



SKATE ONTARIO RECEIVES ONTARIO SPORT RECOGNITION

The Sport Recognition Policy assists the Ministry in identifying and recognizing provincial sport governing organizations that meet specific requirements in the areas of governance, administration and programming, who can partner with the government to develop a high functioning and effective sport system. Skate Ontario recently received this recognition based on being the single governing organization for skating in the province effective April 1, 2017. This is a significant milestone for the organization as we join an elite 25% of the more than 85 sports who are fully recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. For more information about Sport Recognition <http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/sport/sport/psoshtml>.

SECTIONS TO VOTE ON AMALGAMATION

Skate Canada voted to create a unified Ontario Section effective April 1, 2017. This means that as of that date, the current sections will not be recognized by Skate Canada. What does that really mean? In a nutshell, beyond that date the Sections will not be able to offer any Skate Canada programs or sanction any events or competitions. They will no longer be able to use any Skate Ontario or Skate Canada resources to support skaters, coaches, officials, tests and competitions. These efforts will now be the responsibility of the single organization, Skate Ontario. Skating Clubs and Schools will become the members of this new organization.

So who will be delivering programs? The simple answer is that it will continue to be essentially the same people. An amalgamation is intended bring a number of streams – the Sections - together to form a river – Skate Ontario - and keep all the resources, both human and financial, and all the best practices that have been built in the current sections where the skaters will be and where the programs will be – in Skate Ontario.

This vote is to approve the corporate amalgamation of the Section into that organization. The bottom line, skating will continue to flourish and be strongly supported across the Province of Ontario. See Video at [Skate Ontario Transition](#)

SKATE ONTARIO – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION (February 25, 2017)

Member Clubs and Skating Schools in Ontario are electing the Skate Ontario Board of Directors during a Special General Meeting on February 25. Members who have registered by completing the Skate Ontario wufoo form will be voting for a President and 8 Directors during the virtual meeting.

Only clubs and skating schools that have registered by February 20, 2017 - by completing the wufoo form - will be eligible to vote during this virtual meeting. Make sure your club is registered to vote.

To register go to the Skate Ontario wufoo form at:

<https://skatingontario.wufoo.com/forms/x13g3tdx1a5bdhw/>

For meeting and nominee information [Special General Meeting](#)

Transition Committee

Chairman:

Committee Members:

**Skate Ontario Staff
Executive Director:**

Director of Sport Operations:

**Director of Finance and
Business Operations**

Operations Manager

Transition Effective Da

Transitions for skating



SKATE ONTARIO – VOLUNTEERS

SUB-COMMITTEES

Governance

Marion Dyke; Cheryl Hollows
Paul Mallett

Finance

Cheryl Hollows; Tracey Hughes
Tracey Hayden; Susan Cash;
Michelle Hunsley; Michelle Ross
Michael Hollingsworth

Regions

Therese Bilsborough,
Janet Balkwill, Liz Mannell,
Paul Mallett, Lisa Alexander

Judges, Evaluators, Technical

Lorna Schroder
Sabrina Wong; Julia Mullins
Ron Conacher
Laurene Collin-Knoblauch

Data Specialists

David Gillies; Peter Wong
Richard Courdin;

Coaches

Tracey Zwiers; Alison Purkiss
Roxanne Daignault
Lisa Woodcock
Sheilagh McCaskill

Competitions

Carol Moir; Michelle Hunsley
Karen Syme; Jane Drolet
Rhonda Vanderveen
Scott Rachuk

Communication and Change

Cheryl Hollows; William Lindsay

NOMINATIONS

Janet Balkwill, Sheilagh Croxon

Volunteers are the backbone of skating in Ontario and have been instrumental in growing our strong skating community. Moving forward the passion, interest and time that volunteers bring will continue to be essential to ensuring skaters in Ontario have the best opportunity to achieve personal goals in the sport.

Whether its running competitions, delivering skating programs, raising funds, volunteers will continue to be critical to supporting Ontario skaters and clubs. We want to know who you are and keep you informed and engaged. Please let us know how you want to be involved by completing the online Volunteer Register at <https://form.jotform.com/SkateOntario/skate-ontario-volunteer-registratio>

COMPETITIONS & PROGRAMS COMMITTEE – Competition Season 2017-2018

The Competitions and Programs Sub-Committee has determined that the competition structure and calendar for the 2017/18 season will stay status quo for the year. Status quo means that events currently held in the same venue and community on a year to year basis will continue to be held in the same time slot and venue for another calendar year. Events that currently rotate from community to community based on a regional rotation will continue the planned rotation for another calendar year. NOTE: Hosting agreements are currently being revised for all events and will be available late February.

The **exceptions to this status quo** are qualifying events for the Skate Canada Challenge event and the Skate Ontario STARSkate Championship that currently include four separate Sectional Championships for each of these events. The qualifying system for each of these events will be released in the early part of 2017, with attention to skater, coach and official development at all levels of competition.

These decisions give the Ontario skating community – skaters, coaches, officials, volunteers, organizers – a clear view of the coming season so they can plan appropriately for the new competitive year ahead. For more information on Competitions and Programs see [Transition - Competitions and Programs](#)

JUDGES, EVALUATORS, TECHNICAL (JET) COMMITTEE – Test Days 2017-2018

By September 2017 evaluators will only be required for tests Sr. Bronze level and above. JET is considering an evaluators' central booking process to coordinate servicing all club tests across the province. Evaluators would be assigned by a staff resource to ensure all evaluators are participating in test assessments to share the workload and provide opportunities for skaters to experience a range of evaluators through their testing journey. This is currently the process used in many Sections. The Committee is also examining the benefits of grouping clubs to service these tests. For more JET and Data Specialist information see [Transition - Officials](#)



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SKATING CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

How will clubs and skaters benefit from the “full spectrum of provincial funding” in the new Skate Ontario?

The new Skate Ontario Board of Directors will determine the Strategic Plan, currently in draft, once they have been installed in March. This Strategic Plan as mandated by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, would be the foundation for all skating programming and services across the province. The Executive Director and the Skate Ontario Staff will be accountable for its execution

How will clubs be supported by the new Skate Ontario?

Club Development is a key pillar in the Skate Ontario workforce plan. It is anticipated that in addition to staff support there will be some form of operating/working group committee established to assist communicating with the clubs. The exact details of this structure will be determined through the Strategic Planning process.

A key element of the Club Development is leveraging the shared and common needs and geography that have historically been the basis for clubs working together. It’s from these needs that a structure for club development and communication will be created that will allow Skate Ontario to service the differences that size, location and maturity of clubs requires.

How will skating programs and services change with the new Skate Ontario?

COACHES COMMITTEE

NCCP Courses - Skate Ontario is currently organizing NCCP learning opportunities for the upcoming season. It is the goal of Skate Ontario to host these courses in the traditional locations and at traditional times of the year across the province. Dates, locations and registration information for the NCCP courses will be available and communicated once all details have been finalized

Non-NCCP Professional Development - Specialized coach learning opportunities, which have been effective coach learning opportunities, are also being planned and will focus on all levels of skating and all disciplines. These professional development opportunities will be communicated as dates, locations and topics have been finalized.

We encourage you to keep asking the questions that you have about the transition to a new Skate Ontario. Please direct them to FAQ@skateontario.org