

**Skate Canada Nova Scotia**  
**Skater Development**  
**2020-2021 Year End Review**



The 2020/2021 season was an unprecedented year for us in Nova Scotia on all fronts with everything we do being defined by Covid. So I'm very proud of the work that our group has completed this year. Many thanks given to those made up the skating development committee; Joe Jacobsen, Megan Long, Sheila Beard, and Jill Knowles it's been great working with all of you this year. This past season has shown us that even though we cannot meet face to face perhaps we can still be cost effective and efficient online.

The season started with the unsureness of what our competitive season would look like and it quickly was apparently that competitions would be sparse and/or non-existent. The Skate Canada Challenge event allowed us to create a great partnership with a Maritime Athletic Profiles who we are looking forward to working with again in the future; they have offered us some great tools that I know will help bring skating in Nova Scotia into a more current technological time.

Some of the initiatives included promoting video monitoring for all skaters in Nova Scotia, Challenge Team events, which have been the highlight of the year as we had submissions for October, November, January, February, and March amounting to over 381 teams. Virtual workshops, at no cost to the skaters, were offered through Flexafit for flexibility and core strength, they were well attended, and I am hoping that these continue throughout the 2021-2022 season.

Moving forward with the Pre Canada Games season we are working towards providing different opportunities for potential athletes to participate in different team bonding exercises. More information on this to follow.

There are constant discussions related to moving forward with next season's competitive season and how to best assist our skaters in these unknowing times. We are encouraging clubs to hold monitoring opportunities in early summer either, in person or via video submissions, to help skaters prepare for upcoming competitions. SCNS is partnering with the BC Section' Summer Skate to offer a virtual competitive experience for our athletes this coming summer via video submissions. Skaters will perform their programs the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> in St Margaret's Bay with SCNS looking after the video to be submitted to SCBC.

We are excited to be partnering with Marie Bowness in a pilot project this spring getting back to the basics of skating, (which has now been put on hold due to covid restrictions). It is the hopes that this will evolve into a series of sessions with Marie throughout the province. The goal is to make this available to any club would a chance to share some of Marie's internationally renowned knowledge of skating and how the basics are the foundation for all skating skills. It has been identified both nationally and within our section that basic skating skills are not where they should be to allow our skaters to be the best that they can be.

Sincerely

John Mattatall