

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

HISTORY MAKING AT ISU WORLD FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations Charlotte and Ricky on your great performance at the 2022 ISU World Figure Skating Championships! While they did not qualify to compete in the Free Dance, they achieved a Personal Best in the Rhythm Dance and are on track for where they want to be for the next season.

2022 World Figure Skating Championships, Montpellier, France, 21-27 March 2022

Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam RD 24th/31 FD n/a Overall 24th/31

In the last newsletter we had commented that this was the first time since the ISU brought in qualifying TES for Championship Events that New Zealand will have skaters competing at the ISU

World Figure Skating Championship. Ricky Kam asked when the minimum TES was brought in and when the last time we had skaters at Worlds was. So we delved a little further into this. It was 2010 that the ISU brought in the minimum TES for Worlds. The last time we had skaters at a World Championships was in 2008 when we had both Morgan Figgins and Tristan Thode competing in Singles.

Reading back through the <u>NZISA 50th Jubilee Book</u> we noted that Gay Le Comte was the first New Zealand skater to compete at a World Championships in 1976. We have not had an Ice Dance couple at a World Championships that we can find a record of. We have been close, with Janna Greene and Alan Wild having to withdraw their entry from the 1977 World Dance Championships as Alan was unwell, and Ayesha Campbell and Shane Speden competed at Junior Worlds 2010-2012 before they stopped skating together.



Photo credit: Eventphotography.eu From Santa Claus Cup

What Charlotte and Ricky have managed to achieve, even without taking into account the disruption caused by COVID-19, is testimony to their hard work and the amazing coaching team they work with. We look forward to seeing them at our National Championships in October.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

ISU Adult International competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, 23-28 May 2022

Bronze II Women Artistic & Freeskate Silver II Women Artistic & Freeskate Silver V Women Artistic & Freeskate Viktoria Marinova Olga Levien Sue Hoseit

RECENT INTERCLUB / CLUB COMPETITIONS

Skate Nashville Comp Free Skate (IJS) Excel J	etition, Nashville, USA, uvenile Olivia Hughe	-	FS 9 th /9	Overall 9 th /9
Hivernia Cup (Interclu Junior Women	ib), Mechelen, Belgium, Ally Landon-Lane	16-17 April 2022 SP 5 th /9	FS 6 th /9	Overall 6 th /9
Bluebonnet Open, Austin Texas, USA, 22-24 April 2022Free Skate (IJS) Excel Juvenile PlusOlivia HughesFS 4th /4Overall 4th/4				

NEW ZEALAND SKATERS AT ISU WORLD SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPS

Anya Gipp and Liam McIver competed as part of Team Unity Australia at the recent ISU World Synchronized Skating Champs. The 2022 SYS World Champs were held in Hamilton, Canada 8 & 9 April. Below please find reports back from these two skaters on their experience.



From Anya Gipp

Liam and I were lucky enough to compete at the World Synchronized Skating Championships in Hamilton, Canada, for Team Unity Australia. As the first synchronized world championships since 2019 this was an exciting opportunity to see the sport back on the world stage, and particularly rewarding after a season interrupted by Covid-19 lockdowns. After a week of training in Mississauga, we shifted into the official hotel in Hamilton next to the competition venue. Stepping onto the official ice for the first time was completely surreal but I felt supported by our teammates, coaches and friends back home. I loved every minute of competing the programmes we have worked hard on and it was made all the more enjoyable by the enthusiastic Canadian crowd! Perhaps one of the best parts was being able to see synchro performed in person at the highest level, and watch the top teams skate for medal positions. Having the opportunity to compete alongside teams I have looked up to for years was extraordinary, and left me with a renewed love for the sport.

From Liam Mclver

Worlds was a bit of a rollercoaster for me. The highs were incredible: stepping onto worlds ice for the first time; feeling the excitement of the event and the energy of the crowd; the awe at watching the best teams in the world perform. But there were definitely some rough moments as well.

