

DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

12 January 2023

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 MEETING
12 January 2023 13:30 HRS EST - VIDEOCONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES

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DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS:

Brian Weaver	-	Chair
Jerry Lava	-	Vice Chair (partial attendance)
Nathan Lehr	-	Member
Keith Andrews	-	Member
Serge Thibaudeau	-	Member
Steven Van Muyen	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	Assistant Committee Coordinator

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting commenced at 13:35 hours on 12 January 2023 via Zoom videoconferencing. The chair conducted the opening ritual.

2. SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS.

The chair welcomed all the participants and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend. Additionally, the chair introduced Kelly Therien to the committee as the new assistant committee coordinator following the retirement of previous assistant committee coordinator, Angela Colkitt. The sports committee welcomes Kelly!

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes Approval – The 13 October 2022 Dominion Sports Meeting Minutes were distributed as an attachment to the agenda. The minutes were reviewed by the committee with no observations.

MOTION. It was moved that the Sports Committee approve the minutes of the last meeting as presented.

CARRIED

4. NEW BUSINESS

The chair entertained new items for inclusion in the agenda. The following new item was added for inclusion under the Dominion Member Sports heading:

A. Dominion Member Sports Grant Increases

5. DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS

The sports coordinator outlined that host instructions for the 2023 Dominion Sports

Championships were sent to the Host Branches and that detailed planning had begun. Draft welcome packages for the 2023 Dominion Sports Championships should be sent to the sports coordinator no later than 20 January 2023. The sports coordinator is in communication with all three host branches for the 2023 Dominion Championships and will work with each respective arrangements committee to ensure the success of the championships. Information for the 2023 Dominion Championships are below:

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

Dominion Sports Representative: Comrade Brian Weaver

Darts: 28 April – 1 May 2023

Host: Branch #01-265, Aldergrove, BC

26607 Fraser Hwy, Aldergrove, BC V4W 3L1

Dominion Sports Representative: TBC

It was explained that the Sports Chair, comrade Brian Weaver, would no longer be able to attend the 2023 Darts Championships as the Dominion Sports Representative since DEC will be conducted on the same weekend. No other Dominion Sports Committee members are available to fill the roll of Dominion Sports Representative and so the sports coordinator will explore other options. One of the options is to request that the BC Provincial Sports Representative fill the role of Dominion Sports Representative for the championships.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

Eight ball: 26 – 29 May 2023

Host: Branch #02-104 Innisfail

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

Dominion Sports Representative: Comrade Keith Andrews

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

Dominion Member Sports Grant Increases

It was recently brought to the sports coordinator's attention that the current grants available to host branches for Dominion Member Sports Championships are not sufficient to cover expenses incurred by the branch. This insufficiency is due to the fact that the last time the grants were increased was in 2011 (from 2010), and there has been significant increases in costs due to inflation since that time. According to the Bank of Canada, inflation has risen over 30 percent since 2010/2011. Therefore, the sports coordinator recommended that the Sports Committee increase both the hosting grant and the transportation grant by 40 percent, rounded up to the nearest hundredth (to capture future inflation rates). Therefore, the following increase to the grants were recommended:

- A. Hosting Branch Grant: Increase from \$800 per sport (current) to \$1200 per sport.
- B. Transportation Grant: Increase from \$1500 per sport (current) to \$2100 per sport.

The overall increase would be \$3000 or approximately 43%.

MOTION. A motion was moved to approve the increase of the host branch grant from \$800 per sport to \$1200 per sport, and the transportation grant from \$1500 per sport to \$2100 per sport.

CARRIED

2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships Bid Process

The sports coordinator explained that the Host Branch Call for Applications process for the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships would begin in February 2023. The February all-branch email will include all information for hosting a championship, including the cover sheet, hosting memo, and application form. Additionally, the application process/form will be posted on the Member Sports webpage under "Host a Championship." Finally, all Provincial Sports Representatives will be sent a copy of the hosting documents for additional distribution if desired. In accordance with the Dominion Sports Manual, the following dates are important to note for the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships Bid Process:

- a. February 2023 – Call for Applications
- b. July 31, 2023 – Deadline for submission to the respective Provincial Command
- c. August 31, 2023 – Deadline for submission to Dominion Command
- d. November 2023 – 2025 Host Branches Selection

6. LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 Legion Nationals will take place in Sherbrooke, Quebec from 9 – 15 August 2023. The competition will occur at the Université de Sherbrooke. The sports coordinator informed the committee that the remembrance theme for the 2023 Legion Nationals will be the 75th Anniversary of Peacekeeping. The colours used throughout the event will reflect the remembrance theme. The sports coordinator will ensure that the remembrance theme is prominent throughout and that the athletes are exposed to Canada's significant contributions to peacekeeping over the last 75 years. The remembrance theme logo will be the same as the logo used for our commemorative pins. The logo is displayed below:



ACTION: Sports Coordinator

Bishops University

It was explained that, in accordance with direction from the Dominion Sports Committee, the sports coordinator conducted a site visit at Bishops University in Sherbrooke, QC to determine the feasibility of moving the Legion Teams from UdeS to Bishops. It was determined following the site visit that Bishops University offered significant advantages when compared to staying at UdeS. These advantages include:

- A. Cafeteria. The food services offered at Bishops University is a significant improvement over the food services at UdeS. Meal menus are diverse and cater to a wide range of consumers. For example, there are multiple stations including: fresh sandwiches, make you own sandwich, made from order hot meals, buffet style hot food station, salad bar, fruit station, dry/bread station, drink station. There is also a dedicated allergy station so that chefs can cook meals on the spot separate from other food to accommodate various dietary restrictions. Finally, there is no cap on the amount of food one eats per meal. Meals are all you can eat and are controlled through a swipe card system.

- B. Residence. All rooms are recently renovated and in very good condition. Rooms are mostly double rooms, and 2 rooms share one connecting bathroom that is equipped with a toilet and a shower (each room has a sink/mirror in the room). In other words, each group of 4 people share 1 bathroom). There is no AC in the rooms, but a limited number of fans are available. Each building (teams will be located in 2 separate buildings) has a large common area and large kitchen. It also has a large gathering/playroom in the basement that the athletes can use. Each building has a laundry room with several washers/dryers.
- C. Other Facilities. Bishops University offers exceptional facilities for use during the 2023 Legion Nationals. At this time, the plan is to conduct all activities at Bishops University apart from the competition itself. This includes, and is not limited to: welcome/registration desk, opening ceremony, closing ceremony, VIP reception, closing banquet, etc.

Based on the site visit, the required facilities (cafeteria, residences, other facilities) have been secured with appropriate deposits. Therefore, on competition days, the Legion Teams will be transported to and from the stadium at UdeS. The sports coordinator will work with the local organizing committee to ensure the smooth transition of the Legion teams from UdeS to Bishops university.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

2026 & 2027 Legion Nationals Bid Process

The sports coordinator informed the sports committee that Dominion Command will be looking for a host city for the 2026 and 2027 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships beginning in February 2023. The sports coordinator, in consultation with the technical representative, re-wrote the Legion Nationals Bid Handbook to better reflect the requirements of host cities. Additionally, the revamped bid handbook clearly defines evaluation criteria for the selection of the winning bid. The bid handbook will also receive a full re-design to better reflect the heart of the Legion Nationals. The sports coordinator further explained that information regarding the bid process (the call for applications) will be distributed through several channels, including: February all-branch, Legion Nationals website, social media, national and provincial athletics organizations, major sports and tourism organizations, and Provincial Command Track and Field Chairs. Bid timelines for the 2026 and 2027 Legion Nationals are as follows:

- a. February 13, 2023 – Call for Applications/Expression of Interest
- b. February 27, 2023 – Bid period opens
- c. July 21, 2023 – Bid period closes
- d. October 2023 – Host city selected.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships - Ambassador Initiative

The sports committee has recognized that the Legion Nationals have grown into a nationally recognized sporting event which provides an important development step for Canadian youth athletes looking to compete at the highest level. This exponential growth presents positive outcomes for the Royal Canadian Legion (greater impact to youth communities, greater level of awareness, etc.). However, the exponential growth of the event has also made it difficult at times to keep the focus on the pillars of the Royal Canadian Legion. This difficulty has been noted in the after-action reports of the 2022 Legion Nationals. Therefore, it is imperative that the sports committee seek out new opportunities to ensure a strong connection between the championships and the strategic goals of the Royal Canadian Legion.

To this end, the sports committee has been exploring opportunities to tie the championships back to our strategic goals while still focusing on building communities through sport and delivering a highly competitive national meet. As a result, an opportunity exists for someone who embodies the values and goals of the Royal Canadian Legion to provide the connection between our strategic goals and our work at building communities through sport.

