



## **Skate Canada Update**

**June 12, 2009**

As we continue to strive for business excellence and as part of Skate Canada's internal communication strategy, we would like to provide our skating family with the following information. This information is related to some developments and changes evolving out of the recent ACGM and meetings which occurred June 4-7, 2009.

We have faced some tough decisions in the last six months, ones that have become more complex due to the economics of today, but have not waivered on our focus of participation for all involved in our sport. The impact of the economic landscape on our sport has been felt and we are required to change and adapt in order to place ourselves in a position to continue to thrive and succeed in the future.

The following changes were discussed at length and approved by the Board of Directors earlier this week and we wanted to provide this update to you regarding these decisions.

### **Synchronized Skating**

- Rules and regulations supporting the synchronized skating restructure were adopted as interim for the 2009/2010 competitive season. These effectively eliminated the "Festival" and "Competitive" terminology and put all teams into one competition stream.
- Five regional qualifying events have been introduced for five categories: Novice, Intermediate, Open, Junior and Senior, which are the qualifying events for the BMO Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships.
- Synchronized skating will begin using the CPC scoring system at all events effective September 1, 2009.
- A date and location will be announced in the coming weeks in regards to the 2010 BMO Synchronized Skating Championships.

### **Adult Skate**

- Adult Championships will now be hosted by a club/region or local organizing committee and organized as a national invitational event.
- This change is happening to better suit the requirements of this rapidly growing discipline and the needs of adult skaters to have their own stand-alone event.
- The Adult event in 2010 will include three categories of adult synchronized skating.
- The 2010 location for the Adult Championship will be determined through a bid process which is currently open to local organizers as noted above.

### **National STARSkate**

The role, purpose and viability of this event has been under review for some time and various alternatives have been considered by the Board of Directors. The decision to discontinue this event effective the 2009/2010 season is based on many factors including:

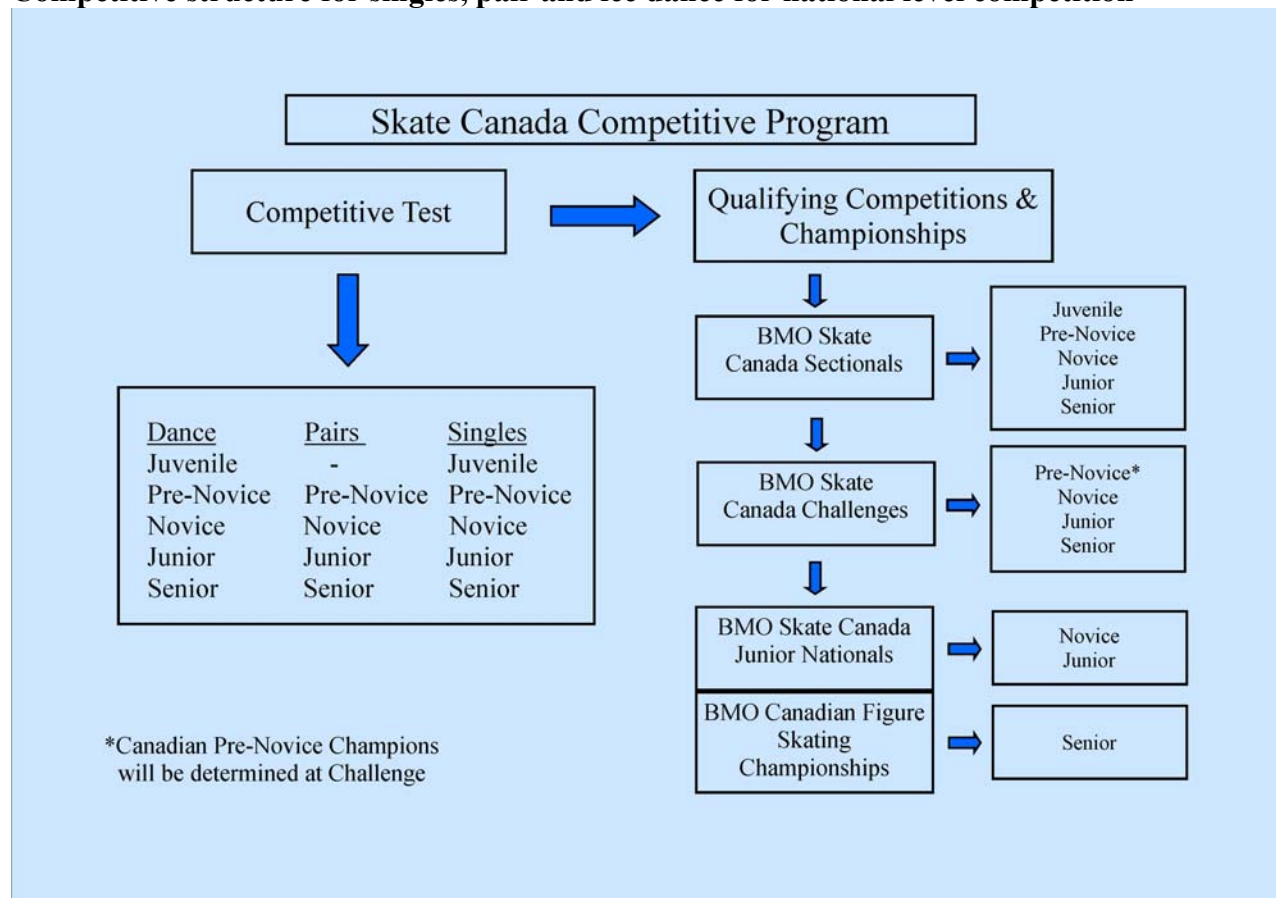
- Fiscal responsibility, best interest of the skaters and Long-Term Athlete Development model philosophies and concepts which do not support a national competition for this level of participant was approved by the Board of Directors.

