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# COMMUNICATION 042

WINTERGAMES<sup>NZ</sup>

Winter Games NZ Logo

## Expansion of the New Zealand Team for the NZ Winter Games

As you know, New Zealand will be hosting its first international figure skating competition as part of the 100% Pure New Zealand Winter Games. This has proven to be a big learning curve for all involved and working within a 'Games' format rather than doing the competition ourselves has also provided us with different aspects to consider as we are only one of a number of winter sports taking part in these Games.

The economic climate and the fact that we are located so far from other skating centres has proven to be a stumbling block, particularly in getting competitors from a number of different countries to participate in the competition. With this being our inaugural international competition, the eyes of the other federations are on us to see how we cope as are the eyes of the Winter Games

Organising Committee to see how the Figure Skating event works. There has been a real risk of the competition not going ahead due to the lack of competitors while we would still be liable for expenses already incurred. If the competition did not proceed, this would make it very difficult for us to have credibility with other federations for holding an international competition in the future. Therefore, the NZISA Council had to make some difficult decisions in the week prior to the Council meeting and at the Council meeting that was held on 2 August.

In order to have enough competitors to secure World Standing points (8 competitors and 4 different countries) and to ensure that Japan and Korea would take part (World Standing points were a condition they required going into the Olympic season), we have had to expand the NZ team competing at the Winter Games by naming a 'B' squad.

In making the events qualify for World Standing points, this has meant that there were extra positions available and, unfortunately, we were not able to get other countries to commit to coming to the competition or for the countries that have confirmed that they are coming to send extra competitors. World Standing points are also important to our own skater, Allie Rout, as she makes her bid to represent us at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver at the Olympic Qualifying event in Germany in September and for seeding at World Championships. This has meant that we have had to look at skaters within NZ to fill the available positions. We have named the following skaters to the 'B' squad based on test requirements held, TES points and/or the grade they have competed in at competitions this season.

These 'B' squad skaters are only

