

PARTNERS



BCSSA Athlete Development Committee 2017 AGM Report

Committee Members: Thomas McLennan, Mae Shupe, Carol Dougan, and Nick Zacchia. Nick was unable to attend most of the meetings this season. We also had, Jessica Hewitt Board Representative and (Staff Liaison) and Alison Desmarais as the Skater Representative.

ADC is responsible for establishing and publishing the format and procedures for BCSSA ranking competitions and to select Team BCSSA for the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championship and Canada West Short Track Championship. The Committee meet 18 times throughout the past year. We were fortunate to have Jessica, BCSSA board representative continue on the Committee and share her knowledge with us.

Alison joined the Committee as the Skater Rep – the first time this position has been filled for many years. This was an elected position by the skaters. We valued her insight and input on many of the decisions we had to make throughout the season.

This year the T2T Western Circuit was created. We worked with Mike Marshall from Alberta to put together a series of races aimed at the T2T skaters in order to give them more experience skating with other skaters they may not be familiar with and also better prepare our skaters for the format of CANWEST. The Edmonton Fall Classic, and BC Speed-tacular were part of this series. We had 67 skaters registered for the Speed-tacular. Reviewing the results, the times were close in most categories which provided meaningful competition for the skaters.

BC sent 30 skaters to compete in the Canadian Age Class Long Track Championship. They brought home 20 medals. Thirty-seven skaters went to the CanWest Championships where TEAM BCSSA won 37 medals.

ADC took on the task last season revising the Provincial Performance Program Athlete Development Bulletin, Bulletin #3, after several years. We expanded the program to include Tier 5. Previously there were only 4 Levels.



British Columbia Speed Skating Association

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Skaters had the opportunity to qualify for a Tier three times throughout the season for Short Track and two times for Long Track. Once a skater qualified, he/she was guaranteed that Tier for the remainder of the season with the opportunity to upgrade at each period. In past year's BCSSA Provincial Performance Program followed the precedent of SSC whereby skaters qualified for the PPP on an annual basis.

We believed this gave acknowledgement to skater's achievements throughout the season, and would help them financially when they most needed it. This year we saw approximately 6 skaters move up a Tier and 3 skaters qualify for a Tier mid-season. The aim is for skaters to progress and gain a spot on the National and Development Teams, and to increase the medals at the CWG.

ADC funded the performance skaters throughout the season who attended the Canadian Championships and Ranking Competitions, Wingate testing, Sport Medical, Head Check Health trial subscription and purchased a second iPad to support the app. We added to the team uniforms pool for the BCSSA short track and long track teams.

In Short Track, we saw success on the women's side. Jamie MacDonald raced to silver at the World Cup in Calgary. She is ranked 6th nationally. Alison Desmarais is ranked 11 and Jamie Lee is ranked 14th.

In Long Track Denny Morrison is ranked 4th in the 1000. Jacob Graham is ranked 7th in the 500; and 10th in the 1000. Hamish Black is ranked 5th in the 5000/10,000 and Braden Clouthier is ranked 10 in the 1000.

Carolina Hiller is ranked 5th in the 500; 8th in the 1000 and 1500. Abigail McCluskey is ranked 6th in the 500 and 1000; 5th in the 1500 and 4th in 3000/5000. Josie Spence is ranked 7th in the 1500 and the 3000/5000 and Tori Spence is ranked 5th in the 3000/5000.

We congratulate all of our skaters and wish them continued success.

Looking forward to next year, we discussed the importance of skaters having the opportunity to compete both on an outdoor track and indoor track. This would better prepare them for competing at the CACLT which is generally an outdoor oval, and for some of the Canada Cups. Ideally, if the racing schedule works, our skaters should compete at the Red Deer facility as preparation for the Canada Winter Games.



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Speed-tacular was well received and we would like to see it continue for the development of our skaters. We had 67 skaters registered and we discussed the possibility of having it open to performance Junior skaters. By working with Alberta, this could be a very successful circuit.

We hope the 5 Tiers with different times throughout the season to qualify will continue next season. We have followed progress and there are some possible modifications that could improve it, but overall it seems to be working and skaters are moving up or qualifying during the season.

We had lots of discussion and conversations with health professionals outside the sort regarding having skaters tested at beginning of season as a baseline testing for Concussion. Hopefully this will become more affordable.

Also, we hope that the Skater Representation position can be selected sooner than this year now that we have a system in place to elect the position.

BCSSA ADC Committee



CANADA

