

## **2020-2021 Skate Canada Nova Scotia**

### **Coaches' Representative – Annual Report**

It was my privilege to represent Nova Scotian coaches for the 2020-2021 skating season. As all of you know, COVID 19 has seriously affected every aspect of our lives. It has made planning events and developmental programs extremely difficult and has led to many cancellations. In the interest of clarity, and to reduce redundancy, I thought it best that communication regarding COVID 19 come directly from Jill and Skate Canada. I think that Jill and Sheila did an excellent job of keeping us informed and supporting both skaters and coaches during a very challenging time.

Despite drawbacks this year, there have been many positives. We were able to develop relationships with videographers and other personnel to further our participation in virtual events. Last fall, Alyssa Cross was able to compete virtually in Skate Canada Challenge 2021. This sets us up to participate in the Virtual British Columbia Summer Competition, restrictions permitting. Assuming we can return to ice in time, this will hopefully give our competitive skaters something exciting to prepare for and take part in. As we head into a new skating season, we hope to have more opportunities for performances both virtually and in person.

Another exciting program Skate Canada Nova Scotia was able to offer was our Team Challenge. Participation grew to almost 100 teams and we received a lot of positive feedback from parents and skaters. As a coach who had skaters participate, I recognize the additional work required on the coaches part and we appreciate everyone's effort and creativity.

Skate Canada, as a whole, is putting a great deal of effort in developing programs to improve our skater's second mark, in particularly their skating skills. We as Skate Canada Nova Scotia, feel that this is extremely important in our province. Our Skater Development Committee has started a pilot program in which Marie Bowness offers on ice instruction, focusing on skating skills, at different clubs around the province. We have run our first session and received positive feedback from both skaters and coaches. Once arenas reopen and interprovincial travel is safe, we hope to offer this program to skating clubs throughout the province.

Finally, this year presented an excellent opportunity for continuing education for our coaches. We'd like to remind all coaches that this downtime is a chance to earn more professional development points. The upcoming Skate Canada Ice Summit is an excellent, safe way to earn some of those points and further our development.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Jacobsen