

## PRESIDENT

NEW NORMAL      COVID BUBBLE      SOCIAL DISTANCING      SHUTDOWN  
SUPER SPREADER      QUARANTINE      FLATTENING THE CURVE

Words that, prior to March of 2020 we probably never used and never imagine would become common everyday terminology across the world. Words that took the place of:

OLYMPICS      PERSONAL BEST      PROVINCIAL OR NATIONAL TEAM  
COMPETITION      PROVINCIAL MEET      MAKING STANDARD

Looking back on the bus ride home from the Boeing Track and Field meet in Winnipeg at the end of Feb. it seems like a life time has passed even though the world came to a standstill. It is hard to believe what has changed, stopped, moved and left us forever during the last 7 to 8 months.

In our Track and Field world alone, multiple things have changed. Training practices, training locations, athlete registration numbers, equipment usage, equipment cleaning are just a small number of items that have been altered in a short period of time. Track and Field meets, Road Races, Marathons, summer camps have all stopped in the blink of an eye. Events like the Boston, London and Berlin marathons moved and cancelled and of course the Olympics moved or ????. While all of this impacted athletes from our Run Jump Throw groups right up to Olympic champions it also impacted millions of businesses, families, and lives, greatly in a very short period of time.

While there was, and continues to be huge impacts on not only Track and Field but sport in general we have seen athletes, coaches, organizers, businesses, boards and teams rise up to the occasion and find alternate ways to train when you could not use the track or jump pits. Come up with innovative ideas in training equipment when you could not access what you would normally use. Get used to no training partner or one 2m away from you when you were used to pushing yourself beside someone. Ensure your athlete was comfortable getting coaching instructions over the phone or internet and of course having that meeting over zoom vs a boardroom.

We have also seen the massive rise in virtual races, meets and marathons. A year ago, I would have not imagined watching Lana (my wife) run the Boston Marathon in Regina's Wascana Park. I must say she along with thousands of other athletes and coaches showed maturity, grace and style in the way they managed, what was for some a once in a life time opportunity altered, changed or ended by Covid.

I know that, as things slowly start moving back towards a new normal in the track and field world, we will return to something close to what we were used to. I have full confidence and pride in the Sask Athletics staff and fellow Board Members to continue to lead the provincial track and field, walking and running community through 2020 and I am guessing 2021 as we

## PRESIDENT

all manage the changes Covid has brought to our lives. I also know that, when looking back on the year from a Track and Field perspective I am very proud to be part of a sport governing body that stood up in front of the world and made a very difficult decision to protect the safety of Canadian athletes and coaches. Canadian Olympic Athletes were told:

“It will be unfortunate if the Olympics are held this summer, but we won’t be sending a team. We want to look after your health, the health of our country and of the world.”

This announcement by Athletics Canada not only showed amazing leadership but, in my mind, showed athletes from all ages and parts of the country that we were, and are truly in this together.

We are moving forward and with the hard work and dedication of coaches, families, athletes and administrators we will get through it together.

I am proud to be part of [@teamCanada](#) who prioritized the physical and mental health of its athletes and our team of 37 Million Canadians.

(Sean McColl)