

New Zealand Ice Skating Association (Inc.)
(Affiliated to the International Skating Union)

To: Members NZISA Council
From: Warwick Johnson, Sandra Williamson-Leadley (NZL Figure Delegates)
Date: 26 July 2006

Report on the 51st ISU Ordinary Congress
Budapest, Hungary
26 – 30 June 2006

The 51st ISU Ordinary Congress held in Budapest, Hungary in June 2006 was an opportunity to renew friendships, make new acquaintances and to continue to develop a network of contacts throughout the skating world. The Congress was attended by approximately 230 delegates from 72 ISU Member federations. An electronic voting system was utilised for the first time at an ISU Congress and proved to be a successful venture.

Almost every affiliated Member sent a delegation to Congress. It was obvious that an effective presence is expected of members and that absence was disapproved of. A delegation of one member would be highly conspicuous and would be taken as a sign of lack of commitment. We felt that two delegates for figure and two for speed was the correct number.

After the Congress was opened by the ISU President, Mr Ottavio Cinquanta, the delegates began debating over 300 proposals for changes to the regulations. In an early decision the Congress decided to establish one single first instance body for considering disciplinary and ethical offence charges. This meant that the ISU Appeals Commission and the ISU Disciplinary Commission were merged. The debating of proposals to modify the ISU Constitution and General Regulations took the first two days of the Congress. Some of the more important decisions that came out of this debate included:

- Relaxing of citizenship rules for couples – the Congress unanimously passed a motion to make the citizenship rules for pair skating and ice dance couples less restrictive. The amendments mark a clear relaxing of the rules and intend to facilitate pairing in regions where skaters have encountered difficulties in finding a partner of the same nationality.
- ISU Communications are published on the ISU website and hard copies are mailed to ISU Members and Office Holders only.
- Voting method – ISU voting for office-bearers required members to vote for the exact number of vacancies. The vote of any Member who cast more or fewer votes than the number of vacancies is declared invalid. The new wording for paragraph 25 reads, “Delegates will be required to select as many names of candidates as there are open positions. Ballots with more or fewer names than open positions or containing non-nominated candidates are invalid”.

- The urgent proposal No 5 put forward by the Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance Technical Committees listed on ISU Communication 1392 was accepted for the Agenda. This proposal was a rewording of Rules 425 and 589 (Nomination and Appointment of Judges) and was accepted as written ISU Communication 1392 with the addition of wording from Rule 197 paragraph 10b (last sentence) regarding special seminars on paragraph 9a ii).

Financial Matters

Spending by the ISU was reported to the Congress with 75% of spending relating directly to the sport and 25% relating to the running of the ISU Council/organisation.

Proposals for Congress (Constitution)

The results of the voting on the proposals as outlined in the Agenda for the 51st ISU Ordinary Congress (available on the ISU website) are as follows:

1. Rejected
2. Rejected
3. Rejected
4. Rejected
5. Accepted but new wording according to Council recommendation
6. Rejected
7. Accepted and includes Council recommendation stated
8. Accepted and includes Council recommendation stated
9. Rejected
10. Accepted
11. Rejected
12. Rejected
13. Accepted
14. Accepted
15. Rejected
16. Rejected
17. Rejected
18. Accepted
19. Accepted
20. Accepted
21. Rejected
22. Rejected
23. Withdrawn
24. Accepted but new wording according to Council recommendation
25. Withdrawn
26. Accepted and includes Council recommendation stated
27. Accepted
28. Rejected
29. Rejected
30. Rejected
31. Rejected
32. Accepted with amendments as per note.

33. Accepted
34. Accepted
35. Accepted
36. Accepted and extended to all disciplines
37. Accepted and extended to list Speed Skating disciplines.

Proposals for Congress (General Regulations)

38. Accepted
39. Withdrawn
40. Accepted
41. Accepted
42. Rejected
43. Accepted with rewording. Has an implication for NZISA skaters who compete and coach.
44. Accepted
45. Accepted with amendments
46. Accepted with amendments
47. Accepted
48. Accepted
49. Accepted
50. Accepted
51. Accepted
52. Rejected
53. Accepted
54. Withdrawn
55. Withdrawn
56. Accepted
57. Accepted. Has implications for NZISA Championship announcements
58. Accepted
59. Accepted
60. Accepted
61. Accepted
62. Accepted after clarification from ISU re insurance
63. Accepted
64. Accepted with amendment in wording
65. Accepted
66. Accepted with amendments
67. Accepted
68. Accepted
69. Accepted
70. Withdrawn
71. Accepted
72. Accepted
73. Accepted
74. Accepted

75. Accepted
76. Withdrawn
77. Rejected
78. Accepted
79. Accepted
80. Drafting matter
81. Rejected
82. Accepted
83. Withdrawn
84. Accepted
85. Accepted with amendment to leave in words “team leader”
86. Drafting matter
87. Accepted
88. Accepted
89. Accepted but reworded “up to 72 hours”
90. Rejected
91. Accepted

Proposals for Congress (Drafting Matters)

All proposals for drafting matters (Proposals 92 – 100) were accepted.

The Congress divided into separate sections for Speed Skating (Proposals 101 – 173) and Figure Skating (Proposals 174 – 318) on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 June. The results of the voting on the proposals for the **Special Regulations Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dancing** as outlined in the Agenda for the 51st ISU Ordinary Congress are as follows:

174. Accepted with drafting committee to amend word “disabled” to a more appropriate word.
175. Rejected
176. Rejected
177. Withdrawn
178. Accepted
179. Withdrawn
180. Accepted
181. Accepted
182. Accepted
183. Accepted
184. Drafting matter
185. Drafting matter
186. Drafting matter
187. Drafting matter
188. Accepted
189. Accepted as a result of accepting Proposal 84
190. Accepted
191. Accepted
192. Accepted

193. Accepted
194. Accepted
195. Accepted
196. Accepted
197. Accepted
198. Accepted with amendments to age limits in paragraph 5 (increased from 65 to 70) and paragraph 6a iii) deleted.
199. Accepted with amendments to paragraph 4b (to include “or at an International competition” and delete paragraph 5a iii).
200. Accepted
201. Accepted
202. Rejected
203. Rejected

Technical Rules Single and Pair Skating – Opportunity to discuss the amendments/additions/deletions for Proposals 204 – 239 was given during the workshops at the start of the separate Figure Skating sessions. Amendments that were redrafted and presented by the Single & Pair Skating Technical Committee were distributed. The workshop conducted by the Single and Pair Skating Technical Committee Chairperson was the only opportunity to make any changes to the proposals. This new approach using workshops was confusing and not all members were aware that this was the only opportunity to discuss the rules. This was suggested as an area that needs to be improved at the 2008 Congress. The following proposals were amended and re-presented to the delegates:

Proposals 212, 214, 220, 223, 228, 229, 231 and 237.

The amendment for the content of the Well Balanced Singles Free Program – Rule 320, paragraph 1 was rejected by Mexico and seconded by Canada. All other proposals and amendments were accepted.

Technical Rules Ice Dancing – Opportunity to discuss the amendments/ additions/ deletions for Proposals 240 – 271 was given during the workshops at the start of the separate Figure Skating sessions. Amendments that were redrafted and presented by the Ice Dance Technical Committee were distributed. The workshop conducted by the Ice Dance Technical Committee Chairperson was the only opportunity to make any changes to the proposals. This new approach using workshops was confusing and not all members were aware that this was the only opportunity to discuss the rules. This was suggested as an area that needs to be improved at the 2008 Congress. Proposal 258 (and consequently 183) were amended and re-presented to the delegates. All proposals and amendments were accepted.

The results of the voting on the proposals for the Special Regulations Synchronized Skating as outlined in the Agenda for the 51st ISU Ordinary Congress are as follows:

272. Accepted
273. Accepted
274. Split into 2 motions: Paragraph 3a-c Accepted and d-h Rejected

- 275. Withdrawn
- 276. Accepted
- 277. Accepted
- 278. Accepted
- 279. Accepted
- 280. Accepted
- 281. Accepted with amendments to paragraph 1h
- 282. Accepted
- 283. Accepted
- 284. Accepted
- 285. Accepted
- 286. Withdrawn
- 287. Drafting matter
- 288. Drafting matter
- 289. Drafting matter
- 290. Drafting matter
- 291. Accepted
- 292. Accepted
- 293. Accepted
- 294. Accepted
- 295. Accepted
- 296. Accepted
- 297. Accepted
- 298. Accepted
- 299. Accepted
- 300. Accepted
- 301. Accepted
- 302. Accepted

