



The NZIFSA Board, Development Group and Operations Group would like to wish all the members of the NZ Skating Community a ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*** It has been a tough year for many people, and we hope that you have a wonderful summer break and come back recharged ready for 2022 - let's make it a better skating year together!

2022 is going to be an exciting year with the Olympic Winter Games scheduled for 4 – 20 February. While we don't have any New Zealand skaters at the Winter Olympics, Jojo Hong, and our Senior Dance couple, Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam have already qualified to compete at the **2022 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships**. Charlotte & Ricky have also already qualified to compete at the **2022 World Figure Skating Championships**, and Jojo is aiming to qualify at Four Continents or Challenge Cup.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

If you have been following the international competitions, you will be aware that quite a few competitions are being cancelled at short notice. Skaters are therefore having to be agile about what competitions they enter, as well as navigating COVID-19 requirements.

Tayside Trophy, Dundee, United Kingdom, 6-7 November 2021

Junior Women	Ally Landon-Lane	SP 11 th /11	FS 8 th /11	Overall 9 th /11
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Open d'Andorra, Canillo, Andorra, 24-28 November 2021

Senior Dance	Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam	RD 7 th /12	FD 6 th /12	Overall 7 th /12
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15th Santa Claus Cup, Budapest, Hungary, 6-10 December 2021

Junior Men	Doug Gerber	SP 6 th /12	FS 4 th /12	Overall 4 th /12
Senior Men	Doug Gerber	SP 7 th /9	FS 4 th /9	Overall 6 th /9
Senior Dance	Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam	RD 4 th /9	FD 4 th /9	Overall 4 th /9

Unfunded Team Leader Christian Fournier

Charlotte and Ricky withdrew from the Warsaw Cup that they had previously planned to compete at.

CONGRATULATIONS DOUG GERBER

Doug Gerber had headed to Europe to compete in both Junior and Senior. Unfortunately, the Junior and Novice competition at Golden Spin was cancelled with only the Challenger series Senior events being held. In addition, the Open Belarus Cup was postponed. Doug had to change his plans very late in the piece so he could compete Junior and Senior at the Santa Claus Cup in Budapest instead.

This was Doug's first ever international competition and while things didn't go quite as planned, he should be very pleased with how he did. Landing his Triple Axel in competition is certainly something he can be proud of. Doug had been hoping to qualify for Junior Worlds and Four Continents. His TES for Junior was less than 2 points off in the SP and less than 1 point in the FS for qualifying for Junior Worlds. There are limited international competitions between now



and the closing dates for Junior Worlds, but this is something he is looking at. In the Senior event he was less than 4 points off in the SP but made the TES in the FS for Four Continents with a big margin to spare. Unfortunately, there are no other opportunities between now and the closing date for Four Continents to achieve the SP TES. All in all, a really outstanding first international outing that included Doug landing a 3A in competition.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

We have skaters planning to attend the following international competitions and look forward to reporting on these.

2022 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Tallinn, Estonia, 18-23 January 2022

Senior Women Jojo Hong
Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam
Grant Howie has been named as Team Leader for this event

Bavarian Open, Oberstdorf, Germany, 18-23 January 2022

Junior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

Maria Olszewska Memorial, Lodz, Poland, 26-30 January 2022

Junior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

Challenge Cup, Tilburg, Netherlands, 24-27 February 2022

Senior Women Jojo Hong

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

Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

If Jojo also qualifies, Kevin Poit will be named as Team Leader for this event.

Ally Landon-Lane had been planning to attend the Reykjavik International Games, Iceland, 4-6 February 2021, but has had to withdraw from this event.

RESULTS FROM RECENT OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

South Australian State Championships, Adelaide, Australia, 9 – 10 October 2021

Senior Men Doug Gerber SP 1st/1 FS 1st/1 Overall 1st/1

The results from this competition are now available.

Swan Trophy, Perth, Australia, 30– 31 October 2021

Junior Men Doug Gerber SP 1st/2 FS 1st/2 Overall 1st/2

Burnsville Minnesota Valley, USA, 6 November 2021

Excel Juvenile Plus Olivia Hughes Overall 7th/7

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

As outlined in the October Newsletter, with the cancellation of our 2021 National Championships, alternative plans were put in place to be able to name International Representatives.

Where skaters are still age eligible, selections for the International representative teams have been rolled over from 2020/21 selections from our 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships. Skaters who have qualified for international selection since, including at the Selection event in Dunedin 18-20 June 2020, have been added to this list. Skaters who are no longer competing, or who did not compete in 2021, have been removed from the list.

Skaters marked with an * are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in because of their age. Skaters marked with ** will age out of the indicated grade at 1 July 2022.

