



Christmas is just about upon us and the NZIFSA Board, Development and Operations Groups would like to wish all our members of the NZ Skating Community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

There were lots of things to celebrate in 2022 with the New Zealand and international COVID management requirements have eased sufficiently to allow us to hold skater and coach development activities, run all planned competitions, and for skaters to travel to international competitions again. However, it has been another pretty tough year for many people, with COVID impacting people's health training plans. The additional uncertainty that the COVID pandemic has introduced is tiring and we can see many people are ready for a holiday. We hope that you have a wonderful summer break and come back recharged ready for 2023 – let's make it a better skating year together!

WORLD ICE SKATING DAY – 4 DECEMBER 2022

New Zealand ended up with three events registered as part of the ISU World Ice Skating Day. Dunedin Ice Stadium offered a public session with Koha entry, AIFSC held their Funskate where friends and family were encouraged to take to the ice (see photo below), and GFSC and Paradise Avondale teamed up to present the annual Ice Festival and offering the opportunity for people to win 15 x double passes via a Facebook promotion.

In addition to this there were a couple of events that were not registered, but where something special was done to celebrate World Ice Skating Day. Alpine Ice in Christchurch offered 2 for 1 entry to their two public sessions that day, and AISC ended up having a get together on Rollerblades and roller skates on the rink – a great idea when they don't have ice.

A huge thank you to all those who were involved in organising these events.

World Ice Skating Day is to be an annual event on the first Sunday in December. Please mark Sunday 3 December 2023 in your calendars.



RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

It has been a busy month with skaters competing at several international competitions. Well done to all of our skaters.

Santa Claus Cup, Budapest, Hungary, 28 November – 4 December

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Senior Dance | Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam | RD 4 th /13 | FD 4 th /13 | Overall 4 th /13 |
| Unfunded Team Leader | Christian Fournier | | | |

Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy, Jakarta, Indonesia, 5-9 December

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Junior Women | Misaki Joe | SP 13 th /18 | FS 11 th /18 | Overall 12 th /18 |
| Junior Women | Mirika Armstrong | SP 15 th /18 | FS 15 th /18 | Overall 15 th /18 |
| Senior Men | Douglas Gerber | SP 4 th /8 | FS 2 nd /8 | Overall 3 rd /8 |
| Coach | Rosie Armstrong | | | |
| Team Leader | Rachael Jannink and then Graeme Joe as Unfunded Team Leader when COVID struck. | | | |

It was great to have a team at this event again this year. We would like to extend a special thank you to Graeme Joe for stepping into the Team Leader role when Rachael Jannink tested positive for COVID soon after arriving in Jakarta.



Back row Richard Laidlaw, Rosie Armstrong, Graeme Joe. Front row Douglas Gerber, Misaki Joe, Mirika Armstrong.

Some reflections from Mirika Armstrong

Lovely welcomes as soon I arrived, entertaining rides to the rink with the surrounding environment of chaos on the streets. Loved the ice rink in the shopping mall, however the air was very humid and heavy inside which made it difficult to breath when skating. Managed to push through and overall amazing experience with watching high level skaters and spending time with the other NZ skaters. Very grateful for this experience :)

And from Misaki Joe

I felt all the emotions prior to arriving in Jakarta, Indonesia for the competition, being excited and overwhelmed. When I arrived the nerves started to sneak in and I could feel the pressure in doing well and making my country proud.

The organisers were very kind and helpful in creating a safe-feeling atmosphere, and the ice was nice to skate on as it was like Auckland and Dunedin ice mixed together. I had a bit of difficulty with practices and competition because of the massive change in climate compared to

New Zealand, though it was great to experience such a different environment.

I enjoyed this competition very much with plenty of positive outcomes, and also things I know I need to work and improve on. It was also quite an eye opener for me, as I got to see & practice with so many higher level skaters from other countries and make some nice new friends.



Congratulations Douglas on your Bronze Medal

54th Golden Spin of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, 7-10 December

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Senior Dance | Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam | RD 10 th /20 | FD 10 th /20 | Overall 10 th /20 |
| | Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday | RD 19 th /20 | FD 20 th /20 | Overall 20 th /20 |
| Team Leader | Suzanne Cunningham | | | |

What a novelty to have two Senior Ice Dance couples at the one international competition.



Isabelle Guise, Ethan Alday, Ricky Kam and Charlotte Lafond-Fournier at the Golden Spin competition.

From Charlotte & Ricky

For the first time, we competed at two competitions back to back in Europe, and though it was quite an intense schedule, it ended up being a great experience. We were really happy to compete at the Golden Spin of Zagreb Challenger series alongside our New Zealand team mates and it helped create a great team atmosphere. It was also a pleasure to have a great team leader by our side, so thank you to Suzanne Cunningham for being there for us and our needs. After our last two competitions of the year, we are now ready to go back to work. With the results and the comments we received, we know what to improve on and what to work on, and we can't wait to show the improvements at the Four Continents Championship!