Technical Rules Synchronized Skating – Opportunity to discuss the amendments/ additions/ deletions for Proposals 303 – 318 was given during the workshops at the start of the separate Figure Skating sessions. Amendments that were redrafted and presented by the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee were distributed. The workshop conducted by the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee Chairperson was the only opportunity to make any changes to the proposals. This new approach using workshops was confusing and not all members were aware that this was the only opportunity to discuss the rules. This was suggested as an area that needs to be improved at the 2008 Congress. Proposals 304, 306 and 310 were amended and re-presented to the delegates. All proposals and amendments were accepted.

During the Figure Skating sessions, discussion on numerous updates/clarifications of the rules following the implementation of the ISU Judging System was held. Delegates reiterated their support for the ISU Judging System. A number of key decisions affecting the various disciplines within figure skating were made during these sessions and include:

General

- Maintaining the anonymity of Judges as well as the system of a random draw of the Judges scores, which count towards the result. The system has allowed officials to work in an independent manner, while the anonymity of the Judges for major ISU Events has been fundamental in maintaining objectivity as evaluating bodies are not informed of the identity of the Judge under review until an Assessment (official warning) has been confirmed.

Single/Pair Skating and Ice Dancing

- The Congress approved a number of amendments proposed by the Singles and Pair Skating Technical Committee to harmonise rules across Ice Dance and Single and Pair Skating in order to make the rules consistent across the disciplines.
- Congress unanimously approved modifications to the Ice Dancing and Single and Pair Skating Technical Rules to reflect changes included in ISU Communications 1318 and 1319 and to improve consistency with other rules.
- Qualifying Free Skating – Congress approved a motion to cancel the Qualifying Free Skating Round at all ISU Championships, thus making the Championships shorter, more appealing to the public and cost effective.
- Congress approved a reviewed draw system (Proposal 174 on Agenda) to help judges gain activity and avoid unnecessary on-site presence. The Sports Director Figure Skating, in the presence of the Director General and a Swiss auditor, will do a public random draw off site in the Northern Hemisphere autumn.
- Age of eligibility – a proposal to lower the age of eligibility for ISU competitions was rejected.
- Team Leaders – A proposal to cancel support for funding for a Team Leader for all ISU Figure Skating Championships was defeated, but a proposal to begin support with dinner on the third day (not fourth) prior to the start of the Championships was supported.
- Marking of all compulsory dances will be published by the ISU shortly.

Synchronized Skating

- Teams will now consist of 16 skaters (previously team size could vary between 12 and 20).
- Well-balanced programme – Congress approved adjustments be made to the required elements for the Short Programme and Free Skating.
- Clothing – Ladies may wear skirts, body suits or full-length trousers to allow more flexible attire while avoiding excessive nudity.

On Friday, the elections to determine all ISU office-holding positions were held. All elections were conducted using the electronic voting system. The results of the elections are as follows:

1. Council

President: Ottavio Cinquanta, Italy (unopposed)

1st Vice President: Gerhard Zimmermann, Germany (unopposed)

2nd Vice President: David Dore, Canada (unopposed)

Figure Skating Members: Marie Lundmark, Finland
Tjasa Andree-Prosenc, Slovenia
Courtney Jones, OBE, Great Britain
Phyllis Howard, USA

Pierre de LaCroix de Lavelette, France was not elected.

2. Technical Committees

Under the new ISU structure the number of members on a technical committee has been reduced from four to three.

Single and Pair Skating

Chairperson: Alexander Lakernik, Russia (unopposed)

Members: Junko Hiramatsu, Japan
Fabio Bianchetti, Italy
Rita Zonnekeyn, Belgium

Mika Saarelainen (Finland), Francis Betsch (France), Vladislav Petukhov (Ukraine), Felicitas Babusikova (Slovak Republic), Joe Inman (USA) and Susan Heffernan (Canada) were not elected (although Susan polled well).

