

OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOJO, CHARLOTTE & RICKY!

What an amazing start to their international Senior skating careers! Charlotte Lafond-Fournier and Ricky Kam have achieved the Ice Dance TES to qualify for Four Continents and the ISU World Championships at their first international competition together. Jojo Hong achieved the Women's TES to qualify for Four Continents by the end of her second international event. We are so incredibly proud of what these skaters have achieved despite the challenges they have faced.



To qualify for these ISU Championships the skaters need to achieve the specified score for the Short Program/ Rhythm Dance and the Free Skate /Free Dance, rather than a total TES. They do not have to achieve these at the same international competition. We have provided the TES from the Senior events they have competed at so far.

Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam's TES at the following competitions

	Minimum RD TES 4C's = 28.00 Worlds = 33.00	Minimum FD TES 4C's = 44.00 Worlds = 47.00
Autumn Classic International, Montreal, Canada, 16-19 September 2021	35.83	50.54
Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, 22-25 September 2021	35.70	51.07

Jojo Hong's TES at the following competitions

	Minimum SP TES 4C's = 23.00 Worlds = 30.00	Minimum FS TES 4C's = 40.00 Worlds = 51.00
Cranberry Cup International, Norwood, USA 11-16 August 2021	22.90	43.42
Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, 22-25 September 2021	28.27	50.00

As you can see, Jojo is so very close to achieving the minimum TES for the ISU World Championships and we hope to be able to celebrate her achieving this in the near future.

From Ricky Kam

The past year has definitely been a challenge for us.

I initially arrived in Canada two weeks before the beginning of the pandemic, and the first few months we weren't able to skate, so we had to train off ice with dance classes, Pilates, workout, yoga and such all via zoom from home.

It was especially tough mentally, training through the pandemic in and out of lockdown meant that with just a short notice any day could be our last training day. It was hard to stay motivated with this constant uncertainty, but we managed to keep pushing through.

As a new team we wanted to get as much experience and compete as much as we could, but with the borders having been remained closed in Canada until just last month, this meant that I was unable to return to train in Montreal if we wanted to compete at earlier events.

It was a great experience for us to compete at Nebelhorn trophy and we are very happy with our back to back performances at our first two internationals. We are now again in the process of continuing to upgrade and grow our programs for the rest of the season and we hope to make a greater performance at ISU championship events at the end of the season!



SANDRA WILLIAMSON-LEADLEY IS CURRENTLY BACK IN HOSPITAL

Sandra has ended up back in hospital a couple of times lately having had a relapse of the condition that put her in hospital at the start of the year. It seems that she will be in and out of hospital for a while for ongoing treatment. She is still very interested in keeping in touch with what is happening in the wider skating world but may need to limit her screen time. To help manage her workload it would be appreciated if you could please copy ceo@nzifsa.org.nz into emails related to skater development just for the time being.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing Sandra a speedy recovery.

OUR 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED

As per the email to members on 7 October, the 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships are cancelled. This decision followed meetings, firstly with coaches and then with club representatives on Tuesday 5 October, to discuss the latest Government Alert Level announcement. At that time, it was recognised that it is highly unlikely that Auckland, nor the rest of New Zealand, would be at Covid Alert Level 1 by the time when our national championships were scheduled to be held. It was also apparent that the uncertainty around whether these championships go ahead or not was the source of a lot of anxiety for coaches, skaters, parents and the organisers. The clear recommendation from both meetings was that we cancel our national championships this year. Our President, Rochelle Stansfield, took the feedback from these two meetings back to the Board and they confirmed that the 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships were to be cancelled.

We would like to acknowledge the time and energy that the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association had already put into preparation for this event.

Since the announcement, the pending introduction of the Traffic Light System has offered a glimmer of hope for our skating community, based on a 90% vaccination rate across DHBs in New Zealand. We wait in anticipation of what this will mean for us in the not too distant future.

There were a number of questions and concerns raised by both coaches and club representatives in relation to: development, international selections, TC registrations, testing and vaccinations. These matters were discussed at the Board meeting on 12 October and their responses to these issues are noted below.

