

NORDIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2022 BVCCSC AGM

OVERVIEW

The Nordic Skills Development Program is a community sports organization that provides opportunities for all members of the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club and our communities to develop their skills in Nordic Skiing and Biathlon. In 2021-2022, program fees, fundraisers, and grants from Gaming BC, BVCF, CCBC and NWSDA allowed us to hire a full time, full year Head Coach, Andrew Brisbin. In addition, we rehired a program coordinator, Denise Kelly, to contribute expertise and facilitate communications and program organization. The NSDP continues to rely heavily on volunteers who provide coaching, program oversight, race support, and share in the many tasks of building and maintaining our ski facilities in order to keep the programs affordable.

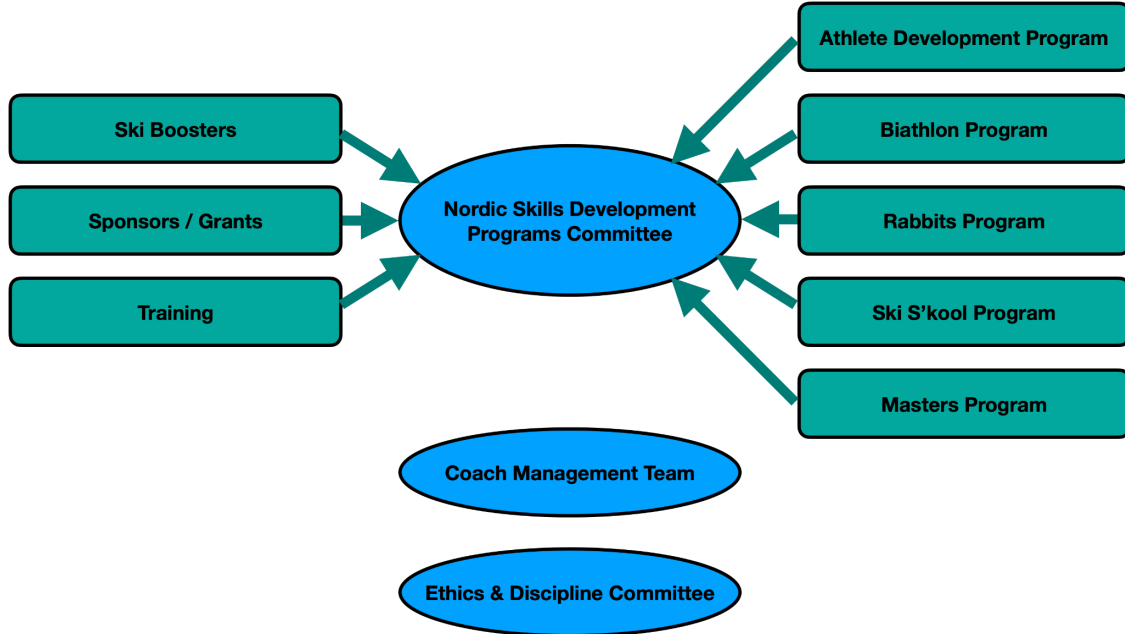
Last year, our skills development programs included:

- Nordic Skiing
 - Skills Development Programs
 - Bunnies (ages 4-5)
 - Rabbits (ages 6-10)
 - Athlete Development Programs
 - Track Attack 1 (7-10)
 - Track Attack 2 (10-11)
 - U14 (ages 12-13)
 - U16 (ages 14-15)
 - U18 (ages 16-17)
 - Ski S'Kool Program (ages 5-13)
 - Master's Performance Program ***new***
- Biathlon
 - Masters Biathlon - Experienced
 - Masters Biathlon - Coached ***new***



PROGRAM COORDINATION

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	LEAD
Nordic Skills Development Program	Sarah Sacharoff, Jen Chapman, Stephen Wickham
NSDP Coordinator	Denise Kelly
Athlete Development Program	Andrew Brisbin, Patrick Williston, Helene Fleury, Ryan Chapman, Richard Alton
Masters Performance Program	Andrew Brisbin
Biathlon Program	Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon
Rabbit Program	Sue Pearce
Ski S'Kool	Denise Kelly

