



2022 Skate Canada AGM Standing Committee Report

Standing Committee Name: Membership Policy Committee

Committee Chair and Members:

- Janice Hunter (Chair)
- Gregor MacLean
- Joni McPhail
- Pier-Luc Paquet
- Hilary Quick
- David Schultz
- Erica Topolski
- Ravi Walia

Committee Mandate Summary:

- Broadly oversees the implementation of the membership strategy and goals
- Identifies, updates, and monitors risk related to the committee's work
- Monitors member communications in line with the strategy and goals of the organization
- Works with Sections (through the Sections Coordinating Committee) to monitor relationships and outcomes with its members
- Through established mechanisms, monitors programs at the macro level to ensure a consistent quality of program delivery
- May review motions from operational committees and forwards final draft motions to the board for discussion and approval
- Reviews membership involvement and potential reinstatement as a registrant or member

Committee Report:

The Membership Policy Committee met 7 times, all by conference call. The committee has remained committed to broadening its ability to hear the voice of the membership. We endeavor to keep our finger on the pulse of important matters that impact our members across all sections. This includes three standing agenda items which bring important feedback and provide a focal point for discussions:

- Report from Hilary Quick, the Chair of the Sections Coordinating Committee (SCC)
- Report from the National Service Centre (NSC)
- Update from the Equity, Diversion & Inclusion (EDI) Working Group

As a result of discussions at meetings, a fourth standing agenda item ‘Accessible Programming’ will be added. The term ‘accessible’, will expand to include the concept of skating for everyone. Some examples of this are differently abled athletes, adults, indigenous and other racialized communities who are underrepresented in our sport, as well as considering the economic factor in reaching many different groups. As the organization moves out of pandemic recovery mode, the question of how to make our programs as accessible as possible will be further explored by the NSC, with MPC offering feedback as applicable. Note that this is an ongoing, thoughtful process that will evolve over time.

Areas of focus for 2021-2022

- Membership engagement – This is an ongoing focus of the committee and monitored through dialogue with the SCC, the NSC and agenda items brought forward by committee members. At each meeting the most recent membership report is shared with committee members.
- Keeping apprised of the road to recovery across the country - Early in the season the focus was still very much on the pandemic and the different challenges unique to each section. As the year progressed, there was more positive feedback as restrictions were eased. Many sections were able to host in-person events and allow more skaters on the ice. Regular updates from the NSC on registration numbers were very encouraging, especially in the CanSkate program. The number of returning athletes in the STAR program was a concern and it is hoped that the 2022-2023 season will see a renewed interest by this very important group of registrants.
- Management provided an update on the various Skate Canada fees. No increases will be applied for this upcoming season.
- MPC was kept apprised of the plans and subject matter for workshops at the Ice Summit.
- Room sharing with teams traveling to events was an open-ended topic of discussion. A need was identified for guidance to sections from both a safe sport perspective and pandemic protocol.
- Thoughtful discussions on gender, particularly as it relates to athletes competing domestically in the category they identify, as well as non-binary athletes. It should be noted that this is ongoing work that encompasses Safe Sport, EDI and many different stakeholder groups.

The work of the Membership Policy Committee is very interesting in that the topics of discussion are never static; they reflect current issues, whether they be challenges or celebrations. The committee is a collective of people from across the country, each bringing unique perspective and contributing to fulsome discussion to better serve the membership.

I sincerely thank all committee members for their time, contributions, and meaningful engagement this past year. I also acknowledge and thank the National Service Centre staff who were a tremendous support – Debra Armstrong, Mary Ellen McDonald, Jeff Partrick, Olivia Toner and Breanna Schmeer.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Hunter

