

CSPA AGM, March 9, 2019

Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Committee Report

(reporting period – December 1, 2017 to the 2019 AGM)

The LTAD committee and the Women's Initiative committee (WIC) work together on processing applications for the Athlete Development funding and the WIC funding. In 2018, twenty-two applications were received for the Athlete Development funding which far exceeds the available budget. Six applications were approved for funding which covered the disciplines of Canopy Piloting, Freely, Wingsuit and Formation Skydiving. Although the six approved events slightly exceeded the available athlete development budget, three of the events under spent the approved amount thus the total amount spent was under budget for athlete development. Part of the requirement of the Athlete Development funding process is for the approved applicants to provide a report or an article and photos for Canpara. The articles printed in Canpara help to highlight the funding assistance that CSPA provides to the skills camps plus hopefully encourages others to apply for the next year. Following the 2019 AGM, the LTAD committee and WIC will be advertising the 2019 application process.

In addition to the Athlete Development funding which supports skill development, the LTAD committee has worked with Skyventure Montreal over the past number of years to provide skills camps at the tunnel. The focus of these camps has primarily been to develop the skills of skydivers related to the stages of Flight Plan and promote competition involvement. Two successful skills camps (one in Toronto and one in Montreal) were held January 20-21, 2018 and February 11-12, 2018 coached by Benoit Lemay and Richard Bisson. Two skills camps will be offered again in 2019, one in February and one in March, which will be coached by Richard and Valerie Bisson. Coordinating with coaches and the tunnel to offer these sorts of skills camps can be a challenge but the LTAD committee will continue to support the camps as the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The LTAD committee is responsible for Flight Plan, the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) document for CSPA. Revisions to Flight Plan have been made to align our LTAD plan with the generic Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) LTAD plan version 2.0 (visit the website canadiansportforlife.ca) however getting the revisions completed and posted on the website has fallen behind. The original document format has become problematic for making revisions easily so we are currently in the process of revamping the document. Hopefully, the revised version, Flight Plan 2.0, will be posted on the CSPA website within the next few months following final approval by the Board.

Once the current overdue revisions to Flight Plan are completed, the document should go under further review. Flight Plan is 10 years old and perhaps changes in our sport may need to be reflected in the document. As well, CS4L is now on version 3.0 which may require our document to add changes reflected in the CS4L document.

Each year the CS4L Summit provides the opportunity for sport groups to learn about new developments, new ideas, best practices and information regarding long term athlete development. Our Executive Director, Michelle Matte-Stotyn, has been able to attend the summit the last several years. LTAD committee members are given the opportunity to attend as well but

with busy schedules it is not always possible. John McCarthy was able to attend the summit this year with Michelle. There are always good pieces of information at the Summit which stimulate thought on how to enhance our sport despite there being quite a focus on youth participation in sport and skill development at young ages.

I want to thank the members of the LTAD committee (John McCarthy, Richard Bisson, Marie-Ève Dallaire, Mélanie L-Guérin, Ryan Fitzpatrick and Ned Ambrus; Board liaison David Lutz) for their on-going commitment to CSPA and the LTAD committee. Ned will not be continuing as a member of the committee thus new members are welcome, if interested please get in touch.

Doreen West-Gemmell
LTAD Chair person