

Archery Alberta
Annual General Meeting Minutes
19 October 2025

Attendance Via Zoom

- a. Board Members: Chris Mella, Jude Hooley, Monica Higgins, Jeremy Dougherty, Darryll Polowaniuk and Wayne Puchinger
 - b. General Members: Arron Cox, Amanda Vavrek, Amber Hunt, Brenda Lefebvre, Bri Carter, Brynneigh Lohner, Chelsea McCaula, Paulo Fernandez, Dave Cole, Susan Gehlert, Dawn Groszko, Devin Pressl, Jason Cahill, Jennie Schipperheijn, Jody Wacowich, Joseph Carreon, Kevin Berge, Kevin Guimond, Lance Farwell, Lawrence Lam, Leon Lemoine, Melissa Minks, Michael McBurney, Mikayla Miller, Nathan Gitzel, Nick Fogg, PJ Palma, Ralph Schimanke, Richard Basnett, Rueben Thunder, Sarah King, Vance Rendle, Veronica Dougherty and Cathleen Polowaniuk.
1. Housekeeping
 - a. Chris reviewed some housekeeping points to explain how things work for the zoom meeting.
 2. Call to Order@ 7:07pm by Chris Mella
 3. Adoption of Meeting Agenda
 - a. Chris hopes that everyone had an opportunity to go through the AGM package that he sent out.
 - b. Chris asked if someone would motion to accept the Meeting Agenda as presented.
 - Jude Hooley motioned
 - Monica seconded. She also asked her if position as VP was good for another year (she thought it was) but Wayne clarified that position is only a one-year term and after this year it will change to a two-year term to alternate positions
 - All voted and motion carried
 4. Adoption of 2024 AGM Minutes
 - a. Chris said he has them available here if anyone has a question, but they were also included in the package that was sent out. He asked for a motion to adopt the 2024 AGM Minutes as presented.
 - Sarah King motions
 - Wayne Puchinger seconded.
 - All voted and motion carried
 5. Review Reports as needed
 - a. Chris noted that we won't go through the reports individually, but there has been a couple of concerns about some of them, and he would address them as needed. They won't be resolved at this meeting but he does want them in the minutes as a commitment to those that have concerns that further investigation will be done to figure them out.
 - The first one is in the coaching and judging report. There was a section under the judges overview about the target certified judges. Chris read from the report: While a few individuals have stepped forward to become Target Certified judges, this designation does not grant full provincial status or the authority to oversee registered record shoots. Chris said there is some concern that in 2019 there was a vote in the AGM to break out the qualifications judging sanctioned events and that they would be able to judge events that may have registered record shoots. Chris noted that we will not be able to solve that right now but that he did want it in the minutes so that it will be addressed between now and our next meeting.
 - b. The second one is under athlete development, and he asked Jude to address it. Jude said that in her report she inadvertently typed the wrong words. In her report near the bottom it should say "We did arrange for travel allowances for Alberta Archers that attended World Archery Championship Events". Jude said she left out the Championship part meaning World Field, World Target, World Juniors... those events. Unfortunately, because the

budget was cut so much this year, we couldn't fund any other events, even World Cups or a University Championship that was sanctioned by World Archery but was not a World Archery Championship. Jude apologized for leaving that part out. Chris has communicated with those that were concerned about that section and did tell them he would investigate outside of this meeting as well. Chris noted that in the minutes from that meeting there is some confusion about that as well. Chris wanted this in the minutes and committed that we will re-address it very soon.