Ice Dancing

Chairperson: Alexandr Gorshkov, Russia (unopposed)

Members: Halina Gordon-Poltorak, Poland
Olga Gilardini, Italy
Robert Horen, USA

Ludmila Mikhailovskaya (Ukraine) and Katalin Alpern (Israel) were not elected.

Synchronized Skating

Chairperson: Ulrich Linder, Switzerland (unopposed)

Members: Joanne Shaw, Canada)
Helen Volgushev, Great Britain) all unopposed
Karen Wolanchuk, USA)

For each of the Technical Committees, one coach and one skater will be appointed as full members of each of the Technical Committees. The Sports Director Figure Skating will make these appointments.

3. Disciplinary Commission

Chairperson: Beatrice Pfister, Switzerland

Members: Egbert Schmid, Austria (Speed Skating)
Fred Benjamin, USA (Speed Skating)
Allan Bohm, Slovak Republic (Figure Skating)
Volker Waldeck, Germany (Figure Skating)

Unfortunately, Ray Maclean (New Zealand - Speed Skating) was not re-elected to the Disciplinary Commission.

4. Honorary Members (newly elected)

Maria Bialous-Zuchowicz, Poland

Claire Ferguson, USA

Monique Georgelin, France

Matters for NZISA resulting from ISU Congress

Tri-Series - Sandra took the opportunity to discuss the possible attendance of skaters from Mexico, Hong Kong and Japan at the 2006 NZISA National Championships. Alan, Blinn, Vice-President of Ice Skating Australia, also suggested inviting skaters from Malaysia and Singapore (not currently ISU Members and therefore not at the Congress).

Synchronized Skating – An ISU Synchronized Skating Seminar will be held in France or Italy in the Northern Hemisphere autumn. There will also be a Synchro seminar held in Detroit in early December (not ISU recognised) and would be held in conjunction with a competition.

ISU Communications that remain valid and should be retained:

1117 – Citizenship requirements

1221 – Code of Ethics

1298 – Synchronized Skating (Programme components)

1300 – Anti-Doping

1310 – Discipline Matters

1328 – Hardware/Software assistance for IJS

1341 – Synchronized Skating (GOE and Reductions)

1352 – Procedures for Blood Testing

1356 – Appeals Commission Rules of Procedure

1372 – Anti Doping Rules

1373 – Anti Doping Procedures

1391 – Ice Dancing – Clarification of Rules

1393 – Synchronized Skating – Clarification of Rules

All other Communications are no longer valid and have been superseded. For NZISA purposes, **ISU Communications 1086 (Single and Pair Skating deductions) and 1283 (Synchronized Skating Deductions)** need to be retained for competitions using the 6.0 System.

ISU Communications that reflect the decisions of the 51st ISU Ordinary Congress are as follows:

1395 – ISU Congress Decisions Related to Synchronized Skating

1396 – ISU Congress Decisions Related to Singles/Pairs

1399 – ISU Congress Decisions Related to Ice Dancing

1400 – Ice Dance – Scale of Values

Other matters

A lot of major lobbying and planning activity took place outside Congress hours. A group of "small nations" met to try to coordinate voting and influence decisions relating to access for judges at international and ISU events. Many smaller nations felt that their judges were finding it increasingly harder to maintain their judging activity.

An idea we discussed was that of a Southern hemisphere (loosely defined) grouping for competition purposes. This could include Brazil (very keen), Argentina (interested), South Africa, and possible Mexico (which isn't in the Southern hemisphere but is interested). Other Members interested in an interchange are Chinese Taipei (possibility for 2006), Malaysia, Singapore (not Members), and Puerto Rico (dubious).

We succeeded in finding the right ISU officials to give us reasonable hope of having correct addresses on their databases in the future. The main problem stems from the fact that there are two different mailing and address databases (one held by the "Secretariat" and the other by the rest of the staff (i.e communications etc.) One staff member is a New Zealander. It is obvious that the system is set up to accommodate nations that have a permanent secretariat.

We opted to stay in a cheap hotel, along with several other poor relations. It was perfectly adequate apart from being 15 minutes from the Conference venue. Our personal costs (especially meals) were, as expected, very high.

We thank the Council for the opportunity to represent NZ at this important event. Although from one of the smallest skating nations we were treated with respect as President and Vice-President of a Member Federation.
