



NORDIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2025 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.]For the 2024-25 season, we enjoyed another year with Head Coach Andrea Stapff at the reins. Our previous NSDP Program Coordinator, Denise Kelly, stepped down from her position at the end of the 2025 ski season. We are so grateful for the many years Denise has given to the program. In Fall 2025, we hired a new program coordinator, Melissa Zarecki, to contribute her years of ski related 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.

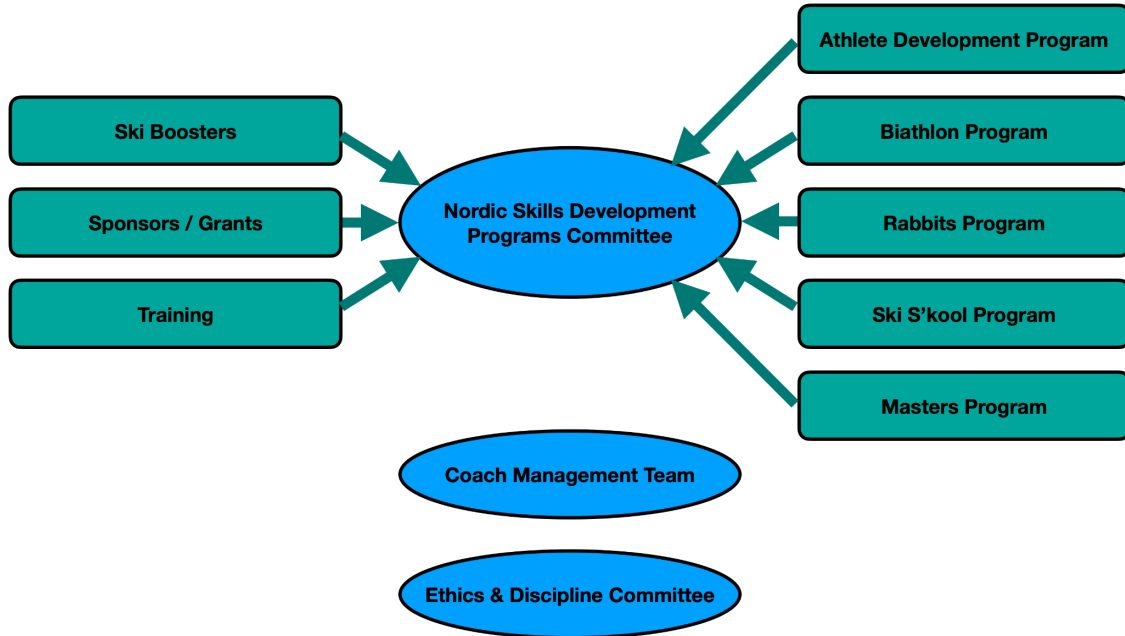
Last year, our skills development programs included:

- 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)
 - U20 (ages 18-19)
 - Ski S'Kool Program (ages 5-13)
 - Master's Performance Programs (2 training groups)
 - Master's Drop In
 - Biathlon
 - Youth Biathlon (U13, Recreational, Junior)
 - Masters Biathlon



PROGRAM COORDINATION

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS 2024-2025

PROGRAM	LEAD
Nordic Skills Development Program	Sarah Sacharoff, Adrienne Rosenberger, (Stephen Wickham - grants)
NSDP Coordinator	Denise Kelly
Athlete Development Program	Andrea Stapff, Ryan Chapman, Helene Fleury
Masters Performance Program	Andrea Stapff
Biathlon Program	Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon
Rabbit Program	Tarah MacPherson
Ski S'Kool	Denise Kelly
Masters Drop In	Cobey Oliemans



PROGRAM SUPPORT 2024-2025

FUNCTION	LEAD	ROLE
Ski Boosters	Yeva Glover Georgie Watts Amy Klepetar Diana Cullen Arlynn Kooger Titia Donker Martina Bezzola	<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 Adrienne Rosenberger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate program grants for the NSDP, including Gaming Grant and Viasport, CCBC Grants, NWSDA, Nordiq Canada
Wax Team	Andrea Stapff, Sandy MacLean, Ryan Chapman, Andrew Rosenberger, Josh Wimbush, Ben Forsyth, Diana Cullen, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led by Andrea Stapff, Chris Werrell and Sandy MacLean. 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 • Chris Werrell

HIGHLIGHTS - 2025

Head Coach, Andrea Stapff continued to bring her wealth of experience and wisdom to the program.

Andrea's responsibilities include:

- Oversight of the BV Nordics Athlete program from U10 to U20 in alignment with Nordiq Canada's Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model.
- Facilitation of BV Nordics Masters Performance Program
- Development of annual and monthly training plans for ADP athletes
- 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 2024-25. 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. Denise has now retired from her NSDP role. We are very grateful for all she has done to make our programs and club a success.

