

## **APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER**

# RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Steel City Trophy International 2024, Sheffield, Great Brittan, 1-2 March 2024

Junior Synchro Titanium SP 6<sup>th</sup>/6 FS 6<sup>th</sup>/6 Overall 6<sup>th</sup>/6

Coach Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader Rachael Jannink

2024 World Junior Synchronized Skating Champs, Neuchatel, Switzerland, 15-16 March 2024

Junior Synchro Titanium SP 23<sup>rd</sup>/24 FS 22<sup>nd</sup>/24 Overall 23<sup>rd</sup>/24

Coach Tracy Hipkiss
Team Leader Rachael Jannink



ISU World Figure Skating Championships 2024, Montréal, Canada, 18-24 Mar 2024.

Judge Sandra Williamson-Leadley

#### WORLD JUNIOR SYNCHRO CHAMPS A FIRST FOR NZ

How exciting was that to see a team at the World Junior Synchronized Championships. We have had teams at the World Synchronized Championships in the past, but having a team at Junior Worlds was a first.

## Below are excerpts from a record of their experience by Emma Scholtz

"Packing all my clothes into one suitcase overthinking all the things I would need, all the different going out clothes.. all the training gear I would need, jumpers, shirts, tights, even pajamas. Arriving at the airport seeing my team ready to make the long journey to the other side of the world. Checking in.. weighing our bags, I remember the sigh of relief I had when I was 2 kgs under the 30kg limit.. saying goodbye to our parents before walking through security.. getting on the plane knowing we had a long 17-hour flight ahead.

Everyone falling asleep early ready for the big day exploring London city the next day. Tracy was up and ready, but she forgot she was travelling with 15 teenage girls who took hours to get ready. Finally we were ready and out walking the streets seeing Piccadilly Circus and visiting the Hard Rock Cafe... Trafalgar Square and finally Buckingham Palace before everyone was hungry and tired. After getting back to the hotel most of us crashed again struggling with jet lag. Up the next morning bright and early to take the train to Sheffield where we would start training for the Steel City trophy. We all were feeling nervous as we stepped on the ice to perform, we knew we could do it, we gave all we could although we were tired and ready to go back to bed. After the competition had ended we got the chance to talk to the Canadian team Ice Ignite talking to them and learning about their skating life was definitely a highlight of the Sheffield Steel City Trophy comp.

Arriving in Prague and driving into a small town called Kolin where we got the opportunity to stay in the rink. Everyone wakes up ten minutes before training then runs down to off ice so we won't be late having two trainings a day plus off ice in between was for sure tiring, but we were able to make extremely good

progress with our routines. On one of the last days we got to go to Prague. Visiting the castles, all the different shops Prague had, trying the traditional food the day was packed with lots and lots and lots of walking before eventually taking the train back before having the last training in the Czech Republic before flying to Switzerland.

Switzerland.. that's where the real nerves started to kick in. Heading to the rink for our first training and all of us making the big mistake to wear long sleeves to off ice where we definitely learnt our lesson to wear short sleeves next time. The parade was probably my biggest highlight of the trip.. exchanging flag pins.. seeing all the different flags and just getting to know the other teams then onto the draw .. a scary moment all of us hoping we weren't first, second, or third but we didn't want to



be last or second to last either. Finally comp day,

definitely nervous we were up so early that breakfast wasn't even open at the hotel yet. Then after we catch the train we find out the tram to the rink is not working so we have to walk...again.. definitely not Titanium's favourite thing to do. The walk turned into a run otherwise we were going to be late for official off ice. After official practice we headed back for the hotel to get ready for short program 'Shot Me Down' for our Short Program Day. The adrenaline rushing

through us as we got on the ice to compete with all the different mixed emotions on the kiss and cry everyone was honestly just happy short program was over. Onto free Skate stretching biellmaans and

spirals for what felt like forever, to finally getting to go back to the hotel lie down and get ready for Free Skate 'Hunger Games' this is Titanium's favourite program, getting on the ice all of us skating our hearts out knowing this will be the last time we will ever skate this program when the whistle goes off and the programs was over everyone in tears of joy. With a blink of an eye the trip was basically over. After getting changed out of costumes we received our ISU hoodies which we were all stoked about, a little way to remember our first ISU Junior Worlds experience."