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Edusport Trophy, Bucharest, Romania, 11 - 15 January 2023

Senior Women Jojo Hong

Britannia Cup, Nottingham, Great Britain, 14 - 15 January 2023

Sandra Williamson-Leadley has been invited to officiate as Technical Controller at this Synchronized Skating competition.

Bavarian Open 2023, Oberstdorf, Germany, 31 January - 5 February 2023

Senior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

Jegrivag Cup, Miskolc, Hungary 4 - 5 February 2023

Senior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

Egna Dance Trophy, Egna, Italy, 9 - 12 February 2023

Senior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Colorado Springs, USA, 7 - 10 February

Senior Women Jojo Hong
Senior Men Douglas Gerber
Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam
Team Leader To be appointed still
Judge Sue Petricevic
Judge Sandra Williamson-Leadley

ISU Junior World Figure Skating Championships, Calgary, Canada, 27 February - 5 March

Junior Men Dwayne Li
Coach & Unfunded TL Bess Cao

ISU World Figure Skating Championships, Saitama, Japan, 20 - 26 March

Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam
Team Leader To be appointed still

ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 15-20 May

Bronze IV Women Artistic & Freeskate Trish Weir
Bronze III Men Artistic & Freeskate Alastair Christie
Silver IV Women, Artistic & Freeskate Tammy Cowan

UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Britannia Cup, Nottingham, Great Britain, 14 - 15 January 2023

Mixed Age Cutting Edge

Amade Cup, Salzburg, Austria, 20 - 22 January 2023

Mixed Age Cutting Edge

**OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHES SEMINAR, AUCKLAND
15-19 MAY 2023**

NZIFSA are co-hosting with Ice Skating Australia the Oceania International Competition. The competition is for Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance for Basic Novice to Senior level skaters and is to run 15-17 May. The competition will be followed by a coach development seminar 18 & 19 May. We will have more details about the competition and the coach's seminar in the New Year.

SELECTION COMPETITION, AUCKLAND 3 & 4 JUNE 2023

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 2023 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 competed at the 2022 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2023.

Age eligibility for entry into Selection Competition

| Discipline | Grade | Age as at 1 st July 2023 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 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 and Senior Elite 12 | 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

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2023

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

Skater Development

We have a number of workshops planned for 2023 and we are starting off with some youth interpretive workshops in February. The remaining workshops will be in April and May, we will have more details, including registration forms, for you closer to the time.

Youth Interpretive workshops in Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin

We have three Youth Interpretive development workshops planned for 2023. Each workshop has between 5 and 6 hours of ice time as well as off-ice activities. We are still working out the details of the off-ice activities, but below please find an indication of likely start and finish times each day for each workshop. Note these times are indicative only, and we will have detailed schedules for participants prior to each seminar.

Christchurch 11 & 12 February (starting 4:30pm on Saturday and finishing 3:00pm on Sunday)

Dunedin 11 & 12 February (starting 1:30pm on Saturday and finishing 2:00pm on Sunday)

Auckland (Botany) 18 & 19 February (starting 3:30pm on Saturday and finishing 6:45pm on Sunday)

Who are these workshops for?

These workshops are for any skaters aged at least 12 years and not more than 17 years at 1 July 2023.

Since we have opened the Youth Interpretive grade so that skaters can compete in both Youth Interpretive & standard events in 2023, we are also opening these workshops to all singles skaters who meet the age bracket requirement for Youth Interpretive. Skaters do not need to be club members to take part in these workshops. Hopefully if we can spark their interest, they will join clubs so that they can take part in club competitions in the future.

Registrations are due by **7pm on Saturday 21 January**. Skaters and coaches can register online at: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2023YouthInterpretiveWorkshopsAKLCHCDND>

The cost for skaters to attend is **\$100**.

Accredited Coaches may attend for free. Note, KiwiSkate or Apprentice Level 1 coaches can attend as coaches, but only if they are not planning to compete in the Youth Interpretive grade this year. They will be invoiced retrospectively if their plans change and they enter a Youth Interpretive competition in 2023.

Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 7-10 April

We are very pleased to advise that Keegan Murphy has confirmed his availability for this workshop.

Synchronized Skating, Auckland (Botany), 21-23 April

We are very pleased to advise that Heather Paige has confirmed her availability for this workshop. This workshop is not being offered to our adult teams. Alternative options are being considered.

Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Auckland (Botany) and Queenstown 29 & 30 April.

We will be calling for moderators for these two Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile workshops in January.

