



NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

March 2016 NEWSLETTER

2016 AGM OF THE NZ ICE FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION, INC

The AGM will be held in Auckland on Saturday 9 April at the offices of Apparel Lines, 17 Rennie Drive, Airport Oaks, Auckland 2022.

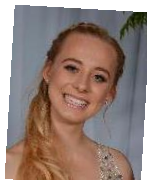
Delegates that are flying in should plan to arrive before 12.30pm and depart any time after 5.30pm on the Saturday. The AGM will be preceded by member forums starting at 1.15pm, with the AGM itself starting at approximately 2.45pm, and followed by a social afternoon tea 4.00 - 5.00pm. All members are most welcome to attend the forums, and for that matter the AGM (though they won't have speaking rights at the AGM unless they are a delegate).

NZIFSA Development Camps in April with Manon Perron

As mentioned in the last two newsletters, NZIFSA are organising a further development camp in Dunedin (26-28 April), and one in Auckland (29 April - 1 May), with Olympic Solidarity funding via the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC). These camps are for our NZIFSA Development Squad members, any of our other skaters that are Juvenile level or up, and our Level 1 and up coaches. We're very excited to have Manon Perron as the primary moderator for these camps. Information about these camps and registration forms were emailed out in February. Please contact our Skater Development Director, Liudmila Kuznetsova Liudmila.sk8coach@me.com, or our Coaching Director, Caitlyn Paul coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz, if you did not receive this information.

ISU Development Trophy – Poland 11-17 April 2016

We have four development squad skaters attending the ISU World Development Trophy in Gdansk, Poland 11 - 17 Apr 2016. These skaters are Grace Greenstreet (Basic Novice A), Zara Anthony-Whigham (Basic Novice B Ladies), Tracy Danbrook and Christina Floka (Junior Ladies). Brian Lee (Junior Men) was to attend and compete but, unfortunately, has broken his ankle and requires surgery. Caitlyn Paul will be the Team Leader/Coach. Kelly Brown (Grace Greenstreet's mother) will be attending as a chaperone. Best wishes to these skaters for the seminar and competition.



Gardena Trophy – Egna (Bolzano) Italy 15 – 17 April 2016

Brian Lee was going to go from the ISU Development Trophy to compete in the Junior Men's event at the Gardena Spring Trophy in Italy. Our best wishes go to Brian for a speedy recovery.



Team Challenge Cup 2016

The US Figure Skating Association are holding the inaugural Team Challenge Cup and have invited Sandra Williamson-Leadley as a Judge from a non-competing country. The competition will be held in Spokane, Washington, 22-24 April 2016, and will feature three teams of skaters from Asia, Europe and North America competing in Ladies, Men, Ice Dance and Pair Skating.

TEST FORMS

Coaches recently received a letter reminding them what it means when they sign a test form. Parents and skaters are asked to read and consider the information that was given to the coaches. By signing their name, a coach is stating that, in their professional opinion, a skater is ready to take their test. It does not mean that they are saying or guaranteeing the skater will pass it but they are ready to try the test.

The NZIFSA rules are very clear about withdrawals from testing. Please reread NZIFSA Rule 502.10

Any withdrawals from a test day (for other than medical or bereavement reasons or exceptional circumstances) must be made a minimum of 7 days prior to the test date. Failure to comply will necessitate the reapplication for the test plus another test fee.

Clubs need to arrange test dates and times and are generally locked into and have to pay for the ice time booked. If skaters are withdrawn from tests because they are not deemed ready, this puts a financial burden on Clubs as they have to then come up with any shortfall to pay for the ice time. Also, for higher level tests, judges from other centres are sometimes required and again this is an added cost. Generally airfares are booked well in advance to keep the costs down and, again if skaters withdraw because they are not ready, this is a cost that has to be absorbed by the club or passed on to the other skaters.

Coaches are asked to work with the test/competition secretary for the home club that their skater belongs to in organising tests at appropriate times. This is mainly in regards to skaters moving to the next grade or completing tests necessary to compete or be eligible for international assignments if selected for the development squad. Please also consider doing higher level tests at competitions when offered. Higher level tests that require two judges are given priority at these events.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and attention to this matter.

TEST AND COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

With the 2016 skating season getting underway with tests and competitions, this is a reminder about test and competition etiquette for skaters, coaches, and parents. The following is to assist skaters to be prepared appropriately for test and competitions.

- Skaters should be punctual for tests and be ready at least 30 minutes before they are scheduled to compete.
- Skaters should be appropriately dressed for tests and competitions. For stroking tests, a fitted jacket or similar and leggings (females) or trousers (males) may be worn. For free skating or ice dance tests, competition outfits or similar are to be worn. Skaters should present themselves in a manner that is respectful to themselves and the sport.

- For tests, skaters should not leave the ice, particularly if they may have the opportunity to reskate an element/s, until the judge has signalled that the test is concluded.

