

### CONGRATULATIONS DWAYNE LI ON EARNING NZL A YOG QUOTA PLACE!

There are 18 spots in the Men's event at the 2024 Gangwon Winter Youth Olympic Games. Of these, 14 were allocated based on placings at the 2023 Junior Worlds. The remaining 4 spots are allocated to the four top ranked skaters from the JGP series whose countries do not already have a quota place. After his bronze medal at the Bangkok JGP and 5<sup>th</sup> placing at the Osaka JGP Dwayne is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> overall in the JGP series and is the top ranked skater whose member federation doesn't yet have a quota place. The ISU have announced the allocation of a place to New Zealand (ISU



Photo by On Ice Images

Communication 2569). What an outstanding achievement. There is still a fair amount of paperwork to be finalised before Dwayne's nomination for these Games can be confirmed, but we are all very excited by how things are tracking.

### NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS & NEW ZEALAND ADULT SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS, DUNEDIN 7-10 OCTOBER 2023

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Dunedin Ice Skating Club organising committee, led by Kim Brown, for making this such a successful event. An outstanding team effort. Thanks also to all the officials who volunteered their time and the parents and skaters who picked up volunteer roles to make things work on the day.



A special thanks to our amazing IJS tech people Alan Greenstreet and Mike Slater (right) who put in the long hours at Nationals but who have also been so essential to the running of most of our other competitions this year.

Our National Championships are the pinnacle event of our skating calendar and we wish to congratulate all those who met the qualification criteria to be able to compete. We enjoyed some of the best skating we have seen in New Zealand over the four days of competition. All results can be found on the competitions section of the NZIFSA website: <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/>.

We would like to make special mention of the funding support we had from our major sponsors Aotearoa Gaming Trust and Pub Charity Limited towards the ice time and the officials' accommodation. This support helps us keep the cost for skaters to enter our National Championships at a much more reasonable level.



**AOTEAROA  
GAMING  
TRUST**



### **FORGOT TO ORDER YOUR NATIONALS PHOTOS?**

You can access the eStore via the Sportity app or on the link below. Digital download is \$15 per image. The pass code for the Nationals eStore is: 7vEMZt

<https://www.keaphotos.com/2023-new-zealand-ice-figure-skating-championships/>

### **PROVISIONAL NATIONAL CHAMPS VENUE FOR 2024**

The Board have provisionally accepted the Expression of Interest from Centaurus Ice Skating Club to host the 2024 New Zealand National Ice Figure Skating. Confirmation is subject to ice time pricing from the rink. The dates will be confirmed once we have that information.

### **SELECTIONS FROM THE 2023 NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The provisional announcement of selection to development squads and of representative skaters was made at the banquet following the completion of our National Championships. The confirmed selections are listed below.

#### **SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL A TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SKATERS**

The following skaters have met the NZIFSA criteria to be eligible for selection to represent New Zealand at International Competitions and are in order of priority.

##### **Advanced Novice Girls**

Renee Tsai \*

Cara Tang \* \*\*

Christine Aixinjueluo \* \*\*

Brooke Cathro \* \*\*

Mira Ren \*\*



**Advanced Novice Boys**

Dwayne Li \*



**Junior Women**

Renee Tsai

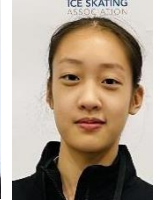
Mirika Armstrong\*\*

Misaki Joe

Cara Tang

Christine Aixinjueluo

Brooke Cathro



**Junior Men**

Dwayne Li



**Senior Women**

Dani Gebser

\* Skaters are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in due to age

\*\* Skaters will age out of the indicated grade at 1 July 2024

**SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL B TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SKATERS**

The International B Team provides an opportunity for a further group of skaters to gain experience at international competitions. These skaters are eligible to attend any international competitions where the number of spaces available to New Zealand in any grade exceeds the number of selected International A Team Representatives, but they aren't eligible for any NZIFSA funding for this. These are listed in order of priority.

