



Christmas is just about upon us and the NZIFSA Board, Development and Operations Groups would like to wish all the members of the NZ Skating Community a ***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*** It has been a pretty tough year for many people, and we hope that you have a wonderful summer break and come back recharged ready for 2021 – let's make it a better skating year together!

2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AUCKLAND, 9 – 12 OCTOBER 2021

We are very pleased to confirm that the 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will be in Auckland and hosted by the North Island Ice Skating Sub Association. The competition will run Saturday 9 – Tuesday 12 October. We will have a provisional schedule for you early in the New Year indicating what events will be held on which days.

COACHING COURSES

KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Courses

The NZIFSA are planning on running two KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Courses next year.

Paradise Botany, Auckland, 20 & 21 February

Registrations for this course are now open.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/IntroductionToCoachingCourseAucklandFebruary2021>

Southern Region – dates and location to be confirmed soon

These courses will be open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The course cost is \$60 plus \$10 for the manual.

The courses cover two levels:

- KiwiSkate Assistant Course - individuals must be 14 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and it is recommended they hold their Elementary test.
- Introduction to Coaching Course – individuals must be 15 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold their Preliminary test in any discipline. Coaches from different codes may apply to the Coaching Director for test dispensation based on their achievements/qualifications.

Please contact the Coaching Director at coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz if you have any questions regarding eligibility.

All attendees must also pay the appropriate coach membership fee prior to registration. The coach membership forms can be found on the forms page of the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/forms/>

Level 1 Coaching Course

The NZIFSA are planning a Level 1 Coaching Course for 2021. The course dates and location will be confirmed in the near future.

Level 2 Coaching Course

We are again communicating with the ISU Development Commission regarding a proposal to deliver a Pilot ISU Worldwide Coach Education Qualifications Framework Level 3 course that would replace our Level 2. The development of the course materials had been delayed due to the disruption caused by Covid-19. However, the ISU have recently advised that this is progressing again now, and we are in discussion with them regarding timing of this pilot course.

SKATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all those skaters who completed the expression of interest form regarding the proposed skater development camps. We are aware that the very short lead time does mean that some skaters are unavailable for these workshops. Unfortunately, securing enough ice time in the locations where the majority of skaters eligible for a given workshop are located is a limitation. Based on your responses and on the ice time available, we are going ahead with the camps as outlined below.

Because of travel restrictions and quarantine requirements we do not have the option of bringing international coaches to New Zealand for these workshops. Instead we will connect with them, and in some cases their extended coaching teams, via an online video platform (e.g. Zoom, Teams, etc.). We have had requests from skaters wanting to join these workshops from their own rinks. While that would certainly keep travel costs down this is not something we are able to accommodate and we need all our participating coaches and skaters in the one location. To expect the virtual coach to be observing and providing feedback on what is happening on the ice at different rinks at the same time is not realistic at this point.

We do want to highlight that these workshops are being **heavily subsidised** by NZIFSA, utilising some of the funding that we get from the International Skating Union (ISU). We are also using some additional Reset and Rebuild funding from Sport NZ to help with the technical kit required to deliver these workshops.

As has been the practice in the last few years, all skaters who are named to the **NZIFSA Development Squads will be further subsidised** by NZIFSA with cheaper registration fees and are eligible for reimbursement of up to half their travel costs to a maximum of 50% of the rates for travel to NZIFSA meeting in sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

Each of the camps will include on-ice and off-ice activities. The expectation is that all skaters **fully participate in all the activities**. Please set aside the time to attend all the activities. In addition to developing your skills and expanding your knowledge of skating, one of the benefits of getting our skaters together from around the country is the chance to spend time with other people who are as passionate about skating as you are.

We may be able to offer **airport transfers** for those that need them, but we have not yet confirmed all the details for each camp. We will communicate directly with those that indicate on the registration forms that they would like airport transfers.

Advanced Novice, Junior, Senior Singles – Botany, Auckland, 9-12 January

NZIFSA are in the process of confirming Ravi Walia to run this Skater and Coach Development Camp. Ravi is a top level Canadian coach who, as well as being a former international athlete, has coached a number of skaters (including Kaetlyn Osmond) to Olympic level. We are looking forward to being able to confirm Ravi very soon.

This camp is for Advanced Novice to Senior level competitive skaters and Level 1-3 coaches. Out of town skaters will need to be there for early Saturday morning and will be able to go home last flights Tuesday night or Wednesday morning,

The closing date for registrations is **3 January 2021**. All skaters must hold the correct test levels by 1 January 2021. Skaters can register for this camp at:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForAdvancedNoviceToSeniorSkaters>

Cost information:

\$120 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$250 for all other Advanced Novice to Senior Level skaters

\$120 for Level 1 – 3 Coaches (or \$30 per day)

Synchronized Skating (All Levels) – Avondale, Auckland, 15-17 January

We are currently working on having a Moderator/coach from the USA West Coast who is also an ISU Technical Specialist. We hope to be able to confirm this over the Christmas period.

This camp is for synchronized skaters of all levels and Level 1-3 coaches. We will be looking at developing skills and understandings of synchronized skating techniques. A focus will be on turns and sequences of turns as well as synchronized skating elements. Skaters will need to be available at Avondale rink by 7:00 am Friday morning (out of town skaters will need to arrive Thursday night) and will be able to travel home after 7:00 pm on Sunday evening (or Monday morning).