PROGRAM SUPPORT

FUNCTION	LEAD	ROLE
Ski Boosters	Paula Bartemucci Tamara Gillis Shannon Pearce, Michelle Nisbet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Provide support and services for families on behalf of the NSDP, including Biathlon● Coordinate NSDP fundraising activities
Coach Training	Denise Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Support coach training for all NSDP Programs
Sponsorships/ Grants	Stephen Wickham Denise Kelly Sarah Sacharoff Jen Chapman	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Coordinate program grants for the NSDP, including Gaming Grant and Viasport, CCBC Grants, NWSDA, Nordiq Canada
Wax Team	Andrew Brisbin, Sandy MacLean, Patrick Williston, Josh Wimbush, Chris Werrell, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Coordinate club wax and equipment purchases and wax support for race events



OTHER COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	PURPOSE	REPRESENTATION
Coach Management Committee	Oversee Head Coach contract, hiring and performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Sacharoff ● Ryan Chapman ● Patrick Williston
Ethics and Discipline Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide code of conduct for NSDP coaches and athletes. ● Resolve disputes using BVCCSC Dispute Resolution Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Sacharoff ● Jen Chapman ● Steve Wickham ● Andrew Brisbin ● Ben Forsyth
NSDP 5 year Visioning Committee	Met a number of times in the past year to reassess the financial needs of the program in the next 5 years. Partial outcome was assisting the club with the creation of a sponsorship program of which NSDP may wish to benefit from in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah Sacharoff ● Ryan Chapman ● Steve Wickham

HIGHLIGHTS - 2022

In July of 2021, our new head coach Andrew Brisbin joined the club. Over the next couple of months, Patrick Williston and Ryan Chapman worked closely with Andrew to transition him into his role.

Andrew's responsibilities include:

- Oversight of the BV Nordics Athlete program from U10 to U18 in alignment with Nordiq Canada's Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.
- Development of new BV Nordics Masters Performance Program
- Development of annual and monthly training plans
- Facilitate athlete participation in local through national races.
- Mentoring of volunteer coaches through the provision of coaching clinics and periodic involvement in volunteer lead practices.
- Provide leadership, wax determination, and direction to volunteer coaches.
- Participate in Local and Provincial Training Camps.

Denise Kelly was rehired as NSDP Coordinator for 2021-22. Denise coordinated coach and officials training clinics, grant writing and was instrumental in coordinating the Ski S'kool Program. In addition, Denise helped coordinate registration, fundraising and managed our NSDP website information.



Some of the season highlights include:

- Andrew Brisbin organized an inaugural BV Nordic Summer Camp in August of 2021.
- Expanded summer training programs available for TA1-U18 athletes in Summer 2021.
- Andrew Brisbin organized a regional Snow Camp held in December 2021
- Andrew Brisbin created the Masters Performance program, which ran at capacity, meeting twice a week to practice during the winter season.
- new Biathlon Beginner Adult coached sessions
- PG BC Champs - 16 Top 3 finishes, 44 BV Nordic athletes. Our wax team also supported 2 Houston and 1 Burns Lake athlete. BV Nordic was the loudest cheering squad.
- Nationals - Bronze for Ava Wimbush, 3 BV Nordic athletes
- Canadian Biathlon Championships - 3 masters, Léa-Marie Bowe-Lyon, Callie Lancaster and Brian Swansburg, medalled in all events
- Coaching Development continued with NCCP courses. 7 more coaches are now trained at the Learn to Train level, 3 more are certified at the Community Coaching level and 6 more are certified for Level 1 Officials. 3 coaches have completed the Train to Train dryland.

The club has one athlete on the BC Nordic Ski Team, three athletes on the BC Development Squad and six athletes on the BC Talent Squad. Competitive adult biathletes include Callie Lancaster, Bryan Swansburg and Léa-Marie Bowes-Lyon.

With COVID restrictions relaxing in 2021-22, we were able to run our snow camp and our traditional races. With covid safety a concern, rabbits were not encouraged to gather in the lodge for snacks after practice. Post race meals were prepared that could be taken outside to eat.

Biathlon has been anchored by a core group of three masters athletes for the past two years. This year biathlon offered a six session masters program that allowed new athletes to learn the basics of the sport. Seven athletes participated. It was well received and additional sessions were offered. Léa-Marie Bowes-Lyon organized this program and was supported by the other masters and several veteran club biathlon coaches. Several of the new biathletes have expressed an interest in returning next year.