## NEW ZEALAND SKATERS AT SYNCHRO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

While we didn't have a team at the Synchro World Championships, we did have a number of New Zealanders out there on the ice representing a number of different countries.

Team Unity (Australia) - Anya Gipp, Nina Koslow, Liam McIver Team Ice United (Netherlands) – Melissa Laby, Charlotte van Uden Team Icicles Senior (Great Britain) – Sabrina Snoad





Anya, Nina, Liam, Melissa, Charlotte

Anya, Sabrina, Nina, Liam

In addition to these skaters, we are also laying claim to Afton Sperry (Great Brittian), erstwhile member of Black Ice, and Carlotte Lafond-Fournier (Les Supreme, Canada) who represented New Zealand in Ice Dance with Ricky Kam at the 2023 World Championships.

Coordinating everyone to be in the same place at the same time wasn't that easy in the middle of a competition – hence the two photos. Great to see these skaters out there and doing so well. They were cheered on by a number of New Zealand supporters that had made the trip to Zagreb to watch the Synchro World Championships.

## **UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

Thailand Open Figure Skating Trophy, Bangkok, Thailand 3-6 May 2024

Junior Women Mirika Armstrong

Cara Tang Renee Tsai

Coaches Rosie Armstrong

**Gordon Rushton** 

Team Leader Mathieu Wilson

ISU International Adult Competition, Oberstdorf, Germany, 12-17 May 2024

Bronze I Women Freeskate & Artistic Juliette Sivertsen
Bronze II Women Artistic & Freeskate Viktoria Marinova
Bronze IV Men Freeskate John Gilmour

Silver II Women Freeskate & Artistic Kirsty Cox

Olga Levien

Silver IV Women Freeskate Tammy Cowan
Gold IV Women Artistic Tammy Cowan

Oceania International Figure Skating Competition, Melbourne, Australia 29 – 31 May 2024

Basic Novice Girls Madison Bryce

Mia Chen

Olivia Dickson

Intermediate Novice Girls Mia Cotton

Lilah Langi-Scott

Advanced Novice Girls Mei Jie (Mira) Ren

Alethea Wong

**Emmy Wratt** 

Junior Women Qiwen (Christine) Aixinjueluo

Mirika Armstrong Brooke Cathro Jazz Evangelou Misaki Joe

Cara Tang

Senior Women Danielle Gebser
Coaches Rosie Armstrong

Bess Cao Kaho Hirafune Caitlyn Paul Gordon Rushton Stephanie Woodacre

Team Leader Jeanette King

Assistant Team Leader Melissa Cummings

## CONFIRMATION OF SELECTION

Following our 2023 Nationals Championships, Jazz Evangelou was granted an exemption to be considered for selection for International Competitions in Junior Women's grade, subject to medical clearance and monitoring. NZIFSA are pleased to be able to confirm that Jazz Evangelou has subsequently met the requirements to be selected to the International B team for Junior Women.

## **UPCOMING INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS**

Ice Skating Australia have advised us that their Champ Series events 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 <a href="mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz">secretary@nzifsa.org.nz</a> 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, Sydney, NSW 7-10 June. Entries open 12 April and close 10 May. Note Hollins will not be running as an International Competition this year. <a href="https://www.nswisa.com/ice/images/userfiles/competition/2024/2024-06-08">https://www.nswisa.com/ice/images/userfiles/competition/2024/2024-06-08</a> Hollins/Announcement Hollins 2024-06-08 V5.pdf
- Swan Trophy, Perth, WA 23-25 September.
- Crystal Challenge, Melbourne, VIC 8-11 August
- WinterSun, Brisbane, QLD 6-8 September
- Sydney Synch Festival Erina NSW 23-25 August. Entries open 28 June and close 26 July.

