NZIFSA

JANURY 2026 NEWSLETTER

A SPECIAL FAREWELL TO TREVOR LEWIS

Trevor Lewis passed away on 8 January 2026 aged 79. Trevor is remembered for the significant contributions he made to figure skating at both club and national level.

As well as being a life member of Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC), Trevor was on the Council of what was then the New Zealand Ice Skating Association (NZISA). He was first elected to NZISA Council in March 1992 and was President 1996 - 1997 and 1999 - 2000. Even when no longer involved as an elected officer at national level he still shared his knowledge freely and was always there helping out with any NZIFSA events we held in Dunedin. He is remembered fondly and will be missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

The following is a link to a DISC Facebook post that captures some of his involvement at club level
https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1ByN9DiJj1/

RECENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Sofia Trophy, Sofia, Bulgaria, 6-11 January 2026

Junior Women	Petra Lahti	SP 6th/32	FS 6th/32	Overall 7th/32

ISU Four Continents Championships, Beijing, China, 21-25 January 2026

Senior Women	Petra Lahti	SP 22nd/22	FS 22nd/22	Overall 22nd/22
Coach & unfunded TL	Bess Cao			
Judge	Sue Petricevic			

The Challenge Cup 2026, Tilburg, Netherlands, 22-25 January 2026

Junior Women	Renee Tsai	SP 10th/18	FS 7th/18	Overall 8th/18
Coach	Michael (Chih-I) Tsao			

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Tallink Hotels Cup, Tallinn, Estonia, 19-22 February 2026

Junior Women	Nicca Wu
Junior Men	Yanhao (Dwayne) Li
Coach & unfunded TL	Bess Cao

ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Tallinn, Estonia, 3-8 March 2026

Junior Women	Renee Tsai
Junior Men	Yanhao (Dwayne) Li
Coach	Bess Cao
Coach	Michael (Chih-I) Tsao
Team Leader	yet to be appointed

UPCOMING INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

ANZAS 2026 Adult Interclub Competition Melbourne, Australia, 7 & 8 February 2026

Bronze Class I Free and Artistic	Sarah Mummery
Bronze Class IV Free and Artistic	Linda White
Bronze Class VI Free and Artistic	Eleanor Stanbury
Silver Class IV Free and Artistic	Kirsty Cox

The Aichi Figure Skating Championships 2026 Governor's and Board of Education Prize interclub competition, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, 20-24 February 2026

Junior Women	Renee Tsai

All skaters, not just the International A & B team representatives, can seek permission to attend interclub competitions outside New Zealand by emailing secretary@nzifsa.org.nz and specifying what competition and what grade they would like to compete.

Ice Skating Australia's Champ Series events listed below are interclub competitions that are open to skaters from other member federations. 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, 6-8 August
- Crystal Challenge, Melbourne, VIC 6-9 August.
- WinterSun, Brisbane, QLD – 2-6 September
- Sydney Synch Festival, Erina, NSW, 12-13 September. Entries close 14 August.
- Swan Trophy, Perth, WA – 27-30 September. Note that Western Australian Ice Skating Associations plan to run this interclub competition alongside the Swan Trophy international competition

TEAM LEADER FOR WORLD JUNIOR FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to fulfil the Team Leader role at the World Junior Figure Skating Championships, Tallinn, Estonia, 3-8 March 2026.

We are seeking a Team Leader with a strong background in international competition, ideally with experience as either an official or coach. This role is pivotal in supporting our skaters as they compete in one of their pinnacle events where every detail matters.

The ideal candidate should be capable of managing both high-pressure situations and routine administrative tasks. As outlined in the position description, the Team Leader must be a team player who can collaborate effectively with athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators. They should have a solid understanding of NZIFSA rules and the protocols for international events, as well as possess local knowledge to facilitate smooth coordination during the competition. A proven track record in international events is essential, as we aim to ensure that our skaters have the best possible support in achieving their goals on the world stage

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%20V9.0.pdf

The NZIFSA Funding Policy https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Funding%20Policy%20%20V11.pdf section 10, outlines the maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International competition. For this event the maximum funding is $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.

We apologise for the short turn-around time, but can you please submit your EOI and any supporting documentation online by **5pm on Mon 9 February 2026.**
https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIForISUJuniorWorlds2026

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

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AUCKLAND 19 – 21 MAY 2026

NZIFSA and Ice Skating Australia are again co-hosting the Oceania International. The competition is for Singles, Pairs and Ice Dance for Basic Novice to Senior level skaters and is to run 19-21 May. All skaters selected to the International A & B Teams will be eligible to attend and are encouraged to do so. We will have more details about the competition and will be calling for a registration of interest from skaters in February.

CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, CHRISTCHURCH 13 & 14 JUNE 2026

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 2026 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 2025 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2026.

