



## **Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club**

Executive Meeting  
October 24, 2018  
School District 91 Board Office  
Vanderhoof, BC

### ***Present:***

Jim McBride, Nicole Ebert, Laura Rusnjak, Sara Lazaruk, Connie Stephen, Trinda Elwert, Jessica Seely, Erin Baker, Terry Lazaruk, Cat Solburg, Shannon Douglas

### ***Agenda:***

- Welcome/Past Executive Meeting Highlights - Jim
- Financial Update – Laura
  - BCSSA 1<sup>st</sup> Payments/Grant/Insurance
- Coaching – Nicole
  - Enough coaches for all levels
  - Moving kids to proper skill level
  - Proper Allocated Times for each skill level
- Equipment Requirements/purchases – Vince
- Mini Meet Requirements (Nov 3) – Jessica
- Mat/Arena Door Logos – Calvin
- Registration – Trinda
  - Problems/issues
  - Refunds/final numbers
- Jackets/Skin Suits/ Kevlar/Helmets/orders-Erin
- Other
  - Costs Associated with FSJames skaters attending Vanderhoof practices
  - Dec 8<sup>th</sup> reserved for another mini meet – Jim
  - Concession- Complaint
  - New Registrants
  - Media Liaison
- Next Mtg Date

### ***Welcome—Jim McBride***

Update: task from the March AGM minutes: safety mats needing repair were repaired over the summer. (More repairs are needed since the start of the season.)

### ***Financial Report—Laura Rusnjak***

Bank balance is currently \$33,500

Gaming grant: \$10,000 (total applied for) was received. Ice costs for the 2018/2019 season are covered. No bills have been received yet for member dues. Bill for insurance received: \$425.

### ***Coaching- Nicole Ebert***

Groups are doing well and are currently adequately staffed. Junior coaches are helping out. Very young skaters have support on the ice from parents.

Coaching courses: Terry, Jeremy and Ann are 90% finished with the certification process. This is a good time to identify the remaining components for their coaches' certification and complete. With Ft St James skaters coming out to Vanderhoof, Keith will be able to evaluate coaches on the ice rather than working from a recording.

Keith can also facilitate coaching courses if anyone is interested.

Jen Gibson- (Fort St John Elks) had scheduled an Intro to Competition course to run this season. Terry applied for and received a grant for it.

Nicole made a time change suggestion for our preliminary practice schedule. Coaches should review and if all are in agreement, Jessica can post.

Parents have expressed concern over fast games on the ice resulting in collisions. Coaches need to identify the games that should be retired as speeds within a group increases.

### ***Equipment - (submitted by Vince/Debra Sewell)***

Funds have been allocated for additional skate sizes that were identified as necessary at the skate fitting. 5 new pairs of skates have been ordered: 1 LT + 4 ST. We are well set up for equipment with very few areas requiring additions or replacements with the possible exception of slide boards. These are relatively inexpensive to make should we make these a priority.

### ***Mini meet requirements-- Jessica***

Mini-meet November 3, 2018: Jessica will email the club for volunteers and request helmet covers from Prince George. It is preferable for training to judge/time in the conventional way from the correct side of the ice. No sanction will be held for the mini meet, so no officials' certifications are necessary.

Mini-meet December 8, 2018: Jessica and Nicole will be away. Calvin is willing to cover for Jessica, so this date doesn't need to change if it's a good time for the rest of the club to hold a mini meet.

### ***Registration- Trinda.***

Registration has been very frustrating this year. The new online registration system has been handicapped with significant issues which are not yet resolved. Trinda has been in contact with Richard Kriek, the SSC Registration Rep.

Technical problems within the software have prevented some registered families from appearing as registered within the system. What families see when logged in is not the same as what the administrator sees. A variety of actions result depending on the platform the individual used when creating or editing an account. Multiple issues exist within the program itself (you can't select yourself as a skater; issues with language selection, the First Nations self declaration (the system may display a choice different from the one selected). Trinda has spent hours troubleshooting with families. Due to the technical difficulties there is no way to determine from the administrative side that every family has registered. Paper waivers were collected and payment was made by cheques. From the club standpoint, insurance requirements for the club have been met despite the chaos in the system.

**It is strongly suggested that we write a letter to SSC/BCSSA expressing the difficulties.**

*New member:* a late request for registration was received and accepted, bringing our current registration numbers to 76 skaters.

Trinda warns that next year, our group sizes will be limited within the online system. We will not be able to flex as late requests come in if the system has reached the predetermined cap. We may also find it difficult to make changes when skaters are initially placed incorrectly. For instance, two skaters registered as L2T's are moving back down into the Fundamental group, which is their correct competitive category. This is likely to be a recurrent issue under the new system.

Having a club level registration prior to the online process prevents a great deal of corrections.

Question for Trinda: Did early registration help (passed last year and opened at our AGM)? Yes. However, with the new system coming in, it was not a benefit as all registrations completed early had to be re-processed.

### ***Clothing - Erin***

Jackets - There are a few club jackets available for sale, left over from the order Nicole placed at the end of the season last year.

Erin is placing an order for club apparel (hoodies and technical shirt). She asked the skaters for input and together selected designs. Feedback did not favor large logos. There will be a small logo on the chest and VCSSC printed on the back hem. Cost will be \$16-\$18 for Shirts/ and \$35-\$37 for the hoodies.

Club Skinsuits- quote came back from Garneau at \$100 more than last time (\$250 instead of \$150/suit). Erin communicated that many families will not complete their orders at this price. Her contact said he would see what he could do about the price. We may have to consider other companies.

