

**#weSKATEfast**



**OSSA**  
**ONTARIO SPEED SKATING**  
**ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting

February 11, 2017

Holiday Inn Express & Suites  
Newmarket, Ontario



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## SCHEDULE

All activities at Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Meeting room #2, 100 Pony Dr, Newmarket

Saturday Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Activity
6:00pm – 6:45pm	Arrival & Registration
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Annual General Meeting

## ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome to Delegates
2. Confirmation of Delegate numbers, quorum and majority
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of 2016 AGM Minutes
5. Presentation of August 31, 2016 Financial Review
6. Approval of 2017 Auditor
7. Elections
8. Confirmation of revised By-Laws and Policies
9. Adjournment

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD JUNE 2016

Are available at [ontariospeedskating.ca/previous-agms/](http://ontariospeedskating.ca/previous-agms/).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

President: Patti Pokol – Incumbent

President: David Butterworth

Vice President Administration and Finance: Bernadette Byrne

Vice President Marketing and Communications: None

Vice President Sport Development: Marg Oliveira - Incumbent

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP AS IT PERTAINS TO AGM VOTES

(as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017)

Club	Membership	Special Event Members	Total Members for AGM	Number of votes per club
Barrie	53	0	53	2
Brampton	60	0	60	2
Cambridge	99	1	98	2
Clarington	25	0	25	1
Durham	31	0	31	1
Gloucester	129	0	129	3
Golden Horseshoe	6	0	6	1
Hamilton	35	0	35	1
Kawartha	33	0	33	1
King	6	0	6	1
Kingston	73	0	73	2
Kitchener-Waterloo	151	0	151	4
London	79	0	79	2
Markham	85	0	85	2
Milton	60	0	60	2
Newmarket	70	0	70	2
Niagara	6	0	6	1
Oakville	85	0	85	2
Ottawa	247	0	247	5
Quinte	59	0	59	2
Sault Ste. Marie	7	0	7	1
St. Lawrence	59	0	59	2
Sudbury	8	0	8	1
Thunder Bay	23	4	19	1
Toronto	137	0	137	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1621</b>	<b>47</b>

**NOTES:**

- By-Law 7.01.2: Clubs in existence for less than two complete years with five members registered as Ordinary Members of the Association have one vote.
- By-Law 7.01.3: An Affiliated Club which has been in existence for a period of more than two (2) complete years must have at least ten (10) members who are registered as Ordinary Members of the Association in good standing during the fiscal year of the Association in order for the such Members to be entitled to one (1) Voting Delegate at any Meeting of Members.
- Special event members are not included in club totals for calculating number of club votes at the OSSA AGM. They are not considered Ordinary Members of the Association

## REPORTS

### PRESIDENT, PATTI POKOL

Although it has been less than a year since our last AGM, we have accomplished many of the objectives that we set for ourselves. We have officially changed our fiscal year end to August 31<sup>st</sup> and the Financial Review has been completed and is available for your review. We have launched the rebranding of the OSSA image, increased social media awareness, successfully launched SETH, and have revised many of our policies and our By-Laws, which we will bring to the membership for confirmation at this AGM.

With the revision of our By-Laws and policies, we have completed everything necessary to be compliant with the new “Sport Recognition Policy” from MTCS. This policy sets out mandatory requirements that all PSOs must meet in order to be recognized by the province of Ontario. Achieving this recognition provides us with access to continued financial support from the province and access to a Ministry consultant to assist us when needed. Hopefully it will also open the door to additional funding possibilities.

As we move forward, your Board of Directors is dedicated to remaining transparent in our decision-making and we encourage everyone to continue to be involved. As we begin to operate under our new By-laws, it will become even more important for our committees to remain resilient but flexible, to grow and change when needed but maintain our integrity. We will also need to develop a few new committees and we hope that our membership supports the association by getting involved.

I am more and more impressed every day when I read the media releases from SSC and almost every one of them highlights or mentions skaters from Ontario. OSSA is committed to continue to work towards that balance of supporting our all our skaters from the youngest to the oldest, from the recreational to the competitive.

I would like to acknowledge the continued support from Intact Insurance. Not only for their support of our National skaters but for their innovative support of our branch clubs. Please be sure to submit your grant applications, it looks like it will again be a banner year for our National Teams.

I encourage everyone to review the list of annual OSSA awards and submit your nominations by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Providing acknowledgment of the hard work and volunteerism of our members is one of the best ways to encourage continued involvement. Don't hesitate - nominate.

I would also like to acknowledge your Board of Directors, who volunteer their time, energy and knowledge to keep this association moving forward.

