



## **DiscNS AGM - Agenda 2018**

1. Consideration of 2017-2018 Annual Report
2. Consideration of 2017-2018 Financial Statements
3. Consideration of 2018-2019 Business Plan
4. Approval of the Budget for 2018-2019
5. Call for Nominations
6. Election of Directors for the ensuing year
7. General Discussion



# AGM Annual Report 2017 - 2018

In accordance with the objectives of the Nova Scotia Disc Sport Society, now also referred to as 'DiscNS', the society and its members carried out the following activities in the 2017 - 2018 year.

## Summary

2017-2018 was a challenging year for DiscNS. At the last AGM the board took on three new board members and was given notice that three others were trying to reduce their workload and responsibilities. The year was slow to get going while new members ramped up and veteran members ramped down. Key programs were completed. The DISCover program employed two instructors full-time in May and June and part-time in July and August. We sent two U19 teams to CUC'18 as New Scotland Blues. We successfully completed our Sport Development Tool and interviews with Sport Nova Scotia which will be used to set funding levels for the next four years. We ratified a group of policies that sitting as drafts. We continue to improve our accounting records by making better use of Wave Accounting software.

On the down side, we did not bring on any new youth (U16) programming. We had no U19 events during the fall where we had been trying to grow, and we did not host a 4on4 Provincial tournament for C4UC qualification. We received ~\$5000 in Canada Summer Jobs program funding, but neither of our hired coordinators qualified as a full-time student so we became ineligible and had to pay back the funds. This resulted in a year-end deficit of approximately \$5000. Halifax Ultimate transfer the CUC'06 Juniors Legacy fund of \$12000, to DiscNS during this fiscal year. Therefore, while we still recorded a deficit on the year, the organization balance sheet shows a net gain due to this transfer. These funds can not be used for general expenses and will be used to support long-term juniors programming and grow activities, as intended when the fund was established.

## Governance

While DiscNS continues to improve in such areas as governance, the board recommends that future boards adopt a policy of assigning the delivery and running of programs to working committees with long-term volunteers. In the past, board members have been responsible most of the day-to-day running of programs and did not have the time or resources to improve governance or expand programming into new areas like Youth (U16/U14) or into other regions of the province with fewer current members. This past year, DiscNS has continued our past responsibilities to Ultimate Canada, Member Leagues and Clubs and we have added some additional services for our members.

### *Web Hosting and Zulu*

DiscNS provides web hosting and an installation of Zulu for HU (and any other future leagues). Zulu is the webbased league management application the HU runs. It is open source, developed for Ultimate and started in

Toronto. In the past, Zulu was installed as open source software and co-administered by DiscNS and HU. A major update to Zulu was released this year and DiscNS decided to opt-in for paid administrative services from one of the Zulu developers. At almost the same time we were planning the upgrade to Zulu, we started having problems with our hosting company, Hostgator. Websites for HU and DiscNS were taken offline without notice, some application folders and files went missing and we received less-than helpful support from Hostgator. Since Zulu.org was also offers hosting services, we made the switch to them. So far service from Greg Schmidt at Zulu has been exceptional. The cost for annual Zulu administration and hosting is ~\$1.50 per member. This board felt the cost was worth the investment. Offloading the administration to a qualified source will free up volunteer hours and reduce some stress on those volunteers. The cost will also help support and maintain Zulu which will help the Ultimate community in general. We believe that Zulu is a better solution than other platforms such as Goalline and Ultimate Central and would like to see development continue and grow. To offset this additional membership cost, the DiscNS membership fee will be increasing from \$9 to \$10 per Ultimate member and from \$5 to \$6 per member for Disc Golf - Only - Members.

## *Ultimate Nova Scotia*

In December, the DiscNS membership called a General Meeting to gather information and feedback on DiscNS's plans to move from an Associate Member to Active Member of Sport Nova Scotia. This transition has been on DiscNS's 'todo-list' at some level for more than three years and members wanted to establish a way forward. Some background on membership levels was discussed. In summary: there are few tangible difference between membership levels in the short term. However, Active Membership will allow DiscNS to access to a few additional programs and will put us in the same category with all other Sport PSO. In practice many of the things we do such as NCCP coaching, provincial teams programs, are functions of Active Members. The only reason we are in the Associate Member category is that we identify as 'Multi-Sport' and Active Members can govern only a single sport. For context, all other 'sports' are Active members. The complete list of Associate members is: Blind Sports Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia 55 + Games Society, Nova Scotia Disc Sports Society (DiscNS), Nova Scotia School Athletic Federation, Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame ,Special Olympics Nova Scotia.

The reason we have delayed applying for Active Membership is that we don't want to cut off the ~5-10% of the membership that is Disc Golf or abandon Disc Golf programming. To that end, we have met with Sport Nova Scotia and our Nova Scotia Committees, Heritage and Culture sport consultant and DiscNS can continue to operate with all current Disc Golf programming as a 'Single Sport' PSO.

