a Dominion Championship.

5. 2021 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2021 Dominion Member Sports Championships are scheduled to be held as follows:

Cribbage: 23 to 26 April 2021

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

Darts: 30 April to 3 May 2021

Host: Branch #01-004 Chilliwack
9350 Mary St
Chilliwack, BC V2P 4H1

Eight Ball: 28 to 31 May 2021

Host: Branch #10-051 Happy Valley-Goose Bay
PO Box 335 Stn B
Hpy-Vly-Goose, NL A0P 1E0

Instruction packages will be distributed to applicable host branches following the completion of the 2020 Dominion Member Sports Championships.

It is important to note that only 11 branches from six Provincial Commands submitted applications to host as follows:

| Provincial Command | Number of Applications |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| BC/YT | 5 |
| AB-NT | 2 |
| SK | 1 |
| MB&NWO | 0 |
| ON | 1 |
| QC | 0 |
| NB | 1 |
| NS/NU | 0 |
| PE | 0 |
| NL | 1 |
| | |
| Total | 11 |

Some Provincial Command sport representatives indicated that the barriers to host included the lack of volunteers, as well as the cost to host.

6. 2022 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following dates for the 2022 Dominion Member Sport Championships are in accordance with article 306 of the Sports Guide:

- i. Cribbage: Friday 22 April - Monday 25 Apr 2022 (Friday and Monday being arrival and departure days respectively).
- ii. Darts: Friday 29 April - Monday 2 May 2022 (Friday and Monday being arrival and departure days respectively).
- ii. Eight Ball: Friday 27 May – Monday 30 May 2022 (Friday and Monday being arrival and departure days respectively).

A call for hosting applications will be distributed in the March 2020 All Branch. The deadline for submissions to Dominion Command is 31 August 2020.

7. DOMINION EIGHT BALL PARTICIPATION

In 2018, there were three Provincial Commands that did not participate in the Dominion Eight Ball Championships. BC/YT did not have a Provincial Championships as they did not have 50% of their zones participating in eight ball. MB&NWO cancelled their Provincial Championships, as they did not have a host for the event. QC only had 11 teams interested; therefore, decided not to run a Provincial Eight Ball Championships.

Following positive discussions throughout the past two years, both BC/YT and MB&NWO have scheduled Provincial Eight Ball Championships for 2020. Therefore, all Provincial Commands, except for QC, will be sending a team to the 2020 Dominion Eight Ball Championships. QC Command identified that they only had 5 teams interested in participating in 2020 and that there are only 3 branches in their Command that have sufficient eight ball tables to host. Other Provincial Command sport representatives identified barriers to participate in eight ball including not all branches having eight ball tables, bars are closing which has caused eight ball participation to decrease, eight ball tables are being removed due to branches downsizing and lack of eight ball participation from members.

8. MEMBER SPORTS AND LEGION MEMBERSHIP

The Sports Committee will attempt to work closer with the Membership Committee as Legion Sports can be used as an acquisition tool to attract new members. Member Sports help engage members through activities, act as a member incentive and attract new members to branches.

Provincial Commands shared best practices of how their branches are using member sports to acquire and retain members. ON Command sees member sports, especially darts, as one of their biggest membership drivers in urban areas, it keeps them viable

and they rely on their sports programs for members. BC/YT Command noted that branches do not know the history of member sports and perceive that it takes up space. They are working on changing that perception. Other Provincial Command sport representatives identified that some members only sign up for sports but are not involved at the branch and do not volunteer. It was discussed that branches may opt to have participation or volunteer requirements in order to qualify for funding to participate at the National level. However, any member in good standing is eligible to participate in a branch sports activity that is a qualifier for a Dominion Member Sports Championship with no branch-imposed restrictions.

9. 2020 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

a. Event Dates/Location/Update

Cape Breton, Nova Scotia will host the 2020 Legion Nationals from 5-11 August 2020. The competition dates are 7-9 August 2020.

Based on the success of the 2019 Legion Nationals, there are no major concerns at this time. There is tremendous support locally and provincially (over the two years, \$100,000 from Cape Breton University, \$100,000 from Cape Breton Regional Municipality and \$90,000 from the Province of Nova Scotia) and the Local Organizing Committee has been wonderful to work with to date. A final site visit will occur from April 18-21, 2020.

b. Schedule

The second draft of the schedule has been developed as follows:

**2020 LEGION NATIONALS
SCHEDULE**



| Thursday August 6 | Friday August 7 | Saturday August 8 | Sunday August 9 | Monday August 10 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Athlete Clinic & Practice | Competition | Competition | Competition | Local/Cultural Tour |
| Coaches Technical Meeting | Officials Appreciation Reception | Chaperones Appreciation Reception | Athlete Social | Remembrance Activity |
| Opening Ceremony | | | Coaches Appreciation Reception | Closing Banquet |
| DC Reception | | | | |







