



JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you have all had a great break over the Christmas and New Year holidays and are rested and ready for what we hope will be a great year for you. We are all aware that there is a lot more uncertainty around what the future has in store and we could so easily end up back in lockdown again (although let's hope this doesn't happen!). However, we have put together our plans for what we hope to achieve this year, and we will do our best to deliver on those plans. You have already shown how adaptable and resourceful you are as a community of skaters, coaches, club committees and officials. This was key to the achievements of 2020 and sets us up well for what 2021 has to offer.

COACHING COURSES

KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Courses

The NZIFSA are planning on running two KiwiSkate & Introduction to Coaching Courses next year.

Paradise Botany, Auckland, 20 & 21 February

Registrations for this course close on **31 January**.

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/IntroductionToCoachingCourseAucklandFebruary2021>

Southern Region – dates and location to be confirmed soon

These courses will be open to new KiwiSkate coaches as well as currently accredited coaches wishing to attain points to maintain their accreditation. The course cost is \$60 plus \$10 for the manual.

The courses cover two levels:

- KiwiSkate Assistant Course - individuals must be 14 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and it is recommended they hold their Elementary test.
- Introduction to Coaching Course – individuals must be 15 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold a Preliminary test in any discipline. Coaches from different codes may apply to the Coaching Director for test dispensation based on their achievements/qualifications.

Please contact the Coaching Director at coaches.director@nzifsa.org.nz if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

All attendees must also pay the appropriate coach membership fee prior to registration. The coach membership forms and fee information can be found on the forms page of the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/forms/>.

Level 1 Coaching Course

The NZIFSA are planning a Level 1 Coaching Course for 2021. We are still working on confirming the course dates and location and expect to have this for you in the near future. Please keep an eye out for an email about this.

Level 2 Coaching Course

We are again communicating with the ISU Development Commission regarding a proposal to deliver a Pilot ISU Worldwide Coach Education Qualifications Framework Level 3 course that would replace our Level 2. The development of the course materials had been delayed due to the disruption caused by Covid-19. However, the ISU have recently advised that this is progressing again now, and we are in discussion with them regarding timing of this pilot course.

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Advanced Novice, Junior, Senior Singles – Botany, Auckland, 9-12 January

COVID-19 and the associated travel restrictions have required us to think differently about how we run some of our development activities. The first of our Skater Development workshops using a remote international coach had just finished, and from the reports we have had so far it sounds like it's been a valuable way to do this. We were very fortunate to have Ravi Walia run this Skater and Coach Development Camp. Ravi is a top level Canadian coach who, as well as being a former international athlete, has coached a number of skaters (including Kaetlyn Osmond) to Olympic level. Bess Cao was our local coach moderator to help coordinate the on and off-ice activities. There were 15 skaters and three coaches (in addition to Bess) at the camp.



We would like to thank Alan Greenstreet and Mike Slater for the huge amount of time they have volunteered to make sure that the technology was in place to support this camp. Alan Greenstreet has put in a great many hours over the Christmas break trying to ensure that we had the best possible chance of making the remote coaching as effective as possible, and working with Mike Slater for a couple of days to make sure the technology was up and running when the workshop got underway. Mike Slater has been the on-the-ground support for this workshop, setting up, keeping things running and packing things down each day. We are also thankful of the support we have had from Paradise and their offer of the assistance of Shane Langley.



The Incredibles

The workshop finished with a team challenge. Each team had 15 mins in a break to sort out their team name, team captain, and allocate skaters to the 15 challenges they had been set. They also had to do a team improvisation. They were given a start and end pose / sculpture and 4 mins to work out what they were doing. From all reports it was pretty hilarious.

The teams tied with 51.5 points each!



Double D, Bubble Tea, Minus E

A report on this workshop from Dani Gebser

Over the last four days (9th-12th of January), many of our Advanced Novice to Senior skaters from around the country were able to start their skating year off with excitement by jumping into a seminar in Auckland with guest coach Ravi Walia from Canada and coach co-ordinator Bess Cao.

Ravi Walia is a world-renowned coach and former skater who you may know for coaching Kaetlyn Osmond and Patrick Chan to the Olympics. Due to the current situation regarding Covid-19 around the world, unfortunately, Ravi wasn't able to come be here with us in person, but I, like many of the other skaters who participated in this camp were extremely impressed and thankful for the flexibility and effort both Ravi and NZIFSA put into organising this seminar and allowing it to happen virtually.

On three of the mornings, the camp started with group lessons taught by Ravi through video call where we worked on a variety of things but mainly focused on jumps, jumping technique and jumping exercises. We also spent some time with him on spins, edges and transitions at the end of each session.

In the middle of each of the four days, we had an hour off-ice session, the first of two were hosted by Sandra Williamson-Leadley via video call where we learnt about Level features, GOES and PCS. The third one we focused on jumping exercises with Bess and the last one was hosted by video call with Drug-free sport NZ where we learnt about the updated 2021 anti-doping rules and regulations around sport.