To date approval has been granted for:

## Hollins Trophy, Sydney, NSW 7-10 June

ISA Elementary Girls\* Aeryl Zhang
Basic Novice Girls Alva Zhang
Intermediate Novice Girls Mia Chen
Luna Wu

## RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

# Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 29 March – 1 April

We unfortunately had to deal with some very unexpected and last minute changes due to Keegan Murphy (the moderator) pulling out on the Monday before the Basic Novice to Senior camp. We managed to secure Dean Timmins at very short notice from Australia who had previously been moderating in camps in Asia. A very big thank you to Dean for making himself available at such short notice.

We would like to recognise the additional work by Brooke Tamepo to try and recover the situation created by Keegan's last minute withdrawal. The Board also recognise the great effort from coaches Caitlyn Paul, Gordon Rushton, Dani Gebser, Cordelia Shi and Mathieu Wilson who worked together to put together a programme for the Friday of the camp. In spite of the challenges, a very successful camp attended by 26 skaters and 4 coaches.



<sup>\*</sup> ISA Elementary is equivalent to our Juvenile grade

# Synchronized Skating, Dunedin 16 & 17 April and Auckland (Botany), 19-21 April

Heather Paige ran workshops in both Dunedin and Auckland. The Dunedin camp was attended by 10 skaters and 1 coach and they hugely appreciated the opportunity to work with Heather. The Auckland camp was attended by 23 skaters and 2 coaches.

Heather is a Moderator/Mentor for the ISU SYS Technical Committee and Coach/Director of the Starlights SYS teams out of the Chicago area in the US and brings a huge amount of knowledge to the ice, along with a great attitude.



**Dunedin SYS camp participants** 



**Auckland SYS camp participants** 

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Trillian Trust for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the Basic Novice to Senior Development Camp, the Synchronized Skating Development Camp in Auckland and the upcoming Pre-Elementary to Juvenile camp in Auckland.



SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY



We would also like to extend a huge thank you to NZCT for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the Synchronized Skating Development Camp in Dunedin and the upcoming Pre-Elementary to Juvenile camp in Dunedin, and the KiwiSkate course in Gore.

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

#### **UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

<u>Singles Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 25 & 26 May, Auckland 1 & 2 June</u>

We are pleased to confirm that we are holding two training camps for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters.

Registrations are due **by Monday 6 May**. Skaters and coaches can register online at: <a href="https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/">https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/</a> 2024PreElementaryToJuvenileCampsAKLOrDND

# **Cost information:**

\$75 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members \$150 for all other skaters \$75 Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches \$50 / day for Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

<u>Coach Moderators for Pre-Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile Camps – Auckland & Dunedin</u>
NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from coaches interested in being a moderator for these camps. We anticipate that Level 3 coaches are more likely to have the skill set and level of experience we are seeking, however Level 2 coaches will be considered.

Coaches have been asked to complete the online form outlining their skill set and experience and motivation for applying by **30 April 2024** (note we have extended the deadline for this). <a href="https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIModeratorForSkaterCamps2024">https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIModeratorForSkaterCamps2024</a>

## **ONLINE ANTI-DOPING SEMINAR PLANNED**

Before taking part in an international competition we require our skaters to take part in a Drug Free Sport NZ Anti-Doping Seminar. The seminars help athletes understand their rights and how they can fulfil their responsibilities as clean athletes, from an overview of the rules to in-depth knowledge about the testing process. As anyone who has been pulled aside to be tested will tell you, it is really helpful to understand what is expected of you. Lots of useful information.

Please pencil in **4pm Sunday 19 May.** We're hoping to have confirmation of date and time very soon.

#### **UPCOMING COACHING COURSES**

There is one further KiwiSkate Coaching Course scheduled.

## KiwiSkate Coaching Course – Gore 4 & 5 May

Registrations for this course have closed. If you missed registration, please contact the Coaching Director at <u>coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz.</u>

## **UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING**

**Accountant and Calc Operator Training** – online session, 4 & 5 May. Registrations closed 1 March. If you missed this date please contact the Officials Director.

