



**JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**STATEMENT FROM NZIFSA TO THE U.S. FIGURE SKATING COMMUNITY**

On behalf of the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Association (NZIFSA), we extend our deepest condolences for the tragic loss suffered in the American Airlines Flight 5342 accident. Our hearts go out to the athletes, coaches, families, and everyone affected by this heartbreaking event.

The figure skating community is a close-knit family, united by our shared passion for the sport. In this time of profound grief, we stand with you, mourning alongside you and offering our unwavering support.

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you as you navigate this difficult time. May the memories of those lost bring comfort, and may the strength of the skating community help in healing.

With deepest sympathy,  
**New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Association (NZIFSA)**



In the meantime, we hope you were able to find moments of rest and reflection during the summer break and are feeling ready for the year ahead. While we continue to mourn this heartbreaking loss, we also recognize the strength of the skating community in coming together. 2025 brings new opportunities for our members, with events and activities happening across the country. We look forward to seeing our skaters back on the ice, honoring their passion with dedication and resilience.

## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### **Nordics Open 2025, Asker, Norway 6 – 9 Feb 2025**

Junior Women                      Petra Lahti

### **2025 World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Debrecen, Hungary 25 Feb – 2 March 2025**

Junior Men                          Dwayne Li  
Junior Women                      Petra Lahti  
Coach                                Bess Cao  
Team Leader                        Nicki Holtz  
Judge                                 Sue Petricevic

### **Sonja Henie Trophy, Oslo, Norway 6-9 March 2025**

Junior Women                      Petra Lahti

### **2025 Coupe du Printemps, Kockelscheuer, Luxembourg, 14-16 March 2025**

Junior Women                      Petra Lahti

## PERMISSION TO ATTEND COMPETITIONS OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND

Just a reminder that if you wish to compete in any competition (**including virtual events**) outside New Zealand, you need to request permission from the NZIFSA via the General Secretary [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz).

## OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHES SEMINAR, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA, 26-30 MAY 2025

The 2025 Oceania International Figure Skating Competition is being at the O'Brien Icehouse in Melbourne, Australia 26-28 May. This competition is 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 29-30 May. 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 confirmation of interest by **24 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 2024 National Championships.

[https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/\\_2025OceaniaInternationalFigureSkatingCompetition](https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/_2025OceaniaInternationalFigureSkatingCompetition)

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.

## **CALL FOR TEAM LEADERS FOR OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA, 26-28 MAY 2025**

We are seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to be considered for the Team Leader role for the Oceania International Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia 26 – 28 May. Given the number of skaters we anticipate will attend this competition NZIFSA will also be appointing an Assistant Team Leader to share the workload and responsibilities.

Please submit your expression of interest by **12 noon on Monday 3 March** via the online link below.

We are looking for a Team Leader who has enough experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. As outlined in the position description, 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, have local knowledge that will assist them in carrying out their role.

The Assistant Team Leader role is an ideal opportunity for someone who meets the criteria above but doesn't yet have that experience with international competitions.

The Team Leader position description can be found on page 9 of the [Job Descriptions for Appointed Positions](#) on the NZIFSA website

If you are interested, please complete the online form

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIForOceania2025>

## **CLUCAS CUP (SELECTION COMPETITION), AUCKLAND 13 & 14 JUNE 2025**

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 2025 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 2024 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2025. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.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 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Board are pleased to confirm that the 2025 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will be held in Auckland from the **4 – 7 October 2025**, with unofficial practices starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. The Announcement and Provisional Schedule will be posted on the NZIFSA website as soon as they are available.

## **UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

### **Ice Dance & Synchro Upskilling - Auckland (Botany), 1-2 March and Dunedin, 14-16 March**

**Moderators:** Multiple ISU Coach Scholarship recipients Debbie Darvill & Tracy Hipkiss.

Skaters from all disciplines are encouraged to attend. While these camps serve as an introduction to ice dance and synchro, the focus will be on skating skills development, using techniques from these disciplines to strengthen power, edge quality and control, timing, musicality and creativity.

These workshops are recommended to coaches, particularly those needing an introduction to these disciplines as they work towards Level 2, or those with an interest in expanding their repertoire. The workshops are fully eligible for maintaining points.

