

NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

A big newsletter for you this month as we report back on the AGM and the review of the Selection Policy and the Skater Development Policy, among other items.

ISU DEVELOPMENT TROPHY IN KUALA LUMPUR, 6-11 APRIL 2015

Unfortunately the very short notice we had from the ISU regarding the timing of the Development Trophy, and the clash with the NZIFSA Development Camp in Queenstown, had a huge impact on who was available to attend this event. Most of the Development Squad members who were eligible were already committed to the Queenstown camp, and faced losing the cost of their tickets to Queenstown and having to pay for an airfare to Kuala Lumpur at short notice. Not ideal at all.

We did, however, have one skater, Brooke Tamepo, who attended along with Rosie Armstrong as the Coach/Team Leader and Sue Petricevic who was a judge at the competition held on the first day of the event. Brooke not only competed in the Trophy, gaining a very creditable 6th place, but after attending the first 2 days of the workshop, flew back to New Zealand and participated in the Development Camp in Queenstown. A great effort Brooke!



Brooke sent us the following note regarding her experience



Brooke Tamepo in the back line, second from the right

My trip to Kuala Lumpur for the 2015 ISU Development Trophy was an amazing experience. I was very satisfied with both my short and free skate performances in the competition part of the camp and finished 6th out of 17 competitors. After the competition I participated in a training camp which was run by Shanetta Folle. In the short time span she was able to teach us several exercises and a different technique which I am currently applying to my skating. It was a new experience and a privilege to skate with skaters from all different parts of the world! Overall the trip helped me develop as a skater and as a person and I am thrilled to have been offered this opportunity.

SKATER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CAMPS

Our second Development Camp for the year was held in Queenstown 10 – 12 April. It was attended by 37 skaters from Pre-Elem level through to Senior, and by 5 Coaches from around the country. The moderators for the camp were our own Liudmila Kuznetsova and John Dunn who is based in Sydney. They worked the skaters pretty hard both on and off the ice, and we hope they benefited from both the conditioning/fitness and the skills development activities. In addition to the singles sessions, some early morning ice dance sessions were arranged with John Dunn. It was great to be able to capitalize on having John in New Zealand.



A special thank you to the parents who played “camp mum” to the 17 skaters who stayed in the dormitory accommodation at Pinewood Lodge. We appreciate that being able to send skaters to the camp without

their parents also having to travel to Queenstown made a huge difference to whether some skaters were able to attend or not.

UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

In our March newsletter we had announced that Morgan Templeton would be competing at the 25th Gardena Spring Trophy. Unfortunately health issues forced her withdrawal from this event.

The Junior Grand Prix we have been allocated by the ISU

The ISU have advised us that the JGP's New Zealand have been allocated are

- Riga, Latvia, 26-28 August for Pairs.
- Colorado Springs, USA, 2-6 September for Singles, Pairs and Dance
- Linz, Austria, 9-13 September for Pairs
- Zagreb, Croatia, 7-11 October for Singles and Dance

Priority for assignment to these competitions is to be determined at the upcoming Hollins Trophy. Please see the article below regarding the changes to the Selection Policy.

Sue Hoseit to attend Oberstdorf

Sue Hoseit will be competing at the adult international competition in Oberstorf, 18-23 May. All the best for this competition Sue.

Asian Trophy

It appears that Ice Skating Australia will not be running Skate Down Under this year. If we hear differently, we will advise you as soon as we can. If they don't run that competition we would like to encourage skaters to think about whether Asian Trophy is the right competition for them to attend. This competition is relatively accessible from New Zealand compared to a lot of other competitions. Last year it was held 6-10 August, and we would expect it to be

held about the same time. We should have confirmation of the 2015 dates and location in the next couple of weeks.

Rule 203.5 - Skaters wishing to compete at competitions out of New Zealand

A reminder to any skaters considering competing in any competition outside New Zealand that you need to have permission from the NZIFSA before you make arrangements. As per [section 203.5 of the Rules and Regulations](#), please email the General Secretary secretary@nzifsa.org.nz with the details of the competition and the grade you wish to compete in.

We will aim to have a quick turnaround on these so you can get flights booked as early as possible. It would be appreciated if you give as much advance notice as possible.

COMPETITIONS IN AUSTRALIA

With Australia so close, we would like to encourage our skaters to consider competing at competitions in Australia. Hollins Trophy and WinterSun in particular, provide a great opportunity to be exposed to larger competition grades than we normally get here.

