

August 2009

COMMUNICATION 042

WINTERGAMES^{NZ}

Winter Games NZ Logo

Expansion of the New Zealand Team for the NZ Winter Games

As you know, New Zealand will be hosting its first international figure skating competition as part of the 100% Pure New Zealand Winter Games. This has proven to be a big learning curve for all involved and working within a 'Games' format rather than doing the competition ourselves has also provided us with different aspects to consider as we are only one of a number of winter sports taking part in these Games.

The economic climate and the fact that we are located so far from other skating centres has proven to be a stumbling block, particularly in getting competitors from a number of different countries to participate in the competition. With this being our inaugural international competition, the eyes of the other federations are on us to see how we cope as are the eyes of the Winter Games

Organising Committee to see how the Figure Skating event works. There has been a real risk of the competition not going ahead due to the lack of competitors while we would still be liable for expenses already incurred. If the competition did not proceed, this would make it very difficult for us to have credibility with other federations for holding an international competition in the future. Therefore, the NZISA Council had to make some difficult decisions in the week prior to the Council meeting and at the Council meeting that was held on 2 August.

In order to have enough competitors to secure World Standing points (8 competitors and 4 different countries) and to ensure that Japan and Korea would take part (World Standing points were a condition they required going into the Olympic season), we have had to expand the NZ team competing at the Winter Games by naming a 'B' squad.

In making the events qualify for World Standing points, this has meant that there were extra positions available and, unfortunately, we were not able to get other countries to commit to coming to the competition or for the countries that have confirmed that they are coming to send extra competitors. World Standing points are also important to our own skater, Allie Rout, as she makes her bid to represent us at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver at the Olympic Qualifying event in Germany in September and for seeding at World Championships. This has meant that we have had to look at skaters within NZ to fill the available positions. We have named the following skaters to the 'B' squad based on test requirements held, TES points and/or the grade they have competed in at competitions this season.

These 'B' squad skaters are only

Expansion of the New Zealand Team for the NZ Winter Games continued

named for the NZ Winter Games event and are not part of the International Development squad (unless they were named as part of the squad at the 2008 NZ National Championships). This means that these skaters should have no expectation and are not entitled to compete at other international events until they hold the required tests, make the TES points needed and compete at the 2009 NZ or Australian National Championships in order to be considered for the International Development squad. On this last point the Council were very clear due to the ramifications it has for the future and in respect for the skaters who are currently in the International Development squad, as they were named as our representatives for the NZ Winter Games, and have already fulfilled the requirements to be in this development tier.

The Council has passed the following resolution:

"That as extra positions for NZ skaters at the NZ Winter Games have become available and the continuance of a figure skating event at the Winter Games is at risk, that a B squad of skaters be named for the NZ Winter Games international competition as fol-

lows:

Senior Men - Grant Howie
 Senior Ladies - Laura Mills
 Junior Men - Chris Boyd
 Junior Ladies - Ariel Nadas
 and Melissa Morris
 Novice Ladies - Christina Floka

These skaters are named only for the NZ Winter Games event and are not part of the International Development Squad until they hold the required



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test and meet the required TES points for the grade."

Elizabeth O'Neill and Caitlyn Paul (Senior Ladies) and Ayesha Campbell (Junior Ladies) have been named as substitutes as the next skaters who qualify for these events should any NZ skater have to withdraw.

The Council is very much aware that this does not fit in with the current Selection Policy which is currently under review. The Council decided

to go with this suggestion due to all of the factors that have been discussed above. The Council members who had a conflict of interest, i.e. children who were being considered, in the naming of the 'B' squad were not part of the discussion or vote.

The Council appreciates the fact that this decision will not be considered favourably by everyone in the NZ Skating Community. However, in light of the reasons given above for making this decision, it is hoped that the NZ Skating Community will see this decision was made for the benefit of the skaters already involved in the NZ Winter Games as well as the credibility of New Zealand as part of the international skating community. We definitely want to be considered to be part of the future NZ Winter Games which will be held every two years and to establish the competition as a regular part of the ISU Calendar of events so that we are not faced with this dilemma again and we have even more countries who wish to take part because of the success of the 2009 event.

Sandra Williamson-Leadley
 President

On behalf of the NZISA Council