



DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER **CORRECTED**

Season's Greetings from the NZIFSA Board, Development Group, and Operations Group!

We hope you had a joyous Christmas surrounded by loved ones and extend our warmest wishes for a Happy New Year to all members of the New Zealand skating community.

As we reflect on 2024, what an extraordinary year it has been for New Zealand figure skating! Alongside various skater, coach, and officials' development activities, we celebrated several historic firsts:

- Dwayne Li made history by winning the **bronze medal at the Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games**, a monumental achievement and a first for New Zealand.
- Dwayne followed this with an incredible performance on the ISU Junior Grand Prix circuit, becoming the **first Kiwi to win a JGP event** with his gold medal at the Bangkok JGP, and securing a **bronze medal at the Wuxi JGP**.
- His exceptional season culminated in qualifying for and representing New Zealand at the **Junior Grand Prix Final in France**, solidifying his place as a trailblazer for Kiwi skaters.
- Dwayne has been featured in **Golden Skate**, a prestigious platform recognized internationally in the figure skating community. This feature highlights Dwayne's achievements and dedication to the sport, showcasing his remarkable journey and potential. <https://www.goldenskate.com/yanhao-li-sets-high-goals-for-junior-worlds/>

We are immensely proud of Dwayne's achievements and the unwavering dedication he has shown throughout his journey.

It was also an exceptional year for our female skaters:

- **Renee Tsai placed 11th at the Bangkok JGP and recently made the Junior Worlds TES**
- **Cara Tang placed 25th at the Wuxi JGP**
- **Petra Lahti is on course to representing New Zealand at the 2025 World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Hungary**

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be another remarkable year for New Zealand figure skating, and we can't wait to see what the future holds.

WORLD ICE SKATING DAY – 15 DECEMBER 2024

New Zealand ended up with three events registered as part of the ISU World Ice Skating Day. Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club and Glenburn Figure skating Club held a Christmas skate party, Ice Sports Southland held a free performance demonstration, and Allegro Ice dance Club linked their fun Artistic Competition to WISD.

A huge thank you to all those who were involved in organising these events.

World Ice Skating Day is an annual event in December. Please mark Sunday 14 December 2025 in your calendars.

DWAYNE LI AND THE ISU JUNIOR GRAND PRIX FINAL 2024

Earlier this month Yanhao (Dwayne) Li made history, yet again, by becoming the first ever New Zealand ice figure skater to qualify and compete in the ISU Junior Grand Prix Final, in Grenoble, France. The competition is held together with its senior level equivalent, Grand Prix Final.

Here is a reflection from Dwayne of his experience:

The Junior Grand Prix Final has been an incredibly valuable experience, filled with both highs and lows, and countless opportunities for growth. Competing at this level has pushed me to recognize areas where I can improve and refine my skills. Watching the senior skaters practice was very inspiring—their jumps, performances, intricate footwork, and overall artistry felt so much more projected when viewed in real life.

The energy from the crowd made the performance exciting but also nerve-wracking in such a close and engaging setting. Feeling the audience’s reactions was a unique experience that challenged me to remain

Beyond the competition, the experience gave me a chance to connect with other talented skaters from around the world and learn from their approaches to training and performance. There’s still a lot to work on, but this experience has strengthened my determination. I’m eager to apply what I’ve learned and use this opportunity as a stepping stone to make my skating even better in the future.



Photo Credit - Cheryl Chen

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Santa Clause Cup – Budapest, Hungary, 27 November – 2 December 2024

Junior Women	Renee Tsai	SP 11 th /27	FS 16 th /27	Overall 13 th /27
Unfunded team Leader	Stella Chen			

Junior Grand Prix Final- Grenoble, France, 5-8 December 2024

Junior Men	Dwayne Li	SP 4 th /6	FS 5 th /6	Overall 5 th /6
Coaches	Bess Cao			
Team Leader	Suzanne Cunningham			
Judge	Sue Petricevic			

EduSport Trophy – Otopeni, Romania, 9-15 December 2024

Junior Women	Renee Tsai	SP 3 rd /35	FS 5 th /35	Overall 5 th /35
Unfunded team Leader	Stella Chen			

CONGRATULATIONS RENEE TSAI ON ACHIEVING THE JUNIOR WORLDS TES

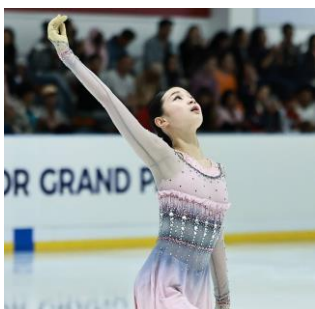


Photo Credit - Cheryl Chen

Special congratulations to Renee on achieving the ISU Combined Total Element Score (TES) to be eligible to compete at the 2025 World Junior Figure Skating Championships at the EduSport Trophy. A Combined TES of 72 is required for Junior Women and Renee earned 78.89 at this most recent international. Renee is our second priority Junior Women’s international representative and NZIFSA are in the process of confirming her as first substitute for Junior Worlds.