The closing date for registrations is **5 January 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForSynchronizedSkating>

Cost information:

\$80 for all skaters

\$50 for Level 1 – 3 Coaches (or \$20 per day)

Basic and Intermediate Novice Singles – Dunedin, 19-22 January

NZIFSA are in the process of confirming a top North American Moderator to run this Skater and Coach Development Camp. The coaches we have approached have had skaters have competed at the World and Olympic level. We are looking forward to being able to confirm our Moderator very soon – keep a look out for our announcement!

This camp is for Basic Novice and Intermediate Novice skaters and Level 1-3 coaches. The workshop will focus on turns and step sequences, spins and spin features, Program Components, off-ice training, making the most of your elements and jumps. Out of town skaters will need to be

in Dunedin on Monday evening for starting on Tuesday morning and skaters will be able to travel home after a 5:30pm finish on Friday night.

The closing date for registrations is **10 January 2021**. All skaters must hold the correct test levels by 1 January 2021. Skaters can register for this camp at:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForBasicIntermediateNoviceSkaters>

Cost information:

- \$100 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$220 for all other Advanced Novice to Senior Level skaters
- \$80 for Level 1 – 3 Coaches (or \$25 per day)

Adult Singles – Christchurch, 6 & 7 February

This camp is for Adult skaters of all levels. We will be looking at developing skating skills, transitions, and the other Program Components. There will also be turn, spin and jump workshops. Skaters will need to be at the Alpine rink in Christchurch by 12:00 pm on Saturday and will be able to travel home after 7:00 pm on Sunday evening (or Monday morning).

The closing date for registrations is **24 January 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForAdultSkaters>

Cost information:

- \$50 for all skaters
- Level 1 – 3 Coaches - Free

Pattern Dance – Gore, 6 – 8 February

This camp is for ice dancers of all levels. This skater development camp focuses on learning the steps and timing of the Pattern Dances for the next season, with an emphasis on correct edges, correct turns, holds, etc. The skaters would need to be in Gore for Saturday afternoon and would be able to leave by mid-late Monday afternoon (depending on flights).

The closing date for registrations is **24 January 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForPatternDance>

Cost information:

- \$40 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$80 for all other skaters
- Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

Free Dance – Dunedin, 27 – 28 March

This camp is for ice dancers of all levels, but suitable for dance couples only. NZIFSA are in the process of confirming a North American Moderator to run this Skater and Coach Development Camp. Skaters will need to be in Dunedin for a 1:00pm start on the Saturday and would be finished by 6:00 pm on Sunday evening. This can be negotiated for skaters travelling from out of town due to flight availability.

The closing date for registrations is **14 March 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForFreeDance>

Cost information:

\$40 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$80 for all other skaters

Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile camps

In response to the expressions of interest we are currently looking at holding three camps for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters rather than two. The proposed dates and locations are as follows:

Botany, Auckland, 24 & 25 April

Christchurch, 24 & 25 April

Queenstown 8 & 9 May (to be confirmed)

Registrations forms will be made available in February, along with some additional details.

SKATER SCHOLARSHIPS DEFERRED

When the 2020 NZIFSA Skater Scholarships were awarded to Gemma & Benji Pickering (Basic Novice / Intermediate Novice) and Douglas Gerber (Advanced Novice – Senior), the uncertainty created as a result of COVID-19 and the possibility that training opportunities might extend through to 2021 was acknowledged. International travel restrictions have clearly prevented the uptake of this scholarship award in 2020 and the Board recently confirmed that these scholarships are to be carried over into 2021. The Board also decided to defer calling for scholarships for 2021 until the World COVID-19 situation is more stable.

OFFICIALS' TRAINING IN 2021

We will have more information for you on what is happening in the January newsletter, but below is an outline of the officials' training planned for 2021.

Judges Seminar (Programme Components for all disciplines) – Christchurch, dates TBC

We are planning to use an external moderator via video conference for at least part of this two-day training seminar so that our own ISU level judges can take part in training rather than deliver it.

Judges Seminar (GOE for Singles Skating) – Christchurch, dates TBC

Again, we are planning to use an external moderator for this two-day training workshop.

Ice Dance Judges and Ice Dance Technical Specialists Seminars – Online, dates TBC

Both will be online seminars via video conference.

Referee Training (all disciplines) – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. This training is for all existing referees, as well as those judges who would like to be considered for first appointment as a referee (see section 3.4 of the NZIFSA Officials' Training, Appointment & Promotions Policy).

Probationary Judges Introductory Course – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. This course is aimed at existing probationary judges and any other individuals who are interested in becoming judges.

Announcers course – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. While we are fortunate to have a handful of people who are quite happy to do the announcing at competitions, this is often one of the roles that clubs struggle to find willing volunteers for. This training course will give people more confidence to take on this role. It would be good to see a couple of volunteers from each club keen to do this.

Mock Panels for all Competition Officials - May 2021

The plan is to run mock panels in three centres (Auckland, Christchurch and somewhere in Otago/Southland) before the competition season starts. This will give everyone, including Data/Replay Operators, Judges, Tech Specialists and IJS Technicians to go through their paces before we run our first competitions for the year.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on 12 January 2021. Please send any correspondence for this meeting to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by 7 January at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting (9 February 2021).

Best wishes for the Festive Season,
Anita Tamepo and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA