

**Canadian Masters Athletics (CMA)
WMA Indoor Championships – Budapest, HUN
March 25 – 30, 2014 - Report to Board**

Report from CMA Vice-President, Stadia

In my estimation and by all reports, this championship was the best indoor championship the WMA has had. I have read the comments sent to Vern and others from our athletes. Other than the confirmation process or lack of it, there were only minor issues.

Having two indoor tracks was very successful. The indoor throws after modifications for safety were great. Daegu for 2017 will build a second track, based on what they saw in Budapest.

All venues had sufficient judges and volunteers. There were short on translators but that was not an issue.

The awards were not a problem. I asked that the non-stadia awards be given out at the venue. This was done and it took pressure off the main awards area and the athletes loved getting their medal at the venue and not in front of a crowd who knew nothing about their event.

There were very few protests and appeals.

Countries which did not have a proper team manager to attend the regular meetings were a problem, because they did not know about changes, or understand how to form teams for non-stadia races. Hungary, the Ukraine and Russia were prime examples.

Athletes must wear proper country uniforms. This was an issue for stadia and non-stadia. I had to disqualify several from three countries because of athletes wearing T shirts with no country indication. I think that the WMA will now insist that all countries provide a specific team top to be worn at the championships. Canadian Masters must be ready.

Food was inexpensive and accommodations cheap compared to the rest of Europe.

And finally the transportation was excellent with the busses and the metro at hand.

For those who attended, please let me know your comments as I will pass them on to the stadia and non-stadia committees.

Brian Keaveney
WMA Technical Delegate

Report from the Canadian Team Manager

I'd like to provide a brief report to the Board on the World Masters Athletics (WMA) Indoor Track & Field Championships held in Budapest, Hungary, from the point of view of a competitor and the Canadian Team Manager. Sorry if I miss out on some issue which might be considered more important than those I choose to mention.

Registrations

Athlete registrations for the Championships were handled by "Simply Register", which also handled them for previous championships, including 2011 and the 2013 Championships in Porto Alegre, and the registrations went even more smoothly than in the past. I had access to the Canadian registrations, in order to verify that the athletes were CMA members and that we had proofs of their ages, and accepted them only after these points were verified. For any for whom we didn't have POAs, they were easily obtained, and were forwarded to Sherry Watts. All athletes were able to register themselves, so there were no cases where I had to do it for them. The original deadline was extended once by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), as the initial registrations were very low. After the extension, we ended up with **50 athletes** (almost exactly what we would have expected), and there were 3,800 in total (although we have not seen any numbers of the athletes by country).

Other Preparations

Three Bulletins were distributed to the Team members in advance of the Championships, and were posted on the CMA web site after their distribution. Additional Information Notices were issued to the Team from Budapest, both before and after the start of the Championships, as issues came up which we considered important, and these were posted on the Canada Bulletin Board which was set up two days before the Championships, as soon as we had access to the Technical Information Centre (TIC). The Bulletins and Notices contained information both on issues that are common to every Championship, such as the locations of venues, requirements for clothing and bibs, and transportation issues, and on issues specific to the location, such as possible weather, electrical outlets in the country, currency and language. Generally, the Bulletins were very well received by the Team, with many positive comments.

Team Managers – Contact with Team

Because of the small number of Team members, it was originally not planned to have more than one Team Manager. However, a CMA member who could not compete because of an injury, Wendy Melvin, volunteered to attend the Championships and serve as an Assistant Manager. She proved to have enthusiasm, common sense, many ideas, and a willingness to learn, which helped me out a great deal and, I believe, was appreciated by the members of the Team. It also is very useful to have more Team members with experience in acting as a Manager, as we likely will have a larger team for future Championships, particularly for the Outdoors in Lyon in 2015..

Because of the close proximity of all of the facilities in Budapest (see “Physical Arrangements”, below), it was easier to be in contact with the Team at these Championships than has often been the case. This basically did away with the possible need of local cell phones. In the few situations when we considered it urgent to contact team members, text messages to other Team members staying with them facilitated the contact. We had no cases where athletes needed hospitalization, as has often been the case, but we did have some cases where our athletes were given drug tests, and having a female Manager helped in accompanying one of our athletes during this process.