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

NZIFSA had previously proposed a virtual assessment process for determining selection of International A or B Representative skaters, if our National Championships were unable to go ahead. However, the feedback from coaches was that we should not progress with the proposed virtual assessment event. It was identified as another layer of stress when there is so much uncertainty about when this might be held. Instead, there was support for focusing on the Selection Competition in June which will determine selections and priority order for events with a closing date from 7 July 2022.

For International competitions with a closing date before 7 July 2022, the Board have determined that the existing international selections and priority order for international competitions stand (provided skaters are still age eligible). In the main, these selections will be the same as the selections following the 2020 Nationals, with the addition of selections awarded to our skaters who live and train overseas. If a skater wants or needs to move up a grade to attend an international competition during this period, they may request a monitoring session, and if they meet the TES, would be added to the list below those selections from 2020 Nationals (the same as our overseas skaters). The Test & Competition Secretary and Skater Development Director have been updating the selection lists for the Board to review, and when approved, we will include these in the next newsletter.

SELECTION TO DEVELOPMENT SQUADS

We did have some selections to the Development Squad from the South Island Championships. North Island skaters have not been afforded that opportunity for selection at a regional competition, and with our National Championships cancelled, there is no additional opportunity for selection for anyone. As with international selections, coaches didn't think the additional anxiety of running an assessment event was warranted. However, there are some important implications of being selected to the Development Squad, including the rule that allows skaters in the Development Squad that may miss our 2022 National Championships due to illness or injury being able to request monitoring for selection to International A or B Team.

With this in mind, the Board have confirmed that, in general, we roll over the existing Development Squad selections. However, where skaters have aged out of a grade, we will take a closer look at test levels and competition results to date. In addition, we look at those skaters who were not selected to the Development Squad last year but have competed this year and attained the TES. The proposed Development Squad Selections will be reviewed by the Board and when approved we will include these in the next newsletter also.

HOLDING TESTS AT ALERT LEVEL 2

While the new COVID-19 Protection Framework, with its traffic light system, is on the horizon, we are not quite there yet. In the meantime, the Board have agreed that Tests may be held at Alert Level 2, but only if some very specific requirements are followed. These requirements are currently being finalised and will be communicated to clubs soon. The requirements are likely to include the following:

Clubs apply to the NZIFSA Test & Competition Secretary three weeks prior to when they plan to hold a test session. The application will include the proposed test date, the names of those wanting to test, the test(s) they are wanting to sit, and the name of coach that signed the test form(s), plus the name of any mentor coach (for Probationary Level 1 Coaches), the name(s) and role of any additional people required to run the test session – e.g. some rinks may require someone to play the music if coaches are unable to run this from rink side.

The NZIFSA Test & Competition Secretary will then put out a call for Judges. Clubs and Sub-Associations must not contact judges directly to ascertain whether they are available or not. It is important that judges are not put in a position where they may feel obligated to judge at Alert Level 2.

The NZIFSA Test & Competition Secretary will appoint the judges and nominate the test referee for each test session. A minimum of two judges will be appointed, and ideally a third judge identified should one of the appointed judges become unwell. Where possible local judges will be used to limit the costs to clubs of bringing in judges.

If a coach becomes unwell, they may nominate another coach to put their skaters on the ice. If skaters are unwell, they would be able to withdraw from the test session without penalty.

Ministry of Health guidelines for Alert Level 2 must be met (contact tracing, sanitization, masks, physical distancing, not attending if they are sick). Further to this:

- In addition to rink staff, only those people essential to running the test sessions will be permitted in the rink i.e judges, skaters and coaches (including mentor coaches). Coaches may be asked to put the skaters on the ice and the test referee may be required to time the warm-ups.
- Parents / caregivers need to wait in their vehicles outside.
- Masks must be worn by everyone, except the skater when they are on the ice for their warm-up and test.
- On completion of their test skaters need to leave the rink.
- Feedback to a skater and their coach will be outside following the test session (masks and physical distancing required).

NATIONALS HOSTING 2022

The Board has deferred their decision regarding who will host the 2022 National Championships. The NIISSA have been offered the opportunity to submit an EOI to host in 2022, given that they were not able to host this year as planned. Whether suitable ice time is available in Auckland in or around the October school holidays will be key to whether the championships are in Auckland or elsewhere in 2022.