International A Team Representative Skaters

Advanced Novice Ladies

Hope Zhang**



Junior Ladies

Dani Gebser**

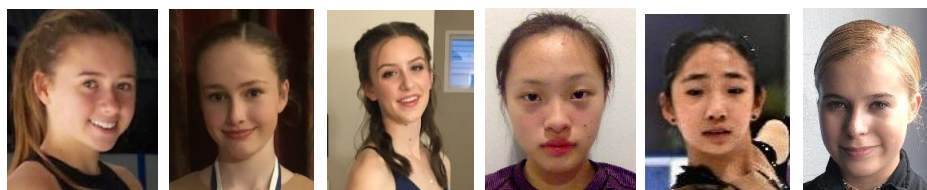
Mirika Armstrong

Ella Smith**

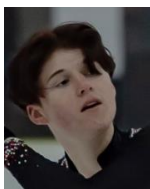
Ruth Xu*

Jojo Hong *

Ally Landon-Lane



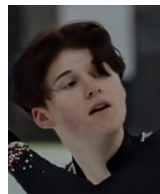
Junior Men
Douglas Gerber*



Senior Ladies
Ruth Xu
Jojo Hong



Senior Men
Douglas Gerber



Senior Dance
Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

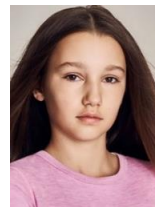


International B Team Representative Skaters

Basic Novice Ladies
Sophie Pokorny
Christine Aixinjueluo**
Alethea Wong**



Intermediate Novice Ladies
Jazmyn Evangelou
Georgia Chinn**
Cara Tang
Ann Kyle
Olivia Pokorny**



Advanced Novice Ladies
Brooke Cathro
Rebekah Sime**



Junior Ladies
Asia Tapealava**
Misaki Joe
Hannah Sime**
Natasha Woodacre



Intermediate Novice Dance
Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering



Junior Dance

Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday **



Mixed Age Synchro

Cutting Edge: Zara Anthony-Whigham

- Djuna Elkan
- Anya Gipp
- Abby Grimaldi
- Amelie Henderson
- Rachael Jannink
- Levi Keller
- Rosie Maley
- Jazelle McCormick
- Katie Sewell
- Briar Short
- Katie St Clair-Newman
- Paige Symister
- Tallulah Wilson-Brown



For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ national championships and must meet the grade requirements for that competition. This is the team from the 2020 National Champs.

NZIFSA DEVELOPMENT SQUAD FOR 2021/22

Where skaters are still age eligible, selections for the Development Squad have been rolled over from 2020/21 selections from our 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships. Selections to the Development Squad from the 2021 South Island Championships have been added to the list and are marked with ^. For our Auckland skaters that have moved up a grade and haven't had the opportunity to be considered for Development Squad selections in their new grade in 2021, their inclusion has been based on their results at competitions earlier in the season. These selections are indicated with ^^, along with skaters that have qualified for international selection in their new grade this year and would be expected to have made the Development Squad selections if North Island Championships or our 2021 National Championships had been held.

Development Squad selections are listed alphabetically by surname.

Pre Elementary Under 12

Luna Wu^^



Juvenile Under 12

Yuhuan Ding^

Olivia Marks^



Basic Novice Under 12

Kaci Jonker^
Lilah Langi-Scott^
Sophie Pokorny^^
Emily Yang^^
April Yao^^



Basic Novice Ladies

Mira Ren^^
Kelly Zou



Intermediate Novice Ladies

Christine Aixinjueluo^^
Georgia Chinn^^
Jazmyn Evangelou
Mya Jonker^
Alethea Wong^^
Connie Yang^^