- Lack of growth, limited numbers of participants, declining title sponsor interest and the restructuring of the adult competition were all considered.
- To ensure the program continues to develop skaters, the CPC scoring system will be used at Section STARSkate Championships (including Trillium all-Ontario Championships) effective September 2009 at the Junior Bronze and higher level events in free skating, ice dancing and all categories of interpretive skating.

### Byes policy

- Approved by the Board, skaters will compete at Challenge other than those receiving a bye from participating at the Grand Prix events or Junior Grand Prix final. Note that byes are discipline specific.
- After sectionals, if there are categories at Challenge that are not full, additional entries may be added to fill the entry quota.
- Numbers at Canadians are fixed and include competitors that have received a bye.

### Competitive structure for singles, pair and ice dance for national level competition



### National /Qualifying Competition Restructure

The Board approved the appropriate rule suspensions in order to adopt the following changes to the competitive structure:

- Juvenile categories compete to Sectionals and do not progress to Junior Nationals.



- Novice and Junior categories progress from Challenge to Junior Nationals in second rink in same city and timeframe as Senior Canadians in 2010 (London).
- Seniors – status quo.
- There are changes to Pre-Novice and Novice compulsory dances that was supported at the 2009 April meeting.
- Pre-Novice categories compete to Challenge and do not progress to Junior Nationals but would be declared the Pre-Novice Champion of Canada.
- Each category at Challenge will be conducted as one event. The top finishers at Challenge will advance to the Canadian Championships with the exact number advancing being determined once any byes to Canadians are taken into account.
- The total number of athletes competing in each category at Canadians will be 18 men and women, 15 ice dance teams and 12 pair teams.

### **Long-Term Athlete Development**

- The current model was approved by the Board of Directors.
- This model has been developed and user friendly resource materials will be produced by the end of 2009.
- Implementation phases beginning and the initial focus is on preparing a proposal for revising the CanSkate program.

### **Special Olympics**

- Skate Canada will continue to support all involved with the development of athletes with disabilities and will push the Canada Games to allow for the necessary resources to support the Special Olympic athletes.

### **SOCAN**

For clubs who have been approached by the Society of Composers Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) regarding music rights:

- It has not been possible to reach an agreement with SOCAN for a national rights agreement to date.
- Assuming no agreement is reached, the National Office will provide information to clubs and schools indicating which music rights are owned by Skate Canada and how clubs and schools can legally minimize their requirement to pay SOCAN fees.

### **Website**

- Skate Canada is currently building a new interactive skating website where visitors can watch videos, see photos, download results and much more.
- Visitors will be able to upload video updates within minutes of a competition where production is in place.
- We will retain the Skate Canada corporate website with updated information on programming, club contact information and news.
- There will eventually be opportunities for club, coach and official training and development through video.
- Phase one of the site is slated for launch in September 2009.



Should you have additional questions, comments or concerns on any of these topics, please visit our Members Only website or contact our Member Services Department and they will assist or redirect your question to the appropriate area.

Sincerely,

Skate Canada Board of Directors