**Basic Novice Girls**

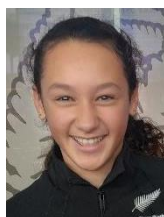
Lilah Langi-Scott \*

Mia Cotton \* \*\*

Mia Chen

Madison Bryce

Olivia Dickson



**Intermediate Novice Girls**

Lilah Langi-Scott

Mia Cotton

Yuhuan Ding

Sabine Edmonds \*\*

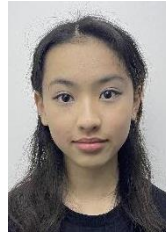
Kelly Zou \*\*



**Advanced Novice Girls**

Alethea Wong \*\*

Emmy Wratt \*\*



**Junior Women**

Rebekah Sime

Olivia Pokorny



**Basic Novice SYS \*\*\***

Platinum

Evie Bolster

Lili Cooper

Oria Deng

Kylie Jiang

Athena Macmac

Emma Scholtz

Aries Simpson

Tang Tang

Emma Thein-Xie

Luna Wu

Alva Zhang

Evie Zhu

Kyle Hui

Eddie Luo

Ryder Zou



**Mixed Age Synchronized \*\*\***

Black Ice

Maddison Blincoe

Megan Briggs

Caitlin Carter

Katrina Chan

Neske Groenewegen

Alex Hamilton

Amber Harries

Victoria Heald

Vanessa Preston

Zoe Schnuriger

Brooke Stansfield

Taylyn Vallet

Courtney Wertheim

Gabby Wooler

Jordan Etches



Cutting Edge  
 Djuna Elkan  
 Amelie Henderson  
 Shawna Henderson  
 Lucienne Holtz  
 Rachael Jannink  
 Arlea Lewis  
 Olivia Marks  
 Jazelle McCormick  
 Hannah Sime  
 Rebekah Sime  
 Paige Symister  
 Selina Zeng



- \* Skaters are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in due to age
- \*\* Skaters will age out of the indicated grade at 1 July 2024
- \*\*\* For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ National Championships and must meet the requirements for that grade for that competition.

**Exemption granted under section 7 of the Selection Policy**

Jazz Evangelou has been granted an exemption to be considered for selection for International Competitions in Junior Women’s grade, subject to medical clearance and monitoring.



**NZIFSA HIGH PERFORMANCE**

When reviewing Skater Development selections, the Board identified that a change to the Skater Development Policy was required to effectively treat a new or unexpected situation. It was noted that we have a skater creating history and making headlines in the international skating forums for his outstanding performance by medalling at a Junior Grand Prix event, but the criteria for selection to the High Performance Squad did not include this. The Board have acted to change the policy under urgency with the addition of the underlined criteria below. The policy has been posted on the NZIFSA Members Forum for feedback.

Inclusion is based on results at the Junior and Senior World Championships, Four Continents Championship, Senior Grand Prix each year and will be open to those singles pairs and dance couples who compete in the short program/dance and qualify for the freeskate/freedance at any of these events. Also includes those skaters who qualify for Junior/Senior Grand Prix Finals, Winter Youth Olympic Games or Olympic Games or who medal at a Junior Grand Prix event.

Based on the above criteria we are very pleased to confirm the following selection to the High Performance Squad

**Junior Men**  
 Dwayne Li



## NZIFSA DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Inclusion is based on results at the North Islands or South Island Championships, or New Zealand National Championships. Selection is open to all skaters who meet the specified age requirements and Total Element Score (TES) for their grade at one of Championships.

Those marked with \* met the Development Squad selection criteria at either the North or South Island Championships. These are listed alphabetically by surname.

### Basic Novice Under 12

Mia Chen

Olivia Dickson \*

Olivia Mandle \*

### Basic Novice Girls

Madison Bryce



### Intermediate Novice Under 12

Mia Cotton \*

### Intermediate Novice Girls

Yuhuan Ding \*

Lilah Langi-Scott \*

Kelly Zou



### Advanced Novice Girls

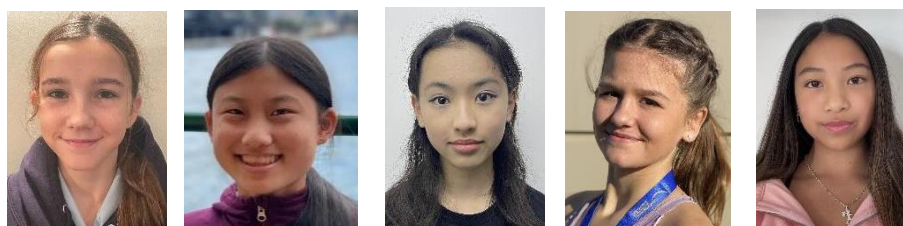
Sophie Pokorny \*

Mira Ren

Alethea Wong \*

Emmy Wratt \*

Selina Zeng \*



### Junior Women

Christine Aixinjueluo \*

Mirika Armstrong \*

Brooke Cathro \*

Jazz Evangelou \*

Misaki Joe \*

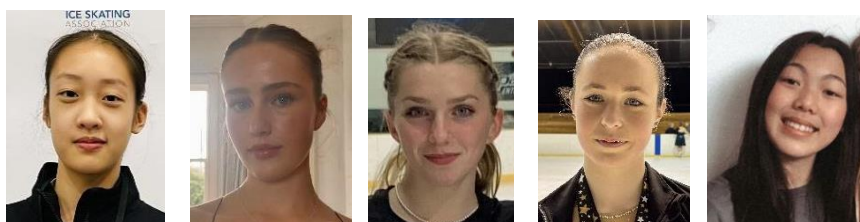
Olivia Pokorny

Rebekah Sime

Cara Tang

Renee Tsai

Connie Yang



### Senior Women

Dani Gebser \*



**Basic Novice Synchronized**

Ice Angels \*

- Emily Bai
- Natalie Foo
- Poorvi Jain
- Anna-Bella Levien
- Misaki Nakanishi
- Lilian Peng
- Naomi Sih
- Savannah Tanone
- Aeryl Zhang
- Chloe Zhi



