

We hope that you have had a wonderful summer break and have come back recharged ready for an exciting 2024. We have a busy year planned for our members with many opportunities being offered all over the country throughout the year! We are looking forward to seeing our skaters back out on the ice and doing what they are so passionate about.

DWAYNE (YANHAO) LI COMPETING AT THE WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

Dwayne is making history yet again by being our first ever skater competing at the Winter Youth Olympic Games (WYOG). You can access information about the event via the ISU site https://isu.org/figure-skating/events/yog-figure-skating?dm_i=731E,M2QD,KEY8K,2VRXD,1

Schedule

- Men's Short Program - Saturday 27 January 4:00pm in Gangwon (8pm NZ time). Starting order - Dwayne has drawn 15th
- Men's Free Skating – Monday 29 January 2:00pm in Gangwon (6pm NZ time)

Click [here](#) to access the livestream (allow 5 mins to set up a log-in), or watch on Sky Sports – 59.

We're all very excited at what Dwayne has managed to achieve so far and wish him all the very best.

PREPARING FOR WYOG

Dwayne has been training in China recently while preparing for the WYOG. We asked Dwayne to give us an idea of what a regular day looks like during this training and he sent the following that provides a little peek into the dedication and commitment required to perform at this level.

My typical training day begins with an off-ice warm-up, warming up my muscles for a 90-minute stroking session on the ice. After a brief break, I transition to off-ice technical warm-ups before going into 90 minutes of program and technical element practice. A lunch break fuels me for another session dedicated to jumping and revisiting some sections of my routines; and on certain days, alternate sessions like long-distance running or flexibility classes. The day's final session involves refining my program presentation for another 90 minutes. To end the training day, I spend time stretching and reviewing the day's progress. This training schedule adds up to around 6 hours daily. Despite the training being very tiring, I find reassurance in knowing this hard work is an investment in my preparation for the Winter Youth Olympic Games, and I trust that my commitment will pay off as a rewarding performance.



Dwayne with Olympic ice dancers Liu Xinyu and Wang Shiyue. They were 22nd at Pyeongchang 2018 and 12th at Beijing 2022

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

17th Europa Cup of Helena, Belgrade, Serbia, 4-6 January 2024

Junior Women Renee (Kaishin) Tsai SP 8th/36 FS 15th/36 Overall 13th/36
 Congratulations Renee on your first international competition representing New Zealand and your first Junior international. It's great to have you are part of our NZL Team.

2024 World Masters Games Lombardy, Italy, 12-21st January 2024

Bronze II Women Artistic (Grp 1)	Susan Wallace	Overall 10 th /20
Bronze II Women Artistic (Grp 2)	Viktoria Marinova	Overall 13 th /21
Bronze IV Women Artistic	Sally Garelja	Overall 12 th /12
Silver II Women Artistic	Olga Levien	Overall 7 th /14
Gold III Women Artistic	Glenda Bronkhorst	Overall 3 rd /9
Gold III Women Artistic	Sheryl Squire	Overall 6 th /9
Bronze II Women Freeskate (Grp 1)	Susan Wallace	Overall 10 th /22
Bronze II Women Freeskate (Grp 2)	Viktoria Marinova	Overall 9 th /24
Silver II Women Freeskate	Olga Levien	Overall 5 th /16
Silver II Women Freeskate	Rachel Sidda	Overall 11 th /16
Silver III Women Freeskate	Sheryl Squire	Overall 3 rd /12
Silver III Women Freeskate	Glenda Bronkhorst	Overall 8 th /12



Our NZL Team at the World Masters Games
 Back row – Sally Garelja
 Front row from left to right – Susan Wallace, Glenda Bronkhorst, Sheryl Squire, Olga Levien, Viktoria Marinova.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon, Korea, 27-29 January 2024

Junior Men Dwayne Li
 Coach Bess Cao
 Judge Sue Petricevic

2024 World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Taipei, Taiwan 26 Feb – 3 March 2024

Junior Men Dwayne Li
 Coach Bess Cao
 Team Leader Stella Chen

Steel City Trophy, Sheffield, United Kingdom, 1- 3 March 2024

Junior Synchro	Titanium
Coach	Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader	TBC

2024 World Junior Synch Figure Skating Champs, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 15-16 March 2024

Junior Synchro	Titanium
Coach	Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader	Rachael Jannink

ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2024, Montréal, Canada, 18-24 Mar 2024.

