

Nova Scotia Disc Sport Society (DiscNS) Annual Report

Reporting for 2019-2020

DiscNS acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. This territory is covered by the treaties of Peace and Friendship, which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet people first signed in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi'kmaq and Maliseet title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

DiscNS also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage in Nova Scotia in supporting the Society through the year.

Governance

The largest event in the year came at the end with the closure of play for all sports in the province mid-March due to covid-19. The effects of that closure will continue well into the 2020-2021 year.

The year saw the start of a review of some of the DiscNS bylaws, policies, and committees:

- Revised the DiscNS bylaws with three key changes: convert Director positions to staggered 2-year positions to improve organizational memory, set the Board size to be 5-7 Directors, and clarify the voting role of the Chair.
- Reviewed DiscNS policies with an eye to equity, particularly gender equity. Revisions are ongoing.
- Adopted terms of reference for the junior committee

We also revisited the possibility of an affiliation with NSSAF to bring ultimate into high schools. At present, the constraints required by NSSAF don't appear to outweigh the benefits of being part of NSSAF, given the potential doors we were seeing opened with some youth programming.

In terms of overall management, we

- Reinstated the personal injury element to the insurance plan. It had reverted to just general liability.
- Created per-project budget sheets to better assess and track program costs
- Saw an increase of \$1,500 to our block funding from the province thanks to becoming a full member of Sport Nova Scotia.
- Received a refund of the Nova Scotia Blues CUC 2018 deposit in the amount of \$995. Given that we cannot easily identify whether this deposit was charged back to player or not, we have chosen to apply this refund (rounded to \$1,000) to the CUC 2006 junior legacy fund to honour the original purpose of the funds.

Following the 2019 AGM, we struggled with maintaining Board membership:

- Over 6 months, unsuccessfully sought to recruit a Treasurer to the Board
- Brent Wallace resigned from the Board in June, 2019.
- We welcomed Raoul Tanyan to the Board in November, 2019

Competition

The selector event for indoor 4v4 ultimate (NS4UC) was hosted in conjunction with Surf 'n' Turf, organized by Pictou County Ultimate, on February 29 / March 1, 2020 at the Sobeys Soccer Centre in Pictou. The co-location with the tournament made the best use of the indoor ultimate schedules. Two teams were vying to proceed to the National indoor 4v4 championship from Nova Scotia. Both teams qualified for the Nova Scotia team slots.

DiscNS continued to provide insurance coverage to the local ultimate tournaments throughout the year.

2020 provincial high school indoor and outdoor tournaments were cancelled due to covid-19 closures.

DiscNS also approved \$400 support for a provincial U24 Team Canada alternate.

Youth

On youth development, we completed the 2019 provincial high school tournaments:

- Organized indoor 4v4 provincials (May 18, 2019) (11 teams)
- Organized outdoor 7v7 provincials (June 9, 2019) (10 teams)

No 2020 high school tournaments were planned for spring of 2020 due to covid-19 closures.

We held tryout and development for the Nova Scotia Blues provincial youth team. We could not secure sufficient capacity to send a team to CUC 2019.

DiscNS secured funding for two staff to provide DISCover programming from mid-June to late August. Through those positions, we organized a junior summer league (ages 10-15) in cooperation with Halifax Ultimate. Its first night was July 2, 2019. The league format includes initial skills and drills elements for all juniors and ended with team scrimmages. The summer staff developed curriculum for physical education instructors of grades 6-9 to introduce youth to ultimate. Completed in conjunction with Mary Veinot who was going to help with deploying material to the schools.

We had a plan for an early-June youth ultimate "jamboree" in conjunction with, and supported by, Mary Veinot. Unfortunately, the event needed to be cancelled due to the covid-19 closures.

Coaching

We offered one instance of the Competition Introduction coaching course.

We trained two Nova Scotia Learner Facilitators (LF) for the new Competition Development coaching material from Ultimate Canada. Currently, there are a total of 8 such LFs in the country. The training cost was minimal as the province provided us with a training grant. We attempted to get one male and one female LF trained but were unable to attract a female LF for training.

Observers

The USAU released the 12th edition of the Ultimate rules, which Ultimate Canada adopted as of January 1, 2020. Observers were asked to recertify their credentials under these new rules. The majority of observers opted to recertify and passed the recertification process, although there is a challenge of not having many opportunities in Nova Scotia to practice with observing games. We have connected with HU to provide more opportunity for local observers to gain and maintain experience.

Chris Whitt and Jeff Blair have gained experience observing under the 12th edition rules, Mike Corbett and Jeff Blair have been regular participants in the Observer University, an online training and discussion forum hosted by top observers in the US.

Disc Golf

The Maritime Disc Golf Association (MDGA) ran its usual tour last year, with events every 3-4 weeks in the 2019 season. There was continued growth (12%) over the year with events drawing in greater numbers. The highlight of the year was Nationals, which was hosted by MDGA in September in PEI again. This competition was a damp success, as it coincided with the arrival of Hurricane Dorion. The event saw participation by top athletes like Paige Pierce (the current FPO world champion, and top ranked female disc golfer) and Paul McBeth (the 4-time world champion and current top ranked male disc golfer). While we are currently hoping to have Canadian Nationals again in September, Covid-19 may impact by drastically reducing the size of the field.

Local clubs have seen significant growth in participation amid-covid as the courses are open for casual play.

In 2019, the national disc golf community formally began the process of establishing the National Sport Organization (NSO) for disc golf and we have locally begun the process of establishing the Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) for disc golf. We expect to see further growth in this area in the near future.