



DATE: January 31, 2006
TO: Member Clubs, Skate Canada – Eastern Ontario
CC: Board of Directors, Skate Canada – Eastern Ontario
FROM: Competition Task Force
RE: Final Report and Recommendations

After twenty-one months of study, consultation and deliberation, the Competition Task Force and the Board of Directors of Skate Canada – Eastern Ontario have finalized their recommendations regarding the competition structure within the Eastern Ontario Section.

Throughout its deliberations, the Task Force and the Board of Directors consistently referenced the 'Guiding Principles' and 'Considerations' that were outlined in the May 6, 2005 Discussion Paper. Moreover, as these recommendations were developed, the Task Force and the Board of Directors remained focused on the following:

- the need to reduce current demands on our Officials and volunteer base;
- the need to reduce the number of competitions in Eastern Ontario while still providing skaters with reasonable competitive opportunities;
- the need to maintain our high standards for well-run competitions;
- the need to build on the strength of existing competitions while at the same time providing new opportunities for Clubs that have been prevented to apply for a competition sanction;
- the need to equalize opportunities to host competitions across the Section;
- the need to prepare for the implementation of CPC to other levels of competitions.

The Recommendations of the Task Force, approved by the Board of Directors, are included in this memo. A full copy of the Report will be posted on the Skate Canada – Eastern Ontario website.

Further information regarding revised application procedures for competition sanctions and reporting requirements for those Clubs that receive sanctions will be available by the end of February.

In the meantime, if you have questions about these recommendations or the Report, please forward these to your Regional Representative on the Section's Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATIONS (approved, January 28, 2006)

Several respondents, including those who do not currently receive a sanction, stressed the importance of maintaining some stability in our competition structure by recognizing Clubs that have a strong record of hosting successful competitions. At the same time, several respondents, including those who currently receive sanctions, acknowledged the need to open the process to Clubs that have not had an opportunity in recent years to apply for a sanction.

As a result, the Competition Task Force is proposing a recommendation that is both a combination and modification of Options #1 and #2 as outlined in its May 2005 Discussion Paper:

Beginning in the 2006 – 2007 skating season, each Invitational competition within the Eastern Ontario Section may offer CanSkate events only, or STARSkate events only, or a combination of STARSkate and Competitive events.

Further, the number of sanctions awarded for Invitational competitions will be restricted to the following:

A. STARSkate or STARSkate/Competitive competitions –

1. Because it has a stable history of hosting successful competitions that are important to the western end of the Section, in 2006 – 2007 Uxbridge will be given an opportunity to apply for a competition sanction for a STARSkate/Competitive event. This sanction will not impact on the opportunities available in A-2 for other Clubs in the western end of the Section.
2. Up to one sanction per Region, awarded to one of the Clubs in that Region that currently receives a sanction for a STARSkate or STARSkate/Competitive competition; in 2006 – 2007, the Clubs eligible to apply for this sanction are:

Region 1
Lindsay, Minden

Region 3
Loyalist, Napanee, Frankford

Region 5
Gloucester

Region 2
Cobourg, Oshawa

Region 4
Morrisburg, Prescott

Region 6
Valley (any Club)

3. Up to three additional sanctions, one for Regions 1 & 2, one for Regions 3 & 4, and one for Regions 5 & 6, awarded to Clubs that do not currently receive a sanction for a STARSkate or STARSkate/Competitive competition.

B. CanSkate competitions –

1. Up to one sanction per Region, awarded to one of the Clubs in that Region that currently receives a sanction for a CanSkate competition; in 2006 – 2007, the Clubs eligible to apply for this sanction are:

Region 1
Emily-Omemee, Ops, Woodville, Lakefield

Region 4
Athens, Brockville, Winchester

Region 2
Hamilton Hope, Port Hope, Bowmanville,
Colborne Cramahe, Manvers

Region 5
Carleton Place

Region 3
Prince Edward

Region 6
(not specified)

2. Up to one sanction per Region, awarded to a Club that does not currently receive a sanction for a CanSkate competition.

The Section's Championship Committee, with the concurrence of the Section's Board of Directors, will approve competition sanctions each year. Decisions will be based on specified criteria and, where appropriate, compliance with guidelines and requirements as outlined in the Section's competition structure. These criteria will be communicated in advance to the Clubs.

Priority consideration will be given to a sanction request that is submitted jointly by two or more Clubs.

If no submissions for a sanction are received from a Club that does not currently receive a sanction (as identified in A-3 and B-2 above), then a Club that currently receives a sanction but was not awarded a sanction under A-2 or B-1 may be considered for the second sanction.

