



SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

RESCHEDULING OUR 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

In our August newsletter we indicated that we were planning to try and reschedule our National Championships with the hope that by postponing there would be more chance that all our skating regions would be at Alert Level 1. We have been working with NISSA to identify and lock in alternative dates, taking into account available ice time and officials' availability. We are pleased to advise that our New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships are rescheduled to Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 November 2021, with unofficial practice ice on Tuesday 16 November. The aim is to finish the competition on Saturday morning, hold any member forums on the Saturday afternoon and the banquet on Saturday evening.

The revised closing date that clubs will need to have all their entries to NZIFSA is 27 October (i.e. after North Island Championships).

The updated general and technical announcements, entry forms and the provisional schedule have been uploaded onto the NZIFSA competitions web page. <https://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>

The provisional schedule is also included later in this newsletter.

We do want to remind you that if **any region in New Zealand** is under Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the National Championships, the National Championships **will not be held**.

RESCHEDULING OF OTHER COMPETITIONS

Allegro Ice Dance Club and Queenstown Ice Skating Club have both made the decision to cancel the competitions they had planned. The following two competitions have been postponed and will now be held, subject to the region being at Alert Level 1, on the following dates:

- North Island Championships – 23-25 October (Labour Weekend) – Closing date Monday 4th October
- CMFSC Club Championships – 12 November (Christchurch Show Day). Closing date Tuesday 26 October

WHAT HAPPENS IF...

Clearly there is a huge amount of uncertainty as to whether any of the rescheduled events will be held as planned. With uncertainty comes added stress. While we cannot control the COVID-19 outbreak, we can reduce some of the stress by providing answers to as many of the "what happens if...?" questions as possible. When we met with coaches and club representatives on 27 August, each group raised similar concerns and the Board have outlined the following responses:

WHAT HAPPENS IF SKATERS WERE NEEDING TO PASS A TEST BEFORE NI CHAMPS?

There was a test session planned for before close of entries for North Island Championships. The likelihood of being able to reschedule these tests before the rescheduled North Island Championships entries close is limited. The Board are not offering dispensation for skaters to compete without the correct test level. However, for those skaters / teams that would otherwise be not eligible to compete in any grade at this competition, the Board has recommended that the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association give dispensation for the skaters who were booked in for that last test to attain the required tests before the first day of competition rather than the usual *“at close of entries”*.

Specifically, NZIFSA are looking to provide opportunity for skaters that were booked to sit their Elementary stroking test with the expectation of entering Pre-Elementary grade at North Island Champs (unless Skate School or KiwiSkate grade is added to the announcement), and skaters who need to pass specific stroking tests to enable their synchronized skating teams to be eligible to compete at all.

We are aware that there will be skaters that were seeking to pass a test to enable them to enter North Islands in a higher grade, and that competing at that higher level could mean that they were age eligible for selection to the Development Squad or as International Representatives. However, with the disruption created by the Covid-19 pandemic we need to be somewhat pragmatic about what we can reasonably address.

WHAT HAPPENS IF NORTH ISLAND CHAMPS IS UNABLE TO GO AHEAD?

As a rough Rule-of-Thumb, NZIFSA would like to see skaters have at least two opportunities to qualify to compete at our National Championships. For singles skaters there had been two competitions in Auckland for skaters to try and qualify for our National Championships. But what do we do about the small handful of skaters that have not had the opportunity to qualify for Nationals and were relying on North Island Championships? Coaches raised a concern that there may be one or two people who had been injured / unwell who hadn't had the opportunity to compete. In these cases, the Board will consider requests for dispensation to enter Nationals without having competed at a club or regional competition on a case by case basis and supported by medical certificates as appropriate.

For synchronized skating teams that were relying on North Island Championships as a qualifying event to be able to compete at our Nationals Championships, dispensation will be granted for them to enter Nationals, provided their teams meet all the other requirements (e.g. ages, test levels, team size). This dispensation recognises that these teams are not required to make a specific Total Element Score (TES) this year, they simply needed to compete.