Synchronized Skating - Judge & Technical Seminar plus DO/RO and Calc Operator Training. Christchurch 18 & 19 May. Coaches are also welcome. Registrations closed 24 March. If you missed this date please contact the Officials Director.

**Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines)** – online session Saturday 25 May.

This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

New and Probationary Officials (Singles) - online session Saturday 8 June.

This online presentation is primarily for new judges and all probationary singles judges, however all are welcome.

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/ 2024JudgeTrainingPr obationaryOnline

In addition to the above there will be online sessions to cover season updates.

If you have any questions regarding any of these, please contact the Officials Director at officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz.

# THANK YOU FOR DONATION OF COMPUTERS FOR IJS

NZIFSA would like to thank Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research for their donation of two further "retired" computers to add to the North Island based judging system. This is in addition to two they donated last year that were added to the South Island based judging system.



## ATHLETE'S VOICE REPRESENTATIVES

NZIFSA have, after a number of years of raising this idea with clubs, finally managed to get the Athletes Voice underway, with the first meeting on the 23 April. The Athletes Voice aims to grow the skills and knowledge of Athletes Voice members to help ensure that athletes voices are heard on decisions that affect them.

NZIFSA want to hear from its members and in particular our athletes. The Athlete's Voice doesn't replace any of the existing mechanisms of consultation but is an additional mechanism for hearing from our athletes. It's early days yet, as the group need to determine how they want to operate, but we expect you'll be seeing and hearing more from this group.

Thank you to the following athletes who have been put forward by their clubs:

AIDC Sophie Jennings
AIFSC Olivia Pokorny

AISC To be advised – it's too early in their season to confirm a representative

CISC Eli Watson / Tim Sampson

CMFSC Emma Hodgson / Karen Tonkin

DISC Rebekah Sime
GFSC Dani Gebser
ISS Maia Smith
QISC Georgia Chinn
WFSC To be advised

The group is supported by Caitlyn Paul and Jeanette King as they get established.

## NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 23 MARCH 2024

The NZIFSA AGM was held in Auckland on 23 March and was preceded by member forums. There were a number of positions up for election at the AGM and we received the following nominations.

- Vice President Jeanne Begej, Caitlyn Paul, Laura Thompson
- CEO no nominations received by the due date
- One Board Member Jeanne Begej, Connor McIver, Caitlyn Paul, Laura Thompson
- General Secretary Jeanette King
- Technical Director Michael Holtz
- Officials Director Melissa Cummings
- Coaching Director no nominations received by the due date
- Honorary Solicitor no nominations received by the due date.

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 to those who have been elected/appointed and a special welcome back to Melissa Cummings.

Unfortunately, there were three elected positions that we did not receive any nominations for within the required timeframe prior to the recent AGM. The Board have subsequently appointed Julian Aiery to the Honorary Solicitor position for a one-year term. The CEO and Coaching Director roles remain unfilled. The Board have chosen to put a call out for nominations for both of these roles and for an SGM to be held for clubs to elect the CEO and Coaching Director. Both these positions will be elected for a one-year term at an SGM to be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 30 April. Your club has the zoom link for this meeting if you are interested in attending.

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 2024 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 – Kim Brown, Connor McIver\*, 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 – vacant. To be elected at SGM for 1 year term

General Secretary – Jeanette King\*

Treasurer – Vanessa Anderson

Test & Competition Secretary - Ina Paul

Anti-Doping Officer – Preeya Laud

Marketing & Promotions Officer – this position is currently vacant

Child Protection Officer – Sheryl Squier

Grants Officer - Melissa Booth

Administrative Support Officer - Mandi Gerber \*\*

Technical Support Officer - Alan Greenstreet\*\*

Honorary Solicitor – Julian Airey \*\* (1 year)

# **Development Group**

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

Skater Development Director – Brooke Tamepo

Technical Director - Michael Holtz\*

Officials Director - Melissa Cummings\*

Coaching Director – vacant. To be elected at SGM for 1 year term

High Performance Officer – Mathieu Wilson\*\*

The AGM is also an opportunity to recognise the significant ongoing voluntary contribution of those that keep the Association running. A special thank you to all our NZIFSA Office Bearers for their time and effort they put in. The AGM is also a chance to acknowledge the contribution of those that are stepping back from their roles or who were not re-elected.

