

Restigouche Comets report for the 2020-2021 season

Registration:

Total number of skaters: 11

- Learn to skate: 3
- Intro to speed skating: 6
- Advanced/Elite: 2

Note: Registration numbers were down due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reason 1 - Late start to our season: We originally had 33 skaters registered for the season in September and anticipate a good year. However, we had to postpone our season to November due to the changes in phase for Zone 5. By this time, parents were stressed and many decided to not register their kids in any sports for the season.

Reason 2 – Closure of bridge to Quebec: Approx. 30% of our skaters come from the Quebec side. In the original 33 registered skaters, 10 were from Quebec. When the bridge closed, those skaters could not cross the bridge to attend sporting activities in New Brunswick as it was not considered essential.

Reason 3 – Ice time: With the closure of the civic centre until November, the City postponed the installation of the 2nd ice surface (the Comets ice) until the new year (Jan 2021). Because our contract is on the 2nd ice surface, we had to take whatever ice time was available on the main ice surface after all other groups. This meant that we were not guaranteed a specific time slot for any of our programs. We were given 45 minutes on the weekend (the day and time changed weekly) and 1 hour on Mondays. Parents did not want to register kids when they were unsure if they could attend, depending on the time and day of the session. We continued to promise more ice time and stable hours when we moved to the 2nd ice surface. Unfortunately, the 2nd ice surface was never installed.

Other challenges:

Track – none: We were unable to lay a track on the ice for our skaters. The rink continued to tell us that we would move to the 2nd ice surface and therefore did not want us to lay a track on the main ice.

Security pads – 1/3 of requirements: The main ice surface does not provide storage for our pads. Luckily, we came to an agreement to allow us to store a few pads in the hallway between the 2 ice surfaces. We did not place pads for the Intro to speed skating or LTS groups due to time limitations. We were able to store 18 bumper pads and 10 regular pads to use for the advanced group on Monday. This amount did not meet any security standards for speed, therefore, practices included only endurance drills, starts, and other low key skills techniques.

National and club challenges – did not participate: Unfortunately, with no track or enough security pads, the club chose to not participate in any of these events to protect the safety of our skaters.

Fundraising – none: Usually, the Comets sell popcorn at each Junior A hockey game as our main fundraiser, bringing in approx. \$2500 each year. This money is used to compensate for ice rental fees and an amount is given to any skater that attends any national championship (Canada Youth Championship or Canada Winter Games)

Disinfecting, Return to play document, and tracing: With Covid-19 restrictions in place, it was a difficult season and adjustments were required every week, depending on the recovery phase we were in. Contact tracing and screening was time consuming, disinfecting was a challenge, and social distancing was always a factor during practices.

Successes:

Programs – adjusted and improved: We were able to adjust our programs to ensure social distancing between the skaters. The parents appreciated our efforts and felt that their kids were safe during our practices.

Coaching: Our coaching staff were amazing in making these adjustments and found innovative ways to coach and still allow the kids to have fun.

Mini-meet: We held a club mini-meet to introduce our skaters to competition since the pandemic did not allow any meets during the season. We came up with fun ways to race and all the kids and parents enjoyed the evening.

Local businesses: We are lucky to have such great local businesses. Since we did not do any fundraisers this season, local businesses stepped up so that we could give each of our skaters a treat bag to end the season. We want to thank Dairy Queen, Café Europa, Pizza Delight, and the City of Campbellton.

Financial update:

Total registration revenues:	\$2,900.00
Total ice rental fees:	\$3,382.44
Disinfecting material:	\$50.00
Coaching extras, equipment	\$500
Total revenues (loss):	\$-1,532.44

Restigouche Comets board of directors:

- President: Mélanie Wood
- Vice: Jérémy Martin
- Treasurer: Nathalie Bujold

Coaching staff:

- Learn to skate: Jérémy Martin
- Intro to speed skating: Courtney Charlong
- Head coach / Advanced and Elite: Darren Oakes

Thank you,
Mélanie