



kamloopslongblades.ca

About the Club: KLB's 25th Season 2016/2017

Mission

Our Programs offer overall athlete development and speed skating instructions from youth to adults.

Our "Learn to" sessions focus on introducing young children to skating.

Our club memberships provide for Beginner, Recreational, Competitive and High Performance programs and are designed to support continued Long Term Athlete Development. The development of confident and competent youth requires participation, support and opportunity through teamwork. Building healthy and active individuals is important to the club. Active lifestyles are promoted for all ages by offering as many practice sessions as possible during the season, to help establish them with active and healthy lives. In support of these goals we provide skilled and accredited coaching staff along with as many training opportunities as funding permits.

Competition is important to building on personal successes. Competitions are where skaters put all that practice to work. Skaters strive to achieve personal best times at competition. Active Start (under age 6) to Active for Life (adult 30+) can attend skating meets in nearby communities, regionally, provincially, nationally or internationally.

Overview

Primarily a Short Track Speed Skating Club for youth, we also offer Long Track and In-Line Racing. We are proud to maintain a successful and active reputation in Kamloops and the speed skating community since being established in 1992.

Our Club is inclusive and accessible to all ages and abilities including Special Olympic skaters.

We maintain an annual club membership of approximately 50+ registered skaters, ranging from ages 4 to 55+, all bringing to the club diverse cultural backgrounds, gender and abilities. We also introduce the sport to hundreds of kids and adults in the community through our lessons and public events offered each year.

History

Our club was started in April 1992 by our current Coach Coordinator, Sandi Vyse, her mother, Phyllis Vyse, and skater's parents Bill Zirnhelt and Sharon Wall. Sandi skated competitively at the National level at an early age, coached by her mother. Coaching was a natural fit for Sandi, who coached with her childhood club and the BC Provincial team before starting the Kamloops Long Blades. With donated leather skates and borrowed safety mats and the co-operation of the City of Kamloops, ice time was first secured in the Memorial Arena. The old ice surface was narrow, skates had 20 years of wear on them and safety mats were thin and tattered but our skaters were just happy to be speed skating!

Over the years we have assembled a strong team of experienced and qualified coaches. Our coaches are certified through the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP). Sandi Vyse is our Coach Coordinator and maintains full certification at Level 3; Karen MacLaren holds Level 2 Coaching, and Level 3 Technical accreditation. In addition we have Level 1 coaches, Clare Audet and Terry Norlander and others working on Level 1; Erik Norlander, Mackenzie Neville, Tyler Roberts, Gavin Coyne, Sylvie Lloyd, Yolaine Kampman.

Many members also volunteer and hold certification in various officiating positions. Trish Archibald is a Level 3 Meet Recorder, Shelley Hewitt is a Level 3 Place Judge, and Karen MacLaren and Carol Dougan have Level 3 Meet Coordinator, Andrew Reith is a level 3B Referee. Numerous parents and volunteers hold Level 1 and 2 certification and work hard each year to gain experience in a variety of official positions that help our club host successful competitions and events.

Our club's Board of Directors strives to and consistently operates on a balanced budget, managing well through lean years and filling our membership to capacity for most of our 25 seasons. Fundraising continually both off and on season helps our club to provide for the purchase of club skates, blades, sharpening equipment, safety mats, subsidizing ice expenses, travel support and training needs.

Grants received over the years include funding from the **Kamloops Blazers Sports Society-Legacy Fund** which assisted us with equipment purchases. **BC Community Gaming** grant through the provincial government assists with maintaining our safety equipment and paying for services such as ice rental and coaching. Opportunities for grants and sponsorships have also been supported by **PacificSport Interior BC, City of Kamloops, ViaSport BC, Fraser Financial Group, New Gold** and various generous supporters through the years.

Our club is attached to the Provincial Association and at the National level through **BC Speed Skating Association (BCSSA)** and **Speed Skating Canada (SSC)**. Several KLB members are on provincial and national committees. As a parent/volunteer you are also a registered member of these associations. We maintain membership with the **Kamloops Sports Council**. We have also joined the **True Sport** Movement and have adopted one of their values to **"Give Back"** which reflects how we strive to support our community through sport, most recently assisting Williams Lake in starting their new club.

Our club has many years' experience in hosting events; and we take great pride that all have been very successful. At the International level we hosted the "North American Short Track Championships" in 2006. As with years previous we continue to bid and be selected by the BC Speed Skating Association to host numerous Provincial level events, most recently the BC Provincials in February 2010, 2013 & 2016 along with the Junior BC Championships in February 2014, and recently we supported the City of Kamloops hosting the 2015 BC Special Olympics. This season is no exception as KLB will host a two day western T2T event. In the future KLB will work with the city to host the 2018 BC Winter Games.

The club continues to host two provincial Regional Interclub competitions each year; our "Classic Chill" (Nov. 5, 2016) has been held each fall for the past 17 years and our "Coyote Cup Challenge" for the past 6 years (Jan 28, 2017). The club also hosts in-house competitions each year; the "I Love Speed Skating Challenge Series".

Awards – the Rewards!

Our skaters get noticed. Though our club primarily competes in short track speed skating, our skaters also attend many Long Track speed skating events and are in the medal standings every year; many qualify to compete at National events. As a team we have earned the Neil Dyer Award for "Best Long Track Club in BC" twice. We have several top Provincial skaters and support many that have continued on with the sport they love currently, training with the Calgary Oval program, working to get a spot on the National Team. Each year our skaters receive medals at provincial competitions and represent BC at the National level at the Western Canadian Short Track and Canadian Long Track.

Our coaches, volunteers and officials are also recognized each season at the Provincial level by BCSSA. Mostly recently David Reith received the John Hurdis Outstanding Volunteer of the Year 2016 from SSC.

Most exciting of all is that our own **Jessica Hewitt won a silver medal in the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics!** Her childhood Olympic dream came true - we couldn't be more proud! Starting at age 10 Jessica skated with us until moving at age 19 to Calgary with the National Team until she retired from skating in 2014. Jessica is now on the BCSSA board and a member of KLB.

Short Track speed skating is fast and exciting to watch – It is one of the most popular Olympic events.

We invite you to share the excitement with your friends, family and co-workers – they can stop by to check out the KAMLOOPS LONG BLADES in action at practices or any of our annual Interclub events which are open to the public, Admission is always FREE. Or let us know if they want to Try It Out once for free before signing up.

Event dates and contact information are posted on our website.

Website www.kamloopslongblades.ca

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