Age eligibility for entry into Clucas Cup Competition

Discipline	Grade	Age as at 1st July 2026
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
Synchronized 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	Is at least 17

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

DATES AND LOCATION FOR 2026 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As announced in our December Newsletter the 2025 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will be held in Gore from the **29 October – 1st November 2026**, with unofficial practices starting on the 28th of October. The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website as soon as it is available.

We have been advised that there is another sporting event on in Gore beginning on Friday 30 October. We would encourage people that are anticipating competing at Nationals to consider booking accommodation now on a refundable basis if possible. We are aiming to have a provisional schedule for Nationals for you in the February newsletter to assist with your planning.

STROKING QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION - 14 MARCH

We'll have more information in our February newsletter, with videos provided and an invitation to send us any questions regarding stroking. These questions will be answered via online meeting on the 14th March. We'll be holding a session for Skaters, Coaches and Parents, and a separate session for Judges. Presenter; Connor McIver. Mark the date in your calendar and keep an eye out for more information in the February newsletter.

UPCOMING COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Below please find the registration information for the KiwiSkate course and Level 1 course being held in Dunedin in March.

KiwiSkate Coaching Course – KiwiSkate Course – Dunedin 21 - 22 March 2026
Anticipated timing: midday Saturday – midday Sunday (exact timing TBA).
Course Fee: **$90**
Registrations close: **Friday 13 March 2026**
https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/KiwiSkateCoachingCourseDunedin2026

The course covers 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 an Elementary test in any discipline.
KiwiSkate Coach Course – individuals must be 15 years of age as at 1 January prior to the course and must hold an Elementary test in any discipline. Coaches from different codes may apply to the Coaching Director for test dispensation based on their achievements/qualifications.

Please refer to the NZIFSA Coaching Accreditation Policy for further information. The Coaches' Accreditation Policy and appendices are available on the NZIFSA Rule & Regulations tab.

All participants must be current NZIFSA KiwiSkate Assistant, KiwiSkate or Level 1 Coach Members at the close of registrations. New Kiwiskate coaches, please complete the 2026 Coach Membership Form in addition to the course registration form. https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/CoachingMembershipAndContinuingEducationPoints2026
The 2026 Coach Membership form is also available on the forms section of the NZIFSA website.

Level 1 Coaching Course - Dunedin 21 - 22 March 2026 (to run alongside the KiwiSkate course)
Anticipated timing of On-Ice session: midday Saturday 21 March – 5pm Sunday 22 March (exact timing TBA).
Online Zoom Sessions: Thursday evenings with the first session 5 March and additional sessions 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 April. Full schedule to follow
Course Fee: **$150**
Registrations close: **Friday 20 February 2026**
https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/LevelOneCourseDunedinMarch2026

To be eligible to attend the Level 1 course you must:

- be a current NZIFSA KiwiSkate (or Level 1) Coach member, and
- have earned the Coach Education Points required to maintain accreditation at your current level before the course commences *
- be a minimum of 16 years as at 1 January 2026
- hold a minimum of Bronze test in any discipline
- have a minimum one year from the date the coach attended the KiwiSkate Coach Seminar and must have been an active coach for two years

Please refer to the NZIFSA Coaching Accreditation Policy for further information. The Coaches' Accreditation Policy and appendices are available on the NZIFSA Rule & Regulations tab.

* If you have let your KiwiSkate registration lapse you will need to complete your 2026 annual coach membership including the required Continuing Education Points NZIFSA 2026 Coach Membership.

The 2026 Coach Membership form is available on the forms section of the NZIFSA website or via the following link
https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/CoachingMembershipAndContinuingEducationPoints2026

RECENT COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

KiwiSkate Coaching Course – Paradice Botany, Auckland, 24-25 January 2026
A very successful KiwiSkate Coaching Course was held in Auckland last weekend moderated by Kim Lewis. The course had 25 attendees.

Level 2 Coaching Course started 15 January 2026
The online sessions for the Level 2 coaching course started on 15 January with 10 course participants. As part of the course they will have a 2 day in person session, including on ice activities, in Auckland on 14 & 15 February. It's great to finally have this course underway. A huge thank you to our coaching team and all the Level 3 coaches who have been providing input into which of the ISU modules are incorporated into the course.

UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

We have the following workshops planned for 2026.

Skating Skills – All Disciplines (equivalent Basic Novice and up), Auckland (Botany), 10-13 April
We are still working on confirming arrangements to bring an international coach to Auckland for this skater development camp and hope to have details for you in the near future.

Singles Pre Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 2 & 3 May and Auckland (Botany) 9 & 10 May

Please mark these in your calendar now. We will have details and registration forms for you in the February newsletter.

COACH MODERATORS FOR PRE ELEMENTARY, ELEMENTARY & JUVENILE CAMPS – DUNEDIN & AUCKLAND

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 16 March 2026.

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/EOIModeratorForSkaterCamps2026

UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

The following provides an outline of what is planned for the coming year. We'll have more information for you in upcoming newsletters. The dates indicated below are still to be locked in fully, but we trust this information assists with your planning.

