

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

This report is an update prepared for the July 2014 Speed Skate Nova Scotia Annual General Meeting. The status column below provides detailed updates on the various elements of the four strategies.

### Strategy 1: Detailed plans for the strengthening of core infrastructure

Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
<b>1. Governance</b>			
1.1. Update the Memorandum of Association and By-Laws of the association in line with current practices at the Registry of Joint Stocks.	Board of Directors	Prior to spring 2014 AGM	Proposed new Memorandum of Association and By-Laws to be discussed at 2014 AGM.
1.2. Update the Board structure to align Officer and Director responsibilities with the current directions of the organization, and to establish committees for higher workload responsibilities.			New committee structure established in fall 2013; staffing of committees in progress. New Board structure included in proposed new By-Laws.
1.3. Recruit new board members to fill vacant positions.			In progress, two new board members proposed for 2014 AGM
1.4. Arrange for staff support of Board.			Completed – arrangements made with Sport Nova Scotia for assignment of Sport Coordinator
<b>2. Funding</b>			
2.1. Establish a more robust budgeting process that will match funding allocations to strategic priorities.	Finance Committee	Fall 2013 / Winter 2014	Finance Committee established, and has prepared budget proposal for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.
2.2. Establish responsibilities for identifying and pursuing grant funding opportunities.		Prior to spring 2014 AGM	In progress
2.3. Develop partnerships with funding sponsors.		2014/2015 fiscal year	Scheduled for 2014/2015

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

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<b>3. Coaches</b>			
3.1. Continue recruitment of new coaches from the ranks of former speed skaters who have been attracted back to the sport by the Emera Oval.	Coaches and organizers of activities on the oval	Ongoing	Unknown
3.2. Schedule regular coaching clinics to formalize the training of the new coaches.	Coaching Committee	2013-2014 season	Coaching clinic hosted by Speedy Kids OPS fall 2013
3.3. Develop a formal training program to bring at least one male and one female coach up to Level 3 in time for the 2015 Canada Winter Games.	2015 Canada Winter Games Committee	Fall 2013	In progress, coaches have been selected and are being trained.
<b>4. Officials</b>			
4.1. Update the current list of officials to identify those who wish to continue to work as officials in the sport.	Officials Committee	2013-2014	Outstanding; Officials Committee not yet staffed
4.2. Identify gaps in the current availability of officials to work in different roles, and the future needs for officials at higher levels for hosting national and international events.	Officials Committee	2013-2014	Outstanding
4.3. Look at the example of the paddling community to determine whether rotational assignments of officials will result in the development of stronger and more versatile officials.	Officials Committee	2013-2014	Outstanding
4.4. Recruit additional officials and provide entry-level training clinics.	Clubs	Ongoing	Officials clinic hosted by Valley SSC in conjunction with their first club mini-meet; additional volunteers involved in running HRSSC short track meet, Atlantic Long Track Championships and Sunday Racing Series on the oval.
4.5. Develop officials for higher level events.	Clubs	2014-2015	Scheduled for 2014-2015

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

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<b>5. Communication and promotion</b>			
5.1. Complete the development of the new Speed Skate Nova Scotia website, including development of sub-sites for the clubs without the resources to develop and maintain their own websites.	Board of Directors	Fall 2013	New SSNS website published in December 2013; sub-sites established for Nova Scotia Masters SSC and Northside Blades SSC
5.2. Develop promotional materials for distribution at speed skating demonstration events and events with high public participation such as the Skate the Common Marathon, and for distribution through the skate rental trailer at the Emera Oval and at arenas with public skating times.			Outstanding

**Strategy 2: Detailed plans for the development of strong grassroots organizations and increasing overall participation in the sport**

Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
<b>1. Club Development</b>			
1.1. Work with Sport Nova Scotia's Community Sport Development Coordinators to initiate the development of new clubs around the province.	Club and Membership Development Committee	Ongoing	Staffing of the Club and Membership Development Committee in progress.
1.2. Ensure that new clubs are oriented to the organization of the sport, that they have assistance in identifying and obtaining start up funding, and that their boards, coaches, officials and volunteers are given appropriate development opportunities.			Staffing of the Club and Membership Development Committee in progress.
<b>2. Speed skating demonstration events</b>			
2.1. Schedule regular speed skating demonstration events around the province to extend the reach of the sport.	Club and Membership Development Committee	Ongoing	Demonstration event held in Truro in November 2013.

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

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2.2. Increase the inventory of demonstration skates so that participants in demonstration events can try speed skates at the events.		Fall 2013	Demonstration skate inventory increased from 15 to 47 pairs, and size range extended. Inventory placed on loan in HRM skate rental trailer and available to skaters during HRM public skates, as well as during speed skating ice time.
<b>3. Inclusiveness</b>			
3.1. Support the Speedy Kids Oval Program's free speed skating programs for underserved groups by providing free SSC/SSNS registration of participants.	Board of Directors	2013	To be discussed at July 2014 AGM
3.2. Expand the partnership with sledge hockey teams and the IWK/Easter Seals learn to sledge program, by continuing to include sledge racing in the marathon events at the oval, and by adding sledge racing to sprint events on the oval and providing shared practice time on the oval.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	2013-2014	Sledge race at the marathon was well-attending by local and out-of-town athletes. Discussions ongoing with IWK/Easter Seals and local sledge hockey team to establish a sledge racing program through the NSMSSC.
<b>4. Community racing</b>			
4.1. Continue to host the Skate the Common Marathon as a major community event, with an 'any type of skate' format that encourages non-speed skaters to try racing on skates.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	Ongoing	Successful event hosted in February 2014; growth of event limited until timing system can be completed.
4.2. Acquire timing chips and additional software for the chip timing system to ensure that the sport is self-sufficient in hosting marathon-style events.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	2013-2015	Ten additional timing chips purchased in February 2014; funding requests submitted to two sources for additional funding to complete the timing system, one grant request was denied, but some funding was approved for other request.
4.3. Establish an informal racing program on Sunday mornings, open to all comers, on any type of skates.	Clubs in the HRM	2013-2014 season	Successful Sunday racing series run in 2013-2014 season; open only to speed skaters at this time due to limited ice time available.
4.4. Establish varsity racing programs in partnership with the schools, also with an 'any type of skates' format.	Clubs in the HRM	2014-2015 season	Scheduled for 2014-2015 season