Physical Arrangements

The physical arrangements for the Championships were, for the most part, superb. Having two indoor tracks, the TIC, restaurants, award presentations and exhibition areas all under the one roof of the SYMA building was very convenient. The Non-Stadia locations were within a kilometre, and 15 minutes by bus, from the SYMA complex. The outdoor throws were also an easy 7 minutes walk from SYMA. There were two hotels and several restaurants within 5 minutes of SYMA, and downtown Budapest, where many of the athletes stayed, was only 4-5 subway stops away. We were helped by the Spring weather, which made travelling very enjoyable. The only problem was the relative lack of warmup facilities, which would have been much worse if the weather had not cooperated, as the main warmup facility was a small outside track next to SYMA. Our Championships accreditation allowed us unlimited use of the subways, streetcars and buses during the Championships. Since the accreditation was picked up in advance of the Championships, many of us used them a day or two in advance without incident. However, several athletes from various countries were forced to pay a fine of \$40.00 each, when they were caught by inspectors for not having paid to use the transit, which runs mainly on the honour system.

Technical Arrangements

The technical arrangements for putting on the Championships were very good, with the sole exception of the lack of declarations for the first round of all running events. As a result, the numbers of athletes in several heats were inconsistent and, since the advancement was based on overall best times, athletes were forced to run hard in the preliminary rounds, even though they were winning their heats. Some of the difficulties with having enough time to require declarations for these Championships come about because the LOC is squeezing many events into a very short period of time, making it difficult to enforce declarations, which are required for the Outdoor Championships, which are organized over a much longer time frame, 2 weeks rather than 5 days. The WMA may have to consider extending the duration of these Championships, even by a day or two, in order to provide more time for declarations, and the resulting reseeding of the first rounds of running events. Comments that have been received from athletes pertaining to this and other issues will be passed on the WMA, as requested by them.

Social Arrangements

The Opening Ceremony, although short, was fun for those who attended. The finish of the Championships turned into an impromptu free-for-all on the main infield at SYMA, which was the most fun of the whole Championships. As a team, we had two get-togethers, the first one at a touristy restaurant downtown serving traditional Hungarian food, with about 15 Team members in attendance. The second one was a slightly more official Team Party, when

we had about 20 Canadians at the restaurant in the hotel where several of us were staying, about 500m from SYMA. Although the food wasn't extremely good, I think everyone had a good time at this get-together.

Results

The provision of results during the Championships was a little inconsistent. Eventually, complete Canadian Stadia results were provided to the Team Managers, but this occurred only twice, and the second time was on the 28th, with two days left in the Championships. There were some issues with the results, which continue even today, as the results from some of the older female High Jumps have not yet shown up on the web site. Olga's WR High Jump hasn't shown up anywhere, including on the list of WRs set at Budapest on the WMA web site, but I was told yesterday that it will be added soon. This is one area which should be able to be done better.

Relays

As is often the case with WMA Championships, it wasn't easy to arrange Relay Teams, and I thank Paul Osland for his help in organizing them. The difficulties were particularly caused by the small number of athletes from which to choose in some age groups, and the possibility of injuries. As a result, some teams which had tentatively been set up weren't able to compete. The ones who did compete did very well. Unfortunately, one baton drop in the M40 team, and a resulting incorrect pickup, caused a disqualification of that team. All of us should look at the photos and video of that race, to learn from them. Unfortunately, during the race, quick reactions are necessary by the runners, while the officials have the benefit of time in deciding whether the race was legal.

Summary

The many medals won by our small team were noteworthy. However, I applaud each and every one of our competitors for their efforts, which we hope have yielded great satisfaction for each of you. If we can have many of our experienced athletes back for the Outdoor Championships in Lyon next year, plus have the addition of some of the newer athletes who have not competed, or have just begun competing in WMA competition, we can look forward to a great Championship for our Team Canada.

Vern Christensen