

PDP Stakeholder Meeting
Zoom
Wed April 26, 2023

Attendance (24): Steven Wintoniw, Alex Loeppky, Don-Han Lau, Mink-Ka Chan, Murray Carter, Casey Guenther, Pam Little, Dot Ball, Janice Erikson, Cheryl Koop, Andrew Vanden Berg, Kenton Frith, Elise Paetkau, Sarah Chernis, Pauline Nadlersmith, Megan Carter, Karin McSherry, Simona Persun, Patrick McManus, Jennie Hissa, Yvette Page, Alexisse Berard, Chris Martin, Mary-Anne Church

History

- 2003 Provincial Team format abandoned due to lack of skiers in pipeline
- Club Coaching format introduced, Provincial Team coach budget \$\$ flowed to clubs to support club coach development
- Creation of volunteer committee (now PDPC) to steer coach & athlete development, plan training camps, race trips, select support staff and athletes to travelling teams

Pros

- Fostered rural club development and interclub relationships (clubs coming together for camps, races etc.)
- Outreach from Nordiq Canada – staff and national coaches travelling to Manitoba to support CAD (coach athlete development)

Actions from our last stakeholder meeting (2011)

- Manitoba can develop fast skiers, no reason why we cannot
- Identified a need for early snow training camp
- Quit staying in hotels, started culture of athlete involvement in meal planning etc. on team trips, it's about team building, life skills etc., as well as individual performance

Future Planning

- What do clubs (coaches and athletes) want (from PDPC)? What do we need to do different? Identifying issues...
- Sport Initiation
 - o Lack of athletes – Covid prevented “JD” aged athletes from starting racing when they normally would have
 - o Need more outreach to clubs – more interclub activity – e.g. interclub Jackrabbit or JD training sessions
 - o Need a training camp for entry level athletes (January camp was intended for this group but the late notice may have prevented most families from participating, see first bullet)
 - o Need more exposure/marketing of our competitive opportunities to the public
 - o Large races (many participants) are better for encouraging new racers to attend (and not feel intimidated)
 - o Skiing in schools – teach teachers how to teach skiing. School teachers need to know how to ski/teach skiing or please leave this to the experts (local ski clubs/coaches/instructors)
 - o Bring back the women's race (Downtown Nordic)
- Performance Pathway

- PDP selecting small teams has led to a smaller group of athletes overall – better to send larger teams to races
 - Selection to teams should happen sooner so clubs can arrange club travel to races
 - Need to reduce costs for travelling teams
 - Travel to races closer to home – SK, TBay, US – driveable distance
 - Consider how CCSAM could fund club teams travel to local races
 - Focus on the racing experience / team building rather than the “importance” of the race itself
- Technical – Coaches & Officials
 - Need to continue to develop more coaches
 - Need to increase our Officiating capacity – train more Officials
 - Need to offer more waxing knowledge opportunities. Develop more wax techs or increase general waxing knowledge / skills of coaches. Use examples of CWG Trails, MB Games neutral waxing format
 - Need more opportunities to bring entry level coaches & athletes together to develop skills
 - Club coaching succession planning
 - Organizational Capacity
 - Lack of communication from Nordiq Canada (eg. LF training, Coach Mentorship program)
 - Need to monitor/respond to the female experience in our sport (athlete and volunteer/staff). Yes, we have gender parity (in MB at least) but are the experiences of women equal to the men? Not always, e.g. Nationally (as well as in MB), women report being pushed out of wax rooms or team meetings or relegated to perform basic tasks or leave their positions due to negative workplace experiences
 - Consider how to effectively use parents as volunteers – communication about races and volunteer positions
 - Events:
 - Need to schedule events (team trips, training camps etc.) well in advance
 - Parents/athletes want to know the entire season schedule as early as possible. Late notice = less potential participation due to schedule conflicts
 - Season planning should be a more collaborative process?
 - Need to have more fun/joyful events (not necessarily races) that bring lots of kids together
 - Consistent registration deadlines
 - Kids love prizes, lots of prizes for kids
 - PDP should encourage more participation at LOCAL events – make MB Cups a big deal
 - Consider a single race in SK, MB, TBay (on a 3 year rotation) where SKI, MB, TBay teams agree to attend each year