

SKATE ONTARIO TRANSITION COMMITTEE

UPDATE #2 | NOVEMBER 2016



Transition Committee

Chairman:

Glenn Fortin (Aurora)

Committee Members:

Gloria Brighten (Kanata)

Janet Balkwill (Kanata)

Therese Billsborough

(Cochran/FontHill)

Susan Blatz (Troy)

Marion Dyke (Mississauga)

Cheryl Hollows (Rosseau)

William Lindsay (Chatham)

Paul Mallet (Waterloo)

Liz Mannell (Welland)

Tracey McMague-McElrea

(Newmarket)

Susanne Morgan (Barrie)

Mary-Rose Weir (Stouffville)

Darlene Joseph – Skate Canada

(Gloucester)

Skate Ontario Staff

Executive Director:

Lisa Alexander

Technical Director:

Scott Rachuk

Director of Administration:

Sarah Smith

Transition Effective Date

April 1, 2017

NOTE: Transitions for skating programs and events may extend beyond transition date

ACCOMPLISHMENTS/DECISIONS

- Lisa Alexander, Executive Director Skate Ontario hired and has been on board now for two months
- Kajan Nandakumar and David Bedford have been hired as consultants to the Skate Ontario Transition team to provide support and direction from both the business transition and sport organization perspectives respectively
- Skate Ontario Board of Directors passed By-laws for the new Skate Ontario and these are now with Skate Canada for approval
- 8 Sub-Committees currently in place covering: Governance, Finance, Organization Structure, Judges/Evaluators/Technical, Data Specialists, Competitions, Coaches

ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

Skate Ontario Operations

- Managing transition activities along with ongoing Section activities
- Lisa Alexander and Scott Rachuk (Technical Director) completing budget and funding submissions to the Province to ensure Skate Ontario is funded to the maximum levels available to our skaters and skating programs
- Scott Rachuk meeting with Long Term Athlete Development experts to ensure that Skate Ontario leverages LTAD in building development opportunities for all skaters.

Governance Committee

- By-laws and articles finalized and approved by Skate Ontario Board of Directors and forwarded to Skate Canada
- Nominations process and Terms of Reference have been approved

Finance Committee

- Developing finance structure recommendations for competitions
- Assessing amalgamation/consolidation of finance structure for new Section
- Assessing continuity of Ontario Promotional Contest
- In dialogue with other Ontario sports organizations regarding accounting/finance practices and standards

Judges Committee

- Recommendation for annual officials training to maintain judge and technical officials skill levels
- Test evaluation requirements to change next year with the introduction of Star 1-5 program. This presents an opportunity to develop a consistent service model for Senior Bronze to Gold tests that maximizes the currently shrinking evaluator pool; partner requirements and ice time for clubs.

SUB-COMMITTEES

Governance

Janet Balkwill – Chair
Marion Dyke; Cheryl Hollows
Paul Mallet

Finance

Paul Cotter – Chair
Cheryl Hollows; Tracey Hughes
Tracey Hayden; Susan Cash
Michelle Hunsley; Michelle Ross
Michael Hollingsworth

Regions

Glenn Fortin – Chair
Therese Bilsborough
Liz Mannell
Lisa Alexander

Judges

Susan Blatz – Chair
Lorna Schroder
Sabrina Wong; Julia Mullins
Ron Conacher
Laurene Collin-Knoblach

Data Specialists

Terese Bilsborough - Chair
David Gillies; Peter Wong
Richard Courdin;

Coaches

Paul McIntosh - Chair
Tracey Zwiers; Alison Purkiss
Roxanne Daignault
Lisa Woodcock
Sheilagh McCaskill

Competitions

Susanne Morgan - Chair
Carol Moir; Michelle Hunsley
Karen Syme; Jane Drolet
Rhonda Vanderveen
Scott Rachuk

Communication and Change

Mary-Rose Weir - Chair
Cheryl Hollows; William Lindsay

Competitions Committee

- New sub-committee to be struck to focus on developing the bid process and hosting agreements for Provincial competitions (Competitive and Star Skate)
- In alignment with LTAD and with direction from Scott Rachuk and the coaching community, to establish qualifying structure for Sectionals and the Ontario Championships along with the development of a competition calendar

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY

Giving a Voice to the Membership – Ontario Skating Clubs

Currently it is clear that there is wide range of relationships between the current Sections and the clubs across the province through well-established and/or informal regional structures. Going forward, the new Skate Ontario is determined to establish a structure whereby clubs will continue to have a forum to communicate with the Section and amongst themselves. How this will be accomplished has yet to be determined but there is a strong feeling that club relations go beyond geographic boundaries and should entail a needs based structure. The intent is that paths for clubs to share challenges, best practices and successes with clubs similar can be created, regardless of geography.

Local Interclub and Area Competitions

With the support of Sport for Life, Skate Ontario is currently reviewing the entire competition structure in Ontario as it relates to LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development). Across many sports in Canada, LTAD is widely accepted as an integral element of programming as it relates to child and athlete physiological development. In the new Skate Ontario, club groupings for competition purposes will also continue to exist. While some changes may occur to the current club groupings it is recognized that many of these current groupings are geographically efficient as well as appropriate with respect to skater numbers. The timing and technical packages of these local competitions will also be examined with the goal of standardizing to ensure maximize efficiency and consistency.

Test Days

There is currently a highly experienced group of evaluators and officials from across the province assessing the future servicing of test days, taking into consideration the changes that are being brought in within the Star 1 to 5 program. Beyond the STAR 5 level, it is very possible that the current test day process will not see any material changes with respect to groupings or structure. We are currently looking at the feasibility of a Skate Ontario Judges Bureau to oversee evaluator assignments across the Section in order to help coordinate and ensure equitable accessibility of evaluators regardless of geography.

We look forward to continuing to share the progress regarding the organization structure as it evolves as this is one of the most important aspects of the Skate Ontario Transition.