Judge	Sandra Williamson-Leadley
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ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 12-17 May 2024

Bronze I Women Freeskate & Artistic	Juliet Sivertsen
Silver II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Kirsty Cox
Gold IV Women Freeskate & Artistic	Tammy Cowan

UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2024 Trophy De Ecosse, Dumfries, Scotland, 26-27 January 2024

Mixed Age Synchro	Black Ice
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Hevelius Cup, Gdansk, Poland, 2-4 February 2024

Mixed Age Synchro	Black Ice
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ANZAS 2024 Adult Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia, 10-11 February 2024

Bronze III Men Freeskate & Artistic	Alastair Christie
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PERMISSION TO ATTEND COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND

Just a reminder that if you wish to compete in any competition outside New Zealand, you need to request permission from the NZIFSA via the General Secretary secretary@nzifsa.org.nz before you enter the competition. For most international competitions the entries will need to be done through the ISU Online Registration System by the NZIFSA Test/Competition Secretary.

If you have any questions about selections or international competitions, please email the NZIFSA General Secretary, secretary@nzifsa.org.nz.

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHES SEMINAR, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA, 29 MAY – 2 JUNE 2024

The 2024 Oceania International Figure Skating Competition is being at the O'Brien Icehouse in Melbourne, Australia 29 – 31 May. This competition is a jointly hosted by Ice Skating Australia and NZIFSA and is a great opportunity for our international representative Singles skaters to take

part in an International Competition, without having to travel half way round the world. The competition will include Basic Novice to Senior grades. The competition will be followed by a coach development seminar 1 & 2 June. We will have an announcement and more details about the competition and coach development seminar very soon. In the meantime, International Representative A & B Team skaters, can you please submit a confirmation of interest by **17 February** if you are planning to take part in this competition. Note, you can only compete in the grade(s) you were selected to at the 2023 National Championships.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024OceaniaInternationalFigureSkatingCompetition>

As with the previous Oceania International competitions held in Melbourne, all skaters will be expected to stay in team accommodation. NZIFSA are currently looking at cost effective options that are easily accessible to the rink. As part of your confirmation of interest, can you please indicate whether there will be a chaperone travelling with the skater. We will have a Team Leader and an Assistant Team Leader for this event meaning skaters will be appropriately supervised if attending without a parent.

CLUCAS CUP (SELECTION COMPETITION), DUNEDIN 15 & 16 JUNE 2024

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton).

The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

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 2024 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 2023 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2024. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at secretary@nzifs.org.nz.

The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website along with the Provisional Schedule as soon as it is available.

CONFIRMATION OF DATES AND LOCATION FOR 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Board are pleased to confirm that the 2024 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will be held in Christchurch from the **17 – 20 October 2024**, with unofficial practices starting on the 16th of October. The Announcement and Provisional Schedule will be posted on the NZIFSA website as soon as they are available.

INCREASE TO TC REGISTRATION AND TEST FEES

In order to help meet the ever rising costs to support our skating community, the Board have made the decision to increase TC registration and Test fees.

The TC registration fee will now be \$90 per year.
Test fees will increase to \$45 per test.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2024

Skater Development

We have a number of training camps planned for 2024 and starting off with a training camp for our adult skaters in February. After the last three years of heavily subsidising our skater development camps as part of our covid recovery response, we have had to return to a model where participants are paying more towards the costs of these camps. Providing great development opportunities at a reasonable price remains a priority for us, but we still need to balance the books at the end of the year.

Adult Training Camp, Christchurch 24 & 25 February

We are very pleased to advise that Greg Merriman has confirmed his availability for this training camp. Greg is a Sydney based coach, who is a former competitive ice dancer. He competed with his partner Danielle O'Brien at a number of international competitions including ISU Championships and the 2014 Winter Olympics. Greg coaches a wide range of skaters and enjoys coaching adults.

We anticipate the camp will start around 2pm on Saturday and finish around 6:15pm on ice on the Sunday.

