

COMPETITIONS AND COVID-19

As detailed in the email to NZIFSA members on 25 August, the Board have made the following decisions with regards to the running of tests and competitions, effective from 25 August 2020.

- For any region in Covid-19 Alert Level 2 or above, club and regional competitions and tests in that region cannot be held.
- If any region in NZ is in Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the National Championships, the National Championships will not be held.
- For any region in Alert Level 1, competitions and tests can continue as planned, however skaters from a region that is in Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the competition/test may not attend and will be refunded any competition entry/test fees.

RESCHEDULING OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following consultation with coaches and representatives from each club there was a collective decision made to postpone the 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships and the North Island and South Island Championships. We appreciate the effort clubs and sub associations have made to attempt to secure these alternative dates so quickly.

- South Island Champs, Gore: 26th – 28 September
- North Island Champs, Auckland: 9th – 11th October
- National Championships, Dunedin: 24th – 27th October

Please refer to the Competitions page of the NZIFSA website for updated competition information <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>

The above date for Nationals will be the final date. If one region goes into Level 2 or above at the commencement of Nationals, there will be no further postponement and any entry fees paid will be refunded. The requirement to meet the qualifying TES for each grade as per the Technical Announcement will remain.

We find ourselves in unprecedented times and we would like to remind skaters, parents and coaches of social distancing and good hygiene during practice sessions. The Board are well aware of the disappointment these alterations to our season may cause for skaters, coaches, officials and families but we believe it is in the best interest to keep our skating community as safe as we possibly can.

REVISED PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR 2020 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

To help people re-organise their travel and accommodation we have prepared an updated schedule. Please note that this schedule does differ markedly from that posted at the beginning of the year. The original schedule included the expectation that we would have seven – eight synchronized skating teams to accommodate with all additional practice ice time and effort

necessary made to avoid skaters in more than one event competing back-to-back. The synchronized skating coaches have kept us updated of their plans, prompting a rethink of the schedule that makes better use of the ice time and recognises that Monday is a statutory holiday.

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the Postponed 2020 New Zealand Figure Skating Championships to be held in Dunedin 24 – 27 October. Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, the order of the events is however very likely to change.

Friday 23 October

Unofficial practices

Saturday 24 October

Waltzing Trophy
 Basic Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS
 Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men SP
 Senior Ladies & Men SP
 Synchro FS (including Adults)

Sunday 25 October

Ice Dance RD and PD (all grades)
 Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men FS
 Senior Ladies & Men FS
 Adult Freeskate

Monday 26 October

Ice Dance FD (all grades)
 Pairs FS (all grades)
 Intermediate Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS
 Advanced Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men SP
 Adult Interpretive

Tuesday 27 October

Juvenile Under 12, Ladies & Men FS
 Advanced Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Official practices are expected to be held each morning with competition in the afternoon/evening as per the draft outline below. Ice time will be made available for unofficial practices. The times outlined below are **indicative only**.

| Days/Dates | Official Practice | Competition | Unofficial Practice |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Friday 23 October | | | 2:00 – 7:00pm |
| Saturday 24 October | 8:00 – 12:00 noon | 3:00 – 8:00pm | 8:00 – 9:30pm |
| Sunday 25 October | 8:00 – 12:00 noon | 3:00 – 8:00pm | 8:00 – 9:30pm |
| Monday 26 October | 8:00 – 12:30pm | 12:30 – 5:00pm | 5:00 – 7:00pm |
| Tuesday 27 October | 8:00 – 11:00am | 11:00am – 3:30pm | |

SUPPORT SERVICES

We are aware of the additional impact COVID-19 has had on some of the members of our skating community and we would like to remind members of the following support services that are available within New Zealand.

Need to talk? Free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor
Lifeline 0800 543 354 (0800 LIFELINE) or free text HELP (4357)
Suicide Crisis Helpline 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO)
Healthline 0800 611 116
Samaritans 0800 726 666

ANTI-DOPING SEMINARS

NZIFSA are committed to supporting Drug Free Sport NZ anti-doping education programmes as part of keeping our sport clean and free from drug cheats. The rescheduling of North Island, South Island and our National Championships impacts on the plans we had for running anti-doping seminars at these events. We will be looking to reschedule these seminars and will advise when we have more information.

