

AA, ATFCA, ALA

The state of coaching

Workshop - July 30, 2010

Participants

- **Athletics Australia (AA):** Dallas O'Brien (CEO); Nick Moore (Director); Mick Poulton (National Coaching Manager)
- **Australian Track and Field Coaches Association (ATFCA):** Peter Bowman (President); Glynis Nunn-Cearns (Executive Director), John Weeks (Director)
- **Australian Little Athletics (ALA):** Ross Burridge (President); Adam Wallish (CEO).

Overview

On Friday 30 July 2010, representatives from AA, ATFCA and ALA met to discuss the state of coaching in Australian Athletics. The parties had full and frank discussions about the issues and challenges concerning coaching in our sport. There was recognition that notwithstanding differences in opinion, everyone in the room had a genuine intention to deliver positive coaching outcomes for the good of our coaches and athletes.

This understanding meant that the meeting was conducted with a spirit of respect and honesty that resulted in considerable progress being made towards resolving many significant outstanding issues in the development and implementation of the Athletics Coach Accreditation Framework.

What follows is a summary of what was agreed in terms of both fact and actions.

Agreed Facts

1. AA is the recognised National Sporting Organisation for Athletics and is responsible for coaching in Australia, which includes managing the Athletics Coach Accreditation Framework. This framework covers coaching competency, member protection, code of conduct, insurance and a national coaching database.
2. The ATFCA has made a significant contribution to the sport since its inception in 1974.
3. AA and ATFCA wish to continue to work together with the Member Associations to develop the new framework.
4. There is currently some confusion within the Australian Athletics Community about coaching accreditation, coaching courses and the future role of the ATFCA.
5. Collaboration between AA and the ATFCA and AA and ALA, is currently not always at the level we would all like it to be and there is some tension in relation to the current development and implementation of the Athletics Coach Accreditation Framework.

6. There is a need to work together to clarify the future roles of the ATFCA and AA in relation to coaching, to finalise the content of new coaching courses, and to clearly communicate the coaching framework and its planned implementation to the coaching community.
7. There is a need to clarify and refine the Memorandum of Understanding that was entered into by AA and ATFCA in late 2009 to resolve a number of outstanding issues relating to roles, responsibility and funding.
8. It is in the best interest of the sport to have as many coaches trained as possible and it is reasonable for AA to have additional suitably qualified providers supplement any program delivery conducted and offered by the ATFCA.
9. There is a continued need for ITC course as a non-accredited coaching course, specific to the needs of Little Athletics.
10. AA, ATFCA and ALA all have a genuine and passionate commitment to developing and implementing best practice coaching for the good of the sport of Athletics.

Agreed Actions

1. All parties will work together to ensure that there is an agreed athletics accreditation coaching framework that delivers optimal outcomes for the sport having regard to the interest of all parties.
2. Through the Coaching Advisory Committee (CAC), the ATFCA will continue to be involved in the development of the content for the accreditation framework and ensure it meets the needs of all coaches, including those who work exclusively within the little athletics environment. AA will actively collaborate with ATFCA in relation to curriculum development as part of this process.
3. AA will ensure that information relating to all programmed accredited coaching courses is communicated to:
 - a. ATFCA and its State Branches
 - b. AA Member Associations
 - c. ALA and its State Associations
4. AA will ensure this information is posted on its own website and will request that the information be placed on the respective websites of the above bodies.
5. AA agreed to waive what it considers to be a legal debt owed by ATFCA relating to past accreditation fees collected by ATFCA on the basis that the parties can come to an agreement on the future development and implementation of the national accreditation framework.
 - a. This includes discussion about using the Clubs On-line system, hosted by AA as the single registration tool for all accredited coaches.
 - b. The ATFCA have the option to include as part of the On-line registration system, the capacity for a coach to join the ATFCA by ticking the box provided and paying their membership simultaneously. Clubs On-Line will

then electronically allocate the payments received, to Athletics Australia and the ATFCA where appropriate.

6. AA agrees that any funding it provides its' Member Associations (MAs) from coaching accreditation fees will be given on the basis that such funds must be used exclusively for coaching development activities. MAs will be required to report this activity to AA at the end of each year.
7. The parties will meet again on Tuesday 7 September 2010 in Melbourne to:
 - a. Clarify and communicate the roles of both AA and ATFCA in relation to coaching
 - b. Explore potential cost efficiencies across the three organisations including, though not limited to, utilizing the on-line registration system, the production of MAC and on-line resources.
 - c. Identify funding opportunities for joint projects that have national significance and assist the delivery of the Athletics Coach Accreditation Framework.
 - d. To sign off on a revised MOU between AA and ATFCA that reflects the parties agreed positions.
8. The parties will work together with each other and Mark Rosenberg prior to the Melbourne meeting to ensure we optimise our time together and increase the prospect of resolving the issues as quickly as possible.
9. The parties agree to continue to treat each other with respect.
10. AA, ATFCA and ALA will jointly fund the cost of Mark Rosenberg to act as Facilitator / Mediator at the Melbourne meeting.

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