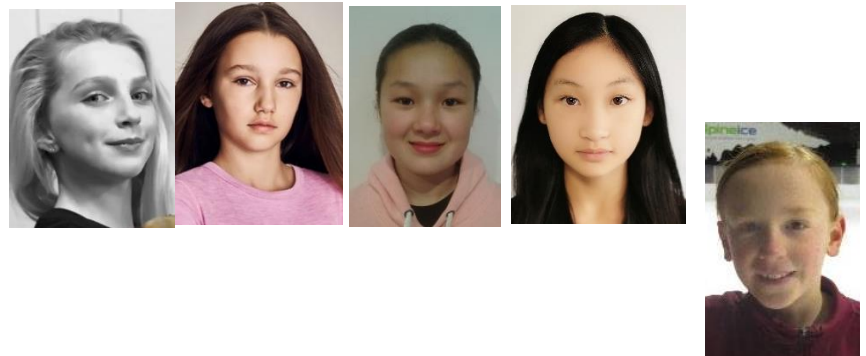
Advanced Novice Under 12

Ann Kyle^^



Advanced Novice Ladies

Brooke Cathro
Olivia Pokorny^^
Hannah Sutton
Cara Tang^^



Advanced Novice Men

Star Richens^

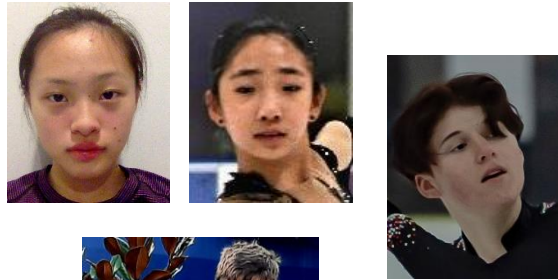
Junior Ladies

Mirika Armstrong
Dani Gebser
Misaki Joe
Ally Landon-Lane^^
Hannah Sime
Ella Smith
Asia Tapealava
Natasha Woodacre
Hope Zhang^^



Senior Ladies

Ruth Xu
Jojo Hong^^



Senior Men

Douglas Gerber

Advanced Novice Dance

Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering^



Junior Dance

Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday^^

Senior Dance

Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam^^



SELECTION COMPETITION, DUNEDIN 18 – 20 JUNE 2022

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, 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 skating, who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2022.

Normally there would be a requirement that skaters were only eligible for selection at this event if they had competed at the previous National Championships. Given the cancellation of the 2021 National Championships the Board have confirmed that for 2022 there will be no requirement to have competed at the previous Nationals, and that the event will be open to all skaters, couples, and teams that meet the other requirements for international selection.

Age eligibility for entry into Selection Competition

Discipline	Grade	Age as at 1 st July 2022
Singles	Basic Novice	Under 13
	Intermediate Novice	Under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior	Is at least 15
Dance	Basic Novice	Under 13
	Intermediate Novice	Under 15

	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Ladies under 15, Men under 17
	Junior	Is at least 13, but Ladies under 19, Men under 21
	Senior	Is at least 15
Pairs	Basic Novice	Under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Ladies under 15, Men under 17
	Junior	Is at least 13, but Ladies under 19, Men under 21
	Senior	Is at least 15
Synchronised Skating*	Mixed Age Novice	No age restrictions
	Basic Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 15
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior	Is at least 15

* At least 75% of team must meet age requirements, and to retain selection 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team at the selection competition; all must meet the grade requirements for the international competition

2022 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AUCKLAND, 18 – 21 OCTOBER 2022

We are very pleased to confirm that the 2022 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will be held at Paradise Botany, Auckland and hosted by the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association. The competition will run Tuesday 18 – Friday 21 October (i.e. the first week of Term 4). We will have a provisional schedule for you early in the new year indicating what events will be held on which days.

VIRTUAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2021 AWARDS

At our National Championships we would normally have announced the winners of the Administrator of the Year, Sportsperson of the Year, and presented the Norman Cameron Cup of Excellence if deemed appropriate. Instead, we would like to recognize these awards with a recorded presentation that we will make available in January. Below please find the nominations we received for the Administrator of the Year and the Sportsperson of the Year Awards.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

There were five nominations for this award this year and each of the nominees have made a significant contribution to the administration of our sport. The nominees were Katherine Bennetts, Mandi Gerber, Selina Rae, Sharon Scholtz and Karen Smith.

Criteria:

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club/sub association

- Take on administrative/organizational 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.

Katherine Bennetts – Centaurus Ice Skating Club

Katherine first joined the Centaurus Ice Skating Club Committee in November 2013 and took the helm as President the following year. After two years as President, she took a break from the role to focus on other commitments but stepped up again in 2018 and has remained in the position since then. As Centaurus President, Katherine works hard to foster a positive club environment and find ways the club can improve and provide opportunities for club skaters to achieve their aims. She actively encourages parents and skaters to get involved in the running of the club and in any club events. Katherine runs a steady ship and is a great volunteer, wearing the Centaurus club jacket with pride. She puts herself forward for assisting at CMFSC Club Champs and this year took on a huge amount of the organisation and oversight of South Island Champs when it was jointly hosted by CISC & CMFSC.

Mandi Gerber - Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club

Mandi has a wealth of experience from years of club and sub-association membership, and is always willing to help. Most recently, she has taken on the co-ordination, organisation and execution of all North Island tests for the three representative clubs. Earlier this year, Mandi co-presented a NZIFSA workshop for data and replay operators, guiding new recruits in their practical training before the competition season. Mandi also serves in these roles at competitions, where she continues to mentor newer operators. Before a competition, Mandi works tirelessly behind the scenes, completing data input and constructing panels to ensure that the competitions run smoothly. Mandi has always been incredibly approachable, knowledgeable and humble, and is an asset to her club.

