

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

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 |

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

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

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|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Intermediate Novice Girls | Mia Chen | | FS 9 th /27 | Overall 9 th /27 |
| Advanced Novice Girls | Sophie Pokorny | SP 13 th /17 | FS 14 th /17 | Overall 14 th /17 |
| Junior Women | Renee Tsai | SP 5 th /26 | FS 6 th /26 | Overall 7 th /26 |
| | Alethea Wong | SP 19 th /26 | FS 12 th /26 | Overall 14 th /26 |
| Team Leader | Rachael Jannink | | | |



Renee Tsai, Alethea Wong, Sophie Pokorny and Mia Chen

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

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Basic Novice Girls | Emma Thein-Xie | FS 10 th /11 | Overall 10 th /11 |
| Intermediate Novice Girls | Mia Chen | FS 3 rd /16 | Overall 3 rd /16 |
| | Luna Wu | FS 10 th /16 | Overall 10 th /16 |
| Advanced Novice Girls | Sophie Pokorny | SP 6 th /10 | Overall 6 th /10 |
| | Selina Zeng | SP 10 th /10 | Overall 10 th /10 |
| Junior Women | Cara Tang | SP 3 rd /10 | Overall 1 st /10 |
| | Alethea Wong | SP 7 th /10 | Overall 3 rd /10 |
| | Qiwen (Christine) Aixinjueluo | SP 5 th /10 | Overall 4 th /10 |
| | Jazz Evangelou | SP 10 th /10 | WD |
| Senior Women | Mirika Armstrong | SP 4 th /5 | Overall 4 th /5 |
| 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 | | |

Well done to all our skaters but a special mention to our medallists Mia Chen (Bronze Intermediate Novice), Cara Tang (Gold Junior) and Alethea Wong (Bronze Junior).



Mia Chen, Emma Thein-Xie, Luna Wu



Christine Aixinjueluo (2nd from left), Cara Tang (4th from left), Alethea Wong (5th from left)



The NZL Oceania Team (minus Tracy Hipkiss)

Back row L to R, Gordon, Mirika, Selina, Jazz, Cara, Alethea, Sophie, Christine, Mia, Luna and Emma

Front row L to R, Jeanette, Rosie, Dani and Mandi

UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Ice Skating Australia's Champ Series events are interclub competitions that are open to skaters from other member federations. All skaters, not just the International A & B team representatives, can seek permission to attend these by emailing secretary@nzifsa.org.nz and specifying what competition and what grade they would like to compete.

Please note, until we have announcements, we can't confirm permission but hopefully the following information will help with your planning.

- Hollins Trophy, Erina, NSW 8 June. Entries for this event closed 9 May.
- Swan Trophy, Perth, WA - 28 September – 1 October. Note that Western Australian Ice Skating Associations plan to run this interclub competition alongside the Swan Trophy international competition
- Crystal Challenge, Melbourne, VIC 7-10 August
- WinterSun, Brisbane, QLD - 5-7 September. Entries close 15 August.
- Sydney Synch Festival, Erina NSW, 12 September. Entries open 18 July and close 15 August.

To date approval has been granted for:

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

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

5th City of Nagoya Figure Skating Competition Minato AQLUS Cup, Nagoya, Japan 19-22 July

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|--------------|------------|
| Junior Women | Renee Tsai |
|--------------|------------|

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

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

In conjunction with our officials' training, NZIFSA ran a technical feedback session for our A and B Team skaters (total 8 skaters) with international technical panelists: ISU Referee & Technical Controller Rob Rosenbluth and ISU Judge/International Technical Controller Steven Hsu, both from the USA.

The on-ice feedback sessions were particularly productive, and the athletes who attended truly appreciated the insights shared.

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

A free technical rules session with our international moderators was held on Friday 9 May. This session was aimed at skaters at Juvenile level and above, all coaches, and all officials. Attendance at the technical rule session was disappointingly low despite being held over Zoom. It's unfortunate that more skaters were unable to take part in such a rare and valuable opportunity for direct technical input. While we understand that travel costs can be a factor and that a Friday afternoon may not be ideal, the lack of engagement in an online session suggests the issue goes

beyond scheduling and highlights a potential disconnect in recognizing the importance of technical education.



