**BCSSA Officials Development Committee Bulletin 2012-2013**

**August 2012**

June 2012

BCSSA - ODC members:

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Stuart Gibbs, ODC Chair, Referee 4ST Southern BC region

Wim Kok, Vice Chair Referee 4LT Northern BC region

George Moore, Starter 4 Southern BC region

Candice Clouthier, Starter 3B Northern BC region

Please contact BCSSA ODC at: officials.development.committe@gmail.com

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***In this addition*** Upgrades for the 2011-2012 season and the Ritha Johnson Official of the year award.

***BCSSA ODC Officials Upgrades for 2011-2012 Season:***

**New Level 1 Officials**

Doug Wright Kamloops Starter

Brenda McQueen Kamloops Timer

Neville McKenzie Kamloops Track Steward

Sara Froese Kamloops Referee

Dominic Villeneuve Kamloops Timer

BJ Schmidt Kamloops Track steward

Eric Norlander Kamloops Track Steward

Chelsea Reith Kamloops Starter

Terry Norlander Kamloops Timer

Gavin Coyne Kamloops Lap Recorder

Colleen Bennett Kelowna Meet Coordinator

Samantha Gibbs Abbotsford Place Judge

Kristine Smalcel Pederson PG Lap Recorder

Morgan Swan PG Starter

Chris White PG Starter

Callie Swan PG Track Steward

Morgan Swan PG Starter

Mark Pederson PG Track Steward

Bud Piper PG Track Steward

Suzanne Peralta Burnaby Timer

Goran Adzic Burnaby Starter

Gillian So Burnaby Timer

Heather Johnston Burnaby Timer

Blair Poljer-So Burnaby Referee

Glen Waneck Armstrong Timer

Darren Guliov Ft St John Track Steward

Tymen Brigden Ft St John Timer

Tom Sparrow Ft St John Timer

Mark Gauthier Vanderhoof Place Judge

Barb Beck POCO Place Judge

**Provincial Level 2 Officials**

Eric Norlander Kamloops Track Steward

Andrew Reith Kamloops Referee

Curtis Neville Kamloops Place Judge

Dave Walsh Kelowna Track Steward

Nancy Goplan Kelowna Timer

Colleen Bennett Kelowna Recorder

Pam Medland Kelowna Timer

Lisa Keca Kelowna Timer

Carolyn McKay Ridge Meadows Starter

Allison McKay Ridge Meadows Timer

Barb Vogl Burnaby Place Judge

Paul Janzen Burnaby Starter

Debbie Johnson Ft St John Place Judge

Tim Kupchanko Ft St John Timer Electronic

Marc Legros Ridge Meadows Referee

Mel Chizawsky Matsqui Timer

**SSC Level 3 Officials**

Jari Sokkkanen (3B) Burnaby Referee

Dennis Young PG Track Steward

Ariadne Hiller PG Meet Coordinator

Jennifer Rankin PG Place Judge

Bill Kempers (3A) Sardis Starter

Carol Dougan Kamloops Meet Coordinator

Sherri Dressler Ft St John Meet Coordinator

Dee-Ann Stickel Ft St John Meet Coordinator

Tara Mitchel Ft St John Timer

**Congratulations to you ALL.**

Ritha Johnson Official of the year Award

Ritha was with the FSJ club where she had 4 children in the sport. Ritha started as a meet recorder (she typed up all the forms), place judge, timer, clerk of the course and meet coordinator. During her formative years at FSJ she was also on the club executive. At least one year she was the recorder for Canadian Long Track which ended up being cancelled in Fort St. John due to a chinook, they(we heard it was her!) packed up the whole meet and drove to Winnipeg to continue it there!

Ritha has refereed and assisted at more meets than any of us can tally. She has worked at World Cups, National Long Tracks, Canada Cups, Canadian Short Track, Provincial Long and Short Tracks. She has done fun meets, Interclubs, regional and BC championships with the same flare and finesse and expertise needed for a World Cup! Officials who have worked for her will tell you that she is one dedicated individual that knows her stuff inside and out. Whether it’s the first one at the rink or oval laying blocks or the last one there cleaning up…or checking paperwork till the wee hours of the morning, she is dedicated to making the meet a success for the skaters many times above and beyond the call of duty as a referee.

Ritha was a dedicated coach for 12 years and she received her level 3 coaching certificate in 2000.

Linda (Ritha’s Daughter) remembers: Socializing on all of the long road trips, the long car rides (especially after a meet), the "other" family environment and the endless energy that she had. It always seemed like she was the first one to the Sportex/Rink and the last one to leave. Her role evolved as the needs came. One of my favourite recollections was of the early morning practice on Wednesdays, though I loathed getting out of bed for them, I always enjoyed that our house was more often than not, full of skaters for breakfast before school that day. And of course, who can forget shoveling the oval after a snowfall so that practice can happen. Those warmer days in FSJ on an outdoor track were very magical. Now that Patty and I are moms we marvel at the energy she had and how selfless she was. I know I would be hard pressed to dedicate as much time to something of my children's like she did with us, even long after we had retired from the sport. Thanks Mom!

Ritha was the 2006 SSC Rene Marleau award recipient, which is the Canadian Official of the Year, a well-deserved award for Ritha.

Ritha went on to get her level 3a referee. Her commitment to her skaters, officials, friends, and volunteers is second to none. Ritha has a no nonsense approach but is fair. She always carries a stopwatch on the ice, not to time the officials between races but to see how fast the skaters are. I remember one time on the ice with her and she said “don’t bother disqualifying him, with that time he’ll never make provincials just go and let him know what he did wrong”. You could never take the coach out of Ritha. She was always willing to lend a hand to the skaters and especially the younger officials. She was a great mentor, always there for you if you needed her but stands back to let you stretch your wings and try and fly by yourself.

It’s time that we start to recognize the massive contribution that some people give to speed skating. The BCSSA ODC would like to thank Ritha for giving the last 43 years of her life to the dedication of the sport of speed skating in coaching, officiating, mentoring and just being an extremely great person.

The BCSSA Official of the Year award will now be known as the:

***Ritha Johnson Official of the Year Award”***

A perpetual plaque will be kept at the BCSSA head office.

Thank you Ritha from the bottom of our hearts!

BCSSA ODC