**VICE PRESIDENT ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT, BLAKE MORRISON**

This past season has seen numerous developments for Ontario skaters, most centred around the launch of OSSA's High Performance (HP) program. This program was named SETH; Skating Excellence Training Hubs. Over three years of planning set the foundation for this program. The Provincial Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport (MTCS) believed in our HP plans and granted us the funds we required to launch the SETH program. These funds enabled us to hire a High Performance Director who with the SETH coaches, skaters and OSSA staff were able to breathe life into the program. The inception year is almost over but to this point the program has been a great success. The work is not over; plans for the second and subsequent years are well underway which will include LT aspects among numerous other alterations.

OSSA continued to refine the Quest for Gold selection criteria to address evolving Ministry requirements.

A successful grant application for the "RBC Learn to Play Community Action Grant" was submitted. OSSA received \$10,000 to distribute between six clubs for them to host Learn to Speed Skate programs.

OSSA held a one-day Canadian Age Class Long Track Championships Prep camp in Ottawa. Nineteen skaters participated.

Collaborating with Jim Crosscombe, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Cycling Association regarding racing formats as well as other competition and cross training opportunities.

**VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION, DALE COOLIDGE**

No report available.

**VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE, VACANT**

**VICE PRESIDENT MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS, DAVID BUTTERWORTH**

During the past year we have successfully launched the rebranding of the OSSA image, together with recognizing the events that form a large part of the skating season.

Rebranding always takes form of a cultural shift in the identity of the association, and this direction is being adopted by the member clubs as part of their social media outreach. Without formally acknowledging it – the skaters themselves are embracing this shift and will eventually be the forefront of the media direction.

Our focus of attention during the coming year will be the upgraded website, which is currently under development. We are exploring the use of [wix.com](http://wix.com) as a platform, and recently suggested we look at 2squared. The biggest issue will be updating website so that it grabs the attention of current and potential users but remain easy to operate. The drag/drop potential of the software is essential moving forward.

We have developed an increasing awareness in the Instagram, Facebook and Twitter media campaigns, as well as creating a more streamlined and enhanced twice monthly email newsletter.

The biggest traction we are finding is through posting photographs of the Racing meets - these are met with the largest acknowledgement by followers, and more shares/comments. We shall continue to create this direction. These images are then also an extremely useful element in content for media campaigns, for clubs and skating families.

The Banners that have been used together with the Official's tags at racing meets have been well received. The Banners play an important role in advertising the event for our skating community - we have seen multiple images of athletes using these as backdrops, which are then circulated by the users. It also serves as self-promotion for the host skating club during the day or weekend of the event.

I would suggest to all Clubs that while it is not essential – having as many members and other families become part of your 'followers' on social media is a great way to help with showing how big the Club is. Potential sponsors will look up and see the numbers you generate, and they will make decisions based upon how much potential flow back they may receive.

We have recently placed a video onto YouTube following the Clarington meet. We hope to continue with these, and also make smaller versions that Clubs will be able to place on their own websites [obviously these will be showcasing the sport not the club, so that it is transferable across any platform]. The intent is also to provide a SETH or High Performance video highlighting the direction that OSSA is pursuing.

The following are scheduled to be completed by end April for access and distribution to all clubs;

- Marketing Package.
- Branding (Full package)
- OSSA event Videos.
- OSSA Website

VICE PRESIDENT SPORT DEVELOPMENT, MARG OLIVEIRA

Since we are only at the halfway point of the 2016-17 season, this report will not be as lengthy as for last season.

Long track is still very strong in Ontario. It is encouraging to see the number of athletes and families who are participating in camps and competitions outside of the province. That means that whether the Provincial long track championships run or not, the athletes representing OSSA at CACLT will be well prepared, as they have taken advantage of several opportunities to this point. Team selection will be as stated in the technical bulletin. As well, there has been an increase in the number of Ontario skaters competing in national stream ranking and selection events.

As for short track, attendance at the first 2 Provincial stream events was higher than in the past few years. Regional events were a bit lower, but typically those held in the second half of the season attract more participation. Again, we are struggling with the low numbers of 13-18 year old girls. This is not unique to us, other branches are also experiencing this.

Ontario was also present at the SSC short track qualifiers, advancing several athletes to Canadian Junior Championships, with some spectacular results.

Renee Steenge and Gibson Himbeault will be wearing the Team Canada suit at the Junior World Short Track Championships.

Senior 2 and Junior 2, both in 2017, will also have OSSA athletes and coaches in attendance. This season we are also sending several newer, developing coaches to SSC competitions, in both long and short track. This is the next logical step in their progression, some resulting from their participation in the SETH program. The experiences and mentorship that they gain will benefit the next generation of skaters as well as the current athletes.

Hosting the CACST in Ontario will also bring benefits. The success of this event will hopefully encourage other clubs to bid on national level competitions.

