

Athlete Development Committee Report

2025–2026 Season

To Be Submitted to the Speed Skating BC AGM

This season, the Athlete Development Committee continued to stay involved in as many areas of athlete development as possible, always trying to keep the athletes and the overall growth of sport at the center of discussions and decisions.

A lot of conversations this year focused on competition structure, athlete experience, Team BC selection processes, awards criteria, and creating development opportunities that make sense for skaters across all levels and disciplines.

The ADC also continued discussions around having better access to athlete information and tracking tools to help with planning, preparation, and identifying athlete pathways throughout the province. As our sport keeps evolving, having better information available helps committees, coaches, and clubs make stronger decisions for athletes.

One area the committee spent a lot of time discussing was competition format and athlete experience, especially within youth and development categories. We tried to focus on making competitions meaningful, competitive, and developmentally appropriate while keeping the athlete's experience positive and enjoyable.

Due to the unique combination of experiences within the ADC, committee members became heavily involved in several important provincial discussions this season. ADC members participated (and continue doing so) in the Canada Winter Games selection committee process and worked hard to help shape formats and selection philosophies based on experience and athlete development, while trying to leave personal interests aside and focus on what would be fairest for athletes across the province.

The committee also worked closely with Jodi Roberts and other committees throughout the season on competition bulletins, Team BC selection criteria for national competitions, and the skinsuit eligibility bulletin. ADC members additionally contributed to the Provincial Awards criteria and helped support the Awards Committee with the Skater of the Year nomination and selection process across different age categories.

The work surrounding the Awards Bulletin continues to be a work in progress, and the ADC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with the Awards Committee in refining and improving the process each season. The overall goal remains to create the strongest and fairest version possible to properly recognize the most deserving Skaters of the Year from across the province.

The ADC also tried to stay actively involved at provincial competitions by having committee representation on Sport Juries and working alongside other officials to help deliver meaningful competitions for athletes throughout the province.

Personally, one thing I appreciated this season was seeing how much work so many people quietly put in behind the scenes, everyone trying to do what they believe is best for the athletes and the future of speed skating in BC. We may not always agree on every approach, but the passion people have for sport is something that continues to stand out.

Thank you to everyone who continues to dedicate their time, energy, and countless volunteer hours to supporting athletes and helping our sport continue to move forward.

Shadi Salehi
SSBC ADC