It is important to note that the Opening Ceremony and Dominion Command reception have been moved to Thursday as suggested by various Provincial Commands and participants.

c. Remembrance Theme

The selected remembrance theme for 2020 is the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. An accompanying theme will be Peacekeepers Day (9 August).



d. Coaching

DEC approved the below amendments in 2019 to the Legion Nationals criteria for coaches:

- a. Each Provincial Command may have a maximum of four coaches accompany the team;
- b. Each Provincial Command must name one coach as the Head Coach and that person *has to be a fully certified National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) club coach. All other team coaches require NCCP club coach trained certification.* There may be exceptions to this rule; and
- c. Each provincial athletic association is permitted to designate no more than two additional *NCCP club or sport trained coaches* to accompany their team *for professional development purposes.* All associated expenses are to be paid by the provincial athletic association or the coach, not by Dominion Command.

In 2019, there was some leniency with this policy; however, there will be a more firm application for 2020.

e. Coaches' Clinic

Dominion Command, in conjunction with Athletics Canada, will once again be holding a mandatory coaching clinic at the 2020 Legion Nationals. Based on feedback from 2019, the coaches' clinic will be held on Thursday while the athletes are participating in their athlete clinic. Full participation from all Legion provincial team coaches is required.

f. Legion Nationals Provincial Chairs Meeting

At the 2018 Legion Nationals, a provincial track and field chairs meeting was held with positive outcomes. Due to only four representatives in attendance at the 2019 Legion Nationals, a meeting was not held. Once the provincial track and field representatives confirm their attendance at the 2020 Legion Nationals, Dominion Command will determine if it is beneficial to schedule an onsite meeting this year. It was requested that the Sports Committee consider holding the meeting regardless of the number of representatives in attendance, as the rest of the representatives would be able to join via conference call.

g. Head Chaperones

A call for applications was distributed to the Provincial Command executive directors and Provincial Command sports representatives seeking one male and one female head chaperone for the 2020 and future Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. Helen and John Ladouceur will also be attending the 2020 Legion Nationals in order to provide training, support and a thorough transfer of knowledge to the successors. It was noted that the applicants do not have to have a previous relationship and suggested that the Sports Committee determine a term for the positions.

h. Selection Criteria

Provincial Commands were requested to share their selection criteria/process with the Sports Committee Coordinator in order to provide a better understanding of how Provincial Commands are selecting their Legion provincial teams.

i. Qualifying Standards

Three spreadsheets were created which analyzed the 2019 Legion Nationals qualifying standards and compared them to Athletics Canada's pool of eligible athletes. The number of athletes who registered with standard for the 2019 Legion Nationals was then compared to the pool of eligible athletes by province. The Legion Nationals technical advisor is currently reviewing this data and will recommend the qualifying standards for the 2020 Legion Nationals in the coming weeks.

j. Best Practices

In order to share best practices and enhance the overall athlete experience, a Dropbox folder was set-up for Provincial Commands to share items such as selection criteria, welcome emails to the athletes, memos to the chaperones and coaches, roles and responsibilities, templates, etc.

It can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/blf0lvill8ndqbh/AADS3YuVMj6-oEkfnu4pfbmAa?dl=0>

k. Advertisements

In 2019, Dominion Command developed one-page advertisements for Provincial Commands to promote their provincial team qualifying meets. As some Provincial Commands have requested this again for 2020, the Sports Committee Coordinator requested each Command’s qualifying stream information so the below template could be updated accordingly.

LEGIONNATIONALS.CA

**LEGION NATIONALS
CANADIAN YOUTH
TRACK & FIELD
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

AUGUST 7-9, 2020 | CAPE BRETON, NS

Legion
Cape Breton, NS

The Championships bring together nearly 1,000 athletes from across the country to compete in Canada's only U16 and U18 National Track and Field Championships.

A) SPONSORED LEGION ATHLETE

To qualify, there are two streams for Manitoba/Northwest Ontario athletes:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 Visit the Athletics Manitoba website www.athleticsmanitoba.com in early May for details on qualifying meet. | 2 Achieve the team selection standard. | 3 Be selected to Team Manitoba/Northwest Ontario Command and compete at Legion Nationals*. |
|---|---|---|

B) OPEN ATHLETE

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Compete in a qualifying event sanctioned by Athletics Canada. | 2 Achieve qualifying entry standards identified in the Technical Manual available at www.LegionNationals.ca . | 3 Register for Legion Nationals online at www.LegionNationals.ca from June 1 to July 29, 2020. |
|--|--|---|

*If selected for Team Manitoba/Northwest Ontario Command, travel will be covered from Winnipeg or Thunder Bay and room and board will be covered in Cape Breton.