Anyone who watched our short will know that I fell in a terrible spot early in the program. I not only slid and crashed into the wall, but also took out two team mates and effectively wrote-off an entire element. Quality entertainment if you haven't seen it, would recommend. Even though we managed to recover and give one of our best performances for the rest of the program, I was so devastated to have marred an otherwise excellent performance. Fun challenge for you: try not to cry until you get to the change room. Turns out it's quite a long walk. I found the following 24 hours leading up to the free program difficult. So many thoughts were swirling around my mind; what if I screwed up the free too? What helped get me through was knowing that I could rely on the hours of training we had put in, and on my team to have my back regardless of what happened. By the time I stepped out onto the ice for the free, the anxiety and nerves had resolved into a determination to absolutely nail that program like I knew we could. And we did. Total euphoria.



SHORTAGE OF OFFICIALS IMPACTING COMPETITIONS AND TEST SESSIONS

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful group of officials who frequently give up their weekends to be available for tests or competitions. Unfortunately, we just do not always have enough of them when and where we need them.

As many people will be aware, we have some significant challenges around availability of officials, particularly at the higher levels and for Ice Dance and Synchronized skating. This shortage of officials is something we have been concerned about for several years now and was a key driver behind some significant changes that were recently made to the Officials Training, Appointment and Promotions Policy. Unfortunately, this shortage of officials is exacerbated by COVID-19 particularly where we have immunocompromised officials, and by a couple of our high level officials having some health issues they are contending with at present that mean they are not available just at the moment.

We are committed to ensuring we have sufficient competent officials to meet out skaters needs. But addressing this will not happen overnight. There is a lot of work going on in the background with officials exam modules being prepared as part of the transition to the new Officials Policy. Thank you Sandra Williamson-Leadley, Sue Petricevic and the other senior officials, both within New Zealand and overseas that are developing this material.

Last year NZIFSA met with club representatives to come up with a plan to try and ensure that we could furnish panels for competitions that provide skaters with a fair number of opportunities to gain selection for Nationals. In consultation with coaches and with clubs it was agreed that at a minimum, skaters should have access to at least two club competitions and a regional competition. With that in mind, two club competitions in the North Island (AIFSC and AIDC) and two in the South Island, (CISC and DISC) in addition to the North Island and South Island Championships were agreed as being the events where Ice Dance and Synchronized skating were offered. The officials and coaches are aware of which events these are and are planning with this in mind.

There have also been challenges getting judges for higher level tests in a number of centres of late, with these tests having to be postponed / rescheduled until such time as the required judges can be available. Test organisers have been asked to work through the NZIFSA Test & Competition Secretary, Ina Paul, to coordinate judges for these tests. This is to try and avoid pressuring judges to attend - this is particularly important where we have immunocompromised officials who are doing their best to avoid exposure to COVID-19. We currently have only four judges around the country that are available and able to do inter-gold, gold and gold star stroking. Ina will be

working with them to determine their availability. However, there will likely need to be more flexibility around ice time bookings for higher level tests so that it fits with the availability of the judges rather than the other way round.

Again, NZIFSA are committed to trying to ensure we have sufficient judges for tests and there are plans being put in place to try and redress the current shortage. But again, this all takes time and we need to ensure our judges have had the training and support they need to be competent.

We thank you all for your patience and support as we work through this.

SKATER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2022

The NZIFSA has two scholarships of NZ\$4000 to help support skaters to train overseas for a period in 2022. There were only four skater scholarship applications. No applications were received for the Basic Novice/Intermediate Novice scholarship and two of the four applications for the Advanced Novice to Senior scholarship did not meet the criteria. The Scholarship Committee,

comprising of Jeanette King (CEO), Sandra Williamson-Leadley (Skater Development Director, ISU Judge all disciplines, International Referee Singles & Pairs and Synchronized, International Technical Controller Singles and Synchronized), and Angelique Clyde-Smith (ISU Judge Singles & Pairs and Synchronized, International Judge Ice Dance, Australian National Level Referee all disciplines and Tech Controller Singles, Ice Dance and Synchronized) recommended, and the Board confirmed, that Charlotte Lafond-Fournier and Ricky Kam be awarded the 2022 Advanced Novice to Senior Skater Scholarship. Congratulations,



Photo credit: Eventphotography.eu From Santa Claus Cup

The Board had earlier confirmed that the scholarship that had previously been awarded to Gemma & Benjamin Pickering but had been unable to be used because of COVID-19, was still available to them in 2022 based on their revised training plans.



UPCOMING KIWISKATE COACHING COURSES

The KiwiSkate Coaching Courses are open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The course cost is \$60 plus \$10 for the manual.