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

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<b>5. School programs</b>			
5.1. Contact teachers in school-based physical education programs to incorporate speed skating into their programming.	Club and Membership Development Committee	2014-2015	Scheduled for 2014-2015
5.2. Incorporate speed skating components into some of the school skating times on the oval.			Scheduled for 2014-2015
<b>6. Continue to attract and retain new speed skaters on the oval</b>			
6.1. Acquire a small inventory of speed skates to be available through the HRM free skate rental program for people who would like to try speed skates during public speed skating times.	Club and Membership Development Committee	Fall 2013	Complete – additional skates obtained and used during both public skating and speed skating ice times at the oval.
6.2. Continue to provide free Learn to Speed Skate sessions on the oval.	Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club	Ongoing	Program offered again during 2013-2014 season, organized by HRSSC with assistance from NSMSSC.
6.3. Establish a masters speed skating club for adult speed skaters at the oval, to complement the activities of the Speedy Kids Oval Program; to engage these skaters more fully in the sport, developing them as athletes, coaches, officials, organizers and volunteers; and to build a consistent speed skating presence at the oval during speed skating ice time.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	Fall 2013	Completed. NSMSSC had 52 regular members and 32 special events members by the end of the 2013-2014 season.
6.4. Develop and post promotional materials at the oval so that people who are curious about speed skating get the information they need to begin to get involved in the sport.	Board of Directors	Fall 2013	Outstanding.

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

**Strategy 3: Detailed plans for the development of elite athletes achieving success at the national level**

Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
<b>1. Recruitment</b>			
1.1. Develop a program for the recruitment of athletes with strong skating skills at the Training to Train and Learning to Compete stage.	Board of Directors in collaboration with the Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor	2013-2015	Outstanding
<b>2. Training</b>			
2.1. Qualify a full complement of male and female athletes for recruitment into the Atlantic Long Track Program.	Clubs in collaboration with the Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor	2013-2015	In progress.
<b>3. Development</b>			
3.1. Send a full team of athletes to the Canada East Short Track Championships every year.	Clubs in collaboration with the Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor	2013-2015	Unknown.
3.2. Send a full team of athletes to the Canadian Age-Class Long Track Championships every year.			Successful performance by team with some podium results and personal and season best performances.
3.3. Have athletes qualify for short track and long track Canada Cups every year.			Athletes met time standards and attended Canada Cups.

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
3.4. Send full teams of athletes for both short track and long track to the 2015 Canada Winter Games.			In progress.

**Strategy 4: Detailed plans for the hosting of high level competitions to develop hosting expertise**

Strategy	Responsibility	Time Frame	Status
<b>1. Facilities</b>			
1.1. Provide input to the Halifax Regional Municipality to ensure that the permanent facilities on the oval will be suited to the hosting of high-level international competitions.	Competitions Committee	2013-2014	Competitions Committee not yet established; input to process provided by Atlantic Long Track Coach and Regional Development Mentor.
1.2. Provide input into the HRM process for the building of new rinks on the Halifax peninsula in order to have one pad constructed with international-sized ice surface, space for spectator viewing of competitions, and storage facilities for safety padding.			Opportunity for input not yet available.
<b>2. Hosting organization</b>			
2.1. Continue to host one regional or one national short track competition per annum in the HRM.	Halifax Regional Speed Skating Club	Ongoing	Regional short track competition hosted by Halifax Regional SSC in November 2013.
2.2. Continue to host the annual Atlantic Long Track Championships on the Emera Oval.	Clubs in the HRM		Atlantic Long Track Championships hosted on the Emera Oval in February 2014.
2.3. Continue to host the annual Skate the Common Marathon on the Emera Oval.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club		2014 Skate the Common Marathon held in February 2014.

**JULY 2014 STATUS REPORT**  
**Speed Skate Nova Scotia 2013-2015 Strategic Plan**

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2.4. Encourage the smaller clubs outside the HRM to host entry-level competitions to develop organizing and officiating skills.	Clubs outside the HRM		Valley SSC hosted first mini-meet in March 2014.
<b>3. Protective padding</b>			
3.1. Obtain additional short track safety padding in the HRM to reduce the cost of running high level competitions, and the disruption to club programming outside the HRM when pads have to be shipped to the HRM.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	2013-2014	Funding obtained to obtain additional padding; order specifications being established.
3.2. Work with the Halifax Regional Municipality to identify safety padding needs for the Emera Oval and develop funding solutions.	Competitions Committee	2013-2015	No opportunity to address this in 2013-2014.
<b>4. Equipment</b>			
4.1. Obtain timing chips and additional software for the MyLaps chip timing system at the Emera Oval, to reduce costs of hosting the marathon, and to enable the use of the timing system on an ongoing basis through the season for training and longer distance racing on the oval.	Nova Scotia Masters Speed Skating Club	2013-2015	Ten additional timing chips purchased in February 2014; funding requests submitted to two sources for additional funding to complete the timing system.
4.2. Obtain additional components for the FinishLynx electronic timing system to allow it to be used for long track racing on the Emera Oval.	Competitions Committee	2014-2015	Scheduled for 2014-2015.