



Skate Canada NB Position on Skate Atlantica

While many clubs, coaches, officials, skaters and parents within our membership may have heard of a proposed **Skate Atlantica** competition, Skate Canada NB would like to provide some clarity regarding the event.

The event:

Skate Atlantica has been proposed as the Atlantic Canadian Championships to be held in the Spring of every year (late March/April), initially for STARSkate level Freeskate events for Junior Bronze to Gold categories. The top 4 skaters from each of these categories at Skate Canada NB Provincial STARSkate would be eligible to attend. This would provide incentive and an opportunity for STARSkate athletes to go beyond the Section level.

Also proposed to be included at the event are Pre-Juvenile to Junior competitive Singles Freeskate categories, with each Section determining their own criteria on who would qualify to attend. For competitive skaters, it is suggested that this event would provide a development opportunity.

Skate Canada NB position:

While Skate Canada NB supports the idea of a Skate Atlantica event, several questions and concerns remain to be addressed prior to the Section fully endorsing and committing to the event. These are outlined below:

- **Date:** The current proposed date for the 2013 Skate Atlantica is in direct conflict with our own Skate NB Spring Skate event. With Spring Skate already being awarded to a host club, Skate Canada NB cannot support the Skate Atlantica event as it would be detrimental to our own Spring Skate (impact on skater registrations and finances for the host club, coaches potentially being torn by 2 events, impact on officials availability).
- **Inclusion of Competitive skaters:** While Skate Canada NB supports the creation of an additional event for our STARSkate athletes, the inclusion of competitive skaters (with no established criteria on who is eligible to attend) goes against the Long Term Athlete Development Plan currently in the 1st stages of implementation by Skate Canada.

- **Logistics and Financial implications:** The Skate Atlantica event is proposed to always be held in the Halifax Metro area. Skate Canada NB views this as unfair to parents/skaters outside NS who will always be required to incur the expenses of travel vs. those residing in NS. In addition, it is proposed that each Section provide 2 officials at their own expense. Again; NS would incur very little expense in comparison to the other Sections as most officials reside in the Halifax Metro area.
- **Deficit clause:** Aside from sharing in covering the expenses of officials, Skate Canada NB would not be involved in the hosting of the event. The Skate Atlantica proposal suggests that should a profit be made by the event, this profit would be retained by the “event” and would be utilized for future skater development opportunities (not defined). However, should the event incur a deficit, all participating sections would be required to share this loss. Skate Canada NB does not support this suggested event management method.

Skate Canada NB has given serious consideration to the Skate Atlantica proposal, including consultation with key skater development committees, officials, data specialists and coaches within the Section. As a result of the above questions/concerns that remain to be addressed, Skate Canada NB cannot support the Skate Atlantica proposal at this time. Skate Canada NB will therefore not participate in the upcoming 2013 Skate Atlantica, should this event take place.