- c. Chris asked if anyone else has some concerns about the reports.
- Dawn Groszko asked about the finances. Chris asked Darryl to speak about that. Dawn said under grants, the Canada Winter Games Grant for \$29,000.00, it came in in November 2024 but it's actually to be spent over a 3yr period for athlete development ending in March 2027. She's not sure if that needs to be noted because it was not all money that was spend in this year. The majority will be spent in 2025-26 and 2026-27. The second question is the CGEP offered through the Canadian Sport Institute was the 2023 Canada Winter Games and it would have been spent by the end of March 2023. So she is confused by why that is in there. Dawn noted that this grant would have come in 2022. Chris noted that Darryll may not have an answer right away because he wasn't the VP of Finance at the time. Chris said it will be in the minutes, and we will commit to investigate it as to why. Darryll noted that he will look into that.
 - Dawn noted that there was Team Alberta fees listed in the income, she thought all those funds were refunded back to athletes. Darryll said that was in this fiscal year, after April 2024.
 - Dawn said we also had Team Alberta Clinics for \$1219.00 (under the Archer Programs), she wasn't aware of any other clinics in that period. Chris asked Dawn, you're saying those clinics did not take place. Dawn does not recall any Team Alberta Clinics through April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Athletes have voiced concern about this to Dawn. She was just curious about these expenses. She said it could just be a timing thing of how they were recorded into the books.
 - Chris said this was a good time to explain that next year we are going to have to have our AGM significantly earlier next year. It used to be in the spring at the indoor target provincials but in the past due the reason we couldn't have in person meetings it was moved to December online. We have been informed from Sport Alberta that we have to have our AGM within four months of our year end. Chris asked Kathleen to confirm that, and she said it must happen within 6 months of our year end. Chris said our next AGM will be much earlier in the year. Chris said hopefully the confusion on the timing of these things on the balance sheets will be alleviated when our AGM is much sooner. Darryll confirmed that he has notes on these items.
 - Darryl also noted that at this time we are going to be introducing new changes to our policies on our financials and expense reimbursements, just taking up some financial controls so we are in compliance with all of the grant providers. They have expectations such as when our expenses are being submitted.
 - Amanda Vavrek had a question about Indoor Target Provincials. We had them back in April but the scores still have not been posted. So, what are you guys doing to make sure for those who have provincial records that the scores be posted whether in the past or going forward. Amanda contacted Archery Canada about that, but they said the fault was with the host club. Wayne confirmed that this issue is with Indoor Target and he has gone back and forth with Angel a few times. He has also talked with Archery Canada and for whatever reason they can't get those scores submitted on that event. It is an AC to IANSEO thing and he has been going back and forth with it a bunch of times. Now that he is off the road with his job, he will be able to focus on that. It is an Archery Canada thing. Chris noted that clubs do not receive their grant for hosting if they do not submit the scores to him in a timely fashion. Indoor 3D Provincials scores have not been submitted either. They also would not be allowed to host another event as well. Chris noted that there isn't anything in place for Archery Alberta to do the scoring, that's not mandated. Perhaps that's something to consider in the future with the right set of volunteers.
 - Amanda had one more question about judging. She was talking to Laura Lynn about the certifications. Because we don't have IBO 3D anymore and an ASA doesn't qualify if anyone wants to become a national judge. How do we get proper certification if we don't have an IBO to go to Nationals. She has talked to Jeremy Dougherty as well. Amanda would like some clarification on this between the provincial and national level. Chris knows there has been some movement on this but the best person to get clarification on this isn't at this meeting and that's Jamie Brehaut. Chris committed that he will look into it.

6. Executive Board Vacancy Elections.

- Chris said there is two vacancies, one for President as Jamie has resigned due to other issues going on and the VP Athlete Development – Jude has also resigned.
- a. President
 - Chris opened the floor for nominations for President of Archery Alberta
 - Jude nominated Chris Mella as President
 - Amanda Vavrek and Veronica Dougherty nominated Jeremy Dougherty for President
 - Chris asked Jeremy if he would accept the nomination and he said yes. Chris set up a poll for a vote. Wayne asked if Chris would accept the nomination and he said yes.
 - Jude noted that Chris must technically ask for more nominations three times. Chris proceeded to ask three times for nominations. No more nominations were made.
 - Chris posted the pole for voting for President. There was 37 of 38 votes made. Chris won with 27/37 votes (73%) and Jeremy 10/37 (27%). Chris Mella is elected President of Archery Alberta.
- b. VP Athlete Development
 - Chris called for a nomination of VP Athlete Development
 - Jude Hooey nominated Nick Fogg. She noted that he has been great on the committee and would like to move up. Devin Pressl seconds that.
 - Chris noted that Nick is listening in but he's at work so he can't respond to that, but Chris has a response in writing that he does accept that nomination.
 - Chris asked three more times for nominations for VP of Athlete Development
 - Nick won by acclamation.

7. Executive Board Position Elections

- Chris noted that these are actually two-year positions but because they were new positions starting just last year, they were for only one year so that we alternate when those positions are restarted and that we have continuity in the board.
- a. VP Technical
 - Chris asked for nominations for VP Technical
 - Chris nominated Jeremy Dougherty.
 - He asked Jeremy if he would accept the nomination and Jeremy said he will but if someone else is nominated he would gladly let them have it.
 - Chris asked for any more nominations for VP Technical three times.
 - Jeremy won by acclamation.
- b. VP Financial
 - Chris noted that Darryll has been doing this and would let his name stand.
 - Chris nominated Darryll Polowaniuk for VP Financial. Darryll did accept the nomination.
 - Chris asked for any more nominations for VP Financial three times
 - Darryll won by acclamation.
 - Darryll noted that should someone be interested in this role when it comes up in two years time, he is happy to take someone on in a subcommittee fashion and do a proper transition and hand over for this role because to just turn the books over it's very difficult.
- c. VP 3D
 - Chris nominated Monica Higgins. He asked Monica if she would accept and she said yes.
 - Chris asked for any more nominations for VP of 3D three times
 - Monica won by acclamation.