The youth biathlon program was not offered because of lack of registration. A one-day kids camp was held for youth athletes in the Spring of 2022. Eight boys between 10-13 participated and had a very fun time. With the excitement generated we expect some youth registration in 2022-23.



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Skill Development	2020	2021	2022
Bunnies (4 - 5 years)	37	17	39
Rabbits (6 - 10 years)	37	17	34
TOTAL Skill Development	74	34	73
Ski S'kool			
Schools	5	6	7
Student Visits		1451	1273*
Athlete Development Summer 2021			
Track Attack(U10)/U12			21
U14			11
U16/U18			11
TOTAL Summer			43
Athlete Development Fall/ Winter			
Track Attack(U10)/U12	38	26	33
U14	16	13	14
U16	5	11	5
U18	5	3	7
Biathlon - Bantams (10 - 11)	0	0	0
Biathlon - Midgets (12 - 13)	0	0	0
Biathlon - Juvenile (14 - 15)	0	0	0
Biathlon - Junior (16 - 19)	0	0	0
Youth Biathlon	0	0	0
TOTAL Athlete Development	64	53	59



Masters			
Biathlon - Masters - Experienced	3	3	3
Biathlon - Masters - Coached			7
Masters Performance			12

*** Ski S'kool numbers were slightly down this year because of covid/weather cancellations/bus cancellations. We are not concerned that this is a trend.**

