



ACADEMY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

The first session of the BC Speed Skating Academy occurred Saturday September 19th at the Richmond Olympic Oval! We are so excited to see the beginnings of the preparation towards the 2019 Canada Winter Games take shape. Thank you to the skaters, parents and coaches who participated on Saturday.



Over the past month, there have been a number of commonly-asked questions about the Academy. Check out the FAQs below for more information! As always, please feel free to contact BCSSA Technical Director Chris Acton (chris.acton@speed-skating.bc.ca) at any time with questions, concerns or feedback.

Club Contacts/Coaches: please ensure this Newsletter is widely distributed within your club!

ACADEMY FAQs

What is the BCSSA Academy? The Academy is a project to help prepare our 2019 Canada Winter Games age-eligible skaters for the next Games. The concept is that our skaters will have opportunities to train together to practice racing skills, passing skills and team events (relays in short track and team pursuit in long track). This is the first year of the Academy. This season, a pilot of the Academy is being offered in Richmond, BC. The Academy consists of 13 sessions that involve on-ice and off-ice training. To reach skaters outside of the Lower Mainland, there are drop-in opportunities available at the Richmond pilot. There will also be an Academy Outreach Tour visiting clubs around the province throughout the season (see below for details). The hope is that the Academy will be expanded to more locations and to include both disciplines (short track and long track) in future seasons.

Who was invited to the Academy? The initial round of invites included the top 20 male and top 20 female age-eligible skaters based on 400m times skated in the 2014-2015 season. Skaters in the Provincial Performance Program (including those skaters who are too old to be 2019 age-eligible) were also invited to enhance their training, prepare them for national level selection meets, and to act as mentors for the younger generation of skaters.

Will there be any more positions available? Yes! We weren't sure how many skaters would take the opportunity to join the Academy. Now that the first session is in the books and we have a better idea of numbers, we know that we can (and want to!) accommodate more skaters. If you have an age-eligible skater who is interested in joining the Academy on a full-time or drop-in basis, please contact Chris Acton (chris.acton@speed-skating.bc.ca).

How is the Academy funded? The Academy (and Academy Outreach Tour) are funded by a combination of skater contributions and funds provided to BCSSA specifically for Canada Games preparation. The cost to the skater for the full Academy pilot is \$150/skater; drop-in sessions are \$20/session. The cost of Academy Outreach Tour sessions remains TBD. Costs to the skater are significantly subsidized by the Canada Games preparation funds.

What is the Academy Outreach Tour? In the first year of the Academy pilot, we realize that there is not an equal opportunity for skaters outside of the Lower Mainland to participate. To help provide access to skaters around the province, the Academy is going on the road! We hope to visit cities in the Interior, Central and Northern Regions of the province. When possible, Tour stops will coordinate with local Interclubs (e.g. Tour sessions may be the day after a local Interclub) and could be long track-based or short track-based. Tour sessions may include ice time, off-ice training and/or education. If your city/club is interested in hosting a Tour session, please contact Chris Acton (chris.acton@speed-skating.bc.ca) by Thursday October 1st to begin planning.