In consultation with the Dominion Command marketing team, the sports coordinator has proposed Mike Trauner be an ambassador for the Legion Nationals. Mike is a former Canadian Forces member with 3 RCR and an Afghanistan veteran. Mike was injured while on patrol in Afghanistan from an improved explosive device. As a result, Mike lost both his legs and severely injured his arms and hands. Against all odds, Mike committed himself in his recovery and won 2 gold medals at the 2017 Invictus Games. He is an accomplished athlete in both para-canoe and para-hand cycling. A brief history of his story can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/12/one-inspires-many-master-corporal-trauner.html>

Mike's story is inspirational, serves as an example of the sacrifice our Veterans have made, and speaks to the power of sport in changing lives and aiding recovery. Therefore, there are 2 goals in having Mike act as an ambassador for the Legion Nationals:

1. **GOAL 1: Connect our Strategic Goals to Sport.** The Legion Nationals ambassador will bridge the RCL-DCs objectives of building communities / promoting remembrance to our commitment to Canada's youth in sport through the Legion Nationals. This goal includes the following activities:
 - a. Mike would provide his story to be used in Legion Nationals communications as deemed appropriate (articles, program booklets, website post, social media, etc.).
 - b. Mike would attend the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championship in Sherbrooke, Quebec during August 2023.

- c. On 10 August (Thursday), Mike would tell his story to the Legion Teams (approximately 400 people) as part of the athlete clinic of the meet. Mike will also attend the Opening Ceremony on Thursday 10 August and say a few words to open the games.
 - d. Mike will provide 1 video interview related to the Royal Canadian Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships discussing the power of sport, the impact it has had on his life, and connecting that to how the RCL is building youth communities through sport.
2. **GOAL 2: Raise Awareness for the Royal Canadian Legion:** The Legion Nationals ambassador will also raise the general awareness of the Royal Canadian Legion and our commitment to serving Canada's veterans. This goal includes the following activities:
- a. Mike would provide 1 video interview on the RCL in general and speak about the work we do with veterans while encouraging folks to join the RCL.
 - b. Mike would allow the RCL to use our relationship to further the goals of the RCL.
 - c. Mike would encourage people to join the Legion.
 - d. Mike will display the RCL brand during competition (on clothing/equipment) where possible and reasonable.

Many of the activities would be coordinated by the Dominion Command Marketing and Communications team. As a result, costs associated with conducting the majority of these activities would be covered under the marketing budget. Travel (from place of residence) and accommodations expenses for the 2023 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships would be covered under the current Legion Nationals budget. No extra funds are required.

Mike is a Legion member and has agreed, in theory, to conduct the activities as outlined under each goal of the initiative. It was recommended that the Dominion Sports Committee support this initiative, and that the sports coordinator work at finalizing the plan.

MOTION: A motion was moved that the sports committee support this initiative for 2023.

CARRIED

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships Event Strategy

As outlined above, there is a requirement to re-assess the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships program to ensure its alignment with the strategic goals of the Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command. As the Legion Nationals continue to

grow, and gather more national attention, it is important that the Royal Canadian Legion maintains a clear understanding of the purpose of the program. Therefore, the sports committee will work on developing an event strategy for the championships which will provide a road map for the event into the future. In other words, the Legion Nationals event strategy will align the event with the RCL Strategic Plan, outline the tactical goals and objectives of the event, and provide the operational framework for execution. Developing the Legion Nationals event strategy will be a long, collaborative process, broken down into phases. The sports committee will aim to complete the Legion Nationals event strategy by January 2024. The sports coordinator will lead the development of the event strategy and coordinate the collaboration of stakeholders.

ACTION: Sports Coordinator

7. PROPOSED SPORTS GUIDE AMENDMENT

A required sports guide amendment to the Dominion Sports Guide was brought to the committee's attention. The amendment is a complete deletion as the information is no longer relevant. The required deleted information is the following:

- A. **Section 205.** To be eligible to participate in any Senior Championship, the member must be 50 years of age prior to January 1st of the year in which the championships is being held.*

The Dominion Sports Program no longer runs any Senior Championships. Therefore, section 205 has become irrelevant and should be removed from the Dominion Sports Manual.

MOTION: A motion was moved to amend the Dominion Sports Guide by deleting Section 205.

CARRIED

Upon approval of the amendment by DEC (April 2023), the sports coordinator will update the manual.

8. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the participants for attending and by conducting the closing ritual. The next meeting will be held in April 2023, date to be determined.



Brian Weaver
Chair



Steven Van Muyen
Coordinator

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