**Test requirement:** Minimum of Elementary (Test 0) Stroking or Ice Dance

**Target audience:** Pre – Elementary to Basic Novice & Adults and Youth Interpretive.

### ***Provisional Schedules:***

#### **Auckland**

Saturday 1 March: afternoon to late evening

Sunday 2 March: morning and afternoon sessions

#### **Dunedin**

Friday 14 March: morning to early afternoon

Saturday 15 March: morning to early afternoon

Sunday 16 March: morning to early afternoon

### ***Cost information:***

	Early bird registration fee	Standard Registration Fee
Skaters	\$150	\$165
Level 1-4 Coaches	\$100	\$120

***Auckland Registration Form & Closing Dates:***

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025IceDanceSynchronoUpskillingAuckland12March>

Early bird registration: register and make payment **on or before 14 February**.

Standard registration: register and make payment **between 14 February and 23 February**.

***Dunedin Registration Form & Closing Dates:***

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025IceDanceSynchronoUpskillingDunedin1416March>

Early bird registration: register and make payment **on or before 23 February**.

Standard registration: register and make payment **between 23 February and 2 March**.

**Singles Basic Novice to Senior - Auckland (Botany), 18-21 April**

We are very pleased to confirm **Kevin Reynolds** and **Alaine Chartrand** as the international moderators for this workshop. Kevin represented Canada on the international stage with extensive experience. His achievements include winning a team silver medal at the 2014 Winter Olympics, becoming the 2013 Four Continents Champion, and making history as the first skater to successfully land two quadruple jumps in a short program. Alaine also represented Canada on the international stage, earning a bronze medal at the 2014 Rostelecom Cup, a silver medal at the 2016 CS Autumn Classic, and claiming the title of Canadian national champion twice.

We anticipate the camp will include all day workshops from 18 to 21 April. In addition to the on-ice sessions, we plan to include standard off-ice, dance, and workshops on nutrition and anti-doping. An online or in person media training session may also be offered in conjunction with this camp.

Skaters coming from outside Auckland should plan to stay in Auckland on the Thursday night before the camp starts.

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 moderators.

***Registrations close: 15 March 2025***

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025CampForBasicNoviceToSeniorSkaters>

***Cost information:***

\$220 for Basic & Intermediate Novice Grades - NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$440 for Basic & Intermediate Novice Grades - Any Other Skaters

\$275 for Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior - NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$550 for Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior - Any Other Skaters

\$220 for Level 1-4 Coaches\*

\*For Level 1 coaches, there is an age restriction of 18+ years and a requirement to attend a pre-camp training session. Coaches of any level who will be competitive in one of the grades covered by the camp in 2025 must attend as a skater.

## UPCOMING COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Thank you to all those that completed the expression of interest information. NZIFSA is pleased to confirm that a KiwiSkate Coaching Course and a Level 1 Coaching Course will be held 15 & 16 February in Christchurch. Information regarding these courses was communicated via rinks, clubs and coaches.

Registrations for the KiwiSkate and Level 1 Coaching Courses closed **11am on Sunday 2 February**.

### **KiwiSkate Coaching Course - Alpine Ice, Christchurch, 15-16 February**

Proposed timing: 2pm Saturday - 1pm Sunday (exact timing TBC).

Course Fee: \$90

The course covers 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.

Please refer to the NZIFSA Coaching Accreditation Policy for further information. The Coaches' Accreditation Policy and appendices are available on the NZIFSA Rule & Regulations tab

All participants must be current NZIFSA KiwiSkate Assistant, KiwiSkate or Level 1 Coach Members. New KiwiSkate coaches, please complete the 2025 Coach Membership Form in addition to the course registration form.

Registrations for this course have now closed. If you have missed the registration deadline, please contact the NZIFSA Secretary at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)

### **Level 1 Coaching Course - Alpine Ice, Christchurch, 15-16 February**

Proposed timing: 2pm Saturday till 1pm Sunday (exact timing TBC).

