

SASK SPEED SKATING

Survey Summary Melville FUNdamental Meet

Dec. 12, 2009



Skaters



Parents



Coaches

	Skaters	Parents	Coaches
Total Number of Responses	26	27	3
On a scales of 1 to 10, with 1 being least favourable and 10 being most favourable, what was your overall impression of the meet format?	7.1	7.3	8
Do you think the unconventional team-style races contributed to your attachment to the sport of speed skating?	Yes—17 No—8 DK—0	Yes—17 No—7 DK—3	Yes—3 No—0 DK—0
Do you think the unconventional team-style races contributed to skater development?	Yes—17 No—8 DK—1	Yes—21 No—5 DK—1	Yes—3 No—0 DK—0
Would you like to see more FUNdamental competitions, such as the Melville meet, held in the future?	Yes—17 No—8 DK—0	Yes—20 No—5 DK—2	Yes—3 No—0 DK—0
Are you aware of the Long Term Participation and Athlete Development Program?	Yes—4 No—21 DK—1	Yes—13 No—14 DK—0	Yes—2 No—1 DK—0



Coaches' Comments

I appreciate the goal and the effort. For the most part, this was a good first attempt. I feel very strongly that feedback is important if real LPTAD is to be achieved. Here are my suggestions:

- 1) A committee to plan meet
- 2) Better use of ice surface
- 3) Longer race duration
- 4) More skaters at a time racing
- 5) Never skate one alone
- 6) Forget the timers (not necessary)
- 7) Have all skaters on the ice, eliminate the whip and time in marshal area
- 8) Outside the box thinking, even more. Example: skate a team of three altogether in chuckwagon race (12 at a time). Last skater over the line determines placing. Time not important—they will know who won.
- 9) People who have great ideas in Saskatoon include Irene Kokotailo, Bruce Craven, Jason Coutu, Tim Comfort and Bryan McSorley.
- 10) Good start to LTPAD, but need to go further!



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I support LTPAD, however, I would like to see it graduated as the age levels go up. For example, Peewee and Cradles have full fundamental meet, Bantam have half fun and half conventional, and Midget a quarter fun and three-quarters conventional. This maintains the model for fun, but also prepares the skaters for Division 1. The speed of the competition, marking for barrels, should either be done ahead of time or have a marking string to measure distances. Coaches need to be more involved in the process, as they need to develop the skaters so that they know what to expect.

I was disappointed about the communication of the event. More lead time for skaters, coaches, officials and parents to learn, understand and accept the changes need to happen. The next meet with this format needs to be fully communicated to the participants, both personally by the club reps., as well as ensure the info on the web site explains the process.

The provincial coach needs to be more proactive with the club coaches to ensure they understand the change in the current club philosophy. A complete understanding must be there before acceptance happens.



Parents' Comments

I think a half day of team-style races would be better than an entire day.

I think the races — barrel and chuckwagon — were a bit confusing for the younger skaters. They did not know the correct turns and perhaps with more opportunities will understand the instructions better.

I thought it was a nice change. My younger son, 7, particularly enjoyed it — took away the individual competitiveness.

Just listening to the kids was interesting. They all seemed to comment how much fun it was. Very good feedback from participants I think.

I think Midget skaters should have a chance to do more distances. Maybe they only do one barrel race and do more distances. It was still good, though. Enjoyed watching the kids.

Division one and two skaters could do a fun event or fun events. Both Division one and two skaters could do the traditional events. Chuckwagon race could be more structured to make the race longer. As it was, skaters only skated half laps — perhaps it could go one or two laps. It look like fun — well done!

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I think it would be nice if Bantam and Midget race were split half and half.

My daughter had a great time. Thanks for trying something new!!

Kids enjoyed it. Need longer distances - eg. Chuckwagon race, have barrels at both ends and make them go twice through the barrels. Barrel races - not individual skaters, have four per team and have it on a team pursuit and relay.

This format is fun for younger skaters, but they like to do the normal races as well.

Allow kids to skate longer each time (maybe do the obstacle twice). Since LTPAD is about skill development, have a coach on the ice to give kids some coaching prior to the race (enhance skill development). Thank You!

Races were too short. Having one person race was not appropriate. Have barrels at both ends. Have info on web that same as on race day or make skaters aware it did change.

The first one, understandably, a good effort. More preparation is required. Barrel racing - there are two athletes, 20 timers and place judges. Why? Need more skaters on the ice at the same time.

I think it was a great option for the younger skaters, but would like to see there be an option for the older skater to do regular format racing. I'm not sure that I would spend money on a hotel room and meals to do this type of meet again. The skaters aren't able to use any of the skills from their practices. It doesn't give them anything to gauge their improvement from meet to meet. Personal Bests in each race was something that we used to encourage our daughter. She is much more competitive than that allows her to be.

I think the age of skaters for the non-traditional races should be lower than 10 years. A combination of 1 or 2 fun races with traditional distances for Midget skaters or top groups.

Good for younger kids, but the faster Midgets missed having their races I think. Give Midgets the option of skating a full race program.

Chuckwagon races should be longer.

I don't think there was enough advance info for skaters to learn/develop because the events were so new they didn't have time to think about anything except where they were supposed to be skating. It was a great spectator event!

Would have been nice to have the diagrams for the races earlier to be able to practice the format at the race. The kids were confused on what they had to do.

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I see this type of event more suited for local team event (Christmas social, year-end windup social).

For the Fundamental part, I really think timing was not necessary at all. I would have liked to have seen all skaters on the ice and have them skate more times, rather than be timed.

Would have liked to know the courses before the meet. The kids could have practiced a little. The kids had fun.



Skaters Comments

To make it better, the barrel races should have been after the actual competition and be optional.

Complete waste of time. They should compete, not mess around. They only learn to turn, not very useful.

It's good for the little kids.

I didn't like it because I didn't get to race (regular racing). I liked it, though, and would like the option of regular races.

I liked the figure 8 one better (chuckwagon). Don't like it better than regular racing, except that it feels more relaxed than regular racing.

I was two weeks too old to race in the chuckwagon and I had to race kids two and three years older than me.

It was awesome!

I love this idea!

I like barrel racing and chuckwagon, but not going the opposite direction.

It's too cold. Needs longer fundamental competition. Everyone should get to do the fundamental competition—Midgets and Juvenile.

I was a skater for usual races and a lot of the time I was there, I was waiting a while to race.

I really loved the meet. Thanks!