

2020/21 AGM Technical Director Report

Overview

In February 1st, 2021, Karate Nova Scotia hired it's first Technical Director. For this report, I would like to share what the mandate was for this role, what things have been accomplished, and what things are coming up.

Mandate

Dojos

Communicate with all dojos to understand their needs and assist them where needed. This could be, but not limited to:

- Increase dojo membership
- Assisting with technical information from the sport side of Karate
- Developing Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) plans, to assist with development of athletes
- Building policies to help clubs govern through club related manners
- Help with making karate more inclusive
- Working to support style specific, non WKF tournaments
- Seek out non-KNS dojos to join our organization

Athletes

Provide athletes with opportunities to be successful in the sport world. With karate's inclusion in the 2023 Canada Games, we have a great potential to give athletes more opportunities to achieve athletic goals.

Areas that are being focused on:

- Working with athletes in mentee dojos, to assist coaches and athletes with the sport side of training
- Setting up more regional clinics to bring athletes together to help each other become better
- Bringing in National and International guest instructors to run clinics on latest WKF kumite/Kata tactics
- Set up Canada Games Programming
- Ensuring we are utilizing our relationship with Canadian Sport Centre Atlantic (CSCA) to help get the most out of our athletes

Officials

Work with the Official's Committee, to ensure we continue to offer Official's Clinics and Certifications multiple times throughout the year and promote the benefits and importance of being an official.

Coaches

Working with the Master Coach developer, offer Karate Canada certification opportunities to our membership to bring up the level of our coaches. In addition, work with the High-Performance Coach, to select coaches to have mentored, to ensure we have a strong team of coaches for the future.

What has happened, and what is coming

Dojos

Dojo meetings were had in person, or over Zoom with all but 6 dojos, including one training session. COVID certainly slowed things down, but the hope is to be able to visit a lot more in the Fall and Winter.

A good amount of time has been spent on assisting with reviewing, updating and creating new policies:

- Appeals Policy
- Harassment Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Universal Code of Conduct
- Coaching Policy
- Concussion Policy
- Travel Policy
- Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Bullying Policy

Policies still being worked on include:

- Discipline and complaints Policy
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Dispute Resolution Policy
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Event guideline Terms of Reference
- Equity and Access Policy (Inclusion Policy)
- Policy Concerning the Protection of Personal Information
- Membership Policy

In addition, work has commenced on a LTAD, which is anticipated to be completed by the Fall.

Numerous programs are being worked on, with hopes of them being implemented in Fall 2021 or Winter 2022:

- An ongoing program with MAMBEC and the East Preston Community Centre
- An ongoing program with Bushino-ki and the Indigenous communities in Digby and Yarmouth counties.
- A 8-10 week program with Bushino-ki and the Weymouth community
- A year long collaboration between the CSCA and KNS, promoting women in karate throughout the province
- Style specific tournament guidelines, to allow style specific tournament to take place, under the KNS umbrella.
- Work has commenced on the non-KNS dojos, and a strategy is being developed to encourage them to join. After the AGM, and before our new membership year starts, I will be reaching out to these dojos to encourage them to join.

Athletes

Although COVID brought it's challenges, we were still able to offer numerous opportunities for our athletes to train with our coaches:

- Kumite Camp, Cole Harbour - April 11th, 2021. Clinics for 10+. Attended by Halifax Ryuseikan, Murphy's Karate Academy, Atlantic Karate Club, New Glasgow Karate Club, Northumberland Karate and Windsor Karate dojos
- Kata Camp, Windsor - April 18th, 2021. Clinics for 10+. Attended by Halifax Ryuseikan, Murphy's Karate Academy, New Glasgow Karate Club, East Coast Wado and Windsor Karate dojos.
- Virtual Kata Class, June 13th, 2021. Clinic for 10+. Hosted by HPC Mitchell German. Attended by numerous dojos.
- Outdoor Kumite Class, Africville Park - June 20th, 2021. Clinic for 10+. Attended by Halifax Ryuseikan, Murphy's Karate Academy, and Atlantic Karate Club dojos.
- Kata Camp, Cole Harbour - July 11th, 2021. Clinic for 10+. Attended by Halifax Ryuseikan, Murphy's Karate Academy and Windsor Karate dojos
- Kumite Camp, Clare - July 17th, 2021. 3 hour clinic for 10+, Attended by Bushino Ki, Mukashi School of Karate, Halifax Ryuseikan and Windsor Karate dojos.
- Summer Kumite Camp, Halifax - August 13th to 15th,. Weekend training event, bringing together NS, NB and PEI athletes aged 9+. The camp was run by Mitchell German, Randy Rix, Kate Campbell and Ryan O'Neil. Kate and Ryan are Karate Canada Team members, who were selected to represent Canada at the Paris Olympic qualifier. Mitchell and Randy are their personal coaches. Over 30 athletes attended.

Lastly, our selected provincial aged team members continued to train with the CSCA, either in-person or virtually. We also were able to add training times at Acadia University to accommodate athletes from the Windsor dojo.

Officials

Our OC has gone through some changes during COVID, but we still were able to hold events to help promote officiating in NS:

- On May 27th, 2021, we were able to host a virtual official's clinic, discussing how to properly judge katas
- On May 29th, 2021, Provincial Chief Referee, Milton Bourque, attended a Virtual Certification clinic hosted by Karate BC, to help us further prepare for virtual Official clinics
- We hosted our first virtual tournament. We had 34 participants send in videos of themselves performing katas, from ages from 5 to 35+. This gave our provincial judges a chance to practice judging katas.
- Plans are already being worked for the upcoming tournament season, to provide opportunities for official clinics and certifications.

Coaching

Much work has been done on preparing for the upcoming season, and we are hoping to offer Karate Canada certification opportunities through the year. More details about this will come in the Fall.

We have a new coaching policy, and we will be posting coaching opportunities yearly. If you have any interest in joining the provincial coaching staff, please monitor your emails, as information will be shared in the coming weeks.

In addition to the KC coaching courses, we will be offering a virtual coaching clinic, hosted by our HPC, to review how to properly coach your athletes at a tournament setting. This will be offered in the Fall before the tournament season starts.

Conclusion

It has been a busy and challenging start to this role, but very rewarding. Much has been accomplished, but there is still so much work to be done. I am excited to see what the future will hold for KNS with this new role, and look forward to working with all the dojos, athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers, parents and Sport Nova Scotia staff. If there is anything anyone has questions on, would like further information, or has ideas they want to share, please feel reach out to me.

All the best in 2021/22.

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