RECENT INTER CLUB INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Tampere Santa Claus Figure Skating Interclub, Tampere, Finland 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2024

Junior B Women Petra Lahti FS 1st/26 Overall 1st/26

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

2025 World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Debrecen, Hungary 24 Feb – 2 March 2025

Junior Women Petra Lahti (subject to ISU clearance)

Junior Men Dwayne Li

Team Leader Nicki Holtz

Judge Sue Petricevic

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND COACHING SEMINAR, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA 26 – 28 MAY

Ice Skating Australia and NZIFSA are again co-hosting the Oceania International Competition and Coach Development Seminar. The competition is for Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance for Basic Novice to Senior level skaters and is to run 26-28 May. All skaters selected to the International A & B Teams will be eligible to attend and are encouraged to do so. The competition will be followed by a coach development seminar – dates and moderator still to be confirmed. We will share more details about the competition and the coaching seminar as soon as they become available and will open registration for skaters shortly after.

CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, **AUCKLAND** 13 & 14 JUNE 2025

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.

Age eligibility for entry into Clucas Cup Competition

DISCIPLINE	Grade	Age as at 1 st July 2025
Singles	Basic Novice	Under 14
	Intermediate Novice	Under 16
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 16
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior	Is at least 17
Dance	Basic Novice	Under 14
	Intermediate Novice	Under 16
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Girls under 16, Boys under 18
	Junior	Is at least 13, but Women under 21, Men under 21
	Senior	Is at least 17
Pairs	Basic Novice	Under 14
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10, but Girls under 16, Boys under 18
	Junior	Is at least 13, but Women under 21, Men under 23
	Senior	Is at least 17
Synchronised Skating*	Basic Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 16
	Advanced Novice	Is at least 10 but is under 16
	Junior	Is at least 13 but is under 19
	Senior and Senior Elite 12	Is at least 17

* Please refer to the Selection Policy for team composition requirements.

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOR 2025

In the January newsletter we will have details of the development activities for the year. Below is a brief outline of what is being planned. We will have additional information and registration forms early in the new year.

Skater Development

We have a number of workshops planned for 2025 with exciting moderators lined up for you.

Dance & SYS upskilling camp in Dunedin & Auckland, time TBC

A three-day workshop, divided between Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating. The focus is on skating skills and introduction to the two disciplines for both skaters and coaches. It is also suitable for skaters with existing experience in these disciplines.

The workshop is intended for level 1-3 coaches and all skaters with Test 0 (Elementary) Stroking or Test 0 (Elementary) Ice Dance, or above, including Adults and Youth Interpretive skaters.

Singles Basic Novice to Senior, Auckland (Botany), 18-21 April 2025

We have secured the ice time and are finalizing moderators for on & off ice sessions.

ISU Technical Controller & Technical Specialist Feedback Session - Auckland (Botany) in May.

Feedback sessions will be offered for International A & B Team Skaters and a Technical Rules training session provided for a wider audience. We are pleased to advise that we will have an ISU Technical Controller and an ISU Technical Specialist, both highly experienced and respected in their fields, providing feedback to our International Representatives. They will also conduct a valuable rule training session for skaters - a rare and invaluable opportunity to gain insights directly from experts who bring a wealth of knowledge and international experience.

Coaching Courses

One KiwiSkate, a Level 1, and a Level 2 Coaching Course are planned for 2025.

- KiwiSkate course – Christchurch in February
- Level 1 Coaching Course – Christchurch in February (to run alongside the KiwiSkate course)
- Level 2 coaching course – online modules will begin after 2025 National Champs, with the on-ice session planned for early 2026. Given the delays in being able to offer this course we are exploring a mentoring programme for prospective Level 2 coaches.

We are currently in the process of finalizing moderators and dates for the coaching courses mentioned above.

We want to understand how much interest there is in the above courses. Please complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) form **by Wednesday 15 January** if you are interested in any of the coaching courses. We will be back in contact before the end of January.

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025CoachingCourseExpressionOfInterest>

Officials Training

- Technical Specialist Seminar (Singles) with ISU Technical Controller & ISU Technical Specialist, Auckland in May.
- SYS Seminar for Judges and Tech – online session time TBC.
- Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines) – online session time TBC.
- Introductory sessions for new Probie officials – online session time TBC.

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

SURVEY ON THE USE OF IMAGERY AND MUSIC IN SPORTS

Fernando Castellar is a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney, under the supervision of Dr. Steffen Herff and Dr. Rocco Cavaleri. They are currently surveying the prevalence of the use of music and mental imagery in the mental preparation of athletes. All athletes over the age of 17 are invited to complete their survey. Ideally, they would like as many responses as possible by mid-January.

https://surveyswesternsydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aUXvwT7d4q3IZE

PRINTED RULES & REGS

The 2025 NZIFSA Rules & Regulations will be available on the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/> by 3 January.

With people increasingly able to access the NZIFSA Rules & Regulations and the ISU Regulations and Technical Rules wherever they are, NZIFSA have moved away from printing copies of documentation for everyone. However, if any clubs, coaches, officials, or members of the Board or Operations / Development Groups require a printed copy of any of the documentation listed below, please complete the online form by **7pm Thursday 9 January**.

A reminder that the following documents, updated after the 2024 ISU Congress, are available on the ISU website <https://isu.org/isu-statutes/> ISU Constitution & General Regulations 2024

- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance 2024
- ISU Special Regulations & Technical Rules - Synchronized Skating 2024

If you require copies of any or all of these, please complete the online form.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/RulesAndRegulationsRequests2025>.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 14 January. 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 January. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the February meeting.

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