The next item of discussion centered around the name of the organization. While it is not a requirement to change our name, some members felt strongly that we should be aligned with other sport PSOs. i.e. Soccer NS, Hockey NS, Volleyball NS, etc. Ultimate NS would be more recognizable in context as a sport PSO.

The outcome of the meeting was that DiscNS would delay a name change until this AGM, at least, and would work with the Disc Golf community to establish a Disc Golf Nova Scotia organization. There was no clear agreement on the name change, or new organization, Ultimate Nova Scotia. This dialog will continue in 2018.

## *Summary List*

A Summary of DiscNS's Governance activities for 2017-218 includes the following list:

1. Participated as a member on Ultimate Canada's PSO council
2. Collected membership fees for Ultimate members and remitted UC grassroot member fees
3. Approved new policies and revisions for Privacy, Conflict of Interest, Inclement Weather, Harassment, Internal Appeals, Code of Conduct, Expenses, Access and Equity, Concussion, and Event Sanctioning. Many policies are based on equivalent UC policies. All are available on the DiscNS website. Members, Leagues and Clubs should regularly review relevant policy.
4. Moved website hosting and to Zulu and subscribed to administration services for all members. The cost for this service and web hosting is \$1.50 per member/user.
5. Sport Development Tool with Sport Nova Scotia
6. Consultation with membership regarding transition to Active Membership in Sport Nova Scotia and using the name Ultimate Nova Scotia and Disc Nova Scotia.
7. Developed a "Board Manual" to outline standard operating procedures, and Director roles and responsibilities, in

order to make the process of joining the board more attractive and straightforward for future elected board members.

## Competition and Development

### *New Scotland Blues*

1. Changed bEAST juniors program name to 'New Scotland Blues' (NSB)
2. NSB sent two teams, open and womens, to CUC'18 in Ottawa. This was the first year NS has sent two teams since UC switched U19 nationals from mixed format to open and womens.
3. Coaches maintained contact with players and kept program going through the year, with tournament participation, league play and early season planning for 2018.
4. The Nova Cup was hosted for the first time as a fundraiser for NSB. Salty and RC merged (Salty Circus) to play a competitive showcase game against Anchor on Friday, July 28th at the SMU stadium. The game was very well attended by NSB friends and family as well as the greater Ultimate community. Salty/RC won and the teams made a large donation to NSB. Entry tickets and an auction further helped raise funds for the team to go to CUC. There is potential for this to be a successful annual event.

### *NS 4 on 4 Ultimate Championships*

The DiscNS competition committee did not receive a lot of interest in 4 on 4 indoor provincials this year from teams wishing to qualify for the Canadian Ultimate 4on4 Championships (C4UC).

Recommendations:

1. Work with the competition committee, leagues and clubs to establish NS4C as a regular annual tournament. Facility booking and scheduling the event into the winter tournament schedule is usually the biggest planning challenge.
2. The tournament should be hosted by a local league or club rather than organized directly through DiscNS. DiscNS should establish a set requirements and bid process to host this tournament which should include details on cost/risk sharing, and revenue allocations.

### *High School*

1. HSUC 4on4 Indoor at East Hants Sports Dome (Sunday May 14th). 7 teams participated. Went well despite low numbers.
2. HSUC 7 on 7 outdoor at CPA turf (Saturday June 3rd). 6 teams participated. Carrefour won.

### *Sponsorship*

DiscNS provided a grant to Anchor Ultimate of \$400. The funds were provided through a matched funding program at Emera. Members of DiscNS held a fundraiser and requested that the raised funds be put toward the Mixed division provincial team / competitive program. The DiscNS board then granted Anchor's request for funding to assist with team fees at Nationals. Anchor then went on to win Gold at CUC and qualified for World Clubs in 2018. DiscNS can assist other programs with similar fundraising efforts.

### *Achievements*

List of all members who went worlds this year:

Martin James, Tyler Smith, Georg Hoffman, Peter Lewis

### *Tournaments Sanctioned by Disc NS*

1. Salty Beach Classic (3rd annual): Risser's Beach, July 8th 2017.
2. Tournament of Fools: Wickwire Field, April 1-2, 2017. Field had to be shovelled again. 14 teams. SMUT

won.

3. Chick N Run: Canada Games Centre, December 9-10, 2017. 11 teams. Twilight Sparkle won.
4. Harbour City Cup: First year for this tournament. Held at Graves Oakley Field on October 28-29, 2017. 10 teams.

