

NSW COACH REPORT 2021-2022

Covid has had a significant impact on our sport over the past few seasons. As a result of rink closures, travel restrictions, and no National Championships or Duke Trophy competitions held in 2021, no NSW teams, programs or training camps were in place for the 2021-2022 season.

NSW were fortunate to run one competition at the beginning of the 2021 season, the Endurance Plate Competition on 6th June 2021 at Canterbury before rinks were forced to shut due to restrictions in place and all further NSW competitions were cancelled for the season. April 2022 saw the first return of racing to NSW with a combined club and skate school competition at Canterbury held on the 23rd April.

NSW skaters Lucas Wareham, Hyojin Lee and Keanu Blunden were selected to represent Australia at World Cups and World Championship competitions over the 2021-2022 season. Restrictions made it very difficult for other NSW skaters to travel during the season to compete at other overseas events such as Star Class and Danubia races, and it is hopeful that 2022 will see the chance for NSW skaters to attend international competitions once again.

It has been very challenging for our sport to survive during this time, and it is a credit to the clubs, coaches, parents, and skaters for working strongly to keep things going.

The upcoming years will be an important time for regrowth in our sport, and already this year clubs have been working hard to build up numbers in speed skate schools to bring new skaters into the sport, as well as providing opportunities for current members to develop including at training camps and races.

After all of the restrictions and difficult times over the past year, we are now hopeful to once again create, develop and support NSW programs that will help NSW skaters, coaches, officials and volunteers improve their performance, knowledge and skills, and create pathways for our members to reach their potential and achieve success in our sport. It is important that clubs, coaches, and skaters work collaboratively to ensure NSW remains the biggest, strongest and fastest short track skating community in Australia.

Scott Weekes