Each of the judges marks the test by a skater individually and then the panel will discuss the result. If the marks are such that a reskate (or reskates for higher level tests), at the discretion of the judge/s, may allow the skater to pass a test, then the reskated element will count towards the total mark required to pass a test. If, in the opinion of the judge/s, the skater is unable to attain the required marks with a reskate (or reskates for higher level tests), no reskates will be given. Judges will inform skaters of the result at the earliest opportunity, usually while the next group is warming up for their tests. If a skater passes, the judge/s will offer a handshake and congratulations. If a skater fails, the judge/s will try to give the result in a constructive manner. In either case, the judge/s will give feedback and feedforward to the skater and their coach. Just a reminder that one of the hardest tasks for a judge is to tell a skater who has worked very hard and spent money preparing for the test, that they have failed. If you have questions about a test, please ask the judge/s at the conclusion of the test session. It is easier to have the discussion at that time as judges do not have a copy of the test sheets to refer back to. If you have questions, please ask as this ensures that the skater, coach and parent understands the reason(s) for the result and what needs to be corrected and/or worked on.

At competitions, skaters, coaches or parents may ask the Referee of the event for information about marks given at the conclusion of the event. The Referee may consult with an individual or the panel of judges for reasons for the mark given. Judges' marks cannot be protested against (please see NZIFSA Rule 222 for full details). In the case of the element called, the Referee will refer to the Technical Controller for the event.

Officials voluntarily give their time for test days and competitions. They may have the cost of transportation and accommodation paid for but they are not paid to judge at these events. Many officials take annual leave to attend competitions and without them, we would not be able to hold the various competitions and championships around the country.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in these matters.

COACHING COURSES IN 2016

There are a number of coaching courses planned for 2016.

- In May an Intro to Coaching Course will be held in Christchurch and a Level 1 Coaching Course will be held in Dunedin.
- A Level 2 course is being offered by the Australian Professional Skaters Association in May.

Dates for the above will be confirmed in the near future.

If you have questions about any of the above courses, please contact the NZIFSA Coaching Director, Caitlyn Paul (coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz)

UPCOMING COMPETITIONS IN NZ

A reminder to skaters, particularly those that are new to competing, that details of upcoming competitions can be found on the NZIFSA website <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>

Your Club's test/competition secretary or secretary will also have information available and will be able to assist with entries.

UPCOMING INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Just a reminder that if you wish to compete in an interclub competition in Australia, you need to request permission from the NZIFSA. This should be done in plenty of time and before you purchase your airfares. The NZIFSA encourage NZ skaters to compete in the following interclub competitions:

Hollins Trophy – Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink (Sydney) 10 – 13 June (this is also a competition where skaters can gain selection to be an A or B representative squad member).

WinterSun Trophy – Acacia Ridge Ice Rink (Brisbane) 6 - 10 July

Crystal Challenge – O'Brien Arena (Melbourne) 5 – 7 August

For information about other competitions, such as artistic and synchronized skating events, please check the following link for a complete listing of events around Australia: <http://www.isa.org.au/images/Documents/ISA%20National%20Calendar%20160303.pdf>

Early notice of ISU Ice Dance Seminar in Seoul, Korea August 14 – 20, 2016

There will be an International Ice Dance Development Training Seminar for Ice Dance Coaches and Couples of beginner, Novice and Junior (but not lower than Novice Basic skating level) from Asia, Oceania, the Pacific region and South Africa. The age of the couples should be according to the current ISU age requirements for Novice (> 10 and <15 years for girls and <17 for boys) and Junior (> 13 and <19 years for ladies and <21 for men) Ice Dance Couples, as at 1 July 2016.

Each Member may enter a maximum of 3 Couples and up to 1 alternate and 2 Coaches to the Seminar. The Seminar is also open to Coaches wishing to attend without Skaters at their own cost. Please refer to ISU Communication No. 1990 for more detail.

If you are interested in participating in this please email the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Monday 2 May at the latest.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2016 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Note the following is a provisional schedule. Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, the order of the events is however likely to change.

Monday 10 October Unofficial practices

Tuesday 11 October

Juvenile Ladies & Men
Pre Primary Ladies & Men
Primary Ladies & Men
Intermediate Ladies & Men
Pairs
Dance PD & SD

Wednesday 12 October

Novice Ladies & Men SP
Junior Ladies & Men SP
Senior Ladies & Men SP
Dance FD
Synchro FS

Thursday 13 October

Novice Ladies & Men FS
Junior Ladies & Men FS
Senior Ladies & Men FS

Friday 14 October

All adult grades (including synchro)

Official practices are expected to be held between 6.00am and 10.00am each day and the competition between 3.00pm and 7.00pm each day, with the exception of Thursday where we expect to finish the competition by 5.30pm. Unofficial practices for Adults are expected to be held on Thursday evening from 5.45- 7.00pm.

The Banquet will be on Thursday 13 October following the completion of the standard grade competitions.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Sunday 10 April. 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 Sunday 3 April at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the May meeting (date to be confirmed).

All the best in skating,
Sandra Williamson-Leadley and Jeanette King