Selina Rae - Allegro Ice Dance Club

Selina has taken on the role of President in both the Allegro club and the North Island Sub-Association, and is doing a fantastic job in deftly balancing these positions. Due to her position in NISSA, she has also been responsible for overseeing both the organisation of NZ Nationals this year and its subsequent reorganisation for next year. Selina is passionate about creating opportunities for skaters. She works tirelessly and has an absolute will to see the sport succeed.

Sharon Scholtz - Allegro Ice Dance Club

Sharon has taken over the Allegro club secretary role from Bridget Danbrook this year: no easy task, but she has accomplished it with aplomb. In addition to capably handling the daily details of running the Allegro club, Sharon is also looking after all of the finance for the club's synchro teams. This is a massive administrative effort, for which the club is very grateful.

Karen Smith – Glenburn Figure Skating Club

Karen has been the President and Test Administrator of the Glenburn Figure Skating Club since 2020. Previously, she held the role of Club Secretary for 6 years. She is also currently the Vice President of the North Island Ice Skating Sub-Association. Karen both set up and maintains the Glenburn Figure Skating Club website. Her skills in this area are invaluable not only to the club and local area, but to skating in general. Under Karen's leadership, club membership has increased: no small feat considering rink closures and lockdown restrictions. She is constantly in communication with the members of the club: always ready to answer questions about

development in skating or provide information for skaters of any level of experience. Karen also works with local KiwiSkate groups to provide information that will assist in the transition from group learning to private lessons, and eventually into testing and competition. The annual Glenburn Figure Skating Club competition happens courtesy of Karen's exceptional organisational skills, and she is involved with organising fundraising for both the Glenburn Figure Skating Club and the North Island Ice Skating Sub-Association.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

Four people were nominated for this award. The nominees were Maddi Blincoe, Tracy Hipkiss, Victoria Larsen and Jenna Scholtz.

Criteria:

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a "fair play" attitude/good sportsmanship
- 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, Kiwi Skate coaching sessions

Maddi Blincoe - Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club

Maddi sets her sights high and works incredibly hard to make her dreams a reality. She shows true dedication to her sport and to her fellow skaters, and is willing to push herself outside her comfort zone. Despite the falls, Maddi always picks herself up and continues with a smile on her face. She never misses a practice and her constant positive attitude has helped lift many a training session. Maddi values her teammates and believes that 'giving back' to a sport that she loves is just as important as being in a winning team. Maddi skates in Youth Interpretive singles and is part of two synchro teams: Black Ice (Senior) and Silver Ice (Mixed Age). In Silver Ice, Maddi acts as a team captain. Her leadership on and off the ice has helped many new skaters and her enthusiasm is contagious. She always has a kind word for other skaters. Maddi is the first to volunteer for anything skating-related: she has participated in and helped organise fundraising initiatives, helped with costume 'blinging', run off ice classes and given up her time to help younger and less experienced synchro skaters. She is the first to volunteer at competitions, and will always put herself forward to help out in any capacity. Maddi is highly motivated, incredibly self-disciplined and at the same time is unpretentious and humble in her achievements. Her kindness and compassion, her unfailing loyalty and her perpetual cheerfulness make her the perfect team player.

Tracy Hipkiss – Allegro Ice Dance Club

Tracy's enthusiasm for ice skating and her love of the sport are well known. She has a great rapport with her young skaters and creates a safe, welcoming and happy learning environment. She continuously goes above and beyond, showing a tireless commitment to the development of both her solo and synchro skaters.

Victoria Larsen – Glenburn Figure Skating Club

Victoria demonstrates a welcoming, fair-play attitude both on and off the ice and is a positive role model for all skaters. In the past 12 months, Victoria has had major surgery on her knee: she had to return to walking and running before she could return to skating. She has put in a lot of hard work and shown dedication and commitment to the sport she loves. During this time, Victoria could be found at many competitions, including Nationals, supporting others. Her supportive

nature shows equally in Victoria's involvement in other aspects of skating: she coaches skate school with enthusiasm and excitement; she participates in club activities; and she is never short of ideas for fund-raising.