Hollins Trophy, Sydney 5-8 June

The Hollins Trophy, Co-operative Cup, Carr's Cup and Dance Cup are International Interclub & Interstate events for Ladies, Men, Pairs and Ice Dance, hosted by the Sydney Figure Skating Club. Entries close 22 May. However, as all entries need to be sent via the NZIFSA, please send your entry forms to our Test & Competition Secretary, Ina Paul at testsecretary@nzifsa.org.nz, and copy to our Treasurer, Tracy McGuigan at treasurer@nzifsa.org.nz by **20 May at the latest**. You will be invoiced by the NZIFSA for your entry fee which will need to be paid prior to the competition.

Please refer to the [announcement and entry form](#) on the Sydney Figure Skating Club website. This competition has been adopted as a selection competition by NZIFSA to provide our skaters with an additional opportunity to be selected as an international representative, and to prioritise our skaters for competitions that are in the early part of the ISU season (ie 1 July till after our selections from the New Zealand National Championships have been confirmed). Please see the article below regarding the changes to the Selection Policy.

WinterSun, Brisbane 8-12 July

No announcement is available for this competition as yet. We will forward this as soon as we become aware that the announcement has been published.

Masters Competition in Australia

The 2015 Australian Masters Games - Figure Skating will take place in Adelaide (South Australia) on 8 - 10 October 2015, hosted by the Silver Blades Figure Skating Club. The competition will be for adult skaters who have reached at least the age of eighteen (18) before July 1st, preceding the competition. Entries close 11 September. For full details see the announcement on the [Silver Blades Figure Skating Club](#) website.

Australian Nationals, Penrith, Sydney 27 November – 4 December

Skaters will need to make the Selection TES at the New Zealand Figure Skating Championships at the end of September to be eligible for this competition. However, we thought it might be useful to give you all a heads up as to where this is being held this year.

COACHING COURSES IN 2015

The Australian Professional Skaters Association (APSA) has announced a Conference to be held in Sydney. The [registration form](#) for this is on the APSA website and has been sent to our coaches. The moderators for the conference are Manon Perron, who is best known as coach of the 2010 Olympic medalist Joannie Rochette, and Christy Krall, 2010 Olympic coach of Patrick Chan. Registrations needed to be confirmed 24 April.

If you have questions about this conference, please contact the NZIFSA Coaching Director, Caitlyn Paul (coachingdirector@nzifsa.org.nz).

2015 AGM OF THE NZ ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION, INC

The AGM was held in Queenstown on Saturday 11 April at the Queenstown Primary School. A huge thank you to the Queenstown Ice Skating Club for all their support for this meeting, including organising airport transfers, morning tea and lunch for the AGM attendees, organising the venue for meetings, as well as accommodation for those who were there for the AGM and forums on the Saturday and the combined meeting of the Board, Operations Group and Development Group on the Sunday.

Each year, at the AGM, elections are held for approximately half the positions that make up the NZIFSA. Which positions are elected each year are spelled out in the Constitution (which you can find on the NZIFSA website). In addition to the elected positions, the Board are responsible for the appointment of a small number of Operations Group roles. These appointments were considered at the Board meeting on the Sunday following the AGM. All these positions are for a two year period.

In presenting the outcome of the elections we thought it might be useful to provide a bit of a reminder for members on the structure and functions of the various groups within the NZIFSA. Those that were elected at the 2015 AGM are indicated by an * and those that were appointed by the Board are indicated by **.

Board

Responsible for strategic planning, policy review and the prudent financial management of the Association.

President - Jeanette King*,
Vice-President - Barbara Lindsay-Taylor,
Board members - Keith Darvill*, Wendy Gardiner and Sue Hoseit*

Operations Group

Responsible for the day to day operation of the Association. In addition to the more visible roles like the Secretary responding to communications, and the Treasurer keeping track of the finances, there are all sorts of other activities that take place in the background that make the organisation function. For example the police checking of all our coaches, the oversight of the test results, and the grant applications to mention just a few.

CEO – Sandra Williamson-Leadley
General Secretary – Bridget Danbrook
Treasurer – Tracy McGuigan*
Test & Competition Secretary – Ina Paul*
Anti-Doping Officer – Wendy Thompson**
Marketing & Promotions Officer – Aleisha Haslemore
Child Protection Officer – Imelda Sheerin**

Grants Officer – Sam Snoad** Honorary Solicitor – Ian Grant
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Development Group

Responsible for coordinating the development of officials, skaters, coaches and the Rules and Regulations.
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Skater Development Director – Liudmila Kuznetsova* Technical Director – Connor McIver Officials Director – Suzanne Cunningham Coaching Director – Caitlyn Paul* High Performance Director – this position is currently vacant.
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We would like to acknowledge those people who have put their names forward to be considered for these roles. Your willingness to contribute in this way is much appreciated. Congratulations to those who have been re-elected/appointed to their roles, and a special welcome to Sue Hoseit who joins the Board.