Some of the season highlights include:

- Great summer training programs available for TA1-U20 athletes in Summer 2024 led by Andrea Stapff
- Cultural exchange with ADP athletes and Nakkertok athletes in Ottawa/Gatineau.
- A very successful regional Snow Camp held in December 2024 - the first time on snow that season for many regional athletes - and the largest ever with the addition of Nakkertok exchange athletes.
- Andrea Stapff continued to coach the Masters Performance program, meeting twice per week and including a dryland component which ran at capacity, and added a daytime Masters Lite program, meeting once per week on snow - this year added two Masters Lite time slots.
- Team dinners and team events while at races. The athletes loved these.
- Great attendance at both BC Cup and tier 1 races.
- Largest ever Nationals attendance in Canmore - over 12 athletes.
- Supported the Mothers Day Run again this year - are very grateful for the great fundraising opportunity from McBike
- a resilience building ADP backpacking trip to the Babines in August
- the club currently has 3 athletes on the National High Performance Prospects Program, 1 athlete on the BC Ski Team, 4 athletes on the BC Development Squad and 8 athletes on the BC Talent Squad.

The 2025 Rabbits program was overall another successful year; we had 102 kids total; 40 bunnies (ages not quite 4 to 5) and 62 rabbits (ages 6 to 10). Notable items from the season:

- Night ski
- Coach Training session with Andrea
- Season-end finale Bunny Parade at the Wetzin'kwa Loppet

Tarah McPherson did a great job coordinating the Rabbits program for this year - Thank you Tarah!



- Rabbits 2026 Goals:
 - Hoping to maintain our over 100 kids next year
 - Enough coaches! (ideally coach:kid ratio of 1:7, and a couple “spares” to cover absentee coaches) For 100 kids this means 15-17 coaches.
 - Participation in local races
 - More cross-over/encounters with the older age groups

Biathlon

- Biathlon Masters and youth programs continued to grow.
- Biathlon participated in the first annual Tour de North biathlon event where biathletes from Quesnel, Prince George, Vanderhoof, Burns Lake, Terrace and Smithers participated in 4 races over two days in March. Participants attended any combination of races in Smithers, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof and Prince George.
- Completion of a concrete pad to support the building of a roof over the targets once additional funding is obtained. See Looking Forward – 2025-26 section for further details.

The biathlon program grew this year with the addition of 2 new youth athletes and 1 new masters athlete. Sessions began on snow Nov. 30th and ran all winter on Saturday mornings until the end of March. The coaching was led by Nils Erasmus and Lea-Marie Bowes-Lyon with support from Bryan Swansburg and Callie Lancaster.

Ski Skool

Ski S’Kool 2024-25 was another successful year as this popular program continues to be a favourite within the community. This year, we began Ski S’Kool in January instead of December which is a very busy month for schools. The program was 10 weeks in total. We had a couple weeks of impassable driving conditions and very cold weather which resulted in about 14 class cancellations. We were able to reschedule about 80% of those.

Seven of the eight elementary schools in the Bulkley Valley participated this year – Bulkley Valley Christian, Ecole La Grande Ourse, Heartwood Learning Community/Edge, Muheim Memorial, St. Joseph’s, Telkwa Elementary and Walnut Park. (Witset Elementary School attended through the Spirit North program this year so is not reflected in our totals.). There were 411 students participating from twenty-one individual classes. Classes attend two to four times per season with most choosing three times. The total number of individual visits was approximately 863. We had 9 dedicated coaches instructing the sessions.



This spring we had an unexpected grant opportunity from Cross Country British Columbia (CCBC) with money available to replace some aging equipment. We used these funds to refresh our equipment pool with 20 sets of new skis and boots.

PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Skill Development	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bunnies (4 - 5 years)	17	39	51	46	40
Rabbits (6 - 10 years)	17	34	35	55	62
TOTAL Skill Development	34	73	86	101	102
Ski S'kool					
Schools	6	7	10	10	7
Student Visits	1451	1273	1302	911	863
Athlete Development Summer					
Track Attack(U10)/U12		21	8	8	6
U14		11	9	10	6
U16/U18		11	14	7	18
U20				1	1
TOTAL Summer		43	31	26	31
Athlete Development Fall/ Winter					
Track Attack(U10)/U12	26	33	33	29	34
U14	13	14	9	11	14
U16	11	5	16	11	9