At the end of the first three days, each group got an hour on-ice session coached by Bess Cao and assisted by Gordon Rushton where we covered a bit of everything. The sessions would start off with some edges and body movement and then would focus on a variety of different spins and/or jumps as well as recapping some of what we learnt with Ravi that day.

We then ended off the camp with a fun challenge with the skaters in our last class and a camp figure-session to revise what we had learnt during the full-on weekend!

I believe it is fair to say that we all enjoyed this camp thoroughly and that it was the perfect way to start our year. We learnt lots of new things, spent lots of time bonding together as skaters and were able to refresh our work-ethic so that 2021 can hopefully be a strong year for all of us!

We are all immensely grateful for everyone involved in organising this camp and enabling it to happen, from coaches to cameramen, co-ordinators and everyone in between. So, on behalf of everyone I wanted to say thank you and we hope that either Ravi will be able to come to visit us in person sometime soon or we will be able to hold more seminars like this one in the future!

UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Synchronized Skating (All Levels) – Avondale, Auckland, 15-17 January

Karen Wiesmeire, head coach and director of Synchronized Skating for the San Diego Figure Skating Club, has been engaged as the coach for this workshop. Karen has been coaching national and international synchronized teams for the past 35 years. She is also an ISU Technical Specialist. Charlotte Van Uden has been appointed as the local coach moderator to help coordinate the on and off-ice activities. There are 24 skaters and 2 coaches registered to attend this workshop. We're looking forward to being able to report back on this workshop in the next newsletter.



Basic and Intermediate Novice Singles – Dunedin, 19-22 January

Christy Krall (jump specialist) and her coaching team (Janet Champion – spin specialist, and Andrew and Kat – movement and stroking skills) are lined up to give this workshop. Rosie Armstrong is the local coach moderator and Mirika Armstrong has been invited as a demonstrator.

This camp is for Basic Novice and Intermediate Novice skaters and Level 1-3 coaches. The workshop will focus on turns and step sequences, spins and spin features, Program Components, off-ice training, making the most of your elements and jumps. Out of town skaters will need to be in Dunedin on Monday evening for starting on Tuesday morning and skaters will be able to travel home after a 5:30pm finish on Friday night.

To date there have only been a small number of skaters register to attend this workshop. The registration for this camp has therefore been re-opened and extended to **Sunday 17 January**. All skaters must hold the correct test levels by 1 January 2021. Skaters can register for this camp at: https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/_2021DevelopmentWorkshopForBasicIntermediateNoviceSkaters

Cost information:

- \$100 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
- \$220 for all other Advanced Novice to Senior Level skaters
- \$80 for Level 1 – 3 Coaches (or \$25 per day)

Adult Singles – Christchurch, 6 & 7 February

This camp is for Adult skaters of all levels. We will be looking at developing skating skills, transitions, and the other Program Components. There will also be turn, spin and jump workshops. Skaters will need to be at the Alpine rink in Christchurch by 12:00 pm on Saturday and will be able to travel home after 7:00 pm on Sunday evening (or Monday morning).

The closing date for registrations is **24 January 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForAdultSkaters>

Cost information:

\$50 for all skaters
Level 1 – 3 Coaches - Free

Pattern Dance – Gore, 6 – 8 February

This camp is for ice dancers of all levels. This skater development camp focuses on learning the steps and timing of the Pattern Dances for the next season, with emphasis on correct edges, correct turns, holds, etc. The skaters would need to be in Gore for Saturday afternoon and would be able to leave by mid-late Monday afternoon (depending on flights).

The closing date for registrations is **24 January 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForPatternDance>

Cost information:

\$40 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
\$80 for all other skaters
Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

Free Dance – Dunedin, 27 – 28 March

This camp is for ice dancers of all levels, but suitable for dance couples only. NZIFSA are in the process of confirming a North American Moderator to run this Skater and Coach Development Camp. Skaters will need to be in Dunedin for a 1:00pm start on the Saturday and would be finished by 6:00 pm on Sunday evening. This can be negotiated for skaters travelling from out of town due to flight availability.

The closing date for registrations is **14 March 2021**. Skaters can register for this camp at: <https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2021DevelopmentWorkshopForFreeDance>

Cost information:

\$40 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members
\$80 for all other skaters
Level 1 – 3 Coaches – Free

Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile camps

In response to the expressions of interest we are currently looking at holding three camps for Pre Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile level skaters rather than two. The proposed dates and locations are as follows:

- Botany, Auckland, 24 & 25 April
- Christchurch, 24 & 25 April
- Queenstown 8 & 9 May (to be confirmed)

Registrations forms will be made available in February, along with some additional details.