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- Components Seminar – Christchurch 2 & 3 May
- Pairs – Judges training and Tech Specialist training – online sessions 10 and 17 May
- Referee Refresher – online session 20 June
- Initial Judges and Initial Tech Panel Meetings – online sessions 27 June

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

NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held on Saturday 28 March at the Pakuranga Rugby League Club, 27R William Roberts Road, Pakuranga, Auckland. We encourage all clubs to ensure they have representation at the AGM.

Below is the proposed timetable on 28 March for the 2026 AGM:
1:00 – 2:00pm AGM
2:00 – 4:00pm Member Forums
4:00 – 5:00pm Social Get Together

A meeting of the new Board, Operations Group and Development Group will be held on the Sunday morning (approximately 9:00am – 1:30pm).

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

The Board is seeking member feedback on the **Travel & Reimbursement Policy** (feedback due by **31 January**). Your submissions will be considered by the Board when they review the policy, and a draft of any proposed amendments will be put back out for member submissions.

Athlete's Voice Group
NZIFSA AVG

ATHLETE'S VOICE GROUP

Overview

The Athlete's Voice is a representative group formed by athletes across New Zealand to provide a safe space for athletes to be heard and to strengthen communication between athletes and the NZIFSA

Vision

That all athletes' voices are heard and are central to the decisions NZIFSA makes

Mission

To advocate for all NZIFSA athletes and help create a fair and inclusive sport that represents every type of skater in NZ

Join Us!

We're currently calling for expressions of interest forms for new members

link

Our Core Goals

Communication
Creating a safe space for athletes to be heard & creating a communication link between Athletes & NZIFSA

Community
Build an athlete community across NZ by linking clubs to one another

Advocacy
To empower athletes by hearing from them & support athletes along their skating journey

Positive Change
To aid in problem solving and finding solutions to barriers athletes face & communicating this to NZIFSA or Clubs

Leadership & Governance
Provide an introduction to sport leadership & governance, host forums & discuss upcoming Rules & Regulations

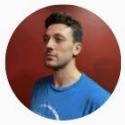
Current Representatives by Club

Vicky Wang
AIDC*

Gemma Pickering
DISC

Jessica Coleman
AISC*

Stepan Kadlcik
AIFSC



Timothy Sampson
CISC

Emma Hodgson
CMFSC*

Danielle Gebser
GFSC

Maia Smith
ISS

Sabine Edmonds
QISC*

** clubs that are actively seeking expression of interests for new members*

CALL FOR EOI FOR ATHLETE'S VOICE GROUP APPOINTMENTS

The Athlete's Voice has begun the process of appointing new members to the group. The Athlete's Voice is a group of athlete representatives from each skating club in Aotearoa working to build a linked athlete community, and it is important to have your club represented!

Club appointments will be done in two groups on alternating years. The clubs set to hold an appointment in **2026** are **AIDC, AISC, CMFSC, QISC and WFSC.**

We are now calling for applications from keen members of these clubs - expressions of interest can be entered into the attached form.

We're looking for people that can support our Athlete's Voice Group Values - values of communication, community, advocacy, positive change and leadership!

Applicants:
- must be 16 years and over
- can be any skating level
- must have competed in the last three years
- must be actively involved with the rink and / or club

An athlete's voice representative should be willing and able to speak up on behalf of all athletes and should want to see our sport thrive. They should be interested in being a pathway of communication between skaters, clubs and the NZIFSA, and be someone who other skaters will communicate with to help maintain a fair, fun and supportive sports environment.

If you think this sounds like you or this describes one of your fellow athletes, we want to hear from them. Applications are to be completed by the athletes themselves so they can be most accurately represented! Applications will be reviewed by current Athlete's Voice members in March 2026, where new members will be appointed.

We look forward to receiving your applications! Applications close **28 February 2026**

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NZIFSAAVG/AVGApplicationFormDec2025

If you have any questions please contact: nzifsa.athletesvoice@gmail.com

NEW ZEALAND SKATING HISTORY PROJECT: NZSKATINGHISTORY.ORG.NZ

The New Zealand Skating History Project is being run by Dr Grace Bateman, and aims to preserve, share and trace the changing story of ice skating in this country. The overall scope of the project is to collect materials relating to skating in NZ, digitise these and make them available on a database through the project website, and use this material to write publications.

All skaters are invited to participate in the project, and share any skating memorabilia. History is not just about dates or organisations, but also personal stories about people's experiences. We are interested in the social and cultural history aspects of skating in NZ, from the perspectives of skaters and their families. History also doesn't mean 'old', in this context it means everything in the past up to this year. You might be surprised at the historical value of your items!

They are also interviewing 5 people for the oral history component of the project. If you would like to participate in an interview, and/or for more information about what sort of historical materials they are interested in collecting, go to nzskatinghistory.org.nz

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 10 February. 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 February. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the March meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA