

DOMINION SPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Minutes 5 December 2024

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
5 DECEMBER 13:00 HRS EST - VIDEOCONFERENCE
MEETING MINUTES**

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MEETING MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dominion Sports Committee

Trevor Jenvenne	-	Chair
Bob Underhill	-	Member
Keith Andrews	-	Member
Serge Thibaudeau	-	Technical Advisor
Steven Van Muyen	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	Assistant Committee Coordinator

Provincial Command Representatives

Linda Candelaria	-	BC/YT Provincial Sports Secretary
Karen Bruens	-	AB/NWT Sports Rep
Juanita Kemp	-	ON T & F Secretary
John Crook	-	ON T & F
Walter Stevens	-	ON Member Sports
Lisa Dinsmore	-	ON Member Sports Secretary

REGRETS:

Dominion Sports Committee

Harold Defazio	-	Member
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Provincial Command Representatives

Bill Higdon	-	BC/YT Sports Rep
Roberta Taylor	-	SK Sports Rep (Comrade Keith Andrews attending)
Roland Fisette	-	MB/NWO Sports Rep
Norman Shelton	-	QC Sports Rep
Geraldine Lefebvre	-	NB T & F
Bob Hoeg	-	NS/NU Sports Rep (provided input via email)
Gorden Perry	-	PEI Sports Rep
Mary Burt	-	NL Member Sports
William Morrison	-	NL T & F

1. **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & OPENING RITUAL**

The meeting commenced at 13:04 Hours EST on 5 December 2024 via Zoom videoconferencing. The chair opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and conducted the opening ritual.

2. **SPORTS COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The chair introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the meeting. As the newly appointed Dominion Sports Chair, they emphasized that the Dominion Sports Committee is dedicated to continuing and improving our Legion Sports Program.

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

The Chair entertained requests for new agenda items. There was one item request to add to the agenda.

MOTION: It was moved that Legion National VIP Protocol be added as an agenda item.

CARRIED

4. **LEGION NATIONALS UPDATE**

The sports committee outlined that the 2024 Legion Nationals was a great success. The event saw a record number of athletes, included significant participation from Veterans and Legion volunteers, and delivered the values of the Legion to Canada's youth through meaningful experiences. Special thanks were given to AB/NWT Command for all the assistance in preparing and delivering the event.

It was further communicated that the 2025 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships would be held in Calgary, Alberta from August 6-12, 2025 (August 8 – 10 competition dates). The Sports Committee will do everything possible to incorporate suggestions and lessons learned from the 2024 Legion Nationals. In addition, the Provincial Commands were asked to confirm their attendance so that appropriate logistical planning can begin. Currently, planning is based on the following Provincial Command numbers:

2025 LEGION NATIONALS				
LEGION TEAM NUMBERS				
TEAM	ATHLETES	COACHES	CHAPERONES	TOTAL
PEI	8	1	2	11
NS/NU	36	4	4	44
NB	36	4	4	44
QC	40	3	4	47
MB/NWO	36	2	4	42
SK	36	3	4	43
AB/NT	36	4	4	44
BC/YK	40	4	4	48
ON	40	4	4	48
NL	17	2	2	21

a. 2024 Legion Nationals Recap

The sports committee outlined that a full recap of the 2024 Legion Nationals can be found in the 11 October 2024 Dominion Sports Committee meeting minutes. However, the following key points were discussed:

- i. Residence. Feedback from the Legion Teams suggested that teams would prefer to be split among floors between male and female. For example, floors 1 – 4 would be male and 5 – 8 females. The sports committee will work with the University of Calgary to implement this floor plan.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

- ii. Technical Age Categories: There was some confusion during the registration process in regard to the U16 age category. It will be made clear in the technical manual that the U16 age category includes those under the age of 16 and is not restricted at the age of 14. In other words, 13-year-olds may register in the U16 age category.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

- iii. Bilingualism. A lack of bilingualism was noted during the Opening Ceremonies and the Athlete Clinics. The sports committee will work with the LOC in ensuring bilingualism is included in these sub-events.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

- iv. Athlete Village. The athlete village location was on a slight incline and some of the teams expressed that they would have rather been on the flat field adjacent to the track. This would also alleviate security issues that were experienced in the athlete village. The sports committee will explore the option of placing the athlete village in the adjacent warm up field. Although this will limit the team's ability to view the events from the athlete village, it is a more suitable location which will allow for better security of the teams.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

- v. VIP Protocol. It was communicated that there was some concern regarding the implementation of VIP protocols during the 2024 Legion Nationals. Specifically, there was concern regarding how the shuttle of VIPs from the airport to the venue was conducted. Additionally, some participants felt that VIPs were not provided enough opportunities to present medals. It was explained that this may have occurred as a result of some positions being filled with several Afghanistan Veterans who were attending. However, the sports committee outlined that they will do everything possible to ensure VIPs are provided the opportunity to present 2 – 3 medal events during the competition. Additionally, the sports committee confirmed they would look into their VIP shuttle protocols and report back to the Provincial Commands.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

b. Open Category Para Athletics

For the 2024 Legion Nationals, the sports committee offered para events for open category athletes. Unfortunately, we did not have any registrants into the para events. Despite this fact, the sports committee will continue to seek ways to include para events into the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. Including para events will expand the ability of the Royal Canadian Legion to reach communities across Canada and ensure we are delivering an inclusive sporting event. The purpose of the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships is to demonstrate RCL values to Canadian youth through the delivery of values-based sport, strengthening our communities and fostering personal and collective growth. Including para-events in the Legion Nationals aligns with this purpose and will demonstrate our commitment to all of Canada's youth. Therefore, the sports committee will not give up in this endeavor.

