

**Potential Proposal**  
**WORLD ATHLETICS Schools Pentathlon**  
*[Fitness Award for Teenagers: 13 to 18 years old]*

In the 1960's and 70's the USA President's Council on Physical Fitness was a time when the Council focused on rigorous fitness – with less of an emphasis on general physical activity. The Council was started by an Executive Order in 1959, but was substantially, bolstered in January 1963 by President Kennedy.

In the late 1970's William [Bill] Toomey, Olympic Decathlon gold medalist and Barry King, British Olympic Decathlete [RIP – His funeral was today- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>: April, 2021 in Colorado]. Barry was also a very successful USA Olympic Marketing Director for 15 years. They are both long time good friends of mine with whom I previously worked with on many projects. They prepared a proposal called the National Pentathlon for school children 13 to 18 years old, which was accepted by the Presidents Council and sponsored by Coca-Cola. This program was very successful in the USA schools system; with I understand several million certificates handed out. Then Coca-Cola, assisted by Toomey and King also introduced the project in Brazil where another several million school children participated and a notable Brazilian athlete – Joaquin Cruz came out of the system, later winning the 800 meters Olympic Gold medal in the 1984 Los Angeles Games. But unfortunately Presidents and political agendas change and this excellent program fell by the wayside and was almost totally forgotten for many years.

Today, WORLD ATHLETICS has an excellent 'Kids Program' sponsored by Nestle on the world stage. The objective is to make Athletics [Track & Field] the number one participation sport in schools and also attract and sustain the potential sporting stars of tomorrow. The program hopes to 'catch them young' for three age categories: 7 – 8 years, 9 – 10 years and 11 – 12 years. This is the biggest grass roots development program in the world of sport. However, World Athletics does not want to lose all these budding stars when they become teenagers [13 to 18 years]. In 2015 Lord Coe was elected as the President of the IAAF. That same year I was appointed as the High Performance Director of Indian Athletics. At that time the IAAF became WORLD ATHLETICS. Also at that time [2015] I briefly discussed the Schools project with President Adille, Dr.L.Bhanot [Chairman of Planning] and the then Director General of the Indian Sports Authority. There was positive interest on the subject. World Athletics were too busy at that time with a new President and a new Agenda.

The time is just right now in 2021 with the World Plan for World Athletics 2022 – 2030 being currently determined with the Global Conversation Survey in progress. I completed the survey today [Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>: April, 2021] and I'm aware that the compilation of the feedback and ongoing outreach, is being led by World Athletics' World Plan Working Group, chaired by Willie Banks, and supported by all 214 Member Federations. I understand that the World Plan will be finalized in the summer of 2021, before requiring formal approval of the World Council, and the World Athletics Member Federations at the 53<sup>rd</sup>: World Athletics Congress later this year.

*PROPOSAL*

I would like to suggest that **World Athletics** consider the Toomey/King designed National Pentathlon Fitness Award- for all school boys and girls between 13 and 18 years of age. There is a vacuum in this age group. Yes, there is of course the Youth and Junior program for the elite school boys and girl teenagers, but not for the rest of the teenagers who may turn out to be late developers or just future Athletics fans.

The five activities in the National Pentathlon Award -.are 100 meters, long jump, shot put, high jump and 1,500 meters run. These five events test and develop the most essential characteristics of physical fitness which are speed, strength, agility, skill and endurance. Performances achieved in each event are evaluated on a scoring table. The total score represents a meaningful measurement of physical conditioning and sports skill, it sets a level upon which each participant, all girls and boys 13 – 18 years will seek to improve.

This program can be revived, this time by WORLD ATHLETICS and may I suggest that President Lord Coe initially discuss with **Indian Athletics Federation President Adille** the possibility of using Indian Schools as the first example to **initiate the Program**. This proposed program will fulfill a need for the [13 -18 years] age category. In the second attachment – a 40 page document is the Introduction to the program and all the relevant information, including an original Award Certificate example. If this project is found acceptable the program could be brought up to date by a World Athletics sub-committee, thus saving the sport “reinventing the wheel” As in all sports: 'Competition is the life blood of Athletics'. So also it is in the world of business. I assume with an attractive program like this it should not be too difficult to educe some large corporate to come aboard as a sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted

Sincerely,

Derek Boosey OLY

*PS. Some thoughts on updating the excellent project from the past for school teen boys and girls Skill & Fitness Program.*

*A. Besides printing the instructional book, one can also make it an internet website.*

*B. Give the site the capability of switching to different languages.*

*C. Add the metric measurement to the current imperial measurement for the scoring tables.*

*D. Use current **WORLD ATHLETES** for the techniques photo series.*

*E. Add current technique videos to the site.*

*F. Consider eliminating the old high jump techniques and add the rotational technique for the shot.*

*G. Involve Indian Olympic Alumni [Track, Field & Road event athletes] as some kind of Ambassadors, to the schools when introducing the program.*

*I. The above points are only some of the obvious potential upgrades. I'm sure when the relevant Sub committees do a 'brain storm' on the project they will come up with some interesting advances*

*II. Consider making the program a **SIX EVENT** by adding the 3,000 meters race walk.*