U18	3	7	4	4	7
U20				0	1
Biathlon - U13/Recreational	0	0	3	7	3
Biathlon - Junior (13 - 14)	0	0	1	1	5
Biathlon - Senior (15 - 16)	0	0	0	0	1
Biathlon - Youth (17 - 18)	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Athlete Development Winter	53	59	66	63	74
Masters					
Biathlon - Masters - Experienced	3	3	3	3	4
Biathlon - Masters - Coached		7	6	6	5
Masters Performance		12	15	15	16
Masters Performance Lite				12	17
TOTAL Masters Athletes	3	22	24	36	42
TOTAL Masters Performance Waitlist		n/a	14	1	



Finances

A significant portion of the funding for a paid club coach comes from the BC Gaming Grant, for which we are very thankful. For the 2024-25 year, Steve Wickham was able to secure our annual gaming grant at \$29,500. In addition, BV Nordic NSDP has enjoyed continued support from the National Winter Sports Development Association (NWSDA) Grant.

BV Nordic NSDP was awarded a grant towards our Ski S'kool Program from the Bulkley Valley Community Foundation (BVCF) for the 2024-25 season. 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 Boosters fundraising activities. The Ski Boosters raised funds through club host shifts, extra lodge cleaning, maple syrup sales 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. In addition, NSDP received \$2000 in sponsorship money for the year.

We were able to make some significant purchases this year of wax equipment, dryland training equipment, including two ski ergs, new test skis for the wax team and new rental rifles and a scope for Biathlon.



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, Biathlon and Rabbits coaches and Ski Boosters for this year, without whom there would be no ski program.

Thank-you to, Josh Wimbush, Jesse Wimbush, Helene Fleury, Stephen Wickham, Sandy MacLean, Adrienne Rosenberger, Rory Luxmoore, Matt Beedle, Shannon Pearce, Ryan Chapman, Jodi Preto, Andy Rosenberger, Richard Alton, and Kira Hoffman.

Thank you to our Rabbits coaches led by Tarah Macpherson -Ryan Chapman, Roger McMillan, Jordy Guillon, Malcolm Johnson, Ben Laurie, Lauren Boddy, Hans Erasmus, Brandin Lilgert, Sue Pearce, David Doogan-Smith, Michelle Doogan-Smith, Doug Wiggil, Robyn Van Iderstine, Daphne Hall, Tlell Glover, Emily Beirnes, and Brennan Anderson.

Diana Cullen, Amy Klepetar, Georgie Watts, Laura Eustace, Erica Lilles, Stephanie Capyk, Ben Forsyth, Arlynn Kooger, Titia Donker-Mes, Karolina Wenzel and Yeva Glover made significant organizational contributions towards Ski Boosters.

Many thanks to Léa-Marie Bowes-Lyon, Bryan Swansburg, Callie Lancaster, and Nils Erasmus for their dedication to the biathlon program.

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

Looking Forward – 2025-26

We welcome back volunteers leading our different ski programs. The Rabbits Coordinator role will be shared by the Rabbits Coaches this year. . Yeva Glover will be leading Ski Boosters. Melissa Zarecki will coordinate the Ski S'kool program and will be our program coordinator.

The biathlon program is continuing to build its youth program. It will share 4 Eco-Aim rifles with the Spirit North program (purchased by Biathlon BC) which will provide added opportunities for the program and the club. The masters biathlon program will welcome the masters from last year's program and new masters will be able to join as space permits.



Andrea Stapff has been re-hired as our head coach, overseeing the ADP and Masters Programs.

NWSDA has granted us a \$8,500 grant for 2025-26 to target overall athlete development, maintaining the head coach position and increasing BV Nordic athlete participation at provincial and national events. They merited our club based on our proven ability to develop competitive skiers and coaches based on long term development planning.

We applied for and were granted \$6500 to support our Ski S'kool program for the 2025-26 season by BVCF.

BVCU has granted us \$750 towards gym equipment for our dryland training space in the wax hut.

Wetzink'wa Forest Corporation has granted us \$4640 to be put towards Phase 1 of a project to build a roof over our biathlon targets. Phase 1, installing the concrete pad, was completed in September 2025 with incredible volunteer support from Steve Howard, Brant Dahlie, John Schibli and others. We are looking for funding for Phase 2 of this project which will be purchasing or constructing a target roof system, including lighting.

NSDP is also involved in an enhanced skills park project to revamp our ski playground to incorporate modern skills park amenities and best practices. Again, we are looking for grant money to implement this project.

With two paid employees under NSDP's wings, we are financial planning out 5 years into the future. Our aim is to provide stability for our programs 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 in risk management.

Starting in 2022-23 our Fall/Winter Fees included race waxing for all of ADP and Masters Performance athletes. We plan to continue 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.

