

Competition Committee Report 2017-2018

2017-2018 Competitions

This year, Skate Canada Nova Scotia continued to partner with the other Maritime provinces for Sectionals. This continues to be an excellent opportunity for Nova Scotia skaters to compete against a larger field of competitors. The NS/NB/PEI 2018 Sectional Championships were held in Amherst, November 3-5, 2017. The Amherst Skating Club did a fabulous job hosting Sectionals and will be the host again for the 2019 SCNS Sectionals this coming November.

Nova Scotia Fall Skate took place at St Margaret's Centre on November 18th, 2017. Our fall skate competition was very successful and we were able to coordinate more opportunity for our skaters by using two ice surfaces.

This year we introduced a STAR 1-3 Pilot competition, which took place January 21st, 2018. This was an extremely successful event for the Riverview Skating Club. This required only one group of officials, a few data specialists, and a pop up judges stand. It was a great event for our STAR 1-3 skaters giving them another opportunity to compete and enjoy.

The Atlantic Synchronized Skating Championships took place January 27th-28th, 2018 in Liverpool. This competition rotates every year around the Atlantic Provinces. The Queen's County Blades Skating Club hosted the competition and had a fabulous outcome, including some recognition of the club for its volunteer efforts.

Our Winter competition, known as the Robert McCall Memorial, was held in East Hants, and was hosted by a joint effort of the Bedford Skating Club and Halifax Skating Club from February 2-4, 2018. Both clubs worked collaboratively together to put on a successful competition that was enjoyed by skaters, coaches, and officials.

The Nova Scotia STARSkate and Synchro Provincials took place from February 23-24 in Pictou County hosted by the Mariposa East Skating Centre. The local organizing committee provided a successful competition.

Finally, the Atlantic Canada Skating Championships were held at the East Hants Sportsplex from April 6th- 8th, 2018. This was a very well organized competition that featured the top skaters in STAR 5 to Gold, Pre Juvenile, Juvenile and Pre Novice from the Atlantic Sections.

Competition Committee Work

The 2017-2018 season is now completed and our competition committee continues to work behind the scenes to ensure competitions run smoothly and effectively. This year the competition committee met in person, over emails, and conference calls. We have been able to cover many topics at our meetings and we have some great ideas working together as a team. The competition committee will continue to review ways to help make competitions more accessible to all skaters around Nova Scotia, especially with the implementation of STAR 1-3 competitions.

One of the big items the competition committee covered this year was an update to the Competition Manual. Through feedback from hosting committees the Competition Manual was updated in a collaborative method, adding important details for successful management and hosting of a competition.

This year was the first year for SCNS to use the program Uplifter for clubs and skaters to register for competitions. Starting next year this will be the online platform for all competition registrations.

The competition committee also worked to update the competition bid form, outlining some important criteria on the application and providing space for more detailed information. This detailed information on the application form helps assist the Competition Committee when making decisions to award a host club(s) for a competition.

Rationale for Restructure of Competitions for the 2018-2019 Season

Overall our competitions were very successful this year. So successful in fact that a review was required moving forward to allow our skaters the best opportunity to compete within our Section. There were many factors to take into consideration before decisions could be made for eligibility and entry criteria in competitions.

In order to accommodate all the entries received, all of our competitions required two ice surfaces this year for part of the day on Saturday. Even with that the Robert McCall Competition still had to cancel all the Team, Elements and

Adult competitions, as there was not sufficient ice time to run those events. Although we did have the opportunity to secure two ice surfaces for each of the competition this will not always be the case, nor can we make it mandatory as this would make it very difficult for host clubs. There are too few twin (two ice surface) venues within Nova Scotia for it to be reasonable to secure ice time for all of our competitions. As well it would limit where in the province competitions could be held as well and which clubs might be able to manage them. In fairness to our Section clubs we would like all clubs to have the opportunity to host a competition if they wish to bid on one. The limitation of one ice surface should not be a factor in being awarded a competition.

That being said, given that we cannot limit our competitions to one surface we then needed to consider how best to manage the numbers for one ice surface. We would like to offer the opportunity for all skaters to be able to enter our competitions without limitation and be judged on the skills they have worked so hard on each year.

We have worked very hard on growing the grass roots events in skating and it is really a good sign that we now need to manage numbers and competitions, it shows we are being successful in gaining skaters who are continuing in figure skating. The Star 1-3 Pilot was very successful and showed what can be done for our developing skaters. These events can easily be handled by a small club and are extremely worthwhile in continuing to build our skating membership. As they are a one-day competition it was an easy decision for the Competition Committee that these should continue and hope many can be awarded to clubs throughout the year. These events are assessed to standard so the computers are not required. The skaters are all awarded ribbons and certificates, no medals required. No judges platform required, judges can use the players benches in many venues. Financially these events are significantly less to run than an invitational competition. To help limit travel for these young skaters it is hoped that each Region might consider hosting a Star 1-3 competition at some point during their competitive season, typically January through April.

As the objective of the Star 1-3 program is to progress through these events quickly it was agreed that removing these events from the Robert McCall Competition and Provincials is not a detriment but rather an incentive. Those events are designed for skaters to move through easily, as soon as they have reached a Silver or Gold assessment in one category they should be moving up to the next level. That is why all program length and eligibility criteria are the same for Star 2, 3 and 4.

The Invitational competitions Robert McCall Memorial and Provincials will focus on allowing our competitive, STAR and Adult skaters the opportunity to showcase their talents. For many skaters doing a freeskate program is not their

strongest skill set. There are great developmental opportunities in doing an elements event (trying an element they are working toward) without the pressure of the program. Team events build great sportsmanship and camaraderie, a lifelong skill. Skating for Life: keeping our membership skating longer as we have provided opportunities for them.

Volunteers

Nova Scotia Section is very fortunate in that we have many dedicated volunteers at the club, section and regional level. These experienced and new volunteers host our competitions with skill and enthusiasm, providing great events for our skaters, officials, and coaches.

Thank you to all our excellent volunteers for making everything possible. We couldn't run our competitions without you! We consistently try to encourage members to volunteer in order to help make our competitions run smoothly and efficiently. We hope more parents and club members become more involved with figure skating in Nova Scotia, whether it be at the Club level or beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Doroshenko
Competitions Committee Chair
Skate Canada Nova Scotia