Attendees at the Technical Rules Session led by Steven Hsu (2nd from left back row) and Rob Rosenbluth (4th from left back row)

RECENT OFFICIALS TRAINING

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

With ISU Technical Controller & ISU Technical Specialist Robert Rosenbluth & Steven Hsu, Auckland 10-11 May. The seminar was attended by six Technical Controllers, eight Technical Specialists and four coaches. A valuable opportunity to revise and discuss technical rules, including new updates for the 2025/2026 season. Thank you to Bess Cao for all of her work in coordinating the logistics for this.

UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

Synchronized Skating Seminar for Judges and for Technical Panels – an opportunity for officials to work through this seasons' requirements. This zoom seminar is being held on Saturday 7th June from 10am-12 noon and will be led by Sandra Williamson-Leadley. An email has been sent to all SYS officials, and the Zoom link will be sent out prior to the seminar.

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. Please email Melissa if you are interested in attending- officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz

Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines) – online session late June. This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information/confirmed date will be emailed to officials shortly

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 is 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. Entries for this competition have already closed.

Note, the technical requirements for this event are as per the ISU Regulations and relevant ISU Communications for the 2024/25 season.

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX ALLOCATIONS

The ISU have advised which Junior Grand Prix competitions we have been allocated for the 2025/26 season:

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|--|------------|
| 1 st event Riga / Latvia, 20-23 August | Men |
| 2 nd event Ankara /Turkey, 27-30 August | Men, Women |
| 3 rd event Varese / Italy, 3-6 September | Men, Women |
| 4 th event Bangkok / Thailand, 9-13 September | Men, Women |
| 5 th event Baku / Azerbaijan, 24-27th September | Men |
| 6 th event Gdansk / Poland, 1-4 October | Men |

Dwayne Li has his choice of two of the six events we have been allocated for Men. The priority for the Women's places will be determined after the Clucas Cup.

CALL FOR TEAM LEADERS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

The NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to fulfil the Team Leader role at the following International Competitions:-

- Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy – Manila, Philippines, 1-4 August (TBC)
- Cranberry Cup International – Boston, USA, 7-10 August
- Junior Grand Prix – Ankara, Turkey, 27-30 August
- Junior Grand Prix – Varese, Italy, 3-6 September
- Junior Grand Prix – Bangkok, Thailand, 9-13 September

For all events with 2 or more skaters a skater's coach or parent will not normally be named as Team Leader.

We are looking for team leaders who have enough experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. As outlined in the position description, they need to be able to handle crisis situations as well as routine administrative tasks; be team players who can work with all athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators; have knowledge of the NZIFSA rules and agreements surrounding international participation; and, have local knowledge that will assist them in carrying out their role.

The Team Leader position description can be found on page 9 of the Job Descriptions for Appointed Positions on the NZIFSA website

<https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Job%20Descriptions%20for%20Appointed%20Positions%20V8.0.pdf>

The NZIFSA Funding Policy <https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Funding%20Policy%20%20V11.pdf> section 10, outlines two different maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International as indicated below:

- For events in North/South America, Asia and Oceania, \$1,650 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition
- For events in Europe and South Africa, \$2,750 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition

Normally a person may be selected for a team leader position only once per funding season, however if circumstances require an individual to serve as team leader at more than one competition, funding will be provided in all cases.

Please submit your EOI and any supporting documentation online by **5pm on Sunday 22 June**.

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIForInternationalComps2025>

If you have any questions, please email the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz.

CONGRATULATIONS CAITLYN PAUL

Our special congratulations to Caitlyn Paul (coach and NZIFSA Vice-President) and her husband Nick Stefanissin on the safe arrival of Luca Stefanissin on 24 May 2025.

No doubt we will be seeing both Caitlyn and Luca at the rink in the not too distant future.



APPOINTMENT OF SKATER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

We are very pleased to advise of the Board appointment of Sofia Heuman as our new Skater Development Director. Sofia has recently moved to New Zealand from Sweden and is currently studying Sports Management at AUT. She brings with her experience as a competitive skater, coach, a volunteer, and in event organising.