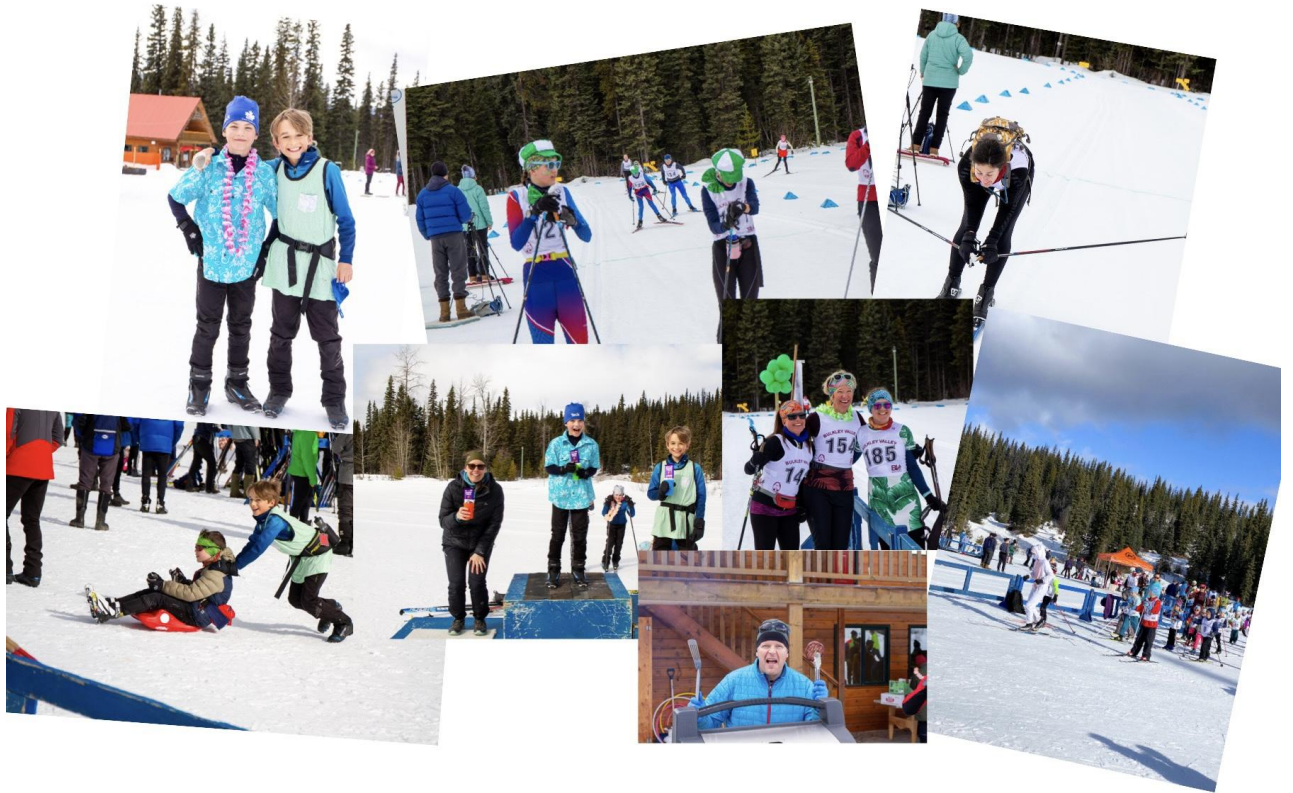


Finances

A significant portion of the funding for a paid club coach comes from the BC Gaming Grant, for which we are very thankful. In addition, BV Nordic NSDP was awarded two grants to help with the transition to a full time full year head coach, the CCBC Head Coach Grant and the National Winter Sports Development Association (NWSDA) Grant. Both of these grants are awarded over three years.

BV Nordic NSDP was awarded a three year grant towards our Ski S'kool Program from the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation (BVCF) beginning in 2021-22. This grant allowed us to decrease the cost to participate in the program and also helped cover some of the expenses of running the program.

NSDP also raised funds through the pursuit of other grants and Ski Booster fundraising activities. The Ski Boosters raised funds through ticket booth, extra lodge cleaning, a virtual auction and event catering. Other forms of income were an account at the local bottle depot that allowed bottle donations to be made to the program and an optional NSDP donation field in the zone 4 registration.



Volunteers

It is safe to say, our program does not exist without the generous commitment from our volunteers.

A big thank-you to our ADP and Rabbits coaches and Ski Boosters for this year, without whom there would be no ski program.

Thank-you to Patrick Williston, Antje Von Seidlitz, Josh Wimbush and Mel Dumont (U16/U18); Helene Fleury, Stephen Wickham, Sandy MacLean (U14); Ryan Chapman, Jodi Preto, Adrienne Rosenberger, Andy Rosenberger, Eric Holdyk, Richard Alton, Kaia Andal, Heather Cosman and Seonaid Davis (Track Attack).

Thank you to our Rabbits coaches led by Sue Pearce - Erin Williams, Heather Cosman, Jordy Guillon, Kara Przewesek, Malcolm Johnson, Mark Wong, Matt Thomas, Nellie Dow, Tlell Glover, Vaughn Ellis, Roger MacMillan and Arlynn Kooger.

Paula Bartemucci, Shannon Pearce, Michelle Nisbet and Tamara Gillis of Ski Boosters kept us all organized.

Many thanks to Léa-Marie Bowes-Lyon, Bryan Swansburg, Kevin Kriese, Angus Tweedie, Peter Tweedie, and Wally Lesawich for coaching the Masters biathlon program.

And a big thank you to the many other parent volunteers that helped out in numerous ways throughout the year.

Looking Forward - 2022

We welcome back volunteers leading our different ski programs. Rabbits will be led by Sue Pearce. Shannon Pearce and Jen Chapman will be leading Ski Boosters. Denise Kelly will coordinate the Ski S'kool program. Lead volunteer coach roles will be filled by Patrick Williston, Helene Fleury, Matt Beedle, Ryan Chapman and Richard Alton.

The biathlon program is working to build renewed interest in the sport amongst youth. The youth program will be tailored based on registrations. The masters biathlon program will welcome the masters from last year's coached program into regular practices and new masters will be able to join as space permits.

Andrew Brisbin will continue as our head coach, overseeing the ADP and Masters Programs.

Cross Country BC (CCBC) has granted us two more years of the Head Coach Grant \$10,000 in 2022 and \$8,000 in 2023.



The National Winter Sports Development Association (NWSDA), granted NSDP \$10,000 for three years towards our head coach wages. We still have 2 years left of that award. They merited our club based on our proven ability to develop competitive skiers and coaches based on long term development planning.

With two paid employees under NSDP's wings, we are doing financial planning out 5 years into the future. Our aim is to provide stability for our program by finding a sustainable balance of fees, grants and fundraising while closely managing our expenses. We are very fortunate to have a sizeable reserve which has allowed us more confidence through this transition.

Starting in 2022-23 our Fall/Winter Fees include race waxing for all of ADP and Masters Performance athletes. Last year, we found that managing an ever changing wax list was very labour intensive. We plan to make small incremental increases in our athlete fees yearly, in order to fund our expenses. Our fees are still low in comparison with other BC clubs that have full time head coaches.