OFFICIALS' TRAINING IN 2021

We had said we would have more information in the January newsletter; however, we are running this newsletter a little earlier than expected and we are still working on the detail for the officials training for 2021. We will have this for you all soon though. In the meantime we have included the outline that was included in the December newsletter for your information.

Judges Seminar (Programme Components for all disciplines) – Christchurch, dates TBC

We are planning to use an external moderator via video conference for at least part of this two-day training seminar so that our own ISU level judges can take part in training rather than deliver it.

Judges Seminar (GOE for Singles Skating) – Christchurch, dates TBC

Again, we are planning to use an external moderator for this two-day training workshop.

Ice Dance Judges and Ice Dance Technical Specialists Seminars – Online, dates TBC

Both will be online seminars via video conference.

Referee Training (all disciplines) – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. This training is for all existing referees, as well as those judges who would like to be considered for first appointment as a referee (see section 3.4 of the NZIFSA Officials' Training, Appointment & Promotions Policy).

Probationary Judges Introductory Course – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. This course is aimed at existing probationary judges and any other individuals who are interested in becoming judges.

Announcers course – Online, dates TBC

Online seminar via video conference. While we are fortunate to have a handful of people who are quite happy to do the announcing at competitions, this is often one of the roles that clubs struggle to find willing volunteers for. This training course will give people more confidence to take on this role. It would be good to see a couple of volunteers from each club keen to do this.

Mock Panels for all Competition Officials - May 2021

The plan is to run mock panels in three centres (Auckland, Christchurch and somewhere in Otago/Southland) before the competition season starts. This will give everyone, including Data/Replay Operators, Judges, Tech Specialists and IJS Technicians, a chance to go through their paces before we run our first competitions for the year.

NEW ARRIVALS

Belated congratulations to Dunedin coach Tanya Bakerman on the safe arrival of Hazel on Saturday 14 November.

You have got to love Hazel's special booties.



OUR CONDOLENCES TO ANN CAMPBELL AND HER FAMILY

We offer our condolences to Coach and Technical Specialist Ann Campbell and to her family on the passing of Ann's husband Murray on Friday 8 January. Messages may be addressed to The Family of the late Murray Campbell, c/- PO Box 39001, Christchurch 8545. Donations to the Stroke Foundation would be appreciated, and may be made at the service. A Celebration of Murray's life will be held in our Rangiora Chapel, Wai-mana, 92 Kippenberger Avenue, Rangiora, on Friday, January 15, at 10.30am, followed by refreshments.

NZIFSA AGM TO BE HELD IN AUCKLAND ON 10 APRIL 2021

The AGM is to be held Saturday 10 April with meetings for the Board, Operations and Development Groups on Sunday morning. The meeting will be held in the staffroom at the Cockle Bay School, Sandspit Road, Cockle Bay, Auckland 2014.

It's important to us that we have good representation of members from around the country. Each Club is entitled to send 3 delegates and NZIFSA will contribute towards the travel expenses of 2 of these delegates (refer the NZIFSA Travel and Reimbursement Policy on the NZIFSA website). During the AGM itself these club delegates, members of the Board, Operations Group, Development Group, Honorary Life Members, and coach members are all entitled to speak, but it's only the nominated voting delegates that get to vote. In addition to this, any other club members of affiliated clubs are welcome to attend, but they only get to speak at the Member Forums. We are coming out of a difficult year and are looking ahead to new possibilities for 2021 and we look forward to seeing as many people there as possible.

The Board did consider whether we held the meeting via video conference. However, after careful consideration the decision was made to have a face-to-face meeting.

We anticipate starting with the AGM at around 1pm followed by member forums at approximately 2pm, and a social get together from 4-5pm. We will finalise the schedule for the afternoon closer to the time, but this timeframe should provide enough guidance for any travel bookings.

The following positions are up for election in 2021 and we would like to encourage people to consider standing for these roles:

- President
- Two Board members
- Treasurer
- Skater Development Director
- Coaching Director
- Test & Competition Secretary

There will be a formal call for nominations sent to clubs a little closer to the time. Each of these roles is for a period of two years.

Following the AGM the Board also need to appoint people to the following roles and will be seeking expressions of interest for these roles as well.

- Anti-Doping Officer
- Grants Officer
- Child Protection Officer
- Administrative Assistant
- Web Administrator

If you would like to talk to someone about any of these roles, please contact the General Secretary at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz in the first instance. We would also like to encourage anyone interested in standing for the President or one of the Board Member roles to be an observer at the 9 February or 9 March video conference meeting of the Board. Please make contact with the President at president@nzifsa.org.nz at least one week prior to the meeting if you are interested in attending.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board is on 9 February 2021. Please send any correspondence for this meeting to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by 2 February at the latest. Any correspondence received after that date will be tabled at the following meeting (9 March 2021).

All the best in skating

Anita Tamepo, Grant Howie and Jeanette King
President, Vice President and CEO
NZIFSA