FURTHER CALL FOR EOI FOR CEO & ANTI-DOPING OFFICER ROLES

Unfortunately, we didn't receive any expressions of interest in either the CEO or the Anti-Doping Officer roles. The NZIFSA Board are therefore putting out a further call seeking expressions of interest to fill the following two roles:

- **CEO** for a one year term (until the 2026 AGM)
- **Anti-Doping Officer** for a two year term (until the 2027 AGM)

If the Board are unable to find a suitable candidate for the CEO role, as a last resort the current Secretary will consider stepping down from the Secretary role to accept an appointment as CEO role until the next AGM. With this in mind, the Board are also seeking expressions of interest in the **Secretary** role to back fill that role if needed.

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/>

We would also encourage you to 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 by **12 noon on Sunday 8 June** via the Cognito form link below

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIForVacantOfficerPositionsMay2025>

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz or the President at president@nzifsa.org.nz.

MUSIC DETAILS REQUIRED FOR MUSIC LICENSING

In preparation for the 2025 competition season we need everyone to provide or update your music details to help ensure we can meet our music licensing requirements.

For all club and regional competitions in the South Island and for the Clucas Cup and our National Championships, please use the NZIFSA form.

NOTE: The North Island Ice Skating Sub Association (NIISSA) has chosen to manage the music information using a separate system for North Island club and regional competitions that better meets their needs.

What information do you need to provide?

1 General

Skater name(s), email address(s), grade, coach name, coach email address. Please update coach contact details if this has changed.

Note, only one form needs to be completed for ice dance couples and pairs teams. For synchro teams we ask for the team manager and coach contact details.

2 What competitions and grade are you entering?

Please mark which competitions you are entering and pick the correct grade from the drop down menu. This helps the competition organisers when checking that they have your music details. You can come back and update this again later with any additional competitions you enter, or if you move up grades during the year.

3 The music details.

For each programme you skate you will need to provide the following for each piece of music used

- Title of Music
- Recording Artist(s)
- Composer(s)
- Publisher / Record Label
- Duration of cut (min:sec – e.g. 1:40)
- Whether vocal or non-vocal (instrumental)

We suggest you collect this information for each piece music before you start filling in the form. If you are trying to find the details, we recommend you find your piece of music in Spotify, click on the 3 dots ... for extra information and choose "Show credits".

Saving and updating the form

You need to click the save button at the bottom right of the form before you exit. The skater and coach will both be sent an email called "2025 Music details Save & Resume Link". With this link you will be able to go back and update details, including entry to additional competitions or changes to the music details recorded.

Separate forms for different events

If a skater is competing more than one event, e.g. Dance and Singles, or Interpretive and Singles, then separate forms need to be completed. This is so that we can check that we have the required music details for any given competition. But if you compete in an event that has more than one part to it – e.g. a Short Programme and a Freeskate, you can enter this information in the one form.

Please use this link for all South Island or NZIFSA competitions

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025MusicDetails>

For **North Island Club or Regional competitions** please use the following link and have your music files ready to submit when you complete the online form:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NorthIslandIceSkatingSubAssociation/NorthIslandsCompetitorsMusic2025>

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR PHOTOS ON NZIFSA WEBSITE

Skaters, can you all please make sure you have an up-to-date portrait style photo loaded onto the NZIFSA website. We need a passport style photo (except you are allowed to smile) rather than an action photo. We use these photos for competition programmes and for the newsletter. Often, we find they are four or five years out of date and we may have a skater aged fifteen with a photo of them at age ten. To update your photo please log into the mynzifsa area of the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/members/mynzifsa/>

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

There are currently no policies open for submissions. Initial submissions on the **Selection Policy** and **Skater Development Policy** closed on 30 May. Thank you to those people who have provided submissions either via the member forum or via email. The Board will take these submissions into consideration when they review the policy at the Board meeting on 10 June.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 10 June. 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 3 June. Any correspondence received after this date will likely be tabled at the June meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King
President and Secretary (in the absence of a CEO)
NZIFSA