ISU SCHOLARSHIP AND MENTORING PROGRAM

Debbie Darvill, a longstanding coach in Auckland, received an email from the NZIFSA with an attachment letter from the ISU offering her a scholarship to a mentoring program for Ice Dance. This caught her completely off guard as she had no prior knowledge this was going to happen. Debbie stated that she “was completely blown away and so humbled”.

Attending Ice Dance seminars previously has been about getting Debbie and her skaters, Ann Kyle and Blake Barraclough, noticed and putting New Zealand on the international map. Seoul, South Korea in 2015 was the first of many seminars. Last year, Oberstdorf in Germany was definitely a highlight. Debbie and her ice dance team are the first New Zealanders to attend this seminar. Stepping on the ice where great skaters have gone before us gave Debbie butterflies!



Maurizio Margaglio, ISU Head Ice Dance Coach and Moderator of dance seminars has been in touch with Debbie about how the ISU see this mentoring program working. There will be a group of selected ice dance coaches included and one on one time with our mentors. Three world top ice dance coaches involved are Maurizio Margaglio, Michael Webster (English trained and based in Italy), and Carol Lane (Canadian Olympic coach). All have so much knowledge and experience. Wow, what a privilege having these people to help. Answering a questionnaire will help address the needs of each coach more accurately.

All mentoring will be virtual (in light of the pandemic, the way of the world now). Synchronized Skating mentoring has worked virtually for some years with the mentored, now mentoring. This is the ultimate goal for Ice Dance. Mentoring is planned to begin on the 1st September 2020 through to 28 February 2021.

Even after coaching 43 years, Debbie still feels that she has so much more to learn and give to skaters and coaches alike. This opportunity is going to provide Debbie with another avenue for learning her craft and she says that she is definitely up for the challenge.

Congratulations to Debbie for being recognised by the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee for her work in coaching, particularly in Ice Dance, and we wish her all the best for her mentoring programme.

KIWISKATE & INTRODUCTION TO COACHING COURSE

If all goes to plan the following KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Course is to be held:

Christchurch 10-11 October (registrations close 20 September)

This course is open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The course covers 2 levels:

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

The course will start at approximately 3:00pm on the Saturday and finish around 2:30pm on the Sunday. Please plan any travel around these times. You must attend both days to complete the course. A schedule will be sent later which will specify course times and content. The fee for the Kiwiskate Assistant and Intro to Coaching Course is \$70.00 (this includes \$10 for the manual). You must be a financial coaching member of the NZIFSA to attend the course. KiwiSkate Coach Membership is \$20 for new coach members.

To register for this course please complete the online registration form and make payment by direct credit to the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Association, 01-0806-0048118-00 by **Sunday 20 September**

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/IntroductionToCoachingCourseChristchurchOctober2020>

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

We are still looking into dates for rescheduling the KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Courses that had been planned for Auckland and Dunedin in March this year that we had to cancel. We had hoped to have an update for you in this newsletter but have been somewhat distracted of late with rescheduling of competitions.

LAST CHANCE - NOMINATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AND SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS ARE DUE BY 1 SEPTEMBER

We would like to encourage you to nominate those outstanding administrators and the skaters who display the attributes of a great sportsperson for the NZIFSA Administrator of the Year Award and the Sportsperson of the Year Award respectively.

Nominations must be received by the General Secretary secretary@nzifsa.org.nz by **1 September**. The Board will be the selectors for this award and will announce the recipients at the social function at the end of the 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships.

Criteria for the Administrator of the Year Award

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club / sub-association
- Take on administrative/organisational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club / sub-association.
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club / sub-association

Criteria for Nomination for Sportsperson of the Year Award

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a 'fair play' attitude/good sportpersonship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, KiwiSkate coaching sessions, etc.

NOTE: While skating achievement is considered, it is not the basis of this award

OUR CODE OF ETHICS

NZIFSA are committed to providing a safe environment for our skaters, coaches, officials and the many volunteers that make this wonderful sport happen in New Zealand. Our Code of Ethics forms an important part of creating this safe environment. You can find the NZIFSA Code of Ethics near the very top of the Rules & Regulations page on our NZIFSA website <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/rules/>. We have also appended it here as quick reference for you of the ethical obligations we each have.

All the best in skating
Anita Tamepo and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA

NZIFSA CODE of ETHICS

Version 3 (9 April 2016)

1. Purpose

This Code of Ethics describes the ethical conduct expected of the NZIFSA, its individual members, coaching members and officials, judges, administrators and volunteers when involved in NZIFSA related activities.