We would like to acknowledge Laura Thompson for her contribution as a Board member since 2018. Her constructive contribution to Board discussions and policy review will be missed. Thank you also to Mandi Gerber who had chosen not to seek re-election to the General Secretary role but has been appointed as our Administrative Support Officer. Connor McIver was elected to the role of Board member, but we take this opportunity to thank him for his valuable contribution over the last ten years as our Technical Director. We would also like to acknowledge Michael Holtz contribution as Officials Director over the last two years, as he moves sideways into the Technical Director role. And last, but not least, we acknowledge Jeanette's King contribution over the last six years as our CEO.

#### NZIFSA MEMBER FORUMS AT THE AGM

The following two Member Forums were planned for prior to the AGM.

- 1) NZIFSA Strategic Direction and Priorities
- 2) Setting Expectations for Officials and Volunteers Roles

Due to flight delays the start of the forums was delayed until the President arrived. We then ended up focusing all our attention on the Strategic Direction and Priorities, exploring ideas and priorities for Growing Participation; Retaining Skaters, Developing Skaters, Coaches, Officials & Volunteers; and Ensure Effective Governance and Management. We thank members for their input and the Board will work that feedback into the Strategic Plan.

# **CLUCAS CUP (SELECTION COMPETITION), DUNEDIN 15 & 16 JUNE 2024**

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 2024 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 2023 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2024. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at secretary@nzifs.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 current 2023/2024 season.

# PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR CLUCAS CUP, DUNEDIN 15 & 16 JUNE 2024

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the 2024 Clucas Cup to be held at Dunedin Ice Stadium 15 & 16 June 2024. 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.

#### Saturday 15 June

Basic Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Intermediate Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys SP
Junior Under 12, Women & Men SP
Senior Women & Men SP
Ice Dance PD and RD (all grades)
Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS (includes Mixed Age)
Synchro Junior & Senior SP

## Sunday 16 June

Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS Junior Under 12, Women & Men FS Senior Women & Men FS Ice Dance FD (all grades) Synchro Junior & 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 <u>indicative only</u>.

Days/Dates	<b>Unofficial Practice</b>	Official Practice	Competition
Friday 14 June	4:00 – 6:00pm		
Saturday 15 June		6:00am – 9:15am	3:30 – 7:15pm
Sunday 16 June		6:00am – 9:15am	3:30 - 6:30pm

## PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR OUR 2024 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the 2024 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships to be held at Alpine Ice, Christchurch Thursday 17 – Sunday 20 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.

## Wednesday 16 October

Unofficial practices (3:00pm – 7:00pm)

## **Thursday 17 October**

Opening Ceremony
Juvenile Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Basic Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Intermediate Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys SP
Pairs SP (all grades)
Ice Dance RD and PD (all grades)

#### Friday 18 October

Advanced Novice Under 12, Girls & Boys FS
Junior Under 12, Women & Men SP
Senior Women & Men SP
Adult Freeskate (all grades)
Pairs FS (all grades)
Ice Dance FD (all grades)
Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS
Junior & Senior Synchro SP

## Saturday 19 October

Junior Under 12, Women & Men FS Senior Women & Men FS Junior & Senior Synchro FS

The Banquet will be held on the Saturday night.

# **Sunday 20 October**

Youth Interpretive (all grades)
Adult Interpretive (all grades)
Norman Wright Dancing Trophy
Waltzing Trophy
Adult Synchro
The competition will close at 1:30pm on Sunday.

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 received some feedback on the **Funding Policy** when it was posted with proposed amendments and have responded, on the members forum, to the questions raised. This policy has been approved with the proposed amendments as posted on the members forum.

#### NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 14 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 Jeanette King
President and General Secretary (in the absence of a CEO)
NZIFSA