

New Zealand Ice Skating Association (Inc.)

Communication 027

September 2006

Since our last Communication, which came to you in May, the Council has met once and conducted a great deal of business by email. Skating in New Zealand made a big step forward with the introduction of the International Judging System at both North Island and South Island Championships.

Representation

Congratulations to all those who succeeded in gaining selection to represent New Zealand at the Australian National Championships in Brisbane in August, and especially to Cameron Hems, our only medallist this year. The team members and results were:

Senior Men:	Tristan Thode (5th)
Junior Men:	Mathieu Wilson (7th)
Junior Ladies:	Allie Rout (5th), Morgan Figgins (7th)
Novice Men:	Cameron Hems (3rd), Grant Howie (5th)
Intermediate Ladies:	Claire McGillan (4th), Millie Campbell (5th)

Financial Warning

The NZISA Council feels that it is necessary to draw members' attention to our present financial situation. All Club Committees will be aware from the NZISA financial documentation that has been sent to you that the Association is spending more than it earns. Our current forecast shows a deficit of at least \$60,000 this year, and possibly considerably more. We feel the need to make urgent spending cuts so as to have more money available for the future.

In 2003 the Council drew up and began implementing Development Guidelines for funding assistance in these categories of activity:

- NZ representatives at Worlds and other international competitions
- NZ representatives at Australian championships
- Club representatives at other Australian championships
- Team Leaders at International events
- Judges travelling to officiate at international or other events
- Judges and other technical specialists travelling to training seminars
- Representatives attending biennial ISU Congress
- Training grants and gym fees for Tier 1 skaters
- Regional development grants.

The expanded focus on development that we have seen in the last two years was based on a decision to use funding reserves that had sat almost untouched for over a decade. However, since then our annual grant from the ISU has fallen drastically, partly in real (Euro) terms and partly because of the high New Zealand dollar. In addition, there has been a higher uptake of the available development grants than the Council anticipated.

The result is that our reserves are being depleted much faster than was intended when the funding guidelines were introduced.

The Council wishes to advise all member clubs at this point that we are urgently reviewing our Development Funding Guidelines. This could mean that some expectations of funding support for later this year or in the rest of the 2006-7 season will not be met.

Other areas of NZISA financial expenditure are also being examined. In 2006 this has been mainly administration and Council travel costs, with some expenditure also on support for the new judging system by covering the cost of judges' and technical officials' travel and accommodation.

Council is currently working on a strategic plan and budget for 2007 and beyond. The draft plan will be widely distributed to stakeholders in early 2007 for feedback which will be incorporated into the final strategic plan and budget.

In the meantime, we ask for your patience. The drop in income from the ISU and the loss of SPARC funding mean that we simply cannot sustain our current level of spending. Programmes that provide funding in some areas may need to be cut for the remainder of this year in order that we may save money which can be better allocated for the future. Where we do continue to provide funding, we may need to be less flexible so that we can spend our savings more effectively.

These changes will be to the benefit of the medium and long-term future of the sport.

Australian Youth Olympic Festival

The AYOF is a multi-sport event scheduled for January 17 – 21 in Sydney. It is expected that approximately 20 countries will send athletes. Figure skating is one of the chosen sports, and New Zealand has been invited to send two male and two female skaters. The criteria are strictly defined: Junior skaters aged between 13 and 18 on 1 July 2006.

The NZ Olympic Committee has approved the following NZISA selection criteria:

The New Zealand Ice Skating Association will nominate the two highest place-getters in each of the Men's and Ladies' Junior Grade competitions at the 2006 National Championships (18 - 22 September) who meet the AYOF age requirements, provided that each nominee is able to meet the specific technical performance criteria set out in NZISA Rule 304 - Guidelines for Selections for Australian National Championships – (Junior).

The Council will announce its nominees as soon as practicable following the completion of the competition at Nationals.

Planned Programme Content Sheets

Skaters and coaches are reminded that under the International Judging System every skater must submit a Planned Programme Content (PPC) form in advance of the competition. This should be done when entries are submitted.

TC Registrations (again)

All TC registrations must go through to your club, with individual cheques payable to the club. Clubs will forward TC registrations, along with a single cheque, to: *The Treasurer, NZISA, 5 Logan Terrace, Parnell, Auckland*. Skaters are not considered TC registered until the form and fee is received by NZISA, and they cannot compete or test if they are not currently registered. Club Treasurers are asked to be sure to detail what cheques are for, especially when they cover more than one item.

National Championships

As we reach the pinnacle of our competitive season we'd like to offer our best wishes to everyone competing at the National Championships in Auckland. In anticipation of a successful competition the Council would also like to extend its thanks to the hard-working North Island Sub-Association team who are organising the event. We all look forward to catching up with old friends and making some new ones.

Calendar of Events

Sept	17	NZISA Council meeting (Auckland)
	18 – 22	New Zealand National Championships (Auckland)
Nov	4 - 5	NZISA Council meeting (Christchurch)
Jan	17 – 21	Australian Youth Olympic Festival (Sydney)

Warwick Johnson
NZISA President
7 September 2006