Further, the Task Force recommends some shorter-term and longer-term activities, outlined below, that will provide structure to sanctioned competitions in Eastern Ontario.

NOTE: Neither the forgoing recommendation, nor those outlined below will impact on qualifying events (Sectionals and EOSIC), Minto Summer Skate, Figure 8 Autumn Skate, Synchroskate, Special Olympics, High School, Varsity events, or other Section-partnered competitions, unless specifically noted.

Additional Measures to be implemented in 2006 – 2007:

1. With a reduced number of competitions in the Section, it will be important to ensure that the new competition structure addresses the needs of the specified target groups. For that reason, competitions within Eastern Ontario will be restricted to the following:

InterClub Competitions – includes ‘fun’ events, as well as CanSkate Freeskate up to and including Preliminary Freeskate and individual elements up to and including Preliminary.

CanSkate Competitions – up to and including Preliminary Freeskate and individual elements up to and including Preliminary.

STARSkate – Pre-Preliminary to Gold Freeskate, mixed Pair and mixed Dance, Biathlon and Triathlon, and Interpretive events. Events will be restricted to those for which Well-Balanced criteria have been developed.

Competitive – Pre-Juvenile to Novice Singles, Pair and Dance, either single or combined segments, for the sanctioned competitions that are impacted by this Report.

2. Additional definitions of “fun” events will be developed and circulated prior to the 2006 – 2007 skating season.
3. CanSkate and STARSkate competitions must provide a focus for the skills development and competitive needs of those skaters.
4. All STARSkate competitions will be encouraged to include adult events.
5. Competitive athletes will be provided with stable opportunities to aid in the development of their Yearly Training Plan. Minto Summer Skate (which also offers STARSkate events) Figure 8 Autumn Skate and BMO Financial Group Sectional Championships offer Competitive events, at all levels. This provides Junior and Senior competitive skaters with three high-caliber events each year within the Eastern Ontario Section.
6. All other competitions that receive a sanction to host competitive events (STARSkate/Competitive sanctions) will be restricted to Pre-Juvenile to Novice only.
7. The separation of types of events will help to more clearly define the use of judges. InterClub and CanSkate competitions are restricted to using only Provisional and Primary judges.

8. Specific events at sanctioned competitions will be canceled if there are no qualified judges available to officiate. Similarly, if there are not sufficient entries for a specific event at a sanctioned competition, that event will be canceled.
9. Clubs may be denied a sanction if judges were used inappropriately during the previous year, without the express approval of the EOS Judges Chair.
10. Any Club will be restricted to one competition sanction only in any given year.

Activities to be Completed Prior to the 2006 – 2007 Competition Season:

1. The following tools will be developed by the Championship Committee:
 - a) A revised application form for competition sanctions that clearly outlines the information that will be used in reaching a decision regarding which Club(s) receive a sanction.
 - b) An amended application procedure that will include a revised deadline for applications to be submitted and a revised timetable for notifying Clubs whether their competition sanction has been approved.
 - c) Reporting requirements after a competition has been completed, to be used in evaluating future requests for competition sanctions.
 - d) A tentative schedule for competitions to ensure that they are reasonably distributed in time and geography.
2. Some of the areas to be considered by the Championship Committee in its decision-making process will include:
 - With the number of competitions reduced, it is possible that a sanction for a two-day event, rather than a one-day event, could be approved, if justified.
 - Applications for sanctions that demonstrate two or more Clubs have agreed to share in both the responsibilities and revenues related to the competition will be given favorable consideration.
 - Applications that can offer testing opportunities within the competition structure will be given favorable consideration.
 - Applications for competition sanctions from Clubs that have members who are training to become provisional or primary judges will be given favorable consideration.
3. The Championship committee will consider whether it is advantageous to develop templates for Invitational & Interclub competitions so that there is greater consistency in the Announcement of these competitions across Regions.
4. The Regional Representatives will review and rationalize the Section's Regional boundaries and the grouping of Clubs within the Regions.
5. Consideration will be given to offering workshops at Connections 2006 on topics such as "Efficient Ice Scheduling" and "Running a Competition" to assist Clubs with the changes that will result from the approval of these recommendations.

Future Considerations:

1. The impact of CPC on invitational competitions will not be known for another year due to the recently announced delay in the implementation plan. Once it has been decided when CPC is to be extended to additional Section-level competitions, these factors will be taken into consideration

when awarding sanctions. At that time, the Section may sanction only those events that will be able to support CPC.

Further Actions:

1. The implementation of these recommendations will be monitored on an ongoing basis, with formal reviews to take place at the 2006 – 2007 Fall/Winter meetings of the Section Board of Directors. At that time, additional actions, modifications or refinements will be considered for implementation in 2007 - 2008.