Athletics Ontario Road & Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose

The Athletics Ontario Road & Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC) provides practical industry and community advice to Athletics Ontario to support the development, delivery and growth of road and trail running across Ontario.

RTAC will help identify priorities, share expertise, strengthen collaboration and advance safe, sustainable and accessible opportunities for participation in road and trail running across the province.

Authority

RTAC is an advisory committee of Athletics Ontario and will develop an annual work plan with a small number of specific priorities, deliverables and timelines.

The Committee may review issues, identify opportunities and make recommendations related to Athletics Ontario's road and trail programming and strategy. It does not direct Athletics Ontario staff, establish policy, commit organizational resources or speak on behalf of Athletics Ontario unless specifically authorized.

Responsibilities

The RTAC may:

- Provide race director, participant, community and industry perspectives on Athletics Ontario road and trail initiatives.
- Advise on sanctioning, event standards, safety, risk management and best practices.
- Provide input for the Athletics Ontario Road & Trail Championship strategy and selection.
- Identify opportunities to grow participation in road and trail running across Ontario.
- Provide input on athlete and participant programming, including opportunities that connect recreational, community and competitive runners.
- Identify opportunities to support and increase the visibility of community running groups, clubs, events and other participation initiatives.
- Identify emerging issues, challenges and opportunities affecting road and trail running in Ontario.
- Support education, resources and professional development for race directors and the broader running community.
- Provide ongoing input into the annual Athletics Ontario Annual Race Director Summit and help advance selected priorities arising from the summit throughout the year.
- Encourage collaboration and sharing of best practices among race directors, community leaders, athletes and other stakeholders.
- Provide feedback on proposed Athletics Ontario programs, policies or initiatives that may significantly affect Ontario's road and trail running community.

Composition

The Committee will consist of eight to twelve members:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Race Director/Event Organizer Representatives
- Community, athlete, safety and/or industry representatives, as appropriate
- Athletics Ontario road and trail staff representative (ex officio)

Race directors and event organizers should represent most of the Committee membership, ensuring that practical event experience remains at the core of RTAC's work.

Membership should, where reasonably possible, reflect the diversity of Ontario's road and trail running community, including large and small events; road and trail; urban and rural communities; for-profit and not-for-profit/community events; different geographic regions; community running organizations; and established and emerging leaders.

Eligibility and Expectations

Committee members must be Ontario-based individuals with relevant experience, knowledge or expertise in road and trail running. This may include race directors, event organizers, community running leaders, athletes, safety and risk-management professionals, and other industry or subject-matter experts.

Members are expected to contribute their knowledge and perspective to the broader interests of road and trail running in Ontario rather than solely representing their own event, organization or area of interest.

The Committee is member-driven. Members are expected to help establish priorities, propose ideas, take ownership of agreed-upon actions and advance initiatives between meetings. Athletics Ontario will provide strategic guidance and reasonable support; however staff will not be responsible for managing or carrying out the Committee's work.