

Minutes of OSSA Safety Task Group Conference call Approved.

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 013

Meeting called to order: 8:05pm

Present: Vince Carruthers, Janique Gagnon, Jeanne Preudhomme, Dave Hickman, Mark Miyasaki, Sarah Leslie

Absent: Anne Marie Malcolm, John Van Lierop

Previous meeting was to have been recorded but technology failed. Meeting minutes not available.

1. Results of Injury Reports to Date

- Only 16 reports received to date. Most clubs are not reporting and reports are not being submitted after meets. Members of STG to ensure their clubs are submitting reports. Discussion ensued about determining when to report, who is responsible for completing the paperwork, what constitutes an injury needing reporting.
- Members discussed injuries and behaviors at Clarrington meet the previous weekend. There were instances where skaters should have been assessed by First Aid responders but did not pursue. Questionable whether they should be racing and placing other skaters at risk. When in Doubt, Pull them Out..
- 3 bullet points established to share with Technical & Officials Committees. Must work together to prepare a motion to be introduced at the AGM: 1-If a skater falls and does not get up, 2 – If a skater falls and continues while in discomfort/ visible change, 3 – If a skater falls and a person in an official capacity (timer, place judge, lap counter, etc.) is concerned about their wellbeing,
- Point 3 would require the introduction of a Blue Card system. This would be documented as other cards and provide more opportunity to ensure reporting occurs.
- Purpose of the 3 bullets is to prevent injuries, encourage referees to call a race and know they are supported, to collect feedback and track injuries, and highlight that OSSA recognizes the risk of the sport and is putting safety first.
- Vince and Sarah to create Draft. Vince and Dave to gather some feedback before formally presenting to other committees.
- Long term, all meets should have a Medical Coordinator position who is responsible for these initiatives. Currently, the medical position is often taken on by meet organizers or other busy persons.

2. Policy and Role of FA Responders

- As mentioned above, would like to have Medical Coordinator have more active role with FA responders at meets. Increase reporting and injury tracking. FA should be wearing helmets when stepping on ice.

3. Crash Mats

- SSC SIMEC had contacted Branches for feedback on proposed changes to safety crash mat regulations. OSSA STG provided recommendations in time for their Board meeting and SSC appreciated the feedback.
- Vince planning to have display board at Cambridge Provincial Series meet to increase awareness about mat specifications. He will also have some information prepared for hand-outs.
- STG requested 60 minute time slot for presentation at OSSA AGM. Maybe bring mat samples for discussion.

4. Club Safety Contact Person

- Multiple attempts to attract safety-oriented persons to liaise between STG and their club, has only yielded one person. Through discussion with people at meets, there has been interest but people hesitant to participate because they don't feel knowledgeable or supported by club president.
- Proposed that if a representative is not identified for each club, then the club president automatically becomes the contact.
- Role description is unclear: To liaise between the club and OSSA on safety issues and ensuring injury reports from practices are submitted. To flush out details at next meeting and keep posting on all media.

5. Coaching Symposium

- May 4-5th in Ottawa and 30 minutes has been allocated to do a joint presentation with SSC about safety issues, Red Book interpretation, where to find resources, etc. Still general ideas at the moment. April 1st is deadline to request specific topics to be discussed or if STG is looking for information from the coaches.

6. Helmet and concussion study

- Dave brought up a recent study he read that says helmets don't prevent concussions, just major head trauma. Speed skating helmets are single impact – unclear if families are aware of this.

7. Concussion Toolbox

- This was a recent presentation at Cambridge SSC developed by two former athletes who suffered concussions in their sport. Their recovery experiences made an impact on the CSSC families and they have developed an iPad application to assist with concussion assessment.
- Proposed that they present at OSSA AGM.

To Do List

- Vince and Sarah to work on Draft of 3 Bullets.
- Vince and Dave to gather feedback before finalizing the first draft and presenting to other committees.
- Dave to gather feedback from referees about their views of current safety situation at meets.
- Vince has developed ice monitoring sheet to use in collaboration with ice technicians. To discuss at next meeting.
- Vince to prepare display and hand-outs on mat specifications for Cambridge Provincial Series meet (Feb. 2).
- Next meeting: finalize role of club safety liaison.
- Sarah to investigate possibility of Concussion Toolbox at AGM.

Meeting end at 9:48pm.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 19th at 8:00pm.