

AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

COMPETITIONS, TESTS AND THE UNCERTAINTY CREATED BY COVID-19

NZIFSA are planning to meet with club representatives next week to discuss the potential rescheduling of competitions. We will attempt to keep you advised of any changes to competition dates, though clearly it is early days in terms of managing this current outbreak. There is a high degree of uncertainty around when we might be back at Alert Level 1 and able to hold competitions and tests.

We include here the message that was sent out to members earlier this week.

The Board are aware of how difficult the current situation is for our skating community. We would like to remind you all of the stipulations that were put in place last year to ensure the safety of our events:

- For any region in Covid-19 Alert Level 2 or above, Club and Regional competitions and tests **in that region cannot** be held. NZIFSA will be working with local clubs to help reschedule any competitions if necessary.
- If **any region in New Zealand** is under Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the National Championships, the National Championships **will not be held**. We will be looking to reschedule if possible.
- For any region in Covid-19 Alert Level 1, competitions and tests can continue as planned, however skaters from a region that is in Alert Level 2 or above at the commencement of the competition/test may not attend and will be refunded any competition entry/test fees.

The following competitions may need to be cancelled or rescheduled, depending on the outcome of future government announcements:

- Allegro Champs - 28 August - 29 August
- North Island Champs - 4 September – 5 September

We are hoping that the current situation in New Zealand does not impact the following competitions and will advise members of any updates as they come to fruition.

- Queenstown Ice Skating Club Champs – 11 September
- CMFSC Club Championships – 2 October – 3 October
- National Championships – 9 October – 12 October

If our National Championships needs to be rescheduled, it will be done so in the same manner that it was last year. The process for this will be as follows:

- The new date for Nationals will be the final date.
- If one region of New Zealand goes into Level 2 or above at the commencement of Nationals, there will be no further postponement.

- All entry fees paid will be refunded.

The Board are well aware of the disappointment that any postponements or cancellations may cause for skaters, coaches, officials, and families. We believe it is in the best interest of our skating community to keep as safe as we possibly can.

In the meantime, we are lucky to be able to communicate digitally. Coaches and skaters, please stay connected over this time to maintain off ice training and fitness, a positive mindset and skater and/or team morale.

SELECTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT SQUAD FOLLOWING SOUTH ISLANDS

Skaters can be selected to the NZIFSA Development Squad at South Island, North Island, or our National Championships. The following skaters made the Selection TES for the 2021-22 Development Squad at the South Island Championships. Note these are in alphabetic order by surname.

Elementary Under 12	Siyao Zhu
Juvenile Under 12	Yuhuan Ding Olivia Marks
Basic Novice Ladies	Kaci Jonker Lilah Langi-Scott
Intermediate Novice Ladies	Jazmyn Evangelou
Advanced Novice Ladies	Brooke Cathro Hannah Sutton
Advanced Novice Men	Star Richens
Junior Ladies	Asia Tapealava
Advanced Novice Dance	Gemma & Benji Pickering

Congratulations to these skaters on this achievement. We look forward to advising the selections from North Island Championships in due course and confirming the full Development Squad for 2021/22 after our National Championships.

RESULTS FROM RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Our international representatives are facing another very difficult year as they contend with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the various requirements for getting into and out of various countries. On top of that, they are still having to deal with interruptions to their training and the uncertainty around whether competitions will go ahead or not. We know how upset skaters that are have been training for years to see their opportunity to compete at various events disappear. Please support those around you and get behind the lucky few that are able to compete.

Our skaters who live and train in the USA and Canada, after coping with extended periods of lock-down over the last year that we haven't had to contend with, are now better placed to get to international competitions, albeit with some difficulty. It is great to see some of our New

Zealand skaters getting out there and competing, including Jojo Hong at the recent Cranberry Cup.

Cranberry Cup International, Norwood, USA 11-16 August 2021

Senior Ladies Jojo Hong SP 22nd/24 FS 17th/21 Overall 17th/21

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

As we write this, the first Junior Grand Prix for the season is underway. New Zealand had been allocated spaces in this 1st event in Courchevel, as well as the 3rd event on Kosice, Slovakia and the 7th JGP in Linz, Austria. Unfortunately, the challenges of getting to and from the competition and the issues with getting MIQ places for those returning to NZ, coupled with NZIFSA being very late in confirming JGP allocations, means we don't have anyone at this first JGP. We do have skaters planning to attend the JGP Kosice, though they still face hurdles with MIQ and travel documentation.

ISU JGP Kosice, Slovakia 1-4 September 2021

Junior Ladies Ella Smith
Junior Men Douglas Gerber
Coach Richard Laidlaw

You can follow the action on the live stream at <https://www.youtube.com/ISUJuniorGrandPrix>. We wish these skaters all the very best for these Junior Grand Prix as well as to the international competitions below that we will have skaters attending.

US International Figure Skating Classic, Norwood, USA, 15-18 September 2021

Senior Ladies Jojo Hong

Autumn Classic International, Montreal, Canada, 16-19 September 2021

Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, 22-25 September 2021

Senior Ladies Jojo Hong
Senior Dance Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam

RESULTS FROM RECENT OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

We have a number of skaters living and training overseas. We have included the results of these competitions so you can keep in touch with what they are doing.

White Rose invitational, York, USA, 20 June 2021

Junior Ladies Ally Landon-Lane SP 2nd /2 (entered SP only)

Chesapeake Open Competition, Laurel, USA, 4-8 August 2021

Junior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday RD 16th/16 FD 17th/17 Overall 15th/17

Hershey Open, Hershey, USA, 12-15 August 2021

Junior Ladies Ally Landon-Lane SP 9th/10 FS 3rd/9 Overall 5th/9

Skate Wilmington, Wilmington, USA, 13-18 July 2021

Senior Ladies Jojo Hong SP 4th/7 FS 2nd/5 Overall 2nd/5

UPCOMING OVERSEAS CLUB COMPETITIONS

2021 Onyx Challenge, Rochester, USA, 20-21 August 2021

Junior Dance Isabelle Guise & Ethan Alday

SELECTION TO INTERNATIONAL A TEAM

We are very pleased to advise that Jojo Hong has gained the necessary Total Element Score (TES) at the Skate Wilmington competition on 13 -18 July to be named as an International A Team Representative in Senior Ladies, and because she is age eligible, to Junior Ladies.

This selection is as per the decision communicated in the June 2020 newsletter that recognised the challenges our skaters that live and train overseas faced, with regards to selection and the ability to compete at the 2020 Nationals. The Board had agreed that, in the event that these skaters were unable to attend the 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships, either due to travel restrictions or the 14 day quarantine requirement being in place, that they be given the opportunity to be selected to the respective grade for International selection and Australian Nationals. Selection would be subject to evidence of attaining the TES for the International A or B team, or Australian Nationals, as applicable. This evidence could be competition results or a pre-approved monitoring session.



ISU 2021 COACH SCHOLARSHIP ICE DANCE FOR DEBBIE DARVILL

Congratulations to Debbie Darvill who has been selected by the ISU Ice Dance Technical Committee and the ISU Development Commission to continue to be part of their coach mentoring programme. This scholarship provides Debbie with mentoring from international experts for a further period from September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022, with a mix of group sessions and one-to-one interaction. This is a well-deserved recognition from the ISU.

REVISED PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR 2021 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following is a revised provisional schedule for the 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships to be held at Paradise Botany, Auckland 9-12 October. We have rescheduled the Synchronized Junior and Senior events to accommodate the availability of officials. While every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, the order of the events may change from that listed below.

Friday 8 October

Unofficial practices

Saturday 9 October

Basic Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Intermediate Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS (includes Adults)

Sunday 10 October

Advanced Novice Under12, Ladies & Men SP

Pairs SP (all grades)

Adult Interpretive (all grades)

Waltzing Trophy

Norman Wright Dancing Trophy

Monday 11 October

Juvenile Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Advanced Novice Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men SP

Senior Ladies & Men SP

Pairs FS (all grades)

Ice Dance RD and PD (all grades)

Adult Bronze FS

Junior & Senior Synchro SP

Tuesday 12 Oct

Junior Under 12, Ladies & Men FS

Senior Ladies & Men FS

Adult Silver, Gold & Elite FS

Ice Dance FD

Junior & Senior Synchro FS

Official practices are expected to be held each morning with competition in the afternoon/evening as per the draft outline below. Ice time will be made available for unofficial practices. The times outlined below are indicative only.

Days/Dates	Unofficial Practice	Official Practice	Competition
Friday 8 October	4:45 – 7:15pm		
Saturday 9 October	6:00 – 8:00am	8:00am – 12:15pm	4:45 – 8:15pm
Sunday 10 October	6:00 – 7:30am	7:30 – 11:45am	4:45 – 8:15pm
Monday 11 October		6:00am – 1:30pm	1:30 – 9:45pm
Tuesday 12 October		6:00 – 9:30am	10:00am – 1:15pm

ANTI-DOPING SEMINARS

NZIFSA are committed to supporting Drug Free Sport NZ anti-doping education programmes as part of keeping our sport clean and free from drug cheats. While we won't have skaters heading off to the Australian Figure Skating Championships that were previously required to attend this training, we want to ensure that as many skaters as possible understand anti-doping and clean sport. To this end we expect all skaters who are Advanced Novice level and up who compete at our 2021 Nationals, and any Basic or Intermediate Novice level skaters who might be considering competing internationally if the opportunity arises, to attend an anti-doping seminar. Anyone competing internationally must attend anti-doping training. Please pencil in 2pm on Tuesday 12 October for this seminar. This is at the end of our National Championships. We will confirm this date and time and the location closer to the time.

LAST CHANCE - NOMINATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR AND SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR AWARDS ARE DUE BY 1 SEPTEMBER

We would like to encourage you to nominate those outstanding administrators and the skaters who display the attributes of a great sportsperson for the NZIFSA Administrator of the Year Award and the Sportsperson of the Year Award respectively.

Nominations must be received by the General Secretary secretary@nzifsa.org.nz by **1 September**. The Board will be the selectors for this award and will announce the recipients at social function at the end of the 2021 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships.

Criteria for the Administrator of the Year Award

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club / sub-association
- Take on administrative/organisational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club / sub-association
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club / sub-association

Criteria for Nomination for Sportsperson of the Year Award

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a 'fair play' attitude/good sportspersonship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, KiwiSkate coaching sessions, etc.

NOTE: While skating achievement is considered, it is not the basis of this award

RULES AND REGULATIONS REVIEW

As the first step in this annual process the Rules and Regulations have been posted on the members policy forum for submissions <https://www.nzifsa.org.nz/forums/viewforum.php?f=9>. These include some proposed changes to the 200's and 500's in response to some developments and feedback over the last year. Any proposed changes have been indicated through underlining and strikethroughs. Comments and further submissions may be made as a reply to this post or by email technical.director@nzifsa.org.nz. Please make any submissions by the 8th of October. There will also be a discussion forum held in conjunction with the 2021 National Championships.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on Tuesday 14 September. 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 September at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the October meeting.

All the best in skating
Rochelle Stansfield and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA