

Codiac Cyclones President's report May 17, 2021

The 2020-2021 season was certainly a challenging one, being affected by the pandemic. Throughout the season, we had to navigate through the different levels of health constraints which made it very challenging. Additional communication efforts were made to ensure all skaters and parents were on top of the rules, limitations, and practice hours.

We started using TeamSnap to communicate to skaters and parents. As this was our first year, there was certainly a learning curve and an adjustment period. The tool was adopted by most skaters/parents, but I would like to discuss options for the next season. Segregating groups within the club was a challenge the way the software is structured but purchasing the next version up is cost prohibitive (over \$600 annually).

Another new tool this year was Icereg. Speed Skate Canada adopted the registration tool in 2020 and our club was past of the first group that were onboarded on the solution. There was certainly an adaptation and challenging period but once the processes were smoothed out, the tool was certainly more streamlined and eliminated a lot of manual effort (money collection and registration of skaters).

With no competition during the season, it made it very challenging to keep all skaters motivated. Social distancing and restriction on what accessories we could use on the ice also made it difficult to organize certain drills/games which the FUNdamentals group particularly likes.

Some parents and skaters were also not comfortable attending the sessions while in orange phase or even in yellow phase and that was totally understandable. During the orange phase, we had sessions with only 4 skaters on the ice.

Considering the pandemic, I feel that the club still managed well and was able to offer enough ice time in a safe environment. We had our pre-season session with 2 groups for a total of 26 skaters. We also had a total of 71 skaters between our Special Olympics group (7), Learn to Skate group (22), FUNdamentals group (26), and Competitive group (16).

Due to restrictions, we had to cancel our Crawlers group from the Learn to Skate program this past season however, the program was a success with 26 skaters participating the Stompers and Gliders groups. The increase in fees from \$100 to \$150 per session did not seem to discourage skaters to register.

As we could not hold official competitions, we held 2 COVID-19 challenges "club meet" that were geared towards offering skaters a competitive environment while being fun events.

We had an extra evening of ice time this year (Monday) for our FUNdamentals and Competitive groups. Due to the pandemic, it is hard to evaluate the success of that extra ice time. I would like to receive feedback from coaches and parents on how we can make use of that extra ice time.

We also had the honor of having Courtney Sarault as a guest for 2 sessions in Fall. The club sent Courtney a duffle bag with our Club's logo and her name embroidered along with congratulations notes from skaters and parents in early April to congratulate her on being crowned vice world champion in short track.

In conclusion, I would say the Codiac Cyclones managed to navigate its way through this past season and is in good shape for the next season.

Denis Boudreau

President, Codiac Cyclones