

New Zealand Ice Skating Association (Inc.)

Communication from the Council – July 2005

The NZISA Council met over the weekend of June 18 – 19. We'd like to keep you informed about decisions made and plans under way.

Medal Tests simplified

Medal test reporting has been a paper war for club secretaries and NZISA alike. To streamline the process, the paperwork requirements have been simplified.

The directions are printed on a new version of the form, which is located on the NZISA website. Go to *www.nzisa.com* then click on Forms. One copy of the report, with cheque, goes to the Treasurer; the other to the Secretary of the NZISA Technical Committee (Sandra Williamson-Leadley, 73 Dunair Drive, Burwood, Christchurch), with all the judges' sheets.

Where two or more clubs combine to run a test day, the organiser will of course need to ensure that each of the participating clubs provides a cheque for their portion of the tests.

Please send your medal test results and fees in within two weeks of the day of testing. This becomes very important as we move onto the competition season, as the technical committees and referees need to be able to verify tests passed for entry into the various grades.

We are aware that over the last two years there has been a time lag in the issuing of medals and certificates. We are now working on sorting out the admin problems and expect to be up-to-date in the near future.

What to do with your TC registration forms

All TC registrations should be sent to the Treasurer (Larree Simm-Nicol, P O Box 903, Queenstown). Every skater entered in a competition or undertaking a medal test

must be TC registered – please make sure the form and payment reach the Treasurer before the test or competition takes place.

And a plea from the Treasurer: "Please don't send me cheques without stating exactly what they are for."

Website (www.nzisa.com)

You are urged to use the NZISA website as a source of information. There you will find contact details, dates of competitions, a link to NZ Skating News and lots of other useful information. If you find anything wrong please tell us (email president@nzisa.com).

Rules and regulations

The rules and regulations as posted on our website are the most up-to-date version. However, we know that judges, coaches and other technical personnel don't always have their laptops plugged in when they're out on the ice so we're sending you a free copy. All judges, technical committee members, affiliated Clubs and the Professional Skaters Association (the Coaches organisation) will be sent a copy on 6 July.

Judges' Development

We are increasingly concerned at the difficulty all clubs have in finding and retaining judges. The problem will not get any easier as we move next year towards the new judging system developed by the International Skating Union (ISU). We have formed a sub-committee and asked it to come back to our next meeting (14 August) with strategies for improving the training and development of our judges.

Development Funding

The Council has earmarked money for development activities at club and regional level. Funding is available for an hour a week of ice time for 13 weeks in each area. This funding is targeted at skaters named on the NZISA tier 1 to 4 lists, but may in some circumstances include other skaters. To gain a grant a club, or a group of clubs, should first submit a proposal outlining the activity, along with a budget. In each case

it is expected that the costs will be shared equally by NZISA and users. Proposals should be submitted to the Secretary, NZISA. Funding will not be issued automatically.

We also encourage clubs and sub-associations to seek alternative sources of funding. There are many charitable organisations that assist sporting groups.

Afriskate

The Council received a very full report on the team trip to Afriskate. There is no doubt that as well as achieving success on the ice, most of the participants behaved in an exemplary manner and gained a great deal from the experience. Two other factors were apparent to the Council. One was that the task of managing a team is a very considerable responsibility. Dael Haynes undertook this trip and did an outstanding job as manager, minder and mother to the young team. The Council believes that when skaters receive funding assistance and are representing New Zealand there is a responsibility on the part of every team member to be supportive of others and to be a good team member.

Skaters' Agreement

Skaters selected to travel to represent New Zealand will in the future be required to sign a Skaters' Agreement that sets out clearly their obligations and responsibilities. It is expected that this document will be ready for comment and approval in a few weeks.

International training

The Council's Funding and Development policies for 2005 - 6 will include training grants for skaters selected for international competitions such as Worlds, Junior Worlds, Junior Grand Prix, Four Continents and European International Competitions. Training proposals are welcome and will be discussed individually. The Council wishes to advise that NZISA will not reimburse Coaches for loss of earnings they may incur while travelling in order to take part in their skaters' development training.

Looking to the future

Members of the Council have been in discussion with Australia and South Africa. We hope to introduce a tri-nations competition in 2006, to take place initially at our National championships. This exciting innovation will bring international representatives at Novice, Junior and Senior level. There's a lot of work to be done yet on this idea – we'll keep you informed.

Funding

We have made applications to funding agencies with a view to providing additional support for various activities, including sending a team to Australian nationals and the cost of running a seminar on the new judging system.

Enjoy yourself

I'd like to wish every skater, no matter what your grade, an happy and satisfying season. Remember that we skate because we enjoy it.

Warwick Johnson, President, NZISA
2005

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