



Coaching Committee Report
Speed Skate Nova Scotia
2014-2015 Annual General Meeting

The Coaching Committee is still operating on an informal basis. At this point, a Chair has not been identified for the Committee.

Information was gathered in the fall of 2014 about the coaching community in Nova Scotia. There were 49 coaches working on-ice with skaters, of whom the largest number were with the Speedy Kids Oval Program Society. Only a few coaches in the province have achieved certification at this point. Lisa Gannett is now certified to facilitate FUNdamental Leader and FUNdamental Coach clinics. Speedy Kids hosted a FUNdamentals Coaching Clinic in December attended all or in part by 21 people, and now has 6 coaches fully trained at the FUNdamentals Coach level.

In addition, Jonathan McNeil and Carolyn Jarock completed all but the final module (Competition Development) required to meet the qualifications required to coach at the Canada Winter Games. They were granted an exception as the module was not available before the Games, and coached our athletes to a very successful performance at the Games. This module is now available and plans and funding are in place to assist with their completion of their training.

Carolyn has been accepted into the 2015 Female Coach Mentorship Program, and has also taken on responsibility as Assistant Coach of the Atlantic Long Track Program. Jonathan received the SSNS Coach of the Year Award at the 2015 Ricoh Awards. Both Carolyn and Jonathan have committed to continue their work in high performance coaching, which will be essential to the development of our Performance Pathway program.

Brent Thompson has resigned as Head Coach of the Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club, after several years of guiding its training programs, and developing its coaching staff. Brent has been a key builder of the sport during its intensive growth following the Canada Games, organizing the Sunday Racing Series on the oval, working on the development of our Canada Games policy, running summer dry land programs, setting track markings, coaching and organizing coaches for the Learn to Speed Skate program on the oval, and generally being involved in organizing and running most events in either short track or long track. His extensive knowledge of the sport and skills in running it will be sorely missed.

Jonathan McNeil and Carolyn Jarock have agreed to become co-Head Coaches of the Halifax club. Once the oval season opens, Carolyn will focus her activities on the long track program at the oval, while Jonathan will focus on the short track programming at St. Margaret's Bay.

Funding has been received to assist in re-establishing the Northside Blades club, and a portion of this funding will be used to organize a coaching clinic in Sydney. We have been in touch with Ruth MacInnes and hope to collaborate with the Special Olympics program in hosting this clinic.

With Danielle Daigle no longer coaching with the Halifax club, and the departure of Nicole Woodall, who has completed her studies at Acadia, new members will be needed to represent the Halifax Regional and Annapolis Valley clubs on the Coaching Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Sheila McGinn

Coaching Committee Member