

2024 ISU CONGRESS REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

As NZIFSA President I was fortunate to have the opportunity to represent the NZIFSA at the 59th ISU Congress in Las Vegas from June 10th – 14th. Held every 2 years, Congress is where the regulations and rules governing skating (both Speed & Figure) are altered, amended, or added to for the next 2 seasons.

The sessions on proposed changes to figure rules and technical requirements held over the week were full of interesting discussion and often varied and differing points of view especially around the proposal to change required elements to reduce a jump and include a choreo spin. Following a very close vote, the outcome ended up that parts of the proposed changes would be in effect for this season but others will not be introduced until 2026/27. Fortunately for me our Board and Operations and Group members had already reviewed the changes proposed prior to my attending and had given me clear guidance on how we would vote. Live streams are available on the ISU website should anyone be interested to see and hear more of Congress.

As the second oldest sports federation in the world (132 years) the ISU constitution document is a very large and somewhat outdated document. A proposal to form a working group to modernise this, and the general regulations was unanimously supported by delegates. An extraordinary congress (both online & in person) will be held in 2025 to adopt the new constitution document before the next congress in 2026 which will be an election year.

A presentation was given on the ISU vision 2030 by ISU Director General Colin Smith. The second part of the presentation was focused on Safeguarding with an interesting and topical presentation from Kirsty Burrows, Head of the Safe Sport Unit at the International Olympic Committee. The 2020 + 5 initiative aims to strengthen safe sport across the Olympic movement to protect the physical and mental well-being of athletes. Kirsty ended this session by stressing that training and education is especially important to those in clubs. With the athlete voice being a very critical aspect, the presentation was followed by an interview session with high profile US skater Gracie Gold who gave her perspective as an athlete who has had some mental health challenges.

Following this presentation ISU President Kim Jae-Youl announced that the ISU was increasing all members Contribution C by 20% for the 24/25 & 25/26 years to allow member federations to implement and strengthen their safeguarding focus by adopting policies, increasing awareness and undertaking training.



Congress was a great opportunity to meet some of the ISU members and delegates, and having Sue Petricevic, the Chair of the ISU Disciplinary Commission and a fellow New Zealander in attendance meant she was able to introduce me to several of the attendees. Sue in her Chair role presented the ISU Disciplinary report to congress. I was also able to have a meeting with Karn Luanpreda from the ISU Development Commission to discuss potential opportunities for NZ.



Aside from the “working’ parts of the week, a welcome reception for Congress attendees was hosted by USA Figure Skating on Sunday evening. They also treated us to a Cirque de Soliel “Beatles” themed show and I had some opportunities to get out and about to enjoy some of the Las Vegas sights. The Congress ended with a banquet event on the Friday evening.

Thank you to the NZIFSA Board for giving me the opportunity to attend and represent NZ. Aside from the ability to escape the cold of a NZ winter for a week of 40-degree temperatures every day, Congress was a great experience and insight into how the ISU operates, and an extremely valuable opportunity to make connections within the wider global skating community. It highlighted to me just how important it is for us to be represented in person at Congress and the connections made will contribute to ensuring that NZ is well and truly on the map in the skating world.

Robyn Morris
NZIFSA President

ANTI-DOPING UPDATE FROM THE SPORT INTEGRITY COMMISSION TE KAHU RAUNUI

New Zealand's anti-doping programme has transitioned into the Sport Integrity Commission Te Kahu Raunui. It's the same gold-standard programme and people you know and trust, but it's now part of the Commission's wider work to protect integrity across sport and recreation. You can get anti-doping news and updates via [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#), or find anti-doping information online at sportintegrity.nz/anti-doping.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS:

Asian Open Figure Skating Trophy 2024