SELECTION COMPETITION JUNE 2022

Our aim is to hold this selection competition at the beginning of June for Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchro. The location and exact dates are yet to be confirmed. The competition will only be for those skaters who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade. As per the Selection Policy, normally there would be a requirement that skaters were only eligible for selection at this event if they had competed at the previous National Champs. 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.

WILL VACCINATIONS BE MANDATORY?

This is a complicated space and NZIFSA do not have the wherewithal to determine the legality or otherwise of requiring groups of people to be vaccinated under the current Alert Level System. Like many national sporting organisations, NZIFSA is looking to Sport NZ for advice regarding the mandating of vaccinations.

In the meantime, we do encourage everyone who is twelve years and over to be vaccinated. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step you can take to protect yourself and your friends and family from the effects of the COVID-19 virus. It's one way we can protect the welfare and wellbeing of our communities from COVID-19. It's also our best chance of getting all our skaters back on the ice and being able to hold events with minimal risk of transmission.

Under the new COVID-19 Protection Framework, businesses, events, organisations, community, and a range of sectors may legally choose to implement a vaccination entry requirement for customers. NZIFSA have not yet had time to consider whether they will choose to implement a vaccination entry requirement for tests and competitions. However, this is a real possibility that our skating community needs to be prepared for. We encourage you to read the Government information regarding the [COVID-19 Protection](#) to understand what activities are allowed at Green, Orange and Red depending on whether vaccination entry requirements are in place or not.

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Very sadly, Ella Smith was unable to secure the MIQ spot she needed for her return to New Zealand, and had to withdraw from the ISU JGP in Linz, Austria, 6-9 October 2021. It has been a very tough year for all our NZ based skaters who were hoping to compete internationally. We are at least fortunate that our skaters who are based overseas, are now finally in a position to compete at international competitions. We include their placings at recent international events.

Autumn Classic International, Montreal, Canada, 16-19 September 2021

Senior Dance	Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam	RD 7 th /7	FD 7 th /7	Overall 7 th /7
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Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, 22-25 September 2021

Senior Women	Jojo Hong	SP 17 th /36	FS 14 th /36	Overall 15 th /36
Senior Dance	Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam	RD 13 th /20	FD 12 th /20	Overall 12 th /20

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

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

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

Junior Women	Ally Landon-Lane
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Warsaw Cup, Warsaw, Poland, 17-20 November 2021

Senior Dance	Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam
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Golden Spin of Zagreb, Zagreb Croatia, 8-11 December 2021

Junior Men	Doug Gerber
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Open Belarus Cup, Minsk, Belarus, 16 – 19 December 2021

Junior Men Doug Gerber
Senior Men Doug Gerber

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

Senior Women Jojo Hong
Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

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

Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

CALL FOR TEAM LEADERS

NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to act as Team Leader for the following two competitions:

- 2022 Four Continents Figure Skating Championships, Tallinn, Estonia, 18-23 January 2022
- 2022 World Figure Skating Championships Montpellier, France, 21-27 March 2022

For all events with two or more skaters NZIFSA aim to appoint a Team Leader who is not a skater’s coach or parent. Where there is only one skater attending, we may name a skater’s coach or parent as an unfunded team leader. We already have two entries for Four Continents, and we are hopeful of having at least two entries for the World Figure Skating Championships.

Availability to attend the competition as a Team Leader must not be dependent of attaining a place in MIQ. Appointment of a funded Team Leader for the World Figure Skating Championships may be dependent on whether we have more than one entry.

We are seeking expressions of interest from individuals who have sufficient experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. They need to be able to handle crisis situations as well as routine administrative tasks; be team players who can work with all athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators; have knowledge of the NZIFSA rules and agreements surrounding international participation; and has local knowledge ideally including the ability to speak the local language.

If you are interested, please contact our Secretary, Fiona Marsh, at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz by **Friday 5 November** and we will send information regarding the job description, funding and the application process.