It is important that we still maintain a presence in that respect. Showcasing the best athletes, whether at junior or senior level, will encourage our younger skaters to train, race and be ambassadors for our sport.

The technical committee is planning for the 2017-18 season. As always, we will do our best to provide appropriate competition structures and venues, that will best serve the needs and development of Ontario athletes.

Many thanks to the committee members-Laurel Rockwell, Dennis Vogt, Ron Richards and Aidan Rando, as well as Cindy van Lierop. We also appreciate the day to day support of Sarah Leslie.

MANAGER, ADMINISTRATION, HANNAH PLEXMAN

Over the past six months, the administrative focus has been on renewing insurance certificates and cleaning up the Member Management System to ensure our Club Member lists are accurate and without duplicate. I would like to thank the clubs who I worked with to get their members registered in the MMS on time and in the correct programs.

The regular conference calls with our Club President's were helpful to discuss issues, challenges and share in successes across the various clubs. I know you will receive great value from attending these in the future.

The bi-weekly eNews continues to be a great communication tool that connects OSSA with the over 575 recipients. Through our recently rebranded eNews we share important details about upcoming competitions, congratulate our athletes on their performances and raise awareness about coaching, officiating and administrative opportunities that would contribute to the personal and professional development of our volunteers. I would encourage all members to send stories, opportunities and photos to [executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca) so they can be included.

Once again, it was a pleasure reconnecting with the Ontario members over the past year and I wish you well in the remainder of the skating season.

MANAGER, SPORT PROGRAMS, SARAH LESLIE

The 2016-2017 season has been another whirlwind of projects, planning, and changes. The VP reports will likely list all the events and projects accomplished so I will provide a summary of where we are going next.

Skating Excellence Training Hubs (SETH)

This program had a strong launch this season and will continue to evolve with athlete and coach development opportunities in short track and long track.

Bringing together skaters and coaches under the direction of a High Performance Director has been transformative. Club coaches are encouraged to attend SETH programming and strengthen the coaching network in the province.

Coaching

The OSSA Coaching Symposium welcomed 18 coaches representing 8 clubs. This will continue to be an annual event providing professional development points for maintenance of coaching certification.

An increase in applications from Ontario coaches to attend national meets ensured coverage for the events and allowed for more development opportunities.

Encourage your club coaches to attend courses and complete certification.

Officials

Thanks to the team of electronic timers who have taken charge of scheduling, training, and unit operations.

There should be more officiating clinics offered (especially Level 1) but there also needs to be more buy-in from the members. Clinic attendance has been very low and minimal certifications processed.

Technical

A review of the Ontario racing pathway and its' alignment with the national pathway is in progress. Changes are needed and will be reflected in next season's racing bulletins and calendar.

The largest obstacle for all facets of the association continues to be the Finances. Moving ahead, a qualified VP Finance is required, efficient banking practices are needed, collection of fees and invoice payments needs to be expedited, and further engagement from members is needed to maximize grant potential.

Many Thanks to Anne Walton and Hannah Plexman for joining the OSSA team this past year!

## 2017-2018 COMPETITION CALENDAR - DRAFT

**DRAFT January 25, 2017**

	Short Track			Short/Long Track	National ST and LT
	West	Central	East	Provincial Series	
<b>September</b>			Ottawa Sept 30-Oct 1		
<b>October</b>	7	Thanksgiving			
	14	KWL 2 day			Octoberfest
	21				LT WC Select
	28		Brampton		
<b>November</b>	4			PS#1 Cambridge	
	11	Oakville			National Qualifier 9-12
	18		Kingston		CanAm LT
	25			PS #2 Clarington	
<b>December</b>	2		Markham		CanCup#1
	9	London		Quinte	
	16				Jr Invtnl Calgary
	23	Holidays			
	30				
<b>January</b>	6				CanCup#2
	13	Cannot Book Another Meet		Provincial Long Track	Junior ST 12-14
	20			PS #3	Senior ST 19-21
	27	Milton			
<b>February</b>	3		Toronto (Sun 4)		CanCup#3 / CACLT
	10		St. Lawrence		
<b>Family Day (19)</b>	17	Burlington (Mon 19)		Prov A Championships	
	24		Barrie (Sat 24)		
<b>March</b>	3				
	10				Senior #2 9-11
	17				CanCup#4/Finale
	24				Junior #2 / Can East 24-25
	31	Easter weekend			

Easter is April 1, 2018

Green highlighting indicates the event is confirmed.

## APPENDIX 1 – REVISED BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Available at [ontariospeedskating.ca/policies](http://ontariospeedskating.ca/policies).

## APPENDIX 2 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Available at [ontariospeedskating.ca/2017-agm](http://ontariospeedskating.ca/2017-agm)