10. 2021 & 2022 LEGION NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dominion policy is to normally hold the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships in the following timeframes, which have been approved by the Dominion Command Sports Committee:

- i. 2021: 4-10 August 2021 (competition dates: 6-8 August)
- ii. 2022: 3-9 August 2022 (competition dates: 5-7 August)

The call for applications to host the 2021 & 2022 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships was sent out 17 April 2019 as an all branch and email to Provincial Commands, as well as distributed to all members of the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance.

As a result of an enhanced bid process and promotion of the event, multiple high-quality bids from various communities were received. Following a competitive review of the proposals, the Sports Committee selected Sherbrooke, Quebec to host the 2021 & 2022 Legion Nationals.

11. 2023 & 2024 LEGION NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dominion policy is to normally hold the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships in the following timeframes, which must be approved by the Dominion Command Sports Committee:

- i. 2023: 9-15 August 2023 (competition dates: 11-13 August)
- ii. 2024: 7-13 August 2024 (competition dates: 9-11 August)

The call for applications to host the 2023 & 2024 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships will be sent out in April 2020 as an all branch and email to Provincial Commands, as well as distributed to all members of the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance (CSTA). In addition, preliminary meetings with interested municipalities will take place during CSTA's annual Sport Events Congress on March 24 and 25, 2020.

12. SPORTS GUIDE REVIEW

The Sports Committee would like to undergo a comprehensive review of the Sports Guide and member sports rules ensuring that feedback is collected from experts in the field and every Provincial Command prior to proposing any major changes.

The formation of ad hoc committees for each member sport is being considered should there be interest and willingness from experts within each Provincial Command. It was suggested that each Regional Representative Group be assigned a section of the Sports Guide to review and revise.

13. REGIONAL REPRESENTATION – COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current committee liaison tasks are assigned by the chair as follows:

NL and PE – Dave Flannigan

NS/NU and NB – Melvin Crowe

QC and ON – Brian Weaver

MB&NWO and BC/YT – Jerry Lava

SK and AB-NT – Keith Andrews

Sports Committee members will make and maintain contact with their associated provincial sports representatives and provide any feedback to the Dominion Command Sports Committee on Provincial Command concerns for both Legion member sports and track and field.

14. NEW BUSINESS

The following new business items were raised:

a. Legion and Impact of Coronavirus COVID-19

As the situation around the Coronavirus evolves, Legion National Headquarters is paying close attention to direction from the Public Health Agency of Canada and developing preparedness plans to address the potential operational impact on national Legion programs. The organization will continue to take a balanced and calm approach and is ready to make changes as this fluid situation develops. We will communicate new or modified decisions as appropriate. In the meantime, it is business as usual and at this point, we are planning to move ahead with the 3 member sport championships, as well as Legion Nationals.

The provincial sport representatives had many questions including:

- Is there a date that DEC will decide if the 2020 Legion Nationals is cancelled?
- If Dominion Member Sports Championships are cancelled, who is responsible for the costs?
- Saskatoon has cancelled the Juno Awards, shouldn't we follow suit especially with the age demographic of our cribbage players?
- The provincial government in Quebec has released a statement that no gatherings of more than 250 individuals is to take place. Should Quebec Command cancel their Provincial Championships this weekend, how are they expected to select a team before the Dominion Cribbage Championships?

A separate email will be sent to the Provincial Command Sports Representatives to

provide responses to these questions.

b. Provincial Legal Drinking Age and Member Sports

BC/YT Command requested feedback from other Provincial Commands on how to deal with the provincial legal drinking age being 19 years old, which differs from the Legion membership age of 18 years old. For example, an individual played youth darts for years, aged out and then was not allowed to play darts at the branch because of the drinking age. It was discussed that the Legion does not have specific regulations in regards to this as it depends on provincial liquor laws and on whether food is being served.

c. Provincial Member Sports Championships

BC/YT requested feedback from other Provincial Commands in regards to which sports they host provincial championships for on top of cribbage, darts and eight ball. ON Command has 11 provincial championships which are outlined on www.on.legion.ca, NB Command has shuffle board and washer toss and PE Command has washer toss. The other Commands are requested to share their provincial member sports information with the Sports Committee Coordinator.

15. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking the committee members and the Provincial Command sports representatives for their insight and valued input. The chair conducted the closing ritual and the meeting adjourned 12 March 2020 at 1510 hours EST.

The contents of Committee minutes are subject to the approval of Dominion Executive Council or Dominion Convention as appropriate.



Brian Weaver
Chair



Lia Taha Cheng
Coordinator

DISTRIBUTION LIST

DEC
Dominion Past Presidents
Dominion Sports Committee Members
Provincial Command Executive Directors
Provincial Command Sports Representatives