8. New Items

- a. Chris asked if anyone had any new items to bring up that they think are important to share at the AGM
- b. Chris brought up how successful the admin committee has been. He noted that two of those people are in this meeting and noted how they have small time commitments for their positions. He said that a lot of these positions are not big-time commitments, so you do not have to be afraid to volunteer. He said that he knows in the past

volunteer positions have had big time commitments, but we can break those down into smaller chunks so people don't have to have those big commitments. He knows we do have some needs in the coaching department. Jeremy noted that we do need more judges too.

- c. Melissa Minks noted that judges are just people, we make mistakes and it is a difficult volunteer position. Judges talk after the event to learn from each other and there have been a few events that have been very negative with feedback. It puts a bad taste in people's mouths to move on to more events. Everyone should remember that this is a sport, should be kind with each other and appreciate the volunteers whether it's the event organizer, board member or judge. People should be happy that people have taken their time to do that and they are just doing their best at these events. Chris noted that this was a super important point to be said and thanked Melissa for bringing it up. Chris said it is an extremely thankless job and should be the most thanked job. He also said we need to protect our officials from harassment or negativity that might go too far. Jeremy noted that anything like that should be reported and they can follow up. Chris said there will be a new reporting system on the website hopefully by February.
- d. Sarah King said one of the things that we need for coaching are more Learning Facilitators. If anyone is interested that would be great because there is a backlog for courses and there is only Sarah and Angel who have limited time. If clubs want coaches trained, they need to start stepping up to have those courses at their facilities, but we don't have enough facilitators, so we are having to scale back on how many times we are running those courses. If you are interested spread the word. Contact Sarah or Jeremy for more information.
- e. Vance Rendle asked if judges can go from a volunteer to a paid position like they have in Saskatchewan? Jeremy said that before Wayne stepped aside as judging facilitator, we started having the discussion about how we were going to look at not a full paid position but to reimburse them better. He said if you want to be part of the judging committee and help us figure that out that would be awesome. Vance said he can help with what he can, and he noted that it might create more interest in judging. Wayne noted when he was in that position, he looked into that and the only issue he has with the paid was due to what happened in Ontario. They were doing a qualifier for Worlds with recurve archers and the judge said he was not getting paid anymore and he walked out of the event so they couldn't finish. He brought it up with the board that we should make sure they are paid for the whole event and not just an hourly wage.
- f. Amanda Vavrek asked if there was going to be further discussion about a director because it was talked about a lot last year and nothing was ever announced if an executive director was hired or not. Chris said we do not have the budget for it so for the time being it is on the back burner.
- g. Chelsea McCaula noted that Angel is working so she asked Chelsea to keep her in the loop. She said that Angel did say she is willing to facilitate beginner coaching courses, has put out an email but has not heard back from anybody. If somebody could touch base with her on that. Sarah noted that she knows that and Angel is on the schedule for next year to run courses. She said that it's just the two of them and there is still a lot to do. Sarah is the only one who can provide all levels of coaching courses so, it's very draining on her. Angel reached out through Chelsea by text that she is certified to do beginner but can't do intermediate because I haven't been presented with the opportunity but am interested. Wayne said that he has reached out to both Angel and Sarah for Angel to teach a beginner course for eight members of his club, but that Angel said that she can't do it without approval from Sarah. Sarah said she has never received a single email on that and asked Wayne to send her an email on this so she can arrange this.
- h. Jude Hooley noted about the judges being paid, that with a limited budget we pay their mileage, food and accommodation. What more do they want? Wayne noted that in Saskatchewan they are getting paid about \$150.00/day plus their food, travel and accommodation. Chris said that it would be up for more discussion later.
- i. PJ Palma said that he was interested in coaching and judging and asked who he would talk to for that. Chris said to go to the website and fill out the contact form, it will go to him, and he will direct it to the right people.
- j. Aaron Cox said he ran shoots in the last year and offered \$100.00 of his own money to get a judge at a shoot. Maybe the clubs can offer to pay judges before they come to the shoots, that might be a good compromise. Chris clarified that the compromise would be that the club can also contribute. Aaron said to avoid the situation that Wayne discussed earlier, we pay the judges before they come to the shoot, it's easy to pay them through e-transfer, it might be a way to encourage more people to become judges and would ensure that you have judges for your event.

- k. Dawn Groszko said that at Jimbow's Junior larger events there is always an honorarium paid to judges for the event. The other suggestion for coaching that it might be beneficial to have a coaching seminar maybe two or three times a year or at a provincial to discuss different topics and the coaches could trouble shoot different items as well. This might be beneficial to coaches from smaller communities that don't have resources around them. It's another idea to put before the board to help coaches develop more. Jeremy noted that we discussed this but due to budgetary constraints it was cut out but in this coming year we can re-look at it. Sarah said she does want to do this for North Central and South. She does have Dawn on her list to approach to help with it, and Dawn said it sounds good.

9. Adjournment

- Chris moved that we adjourn the 2025 AGM Meeting for Archery Alberta at 7:59pm
- Darryl Polowaniuk seconds
- All voted and motion carried