RESULTS FROM RECENT OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

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

Senior Men Doug Gerber results still to be determined

This competition was held as a virtual event and the results from this may not be available for another couple of weeks.

UPCOMING OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

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

Senior Men

Doug Gerber

ANTI-DOPING AND YOU - THIS IS FOR ALL SKATERS, NOT JUST REPRESENTATIVES

NZIFSA are committed to supporting Drug Free Sport New Zealand anti-doping education programmes as part of keeping our sport clean and free from drug cheats. We had planned to hold an anti-doping seminar during our National Championships and are now looking at whether we offer this on-line or during the Selection Competition in June.

Drug Free Sport New Zealand information for all.

While we often focus our anti-doping education on our higher-level athletes, the anti-doping rules apply to all our skaters, and we'd like to help you understand more about this. Do take the time to check out the information on the Drug Free Sport New Zealand <https://drugfreesport.org.nz/>. They have really handy link to the Global Drug Reference Online (Global DRO) that provides information about the prohibited status of specific medications based on the current World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Prohibited List. Even common medications can contain ingredients that are prohibited in sport; and certain methods of administering medication (for example, by injection or by topical gel) may be prohibited.

Drug Free Sport New Zealand also has some e-learning resources that are well worth making time to look at <https://drugfreesport.org.nz/education/e-learning/>. From the "Clean Sport 101" that is a good place for anyone to start, through to the seven-module Level Two e-learning course is designed for athletes and support people who have had previous Anti-Doping training.

The ISU Pocket Learning 'Anti-Doping & You' series.

Back in July the ISU announced the Pocket Learning Anti-Doping & You (**P.L.A.Y**) series by Pure as Ice, for our Skating community to learn about various aspects of Anti-Doping & Clean Sport. This information can be read alongside the DFSNZ information. The first topic they discuss is on 'Whereabouts Management'. While we don't have anyone on the Whereabouts list, this is something that our International Representatives should be aware of. The second topic is around Therapeutic Use Exemptions. The links to both these documents are provided below.

[QUICK P.L.A.Y's #1- Whereabouts?](#)

[Quick P.L.A.Y's#2- TUE Management](#)

If you have any questions regarding Anti-Doping, please contact Preeya Laud, our Anti-Doping Officer, at anti-doping@nzifsa.org.nz.

FROM THE ISU - THIS IS #UPAGAIN: A FIGURE SKATING DOCUMENTARY

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the world of sport came to a standstill. Uncertainty loomed and the Figure Skating season seemed doomed. After the cancellation of some major ISU Championships, the news informing about the imminent staging of the ISU World Figure Skating Championships brought divided opinions within the Figure Skating Family.

This is UpAgain: A Figure Skating documentary is a four-part short-form documentary series that invites Skaters to look back at their lockdown experiences and sets them up to face the now as they compete at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships which took place in Stockholm, Sweden in March 2021.

As the athletes settled into the Competition Bubble, doubts started to evaporate, their confidence grew and they wanted to prove to the world that with determination and commitment anything is possible. This is their #UpAgain story, at a time like no other.

[Figure Skating Documentary - International Skating Union \(isu.org\)](https://www.isu.org/figure-skating-documentary)

RULES AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

An on-line members forum was held on Sunday 17 October to discuss the proposed changes to the 2022 Rules and Regulations. There were a couple of suggested changes that are being considered for inclusion. Once revised the proposed 2022 Rules and Regulations will be posted on the members policy forum for feedback. At that point in the review process, comment can only be made on the changes that have been proposed (indicated through underlining and strikethroughs). We welcome and encourage your involvement in this review process.

POLICIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

The period for initial consultation regarding the **Coaches' Accreditation Policy** has been extended by the Board until 31 October. If you would like to propose any changes, please do so by 31 October. 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 **Officials' Training, Appointment and Promotions Policy** has had an initial round of consultation and is back on the members policy forum for feedback on the proposed changes. There have been some reasonably significant changes proposed to this policy to help address succession challenges and try and ensure we have competent officials at all levels. Members are invited to make final submissions on the proposed amendments by 15 November 2021 on the [Policy Submissions Forum](#).

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 9 November. 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 2 November at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the December meeting.

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