FORUMS AT THE AGM

On the Saturday afternoon following the AGM we had four member forums. The following is a brief summary of those forums.

Recruitment of Officials for Tests and Competitions

Sandra Williamson-Leadley presented this forum on behalf of our Officials Director, Suzanne Cunningham. Sandra worked through the brochure that Suzanne has prepared and made available to clubs. This brochure outlines the sorts of skill sets people need for each of the roles. Anyone interested in being an official should contact Suzanne at officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz

Helping clubs help themselves

Jeanette King and Sandra Williamson-Leadley led this forum. The differing roles/functions of the NZIFSA and the Clubs were outlined. As part of our role the NZIFSA works to provide resources that help the Clubs achieve their objective. The Clubs were reminded of the Club administration document, the checklist and guidelines for running club competitions, and the “Contact Us” information on the website. The NZIFSA is working on development of a one page document of who to contact about specific items, and a checklist for running tests. Clubs were encouraged to read the documentation that is available, ask questions if unsure and adhere to deadlines.

Introduction of proposed new stroking exercises

We are very fortunate to have been given permission by the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) to be able to adapt what they call their “Moves in the Field” tests to meet our needs. We are looking at adapting some of their exercises into our stroking tests with the aim of reducing the time some of the tests take (by removing the repetition of skills already tested and addressing how the exercises are joined together) and to ensure that the tests reflect appropriately the skills that we would expect to see in skaters at that level.

At the forum, our Technical Director, Connor McIver, outlined some of the changes that are proposed. It was particularly good to have feedback from the skaters and coaches that turned up for this forum.

The new stroking tests won't be brought in till next year, and in the meantime, we will be working on these with input from coaches and skaters, developing resources for skaters, coaches and officials as to what is required, and communicating this via forums and emails.

The current test levels required to qualify to skate in a given grade will remain as per the 2015 Rules and Regulations. The higher stroking test levels introduced this year were brought in with the adoption of these revised stroking tests in mind. The whole focus is on improving the quality of skating skills at all levels, which has been identified as a weakness.

As an aside, for those who are busy working on getting their next stroking tests, remember that, particularly at the higher levels, these do require quite a lot of preparation. Don't sell yourselves short by attempting these tests if you are not well prepared.

Review of the Skater Development and Selection Policies

Jeanette King and Sandra Williamson-Leadley led this forum. Rather than spending the session looking at the specific wording of these policies, the discussion began with a focus on the principles that sit behind these policies. What is it we are trying to achieve and why? Again it was really great to have skaters and coaches present for this session, but also really valuable to be able to get input from the club representatives from around the country, and get a better understanding of the challenges that some of the clubs face and how they perceive these policies might impact on their skaters. The feedback on these policies helped inform the Board discussion at the meeting they had the following day, as they worked towards finalising both of these policies.

CHANGES TO SELECTION POLICY AND SKATER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The review of the Skater Development Policy and the Selection Policy has just been completed and the revised policy has just been uploaded onto the website. This review was undertaken earlier this year than usual, as the Board wanted more time to consult with members regarding making some relatively significant changes. Some of the key changes are outlined below. We would like to encourage you to read the policies in their entirety as well – these are available on the [Rules & Regulations](#) part of our website.

Selection Policy

The most significant change to this policy is the addition of Hollins Trophy as a Selection Competition. In addition to the opportunity to be selected as a representative at the New Zealand National Championships, skaters will now have the opportunity to meet the Selection TES at the Australian Figure Skating Champs and Hollins Trophy.

The changes have been made to provide additional opportunities for skaters to be selected as International Representatives, and to revisit the priority for assignment to the international competitions that are held at the start of the ISU Season (which starts 1 July), as a lot can happen in the time since the last Nationals, and we want to try and ensure we are sending the most competition ready skaters to events.

A few key points to note:

- Skaters who are selected at the New Zealand National Championships to either the A or B Team, are still eligible to compete at international competitions, even if they don't compete at Hollins. The order of priority may be based in the first instance on the skaters who make the selection TES at Hollins Trophy, but that is really only an issue for the competitions where there are limits to the numbers of skaters we can send – for example the Junior Grand Prix.