Development Squad selections for Pre Elementary and Elementary level skaters only occur at North Island or South Island Championships. For all other grades there is an opportunity to be selected to the Development Squad at Nationals. If North Island Championships are unable to be held, NZIFSA will hold a monitoring session, under competition like conditions, for the small number of Auckland skaters in Pre Elementary or Elementary grade that are age eligible for the Development Squad. The monitoring session will be either via video or in person (if alert levels allow) and will be to determine whether the skaters meet the TES for selection to the Development Squad.

WHAT HAPPENS IF NATIONALS DOESN'T GO AHEAD?

What options do we have for selection to Development Squad and to International Representative teams if our National Championships are unable to be held as planned?

The Board have recognised that, although the opportunities to attend international competitions are limited, there is value in providing skaters with the opportunity to be considered for selection, in part to provide some recognition to skaters that have battled on this year and for whom these selections were a goal.

Those skaters who are age eligible for the Development Squad or for selection to our International A or B Teams will be offered the opportunity for assessment to determine TES and Total Score. To ensure consistency, it was agreed that there needs to be the same method of assessment for all - either all in person (with same officials) or all via digital video recording. Given the challenges posed by Covid-19, and challenges around ice time and officials availability, the assessments are likely to be via digital video recording.

The assessments will be organised by NZIFSA and run under competition like conditions where skaters get the appropriate length warm-up and then skate their programme. Skaters will only get to skate their programmes the one time, the same as if they were competing at our National Championships.

The timeframe when the assessment will be held will be based on Alert Levels and will take into account the need for skaters to have had sufficient time back on the ice to have a fair opportunity to be competitive. Feedback from Coaches and Club representatives suggests three weeks back on the ice as a minimum.

If the assessments are via video, the NZIFSA will arrange the recording of the programmes and will organise for virtual panels to assess skates to determine a TES and Total Score. Our skaters who live and train overseas will also be invited to submit videos for assessment as well (recorded under controlled conditions). The TES will be used to determine whether the skaters have met the TES for selection to the Development Squad or the International A or B Teams. The Total Score will be used to determine the priority order for international competitions.

None of this virtual assessment will apply if our National Championships are able to be held.

If Nationals is unable to go ahead, there will be no National Championship titles awarded to skaters. This decision reflects the fact that only those skaters who are age eligible for selection to Development Squad or International Representative A or B Team will be offered the opportunity for assessment via digital video recording.

ANTI-DOPING SEMINAR

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 plan is to hold an anti-doping seminar on Saturday 20 November. If you want to be considered for selection as an International Representative you need to arrange your travel plans for Nationals so that you can attend this seminar. In the instance that our National Championships is cancelled, this seminar will be offered online.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR RESCHEDULED 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following is a provisional schedule for the rescheduled 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships to be held at Paradise Botany, Auckland 17-20 November (Alert Levels permitting). While every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, the order of the events may change from that listed below.

Tuesday 16 November

Unofficial practices

Wednesday 17 November

Juvenile Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Basic Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Adult Interpretive (all grades)

Thursday 18 November

Intermediate Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Advanced Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men SP

Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men SP

Senior Ladies & Men SP

Adult Freeskate (all grades)

Waltzing Trophy

Norman Wright Dancing Trophy

Friday 19 November

Advanced Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Senior Ladies & Men FS

Pairs SP (all grades)

Ice Dance RD and PD (all grades)

Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS (includes Adults)

Junior & Senior Synchro SP

Saturday 20 November

Pairs FS (all grades)

Ice Dance FD

Junior & Senior Synchro 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	Unofficial Practice	Official Practice	Competition
Tuesday 16 November	1:45pm – 3:45pm 6:45pm – 8:45pm		
Wednesday 17 November	5:15pm – 6:45pm	6:00am – 10:30am	10:30am – 3:45pm
Thursday 18 November	3:45pm – 5:15pm	6:00am – 12:00pm	12:00pm – 3:45pm 6:45pm – 9:00pm
Friday 19 November	6:00am – 7:00am	7:00am – 1:30pm	1:30pm – 7:15pm
Saturday 20 November		6:45 – 8:45am	10:15am – 11:15am

RULES AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

A reminder that the Rules and Regulations have been posted on the members policy forum for submissions <https://www.nzifsa.org.nz/forums/viewforum.php?f=9>. These include some proposed changes to the 200's section in response to some feedback over the last year.