The courses cover two levels:

Charlotte and Ricky!

- KiwiSkate Assistant Course individuals must be 14 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and it is recommended they hold an Elementary test in any discipline.
- KiwiSkate Coach Course individuals must be 15 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold an Elementary test in any discipline. Coaches from different codes may apply to the Coaching Director for test dispensation based on their achievements/qualifications.

Please contact the Coaching Director at <u>coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz</u> if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

All attendees must also pay the appropriate coach membership fee prior to registration. The coach membership forms and fee information can be found on the forms page of the NZIFSA website <u>https://nzifsa.org.nz/forms/.</u>

Dunedin Ice Stadium, 7 & 8 May

The course will start around 3pm on Saturday and finish late morning on Sunday. Registrations for this course have now closed. Please email <u>coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz</u> for any enquiries about late registrations.

Paradice Botany, Auckland, 24 & 25 June

This is Matariki weekend. The course will start approx. 1pm on Friday and finish around 2pm on Saturday.

Registrations for this course close on **Tuesday 31 May.**

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/KiwiSkateCoac hingCourseAucklandJune2022

RECENT KIWISKATE COACHING COURSES

Alpine Ice, Christchurch, 26 & 27 March

Kim Lewis and Rosie Armstrong were the moderators for this course that was attended by 11 coaches, plus two coaches that were able to attend one day each of the course. COVID-19 did impact on the number able to attend this course.

Frosty Spot Indoor Ice Rink, Upper Hutt, 23 & 24 April

We will report on this course in the next newsletter.

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

As with the KiwiSkate courses, COVID-19 has had an impact on attendance with a number of people having contracted COVID or having to isolate. In spite of this, some great workshops have been held.

Youth Interpretive workshop in Dunedin 2 & 3 April

Another small but successful Youth Interpretive workshop was held. The workshop was attended by seven skaters and two coaches, with Megan Kliegl as the workshop moderator.



Synchronized Skating Workshops in Dunedin 10 April and Auckland 15 – 17 April

For the Dunedin Cutting Edge team, we provided some additional ice time for the team to work on their skating skills and 13 of the team attended this. We will also provide some support for them to work with their mentor coach, Anu Oksanen, over upcoming sessions, as the timing of this workshop clashed with Junior Synchro World Champs.

For the Auckland workshop we secured Heather Paige as our international Moderator. Heather is a Moderator/Mentor for the ISU SYS Technical Committee and Coach/Director of the Starlights SYS teams out of the Chicago area in the US. Tracy Hipkiss and Sabrina Snoad were our local coach moderators for this this workshop. The workshop was attended by 19 skaters in KiwiSkate and Elementary teams, and 21 in Basic Novice to Senior level teams.



We had the following note from our moderators Tracy and Sabrina

Over the Easter weekend, the Auckland Synchro Skaters were fortunate enough to participate in the NZIFSA run Synchro Development Camp Moderated by Heather Paige. We had a group of skaters ranging from Kiwiskate - Senior level and they all thoroughly enjoyed working with each other and Heather. We learnt some new warm up skills/drill and then started with the elements. Some were elements that skaters had done before and others were completely new but the groups gave it their best efforts to get it right. Overall it was a successful weekend and we can't wait for another one next year!



Basic Novice to Senior Singles Workshops in Dunedin and Auckland (Botany)

The Dunedin workshop was held 19 -22 April and we engaged internationally recognised coaches Ravi Walia and the Colorado team of Christy Krall, Janet Champion, Ben Agosto and Katherine Hill, engaged to work with this group. Sarah MacGibbon was appointed as our coach moderator on the ground.

The Auckland workshop was 23-26 April and we had Ravi Walia engaged to work with this group. Rosie Armstrong and Alex Kam were appointed as our coach moderators on the ground.

We look forward to reporting on these two workshops in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Note: Development Squad members will only be eligible for a discounted registration fee for development workshops, if they had returned their training plans to the Skater Development Director by the **15 March 2022** deadline.

Each of the camps will include on-ice and off-ice activities such as nutrition and sports psychology. The expectation is that all skaters **fully participate in all the activities**. Please set aside the time to attend all the activities. In addition to developing your skills and expanding your knowledge of skating, one of the benefits of getting our skaters together for these workshops is the chance to spend time with other people who are as passionate about skating as you are.

Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile Workshops

We were planning to hold three workshops for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters. However, we have cancelled the Christchurch workshop as there was only one skater registered for this one. The dates and locations are as follows:

Christchurch, 23 & 24 April - Cancelled

Auckland (Botany), 31 April & 1 May starting 9:00am Saturday and finishing by midday on Sunday. Alex Kam is the moderator for this workshop.

Queenstown, 14 & 15 May starting 9:45am* Saturday and finishing by midday on Sunday. Stephanie Woodacre is the moderator for this workshop.

*The start time of the Queenstown workshop may need to be revisited. We will endeavour to provide as much notice as possible if any change to this timing is required.

Registration

Registrations for the Christchurch and Auckland workshops have closed. Please contact the Skater Development Director <u>skating.development@nzifsa.org.nz</u> for any enquiries about late registrations.

Registrations for the Queenstown workshop are due **on or before Sunday 24 April**. Skaters and coaches can register online at:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/ 2022WorkshopForPr eElementaryToJuvenileSkatersQueenstown

Cost information:

\$40 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members \$80 for all other skaters Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

Pattern Dance Workshop – Dunedin, 21 & 22 May

This workshop is for ice dancers of all levels, but suitable for dance couples only. The plan is to tie this workshop in to the ISU Ice Dance Development Seminar in Oberstdorf that is likely to be delivered virtually. Debbie Darvill is the local Moderator for this camp. Skaters will need to be in Dunedin for a 9:30am start on the Saturday and would be finished by 2:00 pm on the Sunday.

Registration

Registrations are due **on or before Sunday 24 April 2022**. Skaters and coaches can register online at:

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/ 2022WorkshopForPa tternDance

Cost information:

Skaters selected to ISU Dev workshop – Free \$80 Skaters not selected to ISU Dev workshop Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

OFFICIALS' TRAINING IN 2022

Changes to the Officials Policy mean that exams are now required as part of the promotion process. Additionally, the new two-tier system means that many officials will receive a grade change in accordance with the new policy. However, in these cases the official is also required to pass an exam in order to verify their change in appointment.

e.g An official that is currently graded Advanced Novice for singles will change to Senior. In order for that to be confirmed, they need to take the 2nd appointment exam for singles.

The exams are similar in style to research assignments. Officials are given a period of approximately 2 weeks in order to complete and submit their answers. The exam itself will likely only take 1 - 2 hours and is open book. In most cases TC, Ref & RO/DO will be given a similar exercise to confirm competence during a training seminar. Note that there are no training seminars for Singles or Pairs TC this year, therefore an exam will be sent out to those requiring verification.

If the exam is not passed, then there will be a second opportunity to take the exam towards the end of the year.

UPCOMING OFFICIALS' TRAINING

<u>New Probationary SYS and New Probationary Dance Judges – Online 30 April and 1 May</u> Registrations are now open.

- Ice Dance Saturday 30 April 2022 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Synchronized Sunday 1 May 2022 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

These seminars are for those who are interested in judging Ice Dance and or Synchronized Skating and are new to the disciplines. The material will also serve as a useful refresher for those who are already graded in the first Tier (Adv Nov and below). On completion of the seminar a formative assessment exam will be distributed. This exam will be used to verify a change in grade to Advanced Novice for those with a current grade of Intermediate Novice and below. The exam will also be used as part of the evidence required for promotion to 1st appointment (those who are currently Prob or new).

Registrations

Registrations were due **on or before Wednesday 20 April 2022**. Please contact Michael Holtz at <u>officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz</u> to discuss any late registrations.

Ice Dance and Synchronized Judges Seminars – Online 14 & 15 May

These online seminars are for those who will be judging Ice Dance and or Synchronized skating in 2022. The moderators for this seminar are Sandra Williamson-Leadley and Angelique Clyde-Smith.

On completion of the seminars a formative assessment exam will be distributed.

Please register using the following form on or before **Tuesday 10 May 2022**

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/JudgeTraining2022Ice DanceSynchronized

Ice Dance and Synchronized Technical Specialists (and TC's) Seminars – Online 28 & 29 May

These online seminars are for those who will be serving as Technical Specialist or Technical Controller at Ice Dance and or Synchronized skating events in 2022. The moderators for this seminar are Sandra Williamson-Leadley and Angelique Clyde-Smith.