2. Application and Interpretation

The Code applies to the NZIFSA, all its members, coaching members, its Affiliated Clubs and Sub-Associations, and officials, judges, administrators and volunteers, in all activities conducted under the general authority of the NZIFSA. The Constitution and New Zealand law shall apply to its interpretation.

3. Ethical obligations of the NZIFSA

The NZIFSA shall:

- act with fairness, honesty and integrity in all of its activities;
- conduct its affairs in a transparent and open manner except for personnel matters, for the discussion of issues which were brought to the NZIFSA in confidence, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice, or where required by a commercial non-disclosure agreement or the law; and
- be accountable to its members and involve them in the governance of the NZIFSA.

4. Ethical obligations of each individual member

Each member of the NZIFSA has the following obligations:

- to comply with the Constitution, the Regulations and New Zealand law;
- to respect, promote and practise fair play, honesty and sportsmanship;
- to treat everyone equally regardless of gender, disability, ethnic origins or religion;
- to show friendship and respect to others in the sport by rejecting cheating, gamesmanship, doping, physical and verbal abuse or aggression, exploitation, or any form of behaviour that brings the sport into disrepute or is likely to prove harmful to any other participant in the sport;
- to be courteous and respectful at all times towards officials, competitors and other members, and to acknowledge and appreciate the role that each has in the sport;
- to be mindful of the vulnerability of young athletes to deceit, manipulation and false promises of success and fame, to maintain the highest standards of personal behaviour towards them, to respect them as individuals and to protect them from abuse or exploitation of any kind, including sexual exploitation; and
- to behave always in a manner that promotes trust and confidence amongst other members, the media and the public.

5. Ethical obligations of elected office-bearers and appointed officials

Those elected as Officers and appointed as officials of the NZIFSA have the following additional obligations:

- to actively avoid voting upon, or in any other way influencing any decision where the member has a personal or financial interest greater than that of the members generally. This includes, but is not limited to, interests in personal or family gain, public acclaim advantage or opportunity, the award of contracts, the purchase of goods and services, engaging of consultants, payment or reimbursement for services performed for the NZIFSA, hiring of employees and the allocation of NZIFSA resources.
- to declare immediately any conflict of interest, actual or potential, and to abstain from taking part in decision-making in such situations;
- to actively avoid any opportunity to reward or bring advantage to friends, family, the coach of a family member or fellow club members through the holding of office, and to consciously avoid biased or parochial attitudes or behaviour in the administration of NZIFSA affairs;
- to actively avoid favouritism for or prejudice against any Member, Officer, official or coach;
- to actively avoid accepting cash, travel, hotel accommodations, entertainment or other benefits and favours except as customary in the normal course of duty to the sport or commercial activity carried out by the NZIFSA. Favours and benefits with a value in excess of \$200 must be reported to the NZIFSA Board without undue delay.
- to keep confidential all NZIFSA information as required by law or the Constitution, Regulations or meeting procedures; and
- to ensure that NZIFSA properties, funds, services and influence are not taken or used for private gain.

6. Ethical obligation of coaches

Each coaching member of the NZIFSA has the following additional obligations:

- to respect the talent, development stage and goals of each athlete in order to help each athlete reach their potential.
- to not disclose any confidential information relating to athletes without their prior written consent.
- to accept all athletes are deserving of equal attention and opportunities and ensure the athletes time spent with you is a positive experience.
- to show concern and caution towards ill or injured athletes with any further participation in training and competition, by these skaters, only when appropriate and encourage athlete to seek medical advice when required
- to refrain from any form of verbal, physical or emotional abuse towards your athletes.
- to ensure any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athletes' skill development.
- to respect another coaches teaching method and/or techniques. Respect another person's opinion.
- to display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation.
- to ensure equipment, rules training and the environment is appropriate for the age, physical, emotional maturity, experience and ability of the athletes.

- to seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education, and other personal and professional development opportunities.
- to keep up to date with NZIFSA and ISU Rules & Regulations and relevant NZIFSA Policies.

7. Accountability

Alleged violations of this Code should be brought to the attention of the Board for consideration. All violations of this Code are detrimental to the best interests of the sport and breaches may be dealt with by the Board under Clause 3.6 of the Constitution.