## Participation

### *DISCover*

**DISCover:** DiscNS hired two instructors for the DISCover program who visited schools in the Spring and ran clinics and the U19 program over the summer. We received Canada Summer Jobs funding for these positions, but were unable to fill the positions with full-time university students and therefore could not use the funding. The program struggled with schedule, planning and budgeting. Recommendations for future programming include:

1. Start advertising and registering schools no later than March. This will require either hiring at least one program coordinator earlier, or assigning the role to a dedicated volunteer who has the time and capability to oversee the program budget and schedule.
2. Increase the program fees to offset more operating costs or seek additional funding sources.
3. The budget should cover at least 75% of the operating costs without conditional program fees.
4. Potential to be much more involved with Zany Sports/Halifax Plays, HRM Rec

### *Drop-In Sundays at Wickwire*

DiscNS split field time with Anchor at Wickwire Field (Dalhousie) on most Sunday afternoons throughout the summer, from 1pm-3pm. Overall it was a financial loss and the number of participants reached was not a major investment in impacting growth in participation. Originally we attempted to register regular participants for a small cost but there was not enough interest, Promotion would have to be done much earlier and on a wider scale in order to successfully recruit participants.. Changing the format to drop in for a small fee resulted in small numbers showing up each week, typically from 3-10 participants ages 12-17. Field costs were never recovered and volunteers ran the sessions. Of the high school aged participants who came, most were players from Citadel high school players on the New Scotland Blues team.

### *Halifax PLAYS/HRM Rec programs*

As we have for several years now, DiscNS has provided Halifax PLAYS with volunteers and discs to offer occasional disc sport programming for their Youth Zany Sports program, run out of St. Stephens School in Halifax, on Saturdays. This program has the potential to get bigger and be a good, easy partnership as long as volunteers can be arranged and contact is maintained with the Halifax Plays Organization. It will not generate revenue as HP is very low cost and cannot pay.

### *Disc Golf Nova Scotia*

1. Disc Golf is working with membership to establish a provincial governing body. DiscNS has agreed to help with this process and keep Disc Golf programming and a committee under DiscNS until the group
2. Maritime Disc Golf Association (MDGA) expanded the number of events in their calendar to 7 tour events, and several lower events targeting newer players.
3. Hammonds Plains grown and further developed.
4. South Shore Disc Golf at the MARC outside of Bridgewater has been redesigned and expanded. This was done by Ben Smith.
  - They are in the process of developing a regular playing body, with a consistent league night!
5. Assigned the running of Canadian National Championships for 2018.
6. Clinics are scheduled around the Canadian National Championship: Page Pierce (Current Women's world champion) will be hosting a women's' only event in New Brunswick, and potentially also in PEI

7. Ran >25 clinics within the province for various audiences

## *Art Hawkins Great Canadian Ultimate Game*

Once again Pictou County represented the Nova Scotia Region during the annual Art Hawkins Great Canadian Ultimate Game. The game was held June 10th across Canada, and in other international cities, to raise money for the Art Hawkins Development Fund (now merged with the UC Innovation Grants). The mandate of the fund is to ***“support the accessibility and development of Ultimate and Spirit of the Game in Canada with children, youth and those with a disability, especially in economically disadvantaged communities.”***

## **Coaching**

Ultimate has a history of having captains act as coaches, all while playing. That approach needs to change, particularly as the sport develops. To that end, DiscNS in coordination with Halifax Ultimate made a pilot into having non-playing coaches assigned to teams. Halifax Ultimate's fall league consisted of draft teams. Coaches who had completed Community or Competition Introduction coaching courses were asked to be these coaches. Throughout the league, every team had a coach to help with player organization and development. While the format of continuous play limited the degree of team-level coaching that coaches could offer, the format did provide some relief to captains in bringing newer players up-to-speed on the play and to work on having those players better integrated into the field play.

DiscNS also offered a Competition Introduction course in February 2018. That competition had 12 participants and included a pilot program with Ultimate Canada where we invited several of our leaders on the junior team to participate. While these junior players are not expected to act as coaches for their teams, the training is expected to help them support their coaches on the Nova Scotia junior team and to bolster their efforts in introducing ultimate in their respective schools.



# AGM Business Plan 2018 - 2019

DiscNS plans to continue with our objectives to provide administrative assistance to Disc Sport organizations within Nova Scotia, to work with Ultimate Canada, Sport Nova Scotia and other organizations to build and grow disc sport program, activities and organizations and to continue outreach and youth programs as means to promote and grow disc sports within Nova Scotia and throughout the Atlantic region. DiscNS will carry out the following activities during the 2018-2019 year in pursuit of these objectives.

## Governance and Administration

In accordance with the recommendations of this past board, DiscNS will start transitioning established programs to working committees with long-term volunteers.