Jenna Scholtz – Allegro Ice Dance Club

Jenna is dedicated to skating as a sport and the development of the younger skaters. Jenna will often be found at additional training sessions working with younger skaters helping them to learn new skills. She gives up her time on a weekly basis to be with younger synchro teams and is always there encouraging them at competitions, even if she is not skating herself. Jenna has also spent time this year improving her own coaching skills so she can assist further skaters in the future. She is truly dedicated to the sport

NORMAN CAMERON CUP OF EXCELLENCE

The cup is awarded to the skater, couple, pair or team that has excelled in skating over the year, in international competitions or have had an outstanding year in skating. The trophy is only to be awarded if a skater deserves it and fits the above criteria. The Norman Cameron Cup was awarded in 2021 and we look forward to sharing this decision with you.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2022

In the January newsletter we will have details of the development activities for the year. Below we include a brief outline of what is planned.

Stroking Seminar refresher for Coaches & Judges

In response to several requests for a refresher for judges and coaches on the requirements of the Stroking tests, we are organising seminars to be held in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin. We are still finalising the dates, but at this stage please pencil in 19 & 20 February.

Coaching Courses

At least three KiwiSkate and Introduction to Coaching Courses are planned. At this stage a course in Auckland and in Christchurch in Term 1, and a course in Otago/Southland early in April/May.

The ISU are still developing the materials for their Level 2 and 3 courses (which equate to our Level 1 and 2) and we expect it to be 2023 before we will be able to deliver these.

Officials Training in April & May

- Referee training. Three separate online workshops (singles/pairs- pairs H & S aspects) (SYS) (Dance).
- New Probationary SYS and Dance - online session
- SYS Tech Panel - face to face if possible
- SYS Judges – online session
- Dance Tech Panel - face to face if possible.
- Dance Judges – online session.
- Data/Replay - online session

Skater Development

Dates, locations and the specifics of each workshop are still being confirmed, however, we are planning the following:

- **Singles Basic Novice to Senior** Regional Workshops with virtual international coaches. Auckland (x2), South Island (x2). April school holidays.
- **Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile** 2-day workshops (x3), Auckland, Christchurch and Otago/Southland. May.
- **Ice Dance, All levels.** Pattern dance, 2-day workshop, Dunedin.
- **Synchronized Skating, All Levels.** 3-day workshops (x2) Auckland and Dunedin.

GATHERING AND EVENTS UNDER THE COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

Under the Covid Protection Framework there are different Rules for activities at the different traffic light levels depending on whether an activity is classified as an Event or a Gathering, and whether vaccine passes are required or not. Sport NZ has provided some additional "[Guidance on events...](#)" Based on this and further clarification at an additional Sport NZ forum specifically to discuss events, the Board have determined that club competitions, Otago Southland Champs and test sessions, where we are likely to know most of the people present - can be classed as "gatherings". The Selection Competition, Nationals and North and South Island Champs are deemed "events" at this point in time. Please refer to the information on the Sport NZ website [COVID-19 Protection Framework | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa \(sportnz.org.nz\)](#).

Most, but not all, rinks have determined that a Covid Vaccine Pass is required for everyone over 12 years and 3 months. For commercial rinks to remain financially viable at the Orange and Red Traffic Light settings, this decision is a necessity. Ice Sports Southland do not require vaccine passes, though they have communicated to their members that Vaccine Passes may be required for some activities.

In addition to any vaccine pass requirements required by a given rink, the NZIFSA Board have confirmed that all competitions will require Vaccine Passes (plus appropriate health measures as deemed necessary – e.g. masks, distancing etc). Test sessions will not require vaccine passes unless already a requirement of the rink. However, additional health requirements need to be in place – particularly where vaccine passes are not required – masks, distancing, no spectators etc. The NZIFSA will be communicating with Clubs and Officials regarding what those additional requirements will be. In the meantime, all requests for judges for test sessions still need to be sent to the NZIFSA Test & Competition Secretary, Ina Paul. This is to help minimise the pressure put on judges to be available to judge if they have concerns regarding their risk of exposure to COVID 19.

OFFICIALS DIRECTOR - CASUAL VACANCY TO BE FILLED.

Melissa Cummings is stepping down from her role of Officials Director due to family commitments. The CEO and Board wish to extend their sincere thanks for the contribution Melissa has made in this role.

As allowed for in the Constitution, the Board are seeking to fill this vacancy, with the appointee to hold office until the next AGM (9 April 2022). The Board are calling for expressions of interest

to be sent to the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz by 8 January 2022. Please include a CV that highlights what skills you have that are relevant to the role. The [Job Description](#) for the role can be found on the NZIFSA Rules & Regulations tab on our website, alongside the Governance and Management Policy

NZIFSA AGM, CHRISTCHURCH 9 APRIL 2022

The 2022 NZIFSA AGM will be held on Saturday 9 April in Christchurch. We will have more details for you in the new year.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 11 January. 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 4 January at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the February meeting.

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