Platinum \*

- Evie Bolster
- Lili Cooper
- Oria Deng
- Kylie Jiang
- Athena Macmac
- Emma Scholtz
- Aries Simpson
- Tang Tang
- Emma Thein-Xie
- Luna Wu
- Alva Zhang
- Evie Zhu
- Kyle Hui
- Eddie Luo
- Ryder Zou



**Mixed Age Synchronized**

Black Ice \*

- Maddison Blincoe
- Megan Briggs
- Caitlin Carter
- Katrina Chan
- Neske Groenewegen
- Alex Hamilton
- Amber Harries
- Victoria Heald
- Vanessa Preston
- Zoe Schnuriger
- Brooke Stansfield
- Taylyn Vallet
- Courtney Wertheim
- Gabby Wooler
- Jordan Etches



Cutting Edge \*  
 Djuna Elkan  
 Amelie Henderson  
 Shawna Henderson  
 Lucienne Holtz  
 Rachael Jannink  
 Arlea Lewis  
 Olivia Marks  
 Jazelle McCormick  
 Hannah Sime  
 Rebekah Sime  
 Paige Symister  
 Selina Zeng



**Junior Synchronized**

Titanium:  
 Rachel Chen  
 Jasmine Hu  
 Sophie Jennings  
 Alexis Laud  
 Katrina Mitalauskas  
 Noelle Qiu  
 Caitlin Rae  
 Emma Scholtz  
 Jenna Scholtz  
 Ava Spencer  
 Vicky Wang  
 Lexie Wu  
 Kelly Zou



**OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT THE NATIONALS BANQUET**

**NORMAN CAMERON CUP OF EXCELLENCE**

This cup is awarded to the skater, couple, pair or team that has excelled in skating over the year, in international competitions or have had an outstanding year in skating. The trophy is only to be awarded if a skater deserves it and fits the above criteria. This year the Board did not take long to reach a decision given the significant evidence of outstanding performance of one individual in particular. We are very pleased to announce that the Norman Cameron Cup was awarded in 2023 to Dwayne Li.



Dwayne and coach, Bess Cao, at 2023 ISU Junior World Champs



## ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

There were only three nominations for this award this year, however, each of the nominees have made a significant contribution to the administration of our sport. The nominees were **Melissa Cummings, Carol Petrie** and **Karen Smith**.

### Criteria:

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club/sub association.
- Take on administrative/organizational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club/sub-association.
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport.
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club/sub-association.

The Board are very pleased to award the Administrator of the Year award to **Melissa Cummings**. The NZIFSA also wish to acknowledge all the other nominees for this award and the valuable part they play in creating a positive environment for all our skaters.

The nomination from Ice Sports Southland for Melissa Cummings:

*Melissa has been in the voluntary role of Figure Skating Executive for Ice Sports Southland since the start of 2022. She has previously held other roles within our club, including President, is a former competitive skater to Senior level, as well as a current Judge & Technical Controller. She has also been on the Otago Southland & South Island Sub Associations committees.*

*Ice Sports Southland are currently in a rebuilding phase with our figure skater numbers being depleted. Melissa has worked tirelessly to strengthen and develop our Kiwi skate programme and to grow the numbers of participants. She has implemented development groups to assist with the transition of our skaters from kiwi skate to private lessons and to encourage those skaters just beginning private lessons into the competitive stream. Melissa is responsible for the administration of the Kiwi skate programme, taking the registrations, arranging the volunteer assistant coaches to help out each week and printing the certificates for badge passes.*

*She arranges our week-long learn to skate programmes each school holidays and has implemented weekly adult learn to skate sessions for both beginner and experienced skaters, with the numbers attending continuing to increase. Her role also includes managing the calendar of ice time available for the figure skaters each week, making sure ice grooms happen when needed, and liaising with the coaches to ensure all groups have a coach as required.*

*As we had no accredited coach available, Melissa set out to ensure we had one in place for 2023 following our closure for rink maintenance. She undertook the role of advertising extensively within NZ and overseas and was successful in securing a qualified coach from Australia for us.*

*Our club championships this year had in excess of 50 entries and Melissa worked very hard with the support of our small but enthusiastic group of volunteers to ensure it was a successful event. We also note she was on the judging and Tech panel at the competition as well as doing the organising work pre, post and during the competition. Ice Sports also hosted the 2023 Otago Southland competition and Melissa was again a crucial part of the organising team.*