Gloves: skaters should be wearing cut-resistant gloves especially as they move up in category. We continue to see gloves in use that are not cut resistant, due to the high cost and difficulty sourcing speed skating gloves. Chef gloves (made of kevlar- available on Amazon) are a more economical option than the speed-skating specific gloves offered by the speed skating supply websites. Rich's Saw Sales also carries kevlar gloves.

Leather gloves are also acceptable and are available in kid's sizes.

### ***Other:***

A complaint was received from the concession (via the village office) indicating that members of the club have made the concession staff feel unwelcome and that the concession will be closed during future practices as a result. Jim has asked for specifics/clarification.

### Costs associated w/ FSJ using ice:

Fort St James skaters have asked to join our practices while their arena remains closed for required updates to their plant. They have inquired about an associated cost.

We expect our skaters to participate in the Ft St James outdoor oval program later in the year. No legislation prohibits clubs regularly practicing together. We have participated in Ft St James's LT program for years without payment of any kind; last season's payment of an ice user's fee was initiated by us recognizing that the Ft St James club has few resources, and it is a far lower cost to support this existing program and coach, then to build and staff a similar program here.

**Considering these factors, it is agreed unanimously not to set a value on Ft St James members drop-in attendance with our skaters this season.**

Media Liaison Update & Proposals - submitted by Ann- Shannon Douglas presenting for her. (Ann was not able to attend the meeting so emailed the objectives she envisions as media liaison.)

- Zack Bennett would like to take photos during the practices and meets throughout the year. Nicole McBride will put a slideshow together for the AGM. Ann will track volunteer hours for them both, as well as for the other students that are volunteering either as coaches or officials.
- Ann suggests advertising the mini-meets and the sanctioned meet in February.
  - Jessica suggests advertising the sanctioned meet but not necessarily the mini meets as we want this to be a comfortable training opportunity for members.
- Ann is having publicity posters made featuring Alison. She suggests that the club display posters for club graduates, and seasonal posters of junior coaches (anyone coaching more the 20 hours).
  - Nicole E. suggestion: Achievement/milestone plaques: anyone achieving a time standard would have their name added to the engraving, etc.

*Elite Skater Subsidy Proposal -(Ann Douglas- presented by Shannon)*

- Skaters who meet a very high standard (e.g. gold medalist at a provincial meet) should receive a club subsidy to go to a national meet. They may not be sponsored every year, perhaps once or twice.

The concern behind the proposal is an observation that families who can afford to travel take their qualified skaters on to national meets, while families with less financial freedom may not. Ann advocates that a skater who has worked hard and excelled to the provincial podium should receive club support to compete nationally regardless of personal finances.

The two meets in question are the ST and LT National meets:

- LT Age Class/Canadian Age Class--(Quebec last year, Winnipeg this year)
- CanWest - (Abbotsford last year, Grande Prairie this year)

Historically, three streams of support have been realized through membership in the club:

- Families have had registration fees subsidized (e.g. BC Games), *as approved by the executive at the time, after considering the club budget at the time.* (For age class national meets, BCSSA subsidizes registration fees. There is also additional support outlined on the website, for elite skaters who meet a minimum competition attendance criteria. Travel is arranged through BCSSA for BC Games.)
- Skaters (similar to officials/coaches attending clinics required for Level II advancement and above) have on some occasions had travel costs partially reimbursed, *as approved by the executive at the time, after considering the club budget at the time.*
- Private support (e.g. a coach, parent, or member from another club accompanies skaters to higher level meets). Costs are most often voluntarily covered by the individual (though families may contribute). Accommodation is sometimes arranged through personal connections. It is important to recognize that significant member generosity occurs outside the framework of the non-profit society. A lot of “support” occurs as people work together, placing no obligation on the club finances. This type of support is neither regulated nor tracked.

In concept, all present for the discussion are in agreement that elite skaters should be supported by the club in some way. Some points made/questions asked:

Erin- it would be reasonable to cover a predetermined amount, regardless of where the meet is held. It should be consistent.

Sara- do we reward only gold medalists? Silver medalist? Bronze? Depending on the athletes competing in a season, a skater may achieve a higher time standard than a previous gold medalist, but not receive a medal nor the opportunity to go on to a national competition. How do we feel about this?

Jessica- Ft St John Elks uses an application system for travel subsidy. A budget could be maintained for the purpose of supporting any skater attending a national meet. Applications may not be received every year making it more possible to support

when called for. The club allocates the funds available, depending on the finances available in a specific year, and the number of applications received.

Nicole-- We are a grassroots club that supports all, not just one. We don't want to create a focus that rewards only the best.

Trinda-- Costs must be considered, as in any business. What are our club season costs? What is registration cost? A realistic budget is income vs expenses.

- Our club income = registration + gaming grant;
- Expenses = Ice + membership fees + incidental/equipment expenses.

Other discussion points: the viewpoint of the executive on subsidies and/or reimbursements has historically been that it first considers the financial health of the club, per season and with an eye to the future. Individual athletes have been supported to the extent that seemed possible at the time without compromising ongoing club functions or setting a problematic precedent. Where does the money come from? How do recreational skaters feel about a portion of their fee supporting a competitive skater? BC gaming grant funds cannot be used for out of province travel and it has been a high priority of past executives to limit fundraisers.

Discussion Conclusions:

- We agree that any plan to support individual athletes should not have the potential to undermine the financial stability of the club.
- The proposal made by Ann and Shannon requests that the club support our nationally competitive skaters in all cases, with club revenue or by fundraising if necessary.

A decision impacts everyone and should be made by the whole membership. Further discussion will be an item for the AGM agenda. A venue more amenable to discussion than the arena mezzanine is a priority! Cat will look into whether the Gospel Chapel gym/kitchen may be available as a venue for the AGM next year.

***Meeting adjourned. Next meeting January 10, 2019, at 5:30 pm.***