Any proposed changes have been indicated through underlining and strikethroughs. Comments and further submissions may be made as a reply to the member forum post or by email technical.director@nzifsa.org.nz. Please make any submissions by the 8th of October.

We would normally hold a discussion forum in conjunction with the 2021 National Championships to get further feedback from members. However, the postponement of our Nationals Champs means we need to find an alternative means of having this discussion. We need to allow sufficient time for people to comment on the revised Rules & regs proposed changes, before the Board finalise and approve these. In order to do this, we are proposing a discussion forum in October via zoom. Dates and details will be made available closer to the time.

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 is 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.

However, it is not the somewhat formal wording of the Code of Ethics that we want you to focus on. What is important is the intent and the values that sit behind this. It is about respect, honesty, treating everyone equally and sportspersonship. Its about showing friendship and respect to others in the sport by not allowing poor behaviour, including physical and verbal abuse, doping, cheating or any other behaviour that is likely to harm others. It is about being caring and fair.

With the added pressure associated with the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic it is even more important that we each stop and take a look at our own actions. Can we behave in ways that would better reflect the values and intent of our Code of Ethics?

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges of getting travel documentation or MIQ places for those returning to NZ, continues to impact on the opportunities available to our skaters. Sadly, these challenges mean that neither Ella Smith nor Doug Gerber were able to attend the ISU JGP in Kosice, Slovakia 1-4 September 2021.

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

Senior Dance

Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Richard Kam

This event is being livestreamed <https://skatecanada.ca/2021-autumn-classic-international/>

Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, 22-25 September 2021

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

ISU JGP in Linz, Austria, 6-9 October 2021

Junior Ladies Ella Smith
While Ella is registered to compete at this event, this is still subject to her being able to secure an MIQ spot for her return to New Zealand.

NRW trophy, Dortmund Germany, 4-7 November 2021

Junior Ladies Ally Landon-Lane

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

Junior Ladies Ally Landon-Lane

IceChallenge, Graz, Austria, 11-14 November 2021

Junior Ladies Ally Landon-Lane

RESULTS FROM RECENT OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

We have a number of skaters living and training overseas. We have included the results of these competitions so you can keep in touch with what they are doing.

2021 Onyx Challenge, Rochester, USA, 20-21 August 2021

Junior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday RD 3rd/3 FD 3rd/3 Overall 3rd/3



Isabelle and Ethan at the recent Chesapeake Open Competition we reported on in our August newsletter.

UPCOMING OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

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

Senior Men Doug Gerber

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

Senior Men Doug Gerber

SELECTION TO INTERNATIONAL A TEAM

We are very pleased to advise that Ally Landon-Lane has gained the necessary Total Element Score (TES) at the Hershey Open competition on 12-15 August to be named as an International A Team Representative in Junior Ladies. This selection is valid for competitions with a closing date between now and 1 week after our National Championships. Congratulations Ally.

It hasn't been an easy year for Ally with extended periods of time off the ice. It is great to see Ally's perseverance rewarded.



CONGRATULATIONS SIMONE THORNETT

Congratulations to Gore coach and NZIFSA Coaching Director for 2020/21, Simone Thornett, and her partner Mason Cairns, on the arrival of Matilda Ann Cairns on Tuesday 7 September 2021.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 12 October. 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 5 October at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the November meeting (which is now scheduled for 9 November).

All the best in skating,
Rochelle Stansfield 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