On completion of the seminars a formative assessment exam will be distributed.

Please register using the following form on or before Friday 20 May 2022

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TSTCTraining2022IceD anceSynchronized

Ice Dance and Synchronized Technical Specialists (and TC's) Seminars – Online 28 & 29 May

Both will be online seminars. On completion of the seminar a formative assessment exam will be distributed. We will have more details for you soon.

Data Operator / Video Replay Seminar – Online 28 & 29 May

This training is for existing Data/ Replay Operators and for those interested in learning this role. This will be an online seminar with some training materials sent out in advance and an exam to confirm competence as part of the training. Further support and training will be offered where required. We will have more details for you soon.

Mock Panels for all Competition Officials - May /June

The plan is to run mock panels in three centres (Auckland, Christchurch and somewhere in Otago/Southland) before the competition season starts. This will give everyone, including Data/Replay Operators, Judges, Tech Specialists and IJS Technicians, a chance to go through their paces before we run our first competitions for the year.

RECENT OFFICIALS' TRAINING

Referee Training (all disciplines) – Online, Saturday 23 April 9:00am to 12:00 noon

This seminar was for those who are interested in becoming a Referee, and those who are currently at a different Referee grade to that listed in the new policy appointments. The training was also valuable for all existing Referees wanting to increase or brush up on their knowledge. The seminar covered Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance & Synchronised skating. Participants needed to be graded a senior judge (or anticipate being senior level pending one of the upcoming exams).

The seminar was facilitated by Sue Petricevic and Sandra Williamson-Leadley and was attended by 8 judges / referees.

SELECTION COMPETITION, DUNEDIN 18 – 19 JUNE 2022

This competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2022 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized, who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2022 and meet the citizenship/residency requirements (refer table below). If you are unsure whether you meet the age eligibility requirements for your grade, please contact the NZIFSA secretary@nzifsa.org.nz.

The Provisional Schedule and Announcement can be found on the competitions page of the NZIFSA website <u>https://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/.</u> Entries for this event must be submitted via your club and be received by NZIFSA by Friday 27 May.

NZIFSA AGM - VIRTUAL MEETING ON 9 APRIL 2022

Congratulations to our new Vice President, Caitlyn Paul, who was elected at the on Saturday 9 April. Thank you to all who have put their names forward to be considered for election or appointment. Congratulations to those who have been re-elected/appointed to their roles, and a special welcome to Mandi Gerber and Caitlyn Paul.

Each year, at the AGM, elections are held for approximately half the positions that make up the NZIFSA. Which positions are elected each year is spelled out in the Constitution (which you can find at the top of the Rules & Regulations section of the NZIFSA website). In addition to the elected positions, the Board are responsible for the appointment of a number of Operations Group roles. These appointments were considered at the Board meeting the day after the AGM. Those that were elected at the 2022 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 – Rochelle Stansfield

Vice-President – Caitlyn Paul*

Board members – Julie Guise, Sue Hoseit, Laura Thompson*

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 – Jeanette King* General Secretary – Mandi Gerber* Treasurer – Vanessa Anderson Test & Competition Secretary – Ina Paul Anti-Doping Officer – Preeya Laud Marketing & Promotions Officer – this position is currently vacant Child Protection Officer – Sheryl Squier Grants Officer - Sam Snoad Administrative Support Officer – Debbie Groenewegen Technical Support Officer – Alan Greenstreet** Privacy Officer – Jeanette King** Honorary Solicitor – Julian Airey* **Development Group** Responsible for coordinating the development of officials, skaters, coaches and the Rules and Regulations. Skater Development Director – Sandra Williamson-Leadley* (1 year) Technical Director – Connor McIver* Officials Director – Michael Holtz* Coaching Director – this position is currently vacant High Performance Director – this position is currently vacant

The AGM is also an opportunity to recognise the significant ongoing voluntary contribution of those that keep the Association running. A special thank you to all our NZIFSA Office Bearers for their time and effort they put in. The AGM is also a chance to acknowledge the contribution of those that are stepping back from their roles.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to **Fiona Marsh** who had filled the role of Secretary since January 2020. This is a challenging role and Fiona was stepping into some very big shoes when she took on the role when Bridget Danbrook became unwell. A change in work commitments unfortunately impacted on the time Fiona had available for this role.