Course Fee: \$150

To be eligible to attend the Level 1 course you must:

- be a current NZIFSA KiwiSkate (or Level 1) Coach member, and
- have earned the Coach Education Points required to maintain accreditation at your current level before the course commences \*
- be a minimum of 16 years as at 1 January 2025
- hold a minimum of preliminary test in any discipline

Please refer to the NZIFSA Coaching Accreditation Policy for further information. The Coaches' Accreditation Policy and appendices are available on the NZIFSA Rule & Regulations tab

\* If you have let your KiwiSkate registration lapse you will need to complete your 2025 annual coach membership including the required Continuing Education Points NZIFSA 2025 Coach Membership

Registrations for this course have now closed. If you have missed the registration deadline, please contact the NZIFSA Secretary at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)

## **Level 2 Coaching Course**

Due to the unavailability of a moderator, organizing the Level 2 coaching course has faced challenges. NZIFSA plans to introduce a new course aligned with the ISU framework, set to begin in October/November 2025 (after Nationals), with the on-ice practical section scheduled for January/February 2026. Participants must complete at least six weeks of online sessions before the practical weekend. To support Level 1 coaches that are ready to progress to Level 2, NZIFSA is aiming to appoint Level 3 mentors to guide them throughout the 2025 season, assisting with competitions and tests. Additionally, it has approved a Provisional Level 2 Apprentice dispensation, with applications reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Further information will be provided to current Level 1 Coaches regarding the application process.

## **UPCOMING OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

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](mailto:officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz).

**SYS Seminar for Judges and Technical Specialists** – online session April.

**Introductory sessions for new Probationary officials** – online session early June. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

**Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines)** – online session late June. This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

**Tech Specialist/Controller Seminar (Singles) - Auckland 10-11 May.** With ISU Technical Controller & ISU Technical Specialists Robert Rosenbluth & Steven Hsu, Auckland 10-11 May.

Robert Rosenbluth brings extensive international experience to the technical panel. He has served as a technical controller at numerous international events, including the 2022 and 2023 World Junior Championships. He also judged at the 2024 Senior Grand Prix in Canada and was part of the panel at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Steven Hsu has been on the international panel since the 2005–2006 season, working as both a technical controller and specialist at various U.S. national competitions. He has also served as a data/replay operator at major events, including the 2024 Grand Prix Final and the 2023 Senior Grand Prix in China.

This is a valuable opportunity to work with two experienced moderators, allowing us to deepen our knowledge and enhance our skills as Tech Specialists and Tech Controllers in New Zealand.

### **Please note:**

- PLEASE DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS until advised.
- Coaches are invited to attend the training seminars for professional development. Continuing Education Points can be gained as per the Coaches Accreditation Policy - Appendix C.
- **Please register by Sunday 23 March.**  
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025OfficialsTrainingAucklandRegistration>
- A full schedule will be released closer to the time. Start and end times will be roughly as follows: Saturday - 10am – 5pm and Sunday - 9am – 3pm.

## **NZIFSA AGM – CHRISTCHURCH, SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025**

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Christchurch on 5<sup>th</sup> April and will be followed by a member forum. We encourage all clubs to ensure they have representation at the AGM. Reimbursement for club delegates will be as per section 3.3 of the Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

The following is an indicative schedule so that clubs can look to book travel.

10am – 10:45 welcome and member forum (*Operational Plan – feedback on priorities*),

10:45am – 12:15pm AGM

12:15 – 1pm Lunch

1-5 pm for Board, Development and Operations Group meetings (*Please note that attendance will be required by those elected into roles at the AGM*)

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 Christchurch and needing to factor that into what flights they book. As we have arranged the schedule for being concluded in one day there will be minimal accommodation required.

The call for nominations will be sent to Clubs shortly 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](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)

## **NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS**

The Board put out a call for initial submissions on the **Travel and Reimbursement Policy** in mid December. Please refer to the Members Forums on our website <https://nzifsa.org.nz>. Submissions were due by 31 January 2025. The Board will take any submissions into consideration when they review the policy.

The **Funding Policy**, **Electronic Meetings Policy** and **Privacy Policy** have just recently been posted on the policy forum for initial submissions and will be open for submissions until 14 March 2025.

## **NZIFSA BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 11 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](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)) by Tuesday 4 February. Any correspondence received after this will be tabled at the March meeting.

All the best in skating,  
Robyn Morris and Bess Cao  
President and CEO  
NZIFSA