1. Apply for Active Membership (vs Associate) with Sport Nova Scotia. This will require us to identify as a single sport, but will let Disc Golf operate as a committee organization or sub-sport.
2. Update multi-year strategic plan process started in 2016.
3. Update DiscNS bylaws and Draft bylaws for Ultimate Nova Scotia, including changing board terms to staggered two-year positions
4. Participate in Ultimate Canada's PSO council.
5. Migrate to Zulu 3.0 and to a provincial wide install with affiliate groups enabled. Update the DiscNS website to include links to Zulu leagues and event registrations.
6. Update and add to board manual drafted in 2017-2018.
7. Attend training (webinar and audio call) for Wave Accounting and conduct an accounting review
8. Finish Vision, Mission and Values statements for Ultimate Nova Scotia and Disc Golf Nova Scotia
9. Review results from the Sport NS Sport Development Tool in September
10. Establish formal lasting committee roles and responsibilities. Committees should include at least the following:  
Competition & Development, U19, Youth (U16/U14), Communications, Coaching
11. Consult with touring teams regarding provincial program planning
12. Finish Club and League Membership Requirements
13. Develop processes and/or policies for how DiscNS attracts and selects individuals to lead its various events, programs, teams, and committees

## Participation

### LTAD

1. Map current DiscNS activities to the levels in the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model from Ultimate Canada
2. Draft a path through unaddressed levels of the LTAD for the province

## *High School / U19*

1. Continue running HSUC and HS4UC
2. Support additional high school regional tournaments
3. Put together a tournament manual, budget template, format options, etc.

## *DISCover Program*

1. Formulate a sustainable finance structure for DISCover Ultimate programs
2. Apply for Canada Summer Jobs Funding
3. Develop more detailed program requirements and policies
4. Widen advertising for job posting to tap into wider pool of candidates
5. Attract cross-training opportunities (soccer, hockey, basketball, etc. teams).
6. Get in Halifax REC or train their instructors, as well as Halifax PLAYS
7. Attend Milk Sports Fair

## *U16/U14*

1. Identify "Youth Champions" and hire employee for a 2018/2019 spring/summer program. One individual for U19 (NSB, High School programming) and one individual for youth U16/U14.
2. Establish regular ultimate programming for the U16/U14 age group in summer 2019. Do this early enough that information can be distributed during Milk Sports Fair (for Discover) and DISCover visits to schools. Plan should be ready to roll out in late 2018.
3. Put together a information package on Disc Golf program to present at TAPHE.

## *New Scotland Blues*

1. Identify a Head Coach for NSB for summer 2018 following a vetting process (either election, volunteering, applying, but approved by Disc NS board).
2. Establish regular season plan and budget for summer 2018 and turn this into a template for future teams
3. Send a New Scotland Blues boys and girls team to CUC in 2018

## *Regional Growth and Promotion*

1. Identify "regional champions" in East Hants and Sydney
2. Work with Pictou and/or Antigonish in progressing to be a registered organization
3. Add at least one new Community Sport Organizations for ultimate or disc golf

## **Competition**

1. Consult with touring teams regarding a Provincial Teams qualifying, review sanctioning system and provincial team programs. Establish a process and requirements for provincial team qualification.
2. Hold NS4C for C4UC team qualifications in winter 2019 - book by end of summer/ early Fall 2018- Aim to hold in early/mid January. Open to all teams who bid (don't need to try to qualify for C4UC).
3. Hold NS7C for CUC and CUC-Mixed team qualifications in summer 2018 (if required)
4. Establish a Nova Scotia Disc Golf ranking system and Championship.
5. Pamphlets - Cross sport high performance recruiting.

# Coaching, Instructing, Officiating, and Spirit of the Game

1. Establish recommended and required levels of coaching (coaching “matrix”) for provincially sanctioned events and teams
2. Offer at two Competition Introduction coaching courses with a goal of 20+ new trained coaches.
3. Hold a Community coaching course for teachers with a goal of an additional 8+ coaches in the schools.
4. Certify 8 coaches as Competition Introduction coaches from the existing set of trained coaches, including providing incentives to the coaches to complete the requisite NCCP courses.
5. Train a female Learner Facilitator (LF) in Competition Introduction coaching
6. Train one Competition Development LF; the course material is currently under development with Ultimate Canada with the first offering to happen in the fall of 2018
7. Examine all Competition Development NCCP courses to know what to recommend as courses for Competition Development coaches
8. Encourage participation in coach development activities beyond NCCP courses, like the Atlantic Coaches Conference
9. Continue to provide trained coaches to support high school teams when requested and available.
10. Work with trained observers, leagues, and clubs, to integrate more observed games and training opportunities for observers

## Communication

1. Promote Nova Scotia Athlete who achieve some level of excellence (Qualifying for Team Canada, Worlds, Medal at a National or International Event).
2. Put together of history of Nova Scotia team and player achievements.
3. Establish a communications committee and strategy.
4. Add updated information to the website