- The skaters in the A team have priority over the B Team.
- Skaters can be selected at the New Zealand National Championships to the International A Team, B Team or as NZ Representatives to the Australian Figure Skating Champs. Priority for assignments to competitions with a closing date before 1 July the following year, is based on the skaters placings at the New Zealand National Championships.
- Skaters who compete at the Australian Figure Skating Champs can be selected to the A Team or B Team. For competitions with a closing date before 1 July the following year, the skaters selected to that representative level at New Zealand Nationals will have priority over those skaters who make the selection TES for that level at the Australian Figure Skating Champs.
- Any skaters who compete at Hollins have the opportunity to be considered for selection as an international representative. But only those skaters selected as a representative to that grade at New Zealand Nationals can be selected to the A Team. Skaters moving up a grade would have the opportunity to make the B team, as would those that hadn't made the selection for any of the representative levels.
- The priority for assignment for any international competitions with a closing date from 1 July to a week after NZ Nationals would be based on their placings at Hollins for those skaters that make the Selection TES at Hollins.
- Where skaters selected to a representative level at the New Zealand National Championships are unable to attend Hollins Trophy, or do not re-attain the TES for selection at Hollins Trophy, their order of priority for assignment will be after those who meet the selection criteria at Hollins Trophy and will be in order of placings at the most recent New Zealand National Championships.
- The TES for Selection at Hollins are the same TES as those used for selections at the most recent New Zealand National Championships. These have been clearly indicated in the policy.

The Skater Development Policy

The policy aims to identify those skaters who are achieving above the level we expect to see for their age group, or are competing internationally or approaching a level where they are almost competitive internationally. Rather than being selected to the International Development Squad or the Talent ID/Age Development Squad, individuals will now be selected to a single Development Squad.

While last year, Pre-elementary and Elementary were selected at either the North Island or South Island Championships, this year all the higher grades will also be eligible for selection to the Development Squads from the North Islands or South Islands Championships, as well as at the New Zealand National Championships.

OTHER POLICIES UP FOR REVIEW AT PRESENT

The Funding Policy is currently up for review at present with recommendations for changes due by 27 April. The Privacy Policy, Governance and Management Policy and CEO Limitations Policy are also up for review at present.

CONFIRMATION OF QUALIFYING TES FOR ENTRY TO THE 2015 NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board have approved the following minimum TES for skaters wishing to qualify to compete in the 2015 New Zealand National Championships. Skaters must have met the following minimum TES points in the grade they will skate at Nationals at a Club or Regional Sub-Association Championship held between 1 June and the closing date for entries to the NZ National Championships. You will note qualifying TES have been introduced for ice dance, pairs and synchronized skating grades.

GRADE	TES
Juvenile Ladies and Men	7.00 (Free Skate only)
Pre Primary Ladies and Men	8.25 (Free Skate only)
Primary Ladies	10.00 (Free Skate only)
Primary Men	10.75 (Free Skate only)
Intermediate Ladies	10.00 (Free Skate only)
Intermediate Men	10.75 (Free Skate only)
Novice Ladies	20.25 (SP and FS)
Novice Men	24.50 (SP and FS)
Junior Ladies	26.75 (SP and FS)
Junior Men	34.75 (SP and FS)
Senior Ladies	33.25 (SP and FS)
Senior Men	48.25 (SP and FS)
Juvenile Pair Skating	6.50 (Free Skate only)
Pre Primary Pair Skating	7.00 (Free Skate only)
Primary Pair Skating	8.50 (Free Skate Only)
Novice Pair Skating	16.00 (SP and FS)
Junior Pair Skating	34.75 (SP and FS)
Senior Pair Skating	41.75 (SP and FS)
Juvenile Ice Dance	15.50 (PD and FD)
Pre Primary Ice Dance	12.00 (PD and FD)
Primary Ice Dance	13.00 (PD and FD)
Novice Ice Dance	18.50 (PD and FD)

Junior Ice Dance	30.25 (SD and FD)
Senior Ice Dance	39.75 (SD and FD)
Juvenile Synchronized Skating	12.25 (Free Skate only)
Open Synchronized Skating	13.25 (Free Skate only)
Novice Synchronized Skating	13.25 (Free Skate only)
Junior Synchronized Skating	23.75 (SP and FS)
Senior Synchronized Skating	32.25 (SP and FS)

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Tuesday 12 May. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 5 May the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting which is to be held 16 June 2015.

All the best in skating,
Sandra Williamson-Leadley and Jeanette King