

CORRECTION FROM LAST NEWSLETTER RE JUNIOR WORLDS REPRESENTATION

We noted in last month's newsletter that 2025 was the first time we had both a Junior Woman and Junior Man competing at a Junior Worlds. What we had omitted was that this was the first time having both a man and woman represent us at Junior Worlds since the requirement for gaining a qualifying TES has been in place.

In 1996 when the Junior Worlds were held in Brisbane, we did have both a Junior Lady (Michelle Whelan) and Junior Man (Ricky Cockerill) competing.

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO ARNOLD SCHMIDT



Very sadly, Arnold Schmidt passed away on away on 2 April aged 90. Arnold was the NZIFSA Treasurer from 2017 to 2019, Patron of CMFSC since 2020, CMFSC Treasurer from 2008 to 2020 and a founding member of CMFSC. Arnold was a gentleman in the true sense of the word and a life-long learner. This is someone who took up skating at age 66 when his grand-daughter started skating and who learnt how to use MYOB when he took on the role of NZIFSA Treasurer in 2017. A keen supporter of skating events who was always happy to help and did so with a calm, caring and positive manner.

Our thoughts are with his wife Valda and his extended family.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Thailand Open Figure Skating Trophy, Bangkok, Thailand 2-6 May 2025

Junior Women	Renee Tsai
	Alethea Wong
Advanced Novice Girls	Sophie Pokorny
Intermediate Novice Girls	Mia Chen
Team Leader	Rachael Jannink

Oceania International Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia 26 – 28 May 2025

Basic Novice Girls	Emma Thein-Xie
Intermediate Novice Girls	Mia Chen
	Luna Wu
Advanced Novice Girls	Sophie Pokorny
	Selina Zeng

Junior Women	Qiwen (Christine) Aixinjueluo Jazz Evangelou Cara Tang Alethea Wong
Senior Women	Mirika Armstrong
Coaches	Dani Gebser Gordon Rushton Rosie Armstrong Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader	Jeanette King
Assistant Team Leader	Mandi Gerber
Officials	Ina Paul Sue Petricevic Sandra Williamson-Leadley

ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 29 June – 4 July 2025

Bronze II Freeskate	Olga Levien Viktoria Marinova
Bronze V Women Freeskate	Sue Hoseit Eleanour Stanbury
Silver IV Women Freeskate	Tammy Cowan
Bronze II Women Artistic	Viktoria Marinova
Bronze V Women Artistic	Eleanour Stanbury
Silver II Women Artistic	Olga Levien
Silver V Women Artistic	Sue Hoseit
Gold IV Women Artistic	Tammy Cowan

UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Hollins Trophy, Erina, NSW, Australia, 8-9 June

Basic Novice Girls	Anna-Bella Levien
Junior Women	Victoria Larsen
Silver II Women Freeskate	Olga Levien

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 17 – 21 April 2025

Ice moderators Kevin Reynolds and Alaine Chartrand led an exceptionally successful camp, covering jumps, spins, skating skills, agility, and interpretation. The sessions were attended by 22 skaters and 4 coaches, offering a well-rounded development experience. Beyond on-ice training, the camp also featured special off ice activities including media training with NZOC's media manager James Bennett, Hip-hop lessons with Kate Littlejohn, and a nutrition talk with Brooke Tamepo. While we were unable to secure an anti-doping session with the Sports Integrity Commission, the camp still delivered lots of value and saw a very good turnout.



Kevin Reynolds and Alaine Chartrand led the camp, 4 coaches & 23 skaters attended.



Interview Training with James Bennett from NZOC



Dance with Kate Littlejohn

Ice Dance & Synchro Upskilling - Auckland (Botany), 1-2 March and Dunedin, 14-16 March

The Dunedin workshop was attended by 21 skaters and the Auckland camp was attended by 31 skaters. The focus of these workshops was introduction to the ice dance and synchro disciplines by way of skating skills development, aiming for power, edge quality and control, timing, and musicality. All participants engaged enthusiastically with the different techniques, with the result that everyone had a great time and learnt lots of new skills and patterns, deepening their understanding of our sport. It was also wonderful to see skaters with experience in these disciplines helping others who were new to them. Thank you to Tracy Hipkiss and Debbie Darvill, our moderators, for embracing the initiative and making the workshops a success.



Dunedin camp participants, 3 coaches, 21 skaters



Auckland camp participants, 9 coaches & 32 skaters

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



We would also like to extend a huge thank you to NZCT for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the Ice Dance & Synchronized Skating Upskilling Camp in Dunedin.

The support from these sponsors makes a huge difference to the development opportunities that we can offer to our skaters and coaches.

UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A & B Team Technical Feedback Session, Auckland (Botany), 9 May

In conjunction with our officials' training, NZIFSA is offering a technical feedback session for our A and B Team skaters with international technical panelists: ISU Referee & Technical Controller Rob Rosenbluth and ISU Judge/International Technical Controller Steven Hsu, both from the USA.

This session is running on the morning of Friday 9 May. We have eight skater attendees, who will perform and receive feedback on their spins, step sequences and choreo sequences across two sessions, one for Novice grades and one for Junior/Senior grades. Level 2+ coaches are able to observe from off the ice, and there will be opportunities for skaters and coaches to ask questions.

Information for attendees will be sent out soon.

Technical Rules Session (for everyone), Auckland/Zoom, 9 May

A free technical rules session with our international moderators will be held from **12:30-3pm** on the same day as the feedback session above. This session is most suitable for skaters at Juvenile level and above, all coaches, and all officials. Topics of discussion will include positive/negative bullets for grades of execution (GOE), program component scores (PCS), and step sequences.

This session will be held in Auckland and will also be available on Zoom for anyone who can't make it in person. We will be recording the Zoom session.

Auckland location:

Eastview church (559 Chapel Road, Botany), in the cafe area/seminar room

Parking is available around the church, in nearby streets or at Botany Town Centre.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81449139989?pwd=7Nk2wdazL9rrtCAoU2RPIfQmJWn8Wt.1>

Meeting ID: 814 4913 9989

Passcode: 077689

Note:

Please familiarize yourself with and have on hand **ISU Communication No. 2701**.

During the meeting, we ask you kindly keep yourself on **mute** to avoid any background noise.

UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

Tech Specialist/Controller Seminar (Singles) - Auckland 10-11 May.

With ISU Technical Controller & ISU Technical Specialists Robert Rosenbluth & Steven Hsu, Auckland 10-11 May.

Robert Rosenbluth brings extensive international experience to the technical panel. He has served as a technical controller at numerous international events, including the 2022 and 2023 World Junior Championships. He also judged at the 2024 Senior Grand Prix in Canada and was part of the panel at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Steven Hsu has been on the international panel since the 2005–2006 season, working as both a technical controller and specialist at various U.S. national competitions. He has also served as a data/replay operator at major events, including the 2024 Grand Prix Final and the 2023 Senior Grand Prix in China.

This is a valuable opportunity to work with two experienced moderators, allowing us to deepen our knowledge and enhance our skills as Tech Specialists and Tech Controllers in New Zealand. If you have not registered, and would like to attend, please get in touch ASAP.

Introductory sessions for new Probationary Officials – Interested in becoming an Official? Come Along to this Zoom session to find out about more!

Sunday 8th June (approx. 9am-3pm). Led by Michael Holtz & Melissa Cummings.

Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines) – online session late June. This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

REVISED CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

The revised constitution to align with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 was adopted at the AGM along with the remits presented to change the due date of the NZIFSA Club & Sub Association affiliation fee to 31 March to align with the dates the other fees are payable, and the remit to change the CEO role to an appointment rather than an elected role.

NZIFSA AGM

The NZIFSA AGM was held in Christchurch on 5 April 2025 and was preceded by a member forum. There were a number of positions up for election at the AGM and we received the following nominations:

- President - Robyn Morris
 - Board x 2 - Djuna Elkan, Robyn Morris, and Mike Slater
 - Treasurer - EJ Liang
 - Skater Development - no nominations received
 - Coaching Director - Tracy Hipkiss
 - Test & Competition Secretary - Ina Paul
 - CEO# - no nominations received
 - Honorary Solicitor# - Julian Aiery
- # indicates vacant positions normally appointed in an odd year that will be appointed for a one year term.

In addition to these we received expressions of interest for some of the Board appointed roles. Thank you to all who have put their names forward to be considered for election or appointment.

Congratulations and welcome to the team to those who have been elected/appointed and our sincere thanks to those who have completed their terms and/or did not re stand for election. We have certainly valued your input and expertise.

Unfortunately, there were two positions that were unfilled at the AGM. We sincerely appreciate Bess Cao’s offer to continue in the CEO role along with Laura Thompson agreeing to remain as Skater Development Director until May 12th to ensure the success of the development and training that they had been instrumental in planning.

The Board have put a call out for expressions of interest in these two roles and the Anti-Doping Officer role that is currently vacant, with a view to appointments being made at the next Board meeting. To be eligible for appointment to any of these roles individuals must be current members if an affiliated club, a current coach member or an NZIFSA Official.

- **CEO** for a one-year term (until the 2026 AGM)
- **Skater Development Director** for a two-year term
- **Anti-Doping Officer** for a two-year term

Please refer to the Governance and Management Policy and the associated job descriptions as well as the CEO Limitations Policy if you are interested in the CEO role. These documents can all be found in the Rules & Regulations section of the NZIFSA website <http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/rules/>

For any further information relating to any of the roles please make contact via the General Secretary if you wish to discuss any of the positions with a Board member or Development or Operations Group member.

Please submit your expression of interest, including a CV and a statement of the skills and experience you would bring to the role, via the cognito form by **12 noon on Sunday 11 May**

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIForVacantOfficerPositionsApril2025>

Each year, at the AGM, elections are held for approximately half the positions that make up the NZIFSA. Which positions are elected each year is spelled out in the Constitution (which you can find at the top of the Rules & Regulations section of the NZIFSA website). In addition to the elected positions, the Board are responsible for the appointment of a number of Operations Group roles. These appointments were considered at the Board meeting the day after the AGM. Those that were elected at the 2025 AGM are indicated by an * and those that were appointed by the Board are indicated by **.

Board
Responsible for strategic planning, policy review and the prudent financial management of the Association.
President – Robyn Morris* Vice-President – Caitlyn Paul Board members – Djuna Elkan*, Connor Mclver, Mike Slater*
Operations Group
Responsible for the day to day operation of the Association. In addition to the more visible roles like the Secretary responding to communications, and the Treasurer keeping track of the finances, there are all sorts of other activities that take place in the background that make the organisation

function. For example, the police checking of all our coaches, the oversight of the test results, and the grant applications to mention just a few.

CEO – this position is vacant from 12 May

General Secretary – Jeanette King

Treasurer – EJ Liang*

Test & Competition Secretary – Ina Paul*

Anti-Doping Officer – this position is currently vacant

Marketing & Promotions Officer – Nataliia Serikova**

Child Protection / Safeguarding Officer – Sheryl Squier**

Grants Officer – Melissa Booth**

Administrative Support Officer – Mandi Gerber **

Technical Support Officer – Alan Greenstreet

Honorary Solicitor – Julian Airey *

Development Group

Responsible for coordinating the development of officials, skaters, coaches and the Rules and Regulations.

Skater Development Director – this position is vacant from 12 May

Technical Director – Michael Holtz

Officials Director – Melissa Cummings

Coaching Director – Tracy Hipkiss*

High Performance Officer – Mathieu Wilson

CLUCAS CUP (SELECTION COMPETITION), AUCKLAND 13 & 14 JUNE 2025

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton).

The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, this competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2025 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized skating, who competed at the 2024 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2025. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz.

The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website as soon as it is available. Note, the technical requirements for this event are as per the ISU Regulations and relevant ISU Communications for the 2024/25 season.

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR CLUCAS CUP, AUCKLAND 13 & 14 JUNE 2025

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the 2025 Clucas Cup to be held at Paradise Ice Skating Botany on 13 & 14 June 2025. Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, however, the order of the events will change from that listed below.

Friday 13 June

- Basic Novice FS
- Intermediate Novice FS
- Advanced Novice SP
- Junior SP
- Senior SP

Saturday 14 June

- Advanced Novice FS
- Junior FS
- Senior FS

Official practices are expected to be held each morning with competition in the afternoon/evening as per the draft outline below. The times outlined below are **indicative only**.

Day	Unofficial practice	Official practice	Competition
Thursday 12 June	3:30 – 5:30 PM		
Friday 13 June		6:45 - 9:45AM	3:00 – 6:00PM
Saturday 14 June		6:45 – 8:45AM	5:00 – 7:00PM

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2025 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following is a provisional schedule for the 2025 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships to be held at Paradise Ice Skating Botany, Auckland 4 – 7 October. Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, however, the order of the events will change from that listed below.

Friday 3 October

Unofficial practices (4:45-7:15PM)

Saturday 4 October

Opening Ceremony
Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS
Synchro Junior & Senior SP
Adult Free Skate (all grades)
Pairs SP (all grades)

Sunday 5 October

Synchro Junior & Senior FS
Pairs FS
Ice Dance RD & PD (all grades)
Intermediate Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys SP
Junior under 12, Women & Men SP
Senior Women & Men SP

Monday 6 October

Ice Dance FD (all grades)
Juvenile under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Basic Novice under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Junior under 12, Women & Men FS
Senior Women & Men FS

Tuesday 7 October

Norman Wright Dancing Trophy
Waltzing Trophy
Adult Interpretive (all grades)
Youth Interpretive (all grades)

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The **Selection Policy** and **Skater Development Policy** have been posted on the policy forum with initial submissions due by 30 May.

The Board will review the **Governance and Management Policy**, **Anti Match Fixing & Sports Betting Policy** and the **Health & Safety Policy** at the May meeting. With the **Funding Policy**, **Privacy Policy** and **Electronic Meetings policy** all finalized and waiting to be signed off.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 13 May. 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 Tuesday 7 May. Any correspondence received after this date will likely be tabled at the June meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Bess Cao
President and CEO
NZIFSA