



Hello board members, club delegates, and representatives,

I would like to start off my report of the 2017-2018 speed skating season by thanking all the volunteers that worked countless hours to help make this a successful skating season! Without your tireless work this sport would not be capable of functioning in the province to the level of success that it currently has.

With my first full season completed as the SSNB TD/PC I was able to see the strength of speed skating in New Brunswick which stems from a long history of producing engaged kids, strong athletes, and overall great human beings! The competition structure stuck out specifically as a great strength in the province, as all competitions were ran efficiently and seamless, giving our athletes a great environment for them to compete.

This past year was the first time SSNB introduced standards to Canada East and it was a huge success! Given the posted standards, in the 2016-2017 season we had 19 athletes that hit the "time standard" (45% of all age eligible athletes), then in 2017-2018 when the standards were introduced we had 27 athletes hit the standard (55% of all age eligible athletes)! I believe that this really showed that giving an athlete a self-improvement goal to strive for will make them push themselves that little bit extra!

Over the New Year's holidays there was an SSNB passing camp held in Fredericton, which targeted proper passing and blocking in speed skating. This turned out to be a huge success with over 30 athletes attending and lots of positive feedback. I now plan to make the passing camp a yearly event! As well because of this success I believe we should look into holding provincial ice camps on a semi-regular basis throughout the year. Due to ice scheduling, I'm planning to create a provincial camp calendar that would start coming into effect for the 2019-2020 season.

At the CEST competition we walked away with numerous provincial records, two individual medals, and 3 of our athletes were a part of the first ever mixed team to medal at CEST (something we hope to continue to do with other provinces to give our athletes a speed appropriate team around them)! We also earned the Most Improved banner, it was overall a very successful competition.

At higher levels, for athletes still training in the province, we had 2 compete at the JRs competition in Calgary, 1 athlete attend the Quebec Elite circuit, and 6 athletes attend Quebec EST competitions. For the 2 New Brunswick athletes currently training in Montreal, Brendan Corey and Courtney Sarault, it was an incredible season to remember! The accomplishments of these two are remarkable and help to inspire the young athletes in our province.

We are currently 9 months away from the CWG and our preparations are well under way! This past season we had athletes attend 4 separate long track competitions including a camp/competition in Quebec with all eligible NB long track athletes! We have started our CWG summer camps already, with the plan to offer 10 camps throughout the summer. For these camps, we have opened them up to have CEST athletes that hit the time standard last year, attend. I don't believe this has been done before, but

it should help to offer those younger athletes that performed well a chance to see what is required for a high performance athlete in years to come.

There is so much to be proud of from an organizational standpoint this past year. Once again speed skating showed its strength as a sport where athletes can get knowledgeable coaching, learn technical discipline, push themselves, and of course have fun!

With all that being said, I do believe that there are some areas that should be looked at, reviewed, and possibly modified to make our organization stronger.

Governance: Our organization currently has no Employee handbook that I'm aware of. This made for a more difficult adjustment period for myself as a new staff then what might have been necessary. I do want to thank Trevor, Kevin, Nicky, and Derrick for their guidance and sharing of knowledge to get me up to speed, but it felt as if I was learning more from what's been done in the past than a list of guidelines/regulations I could look up. Moving forward, Jamie Shanks will be a big support to help us create these documents and update others that may be in need of a review. I believe these efforts will help to transition staff, board members, and committee members more easily into their new role to help minimize the "learning phase", so we can start progressing more quickly when we have turnover.

Athletic Development Committee: The ADC's policies and procedures have not been modified since 2005 and is very difficult to find on the SSNB website meaning it has become an unused document. The ADC can hold quite a lot of power towards coaching and training in our province therefore this committee should be knowledgeable and open to discussion. There have been instances where requests were brought to the ADC with the support of coaches and were voted on, one way or the other, with minimal to no discussion. A committee that makes decisions on the athletic development of our athletes should be having meaningful discussions coming from a knowledge based background. I do understand that everyone who is or has sat on a committee is volunteering their time and energy and I thank everyone that has done this. Looking forward, an update of the ADC's policies and procedures should be done, and I suggest that there should be a requirement of past coaching experience or LTAD knowledge.

Provincial Competitions: As mentioned earlier, our provincial competitions are run extremely well! One thing I suggest is looked at is the distances our athletes are skating. This past year we had over 30% of W9/M10 and over 40% of our W10/M11 aged athletes race both a 2000m points race and 1500 heats + finals during their competitions. These are ages where speed development is very important and their competition structure should reflect that. As well, currently athletes are ranked into our competition based solely off of one distance, therefore I would like to look into adding an extra distance into their ranking. The ranking could be changed to the 400m +1500m/3 or other combinations. I believe it will help us rank those that are stronger distances skaters more correctly within a meet. I have already begun a review of this with data collected to show distances raced by age. A recommendation for new standards on classifying the distances to be raced by each division at a competition will be given to the ADC shortly.

FUNDamentals Meet: The Saint John FUNDamentals meet was a great success for the athletes that attended! These types of meets, targeted at younger athletes, are a great way to get kids excited about

skating in a competition environment. Given that they can fit in many more races/day for each athlete it's awesome for our younger skater's development. I would suggest to any willing club to have a least one more of these FUNdamentals meets on our competitions calendar. This could potentially be an excellent opportunity for Caraquet given their rink size and current board pad safety level. Potentially close to the Dieppe meet could draw some of the younger skaters to it and allow more of the older skaters to be on the Olympic sized ice in Dieppe. I hope to further discuss the potential of this happening for the 2019-2020 season!

Speed skating has continued to thrive in New Brunswick! I'm very happy to be a part of it now and as we look towards the future!

Respectfully yours,

Scott Beamish

SSNB Technical Director/Provincial Coach