We would also like to thank **Grant Howie** who has been Vice President for the past four years, and very ably stepped into the role as Acting President for an extended periods when required. Grant has been based in the UK for the past 18 months and has shown considerable commitment in attending Board meetings at some very challenging hours. His knowledge and sense of humour will be missed around the Board table.

Thank you also **Debbie Darvill's** contribution as Coaching Director for the past year. We know it's not an easy role even with the support of the coaching committee members you had working with you. We appreciate the effort and time you have contributed during this time.

NZIFSA MEMBER FORUMS

Two Member Forums were held prior to the AGM.

Meeting out Music Copyright Obligations

An outline was given of what NZIFSA, clubs and individuals need to do to ensure we are complying with music copyright laws. Any time we play music in public (this includes competitions, galas and ice shows) we need to be adhering to the law relating music copyright. Skaters/coaches need to be able to provide the correct information about the music they are using and clubs need to know what information they need to collect and report on. A discussion was had around what NZIFSA could do to support this. Some really useful suggestions were made as to what this system might look like and we appreciate the input from those present. Feedback included the value of having a centralised system that can be updated and accessed by skaters, coaches and competition. NZIFSA will be looking at how we can accomplish this and there will be information coming out to all out members on this soon. We will also be working with clubs to try and make sure people have the information they need to meet our legal obligations.

Skating 101

Members were asked to come prepared to share their thoughts and ideas for the following topics: Kiwiskate, competitive skaters, coaches.

<u>Kiwiskate initiatives</u>

- Ice Stadium manages the Kiwiskate component.
- AISC run their own Kiwiskate and promote registrations via social media, newsletters, existing data base. Currently, they have 95% of their skaters come back. The rink is very pro-active in getting schools at the rink during the day which has a spin off effect on promoting Kiwiskate enrolments.
- Auckland clubs have little control over Kiwiskate numbers seem to be down at the moment. Transitioning from Kiwiskate to Clubs continues to be problematic.
- Alpine Ice have brochures in their café and on the website.

Progressing from Kiwiskate/Skate School

- Normally start with the Skate school programme.
- Auckland has challenges in regards to communicating with skate school participants. Previously, there have been open mornings where clubs are invited to set up a stand to promote their club.
- Ice Stadium the marketing manager has a system in place where they assess the skaters ability, then give them the information on moving into the competitive area. They are able to meet with a committee member to find out more.

Nationwide Challenges – Ice time and coaches

- The identification of talent is often too late.
- Many of those at the forum expressed concerns with the length of time some skaters remain in skate school, when they could be moved forward a lot quicker.
- Access to skater databases is limited to the rink in many cases.
- For those that are 'talent spotted', there is limited resourcing in relation to private coaches, nationwide.
- Ice time presents issues, nationwide.

CREATING A POSITIVE SKATING COMMUNITY

Figure skating is an incredibly tough sport physically as well as emotionally, particularly as skaters progress up through the grades. It can also be a wonderful source of lifelong friendships and provide people with a sense of being part of a very special community with a shared love of figure skating. But creating an environment in which all our skaters can achieve their best and feel part of a positive community requires a commitment from all of us. With this in mind we'd like to remind you of our Code of Ethics which you can find on the NZIFSA website. http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Code%20of%20Ethics%20v3.0.pdf

A special plea – before you say anything about another skater, coach or official, stop and think about whether your action is going to help create a more positive skating community. If what you were going to say would be hurtful or harmful, then don't say it!

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Anti-Match-Fixing and Sports Betting Policy, Health & Safety Policy and Members' Forums Acceptable Use Policy are all open for your input as part of the first phase in the review process. If you would like to propose any changes, please do so by **30 April.** Your submissions will be considered by the Board when they review the policy, and a draft of any proposed amendments will be put back out for member submissions.

The **Child Protection Policy**, **Finance Policy** and **Funding Policy** have been reviewed by the Board after the initial call for submissions. Some amendments have been proposed to the **Finance Policy** and the **Funding Policy** and these have been posted on the member forum requesting feedback on the proposed amendments.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 10 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 3 May at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the June meeting.

All the best in skating, Rochelle Stansfield and Jeanette King President and CEO NZIFSA