*Melissa recently applied for and was successful in gaining significant funding from the Ministry for Women - physical activity and wellbeing fund for Ice Sports Southland to be able to provide a free*

*skating programme to get school aged girls participating in twice weekly group skating lessons for a term. This will encourage further growth in our skater numbers. She has also secured the funding for Ice Sports Southland to be able to provide our development groups for skaters at very minimal cost.*

*Melissa willingly assists the skaters and their families by passing on her knowledge of skating. She ensures that the figure skaters, kiwi skaters and their parents are well informed and supported, and that they are kept updated with the upcoming events and activities.*

*Her passion for and commitment to figure skating is very evident. She is a true role model for others in our club and sport to aspire to!*

## **SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**

Sadly, only two nominations were received for this important award. The two we did receive were both very worthy recipients and the Board were faced with a very challenging decision. The nominees were **Dani Gebser** and **Gabby Wereta**.

### **Criteria:**

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a “fair play” attitude/good sportsmanship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, Kiwi Skate coaching sessions

The Board are very pleased to award the Sportsperson of the Year award to **Dani Gebser**. The NZIFSA also wish to acknowledge Gabby’s nomination for this award and the valuable part she plays in creating a positive environment for her fellow skaters.

Dani’s nomination made by the Glenburn Figure Skating Club:

*Dani is a great role model to our younger club members by participating in club events. She was instrumental in the success of the Club’s Ice Gala group performance for International Ice Skating Day, sharing responsibility in organising and choreographing the routine. She motivated the skaters to also perform again at the Paradise gala.*

*Dani is a committed competitor who trains hard and shows respect for others on the ice, which she also teaches to her skaters that she coaches. She is always there to support her skaters at competitions.*

*Dani is a member of the Glenburn Committee and always has ideas and suggestions towards the club’s activities and assists with fundraising and any coaching ideas that we discuss. She is also a member of the North Islands Committee where she presents ideas for camps and has suggestions to enhance the running of competitions and tests.*

*Dani has also represented NZ internationally this year and she is a determined and passionate skater who is always striving to achieve her goals. She is an inspiration to us all, and we are lucky to have her in our community.*

## THE ALLCHURCH SHIELD

The Shield is named after Sandy Allchurch and is awarded to the club that gets the highest number of points, based on where their members place in the various grades, at our New Zealand National and Adult Skating Championships. Sandy Allchurch was actively involved in the Association for many years and was at the inaugural meeting in June 1937 of what was, until 2011, the New Zealand Ice Skating Association. Sandy was also Patron for our Association for many years and was very dedicated to supporting ice skating. Being able to present this award each year is a rather special acknowledgement to Sandy and the contribution that he, and others like him, have made to our sport.

The provisional announcement of the Allchurch Shield was made at the banquet. The Allchurch Shield was won by Allegro Ice Dance Club – congratulations.

Summary of the Allchurch Shield points:

Allegro Ice Dance Club (AIDC)	35
Glenburn Figure Skating Club (GFSC)	33
Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC)	28
Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club (AIFSC)	26
Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club (CMFSC)	18
Centaurus Ice Skating Club (CISC)	9
Queenstown Ice Skating Club (QISC)	7
Alexandra Ice Skating Club (AISC)	5
Ice Sports Southland (ISS)	3



Coach Tracy Hipkiss holding the Allchurch Shield surrounded by Allegro Ice Dance Club skaters and the club Secretary, Sharon Scholtz, and President, Selina Rae, on the back right.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE DARVILL ON ISU COACH SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to Debbie Darvill who has been awarded an ISU Development Program 2023 Coach Scholarship for Ice Dance. This is a really significant recognition of Debbie’s skills and expertise and marks the fourth year that she has been awarded this scholarship.

## UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### ISU International Adult Competition, Nashville USA, 18-22 October

Bronze II Women Artistic	Victoria Marinova
Bronze IV Women Artistic	Jeanette King
Silver II Women Artistic	Olga Levien
Bronze II Women Freeskate	Victoria Marinova
Bronze IV Women Freeskate	Jeanette King
Silver II Women Freeskate	Olga Levien

## WORLD ICE SKATING DAY – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER



Mark this date in your calendar now and look out for activities that might be happening in your area. The World Ice Skating Day (WISD), created and organized by the International Skating Union (ISU), is a one-day global festival dedicated to Ice Skating. This year's annual celebration will be held on December 3, 2023. The key objectives are to make Ice Skating sports accessible to everyone in a fun and safe environment – for first-timers, amateurs, professionals or retired skaters.

## NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November. 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 Saturday 18 November. Any correspondence received after that date may be tabled at the December meeting.

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