Registration

Registrations are due **by Monday 12 February**. Skaters and coaches can register online at: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024AdultCamp>

Cost information:

\$120 for all adult skaters
Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches – Free

Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 29 March – 1 April

We are very pleased to confirm Keegan Murphy as the international moderator for this workshop. Keegan represented Canada internationally on the Junior Grand Prix Circuit for 5 years and won the silver medal at the 2002 Canadian Championships in Junior Men. In his 10 years of coaching, Keegan has quickly produced a stable of provincial and national champions as well as international competitors on the Junior Grand Prix Circuit, ISU Junior World Championships and ISU Senior International Circuit.

We anticipate the camp will start around 7am on Friday 29 March and will finish around 1:30pm on Monday 1 April. Participants from outside Auckland should plan to stay in Auckland on the Thursday night before the camp starts.

Registration

Registrations are due **by Tuesday 5 March**. All skaters must hold the correct test levels by the close of registrations. Skaters and coaches can register online at:

https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/_2024CampForBasicNoviceToSeniorSkaters

Cost information:

- \$200 for Basic & Intermediate Novice Grades - NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$400 for Basic & Intermediate Novice Grades - Any Other Skaters
- \$250 for Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior - NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$500 for Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior - Any Other Skaters
- \$200 for Level 2 – 4 Coaches (or \$80/day for coaches that can only attend part of the camp)

Skaters will be divided into two groups, with different programmes designed to best meet their needs. Skaters may be moved between groups at the discretion of the Moderator.

Synchronized Skating, Dunedin 16 & 17 April and Auckland (Botany), 19-21 April

The great news is that Heather Paige has confirmed her availability for these two workshops. These workshops are aimed at our Basic Novice to Senior Level teams. Heather was the coach that we engaged virtually in 2022 and in person in 2023. Heather is a Moderator/Mentor for the ISU SYS Technical Committee and Coach/Director of the Starlights SYS teams out of the Chicago area in the US.

Registration

Registrations are due **by Tuesday 26 March**. Skaters and coaches can register online at:

https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/_2024SynchronizedSkatingTrainingCamp

Cost information:

- \$150 for Basic Novice team members
- \$200 for Advanced Novice, Mixed Age, Junior and Senior team members
- \$100 for Level 2 – 4 Coaches for Dunedin (2 day camp)
- \$150 for Level 2 – 4 Coaches for Auckland (3 day camp)
- \$75 / day for Level 2 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

These workshops are not being offered to our KiwiSkate or Adult teams. A separate development session will be offered to KiwiSkate teams. Details of this will be provided in the near future.

Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 25 & 26 May, Auckland dates TBC

We are pleased to confirm that we are holding two training camps for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters. Please note the Dunedin dates have changed from what we had previously indicated as they conflicted with the Oceania Coaches Seminar. The Auckland camp is

currently booked for 1 & 2 June. However, we are looking at whether we can reschedule this to 18 & 19 May to avoid the conflict with the Oceania Coaches Seminar. We will have confirmation of dates and the registration forms for you in the February newsletter.

Cost information:

\$75 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$150 for all other skaters

\$75 Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches

\$50 / day for Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

Coach Moderators for Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile Camps – Auckland & Dunedin

NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from coaches interested in being a moderator for these camps. We anticipate that Level 3 coaches are more likely to have the skill set and level of experience we are seeking, however Level 2 coaches will be considered.

Coaches have been asked to complete the online form outlining their skill set and experience and motivation for applying by **16 March 2024**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIModeratorForSkaterCamps2024>

PILOT YOUTH INTERPRETIVE WORKSHOPS – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

NZIFSA are planning something a little different this year and aiming to run two pilot workshops to provide development opportunities for Youth Interpretive skaters. We are looking at whether providing support for a regular group session provides a better model for growing Youth Interpretive grades than was provided by the two day camp. We are seeking expressions of interest from coaches and clubs that are keen to be involved in one of the pilot programmes.

The workshops will be aimed at 12 – 17 year olds who are not currently competing in mainstream singles grades. The focus is on providing opportunities for skaters to continue to develop their skating skills and presentation in a group setting with a view to preparing them to do an interpretive programme. The plan is to run an hour session once a week over an 8-10 week period.

We are seeking expressions of interest from coaches interested in being a moderator for these workshops. However, to really make this work we anticipate that the support of a local club or regional sub-association will be key. Interested coaches, please talk to your local clubs to gauge their interest in supporting this. If you have a group of coaches interested in working together to cover the different elements of the proposed workshops, we are interested in exploring how this might work.