Coaching Courses

Three KiwiSkate and an Introduction to Coaching Courses are planned.

- KiwiSkate course – Dunedin 4 & 5 March
- KiwiSkate course – Auckland (Botany) 4 & 5 March
- KiwiSkate course – Christchurch 1 & 2 May

The current plan is to run the Introduction to Coaching course using the ISU Global coach education level 1 course materials later in Term 1 (potentially alongside the KiwiSkate course in Christchurch). We hope to be able to confirm dates in January.

The ISU are still developing the materials for their Level 3 and 4 courses (which equate to our Level 2 and 3) and we expect it to be later in 2023 before we will be able to deliver either of these.

Officials Training in March, April & May

- New Probationary and Tier 1 Officials - All Disciplines and Program Components - online session 11 & 12 March
- Referee training. All Disciplines - online sessions 18 March
- Singles & Pairs - Judge & Technical Seminar – Christchurch 29 & 30 April
- Synchronized & Ice Dance - Judge & Technical Seminar plus DO/RO – Christchurch 6 & 7 May

NZIFSA AGM – CHRISTCHURCH, SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Christchurch on 19 March and will be preceded by member forums. We encourage all clubs to ensure they have representation at the AGM.

The following is an indicative schedule so that clubs can look to book travel - AGM forums 10am – 12noon, then AGM 12noon – 1:00pm, followed by lunch and then Board and Ops & Dev Group meetings 2-6pm.

ACTING PRESIDENT – CAITLYN PAUL

Rochelle Stansfield advised the Board on 13 December of her decision to resign from the role as President. Additional pressures on the home front, on top of work, study and the challenges of the NZIFSA Presidents role had prompted this decision.

The Board reviewed the options available under section 5.7 of the NZIFSA Constitution and determined not to fill this casual vacancy when we are relatively close to the next AGM. Instead, the Board decided to appoint Caitlyn Paul as Acting President, until the AGM.

RESIGNATIONS OF OPERATIONS GROUP MEMBERS

After eight years of doing an outstanding role as our Grants Officer, Sam Snoad has resigned from this role. NZIFSA and our skating community have benefitted enormously from her efforts to ensure we had the funding to run development activities for skaters, coaches and officials and to keep entry costs for our National Championships at an affordable figure. Many people probably do not appreciate what a huge difference this has made to what we have been able to support.

But for those of us involved in organising NZIFSA activities, we know just how key Sam's efforts have been. A huge thank you Sam.

In addition, Debbie Groenewegen has resigned from her role of Administrative Support Officer. Debbie joined NZIFSA in April 2019 in an ad hoc administrative support capacity, providing administrative support around all sorts of activities ice time bookings. The role was formalised in 2021 and Debbie was reappointed to the role. Debbie has always shown a willingness to take on any tasks and most recently had taken on the responsibility for music reporting for NZIFSA. It has been great to have Debbie as part of the team and her support will be missed.

PRINTED RULES & REGS

With people increasingly able to access the NZIFSA Rules & Regulations and the ISU Regulations and Technical Rules wherever they are, NZIFSA have moved away from printing copies of documentation for everyone. However, if any clubs, coaches, officials, or members of the Board or Operations / Development Groups require a printed copy of any of the documentation listed below, please complete the online form by **7pm Friday 23 December** (we've extended the deadline by a couple of days for those that missed the earlier email).

The 2023 NZIFSA Rules & Regulations will be available online from 1 January 2023. These will also be emailed out to all members at or around 31 December 2022

Following the 2022 ISU Congress in Phuket the ISU have updated the following documents and made these available on the ISU website <https://isu.org/inside-isu/rules-regulations/isu-statutes-constitution-regulations-technical>

- ISU Constitution & General Regulations 2022
- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2022
- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Synchronized Skating 2022

If you require copies if any or all of these, please complete the online form

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/RulesAndRegulationsRequests>

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Board is calling for initial submissions on the **Travel & Reimbursement Policy**. Submissions are due by 24 January 2023. The Board will take these submissions into consideration when they review the policy.

The **Coaches Accreditation Policy** has been reviewed by the Board after the initial call for submissions. A number of amendments have been proposed and a revised version has been posted on the member forum requesting feedback on the proposed amendments. The proposed amendments relate to a proposal to change our coaching levels so that they align with the ISU Global Coach Education Levels. The final date for feedback on the proposed amendments is 5 January 2023.

The **Nationals Hosting Policy** has been reviewed by the Board and they have proposed an increase in the amount budgeted for programmes and registration bags. The final date for feedback on the proposed amendments is 10 January 2023.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 17 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 10 January. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the January meeting.

All the best in skating,
Caitlyn Paul and Jeanette King
Acting President and CEO
NZIFSA