For the 2025 Legion Nationals, the sports committee plans to include the opportunity for para-athletes to register in the same events as 2024 and under the same parameters. These include:

- Open category para-athletes only.
- 4 Track events and 1 Field event per category (male/female).

The sports coordinator will work with Athletics Canada on the implementation of para-events into the Legion Nationals. This will include seeking ways to communicate the opportunity to para-athletes across the country. In addition, it was brought up that the sports committee should seek ways to leverage the participation of Mike Trauner for the purpose of communicating with para-athletes. The sports coordinator will consult with the Legion Nationals Ambassador on this topic.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

c. 2025 Legion Nationals Remembrance Theme

The remembrance theme for the 2025 Legion Nationals is currently in development. One option includes the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The sports committee will select the remembrance theme in January.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

5. 2025 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The host instructions for all 2025 Dominion Sports Championships have been sent to the host branches and detailed planning has commenced. The details for the 2025 Dominion Championships are as follows:

2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships

Eight Ball: 23 - 26 May 2025

Host: Branch #07-004 Fredericton
199 Queen Street, Fredericton, NB

Cribbage: 25 - 28 April 2025

Host: Branch #05-112 Whitby
117 Byron St. S, Whitby, ON, L1N 4P5

Darts: 2 - 5 May 2025

Host: Branch #05-410 Port Stanley
310 George St, Port Stanley N5L 1C9

Provincial Commands are requested to send the sports coordinator the dates of the Provincial Championships. This is required for planning purposes prior to the distribution of instruction packages to the Provincial Commands in February 2025.

ACTION: Provincial Sport Chairs

6. **BID PROCESS**

a. **2026 Dominion Member Sports Championships.**

It was communicated that the sports committee would be selecting the host branches for the 2026 Dominion Member Sports Championships in January 2025.

In addition, there was discussion around the rising costs of travel for members to attend the Dominion Sports Championships. With a maximum travel subsidy of \$700 per individual, not all teams will be able to travel within the allocation. Therefore, the sports committee will seek to select host branches which are in a location that reduces the costs to the highest number of members. For example, locations close to a major airport where flight costs are reduced will be considered over more remote locations. Of course, the sports committee will also attempt to ensure the championships are hosted across Provincial Commands equally.

Increasing the travel subsidy was brought up in discussion. However, the sports committee reminded participants that the increase of the travel subsidy was brought to the floor at the Dominion Convention and did not pass. Therefore, the travel subsidy will remain at a maximum of \$700 per person.

b. **2028 and 2029 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships**

The sports committee will be running a bid period for the 2028/2029 Legion Nationals in the Spring/Summer of 2025. The bid handbook for a Legion Nationals, including the bid selection criteria and analysis process, was updated for the last bid proposal. The new bid process was extremely efficient and allowed the sports committee to conduct a fair and objective bid analysis / selection. Therefore, the same process will be conducted for the 2028/2029 Legion Nationals Bid Process.

7. **PROVINCIAL COMMAND SPORTS UPDATES**

Updates from Provincial Commands included the following:

- a. **BC/YT Command**: Indicated that the costs for their members to attend Dominion Member Sports Championships continues to increase. They requested that the Dominion Sports Committee consider the distance to travel when selecting host branches. The Dominion Sports Committee confirmed they will continue to seek host branches with fair representation from each Provincial Command.
- b. **AB/NWT Command**: Outlined that AB/NWT Command is busy preparing for the 2025 Legion Nationals. They confirmed that the majority of volunteers from the 2024 Legion Nationals will be back again for 2025. In summary, the Command is

well prepared to ensure another fantastic Legion Nationals is delivered!

- c. **SK Command**: It was indicated that SK Command is very interested in hosting Dominion Member Sports Championships and will be actively seeking hosting opportunities. They have also recently begun to offer shuffleboard in a number of their branches / zones which has become very popular. This is something other Provincial Commands may wish to incorporate.

Additionally, the Command is busy getting ready for the 2026 Legion Nationals and will be attending the 2025 Legion Nationals in preparation.

- d. **ON Command**: It was outlined that ON Command is extremely busy with Member Sports as the sports program continues to grow in interest. They are now running 12 sports within the Command. In fact, cornhole is now being played in 2 districts and growing in popularity.

Comrade Walter Stevens also mentioned that there have been some issues with sports teams continuing to use the Legion crest on sports clothing. In response, the Dominion Sports Committee will liaise with the marketing team on brand policies / communication.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

For Track and Field, ON Comd will be moving to electronic signatures for all their paperwork which will help streamline processes. ON Comd is willing to share how they administer these signatures with other Commands so that all Provincial Commands can share in best practices. Additionally, the relationship between Provincial Sports Organizations and Provincial Commands was discussed. Specifically, PSO's should not be indicating that athletes must be a member of their PSO in order to participate on a Legion team. These are Legion teams and not the team of an athletic organization. The Dominion sports coordinator indicated they would ensure all PSO's understand this point.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

- e. **NS/NU Command**: Prior to the meeting, the NS/NU Provincial Sports Chair communicated to the Dominion Sports Committee that they were concerned with the \$700 per person travel limit for Dominion Member Sports Championships. This limit often impacts NS/NU Command members negatively given their geographical location. This was discussed as outlined in section 6.a.

8. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking the participants for attending. The meeting adjourned 5 December 2024 at 14:03 hours EST and the chair conducted the closing ritual.



T.L. Jenvenne.

Trevor Jenvenne
Chair



Steven Van Muyen
Coordinator

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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