We anticipate that Level 3 coaches are more likely to have the skill set and level of experience we are seeking, however Level 2 coaches will certainly be considered. Interested coaches are asked to complete the online form outlining their skill set and experience and motivation for applying by **Monday 29 January 2024**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIInterpretiveWorkshops2024>

Coaching Courses

Two KiwiSkate Coaching Courses and a Level 1 (previously Intro to Coaching) Coaching Course have been scheduled.

The **KiwiSkate** courses are open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The **course cost is \$80**.

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

KiwiSkate course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February

The course will start around 9am on Saturday and finish around 6:45pm on Sunday. Registration for this course close on **Wednesday 7 February**

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/KiwiSkateCoachingCourseAuckland1718thFeb2024>

KiwiSkate course – Gore 4 & 5 May

We will have details regarding the timing and a registration form in the February newsletter.

Part of a **Level 1** (previously Intro to Coaching) course will be run at the same time as the Auckland KiwiSkate course. The course will be using the ISU Global Coach Education Level 1 course materials. Individuals must be 16 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold a Preliminary test in any discipline. To attend the Level 1 course individuals need to be a current active coach and have their maintaining points up to date.

Level 1 Coaching Course – Auckland (Avondale & Botany) 17 & 18 February

The course will start around 9am on Saturday and finish around 6:45pm on Sunday. Registration for this course close on **Wednesday 7 February**

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/LevelOneCourseAuckland1718thFeb2024>

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

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

The ISU are still developing the materials for their Level 2, 3 and 4 courses and we expect it to be later in 2024 before we will be able to deliver a Level 2 course.

Officials Training

We have a number of officials training activities planned. If you have any questions regarding any of these please contact the Officials Director at officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz.

- Accountant and Calc Operator Training – online sessions. Dates TBC
- Synchronized Skating - Judge & Technical Seminar plus DO/RO and Calc Operator Training – Christchurch 18 & 19 May
- Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines) – online session Saturday 25 May
- New Probationary and Tier 1 Officials (Singles) - online session Saturday 8 June a.m.
- In addition to the above there will online sessions to cover season updates.

Below please find a link to a form for Officials and Coaches to register for the in person **Synchronized Skating Seminar to be held in Christchurch 18 & 19 of May.**

Seminar Focus

- Officiating Synchronized skating for both Judge and Technical panels, including RO and DO officials.
- The seminar will include full panel exercises utilizing the IJS computer system.
- Calc Operator training will be run concurrently. This is aimed at those new to the role and will be preceded by some online training.
- Technician training is available for those wishing to learn the role.

Please note:

- PLEASE DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS until advised.
- Coaches are invited to attend the training seminars for professional development. Coaches will be funded to attend the Christchurch face-to-face seminar. Continuing Education Points can be gained as per the Coaches Accreditation Policy - Appendix C.
- **Please register by Friday 12 of April**
- A full schedule will be released closer to the time. Start and end times will be roughly as follows:
 - Saturday - 10am - 5am
 - Sunday - 9am - 4am

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2024OfficialsTrainingChristchurchRegistration>

NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Auckland on Saturday 23 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 – Member forums 10am – 12noon, then AGM 12noon – 1:30pm, followed by lunch and then Board and Ops & Dev Group meetings 2-6pm. We are in the process of confirming the venue for the AGM, aiming for a location within a 20 min drive of the airport for those coming from outside Auckland and needing to factor that into what flights they book. We will confirm the venue and member forum soon.

The call for nominations has been sent to Clubs for the various roles that are up for election at the AGM, or for appointment by the Board. If you are interested in finding out more talk to your club or email our General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Board is calling for initial submissions on the **Travel and Reimbursement Policy**. Please refer to the Members Forums on our website <https://nzifsa.org.nz>. Submissions are due by 9 February 2024. The Board will take these submissions into consideration when they review the policy. The **Finance Policy, Child Protection Policy** and **Funding Policy** will be posted on the policy forum for initial submissions on Sunday 28 January and will be open for submissions for 40 days.

The Board had received feedback on the **Officials Training, Appointment and Promotion Policy** following an initial call for submissions. Having reviewed this feedback the Board has proposed some amendments and posted this on the Members Forum. Feedback on the proposed amendments is due by **8 February 2024**.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 13 February. 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 6 February. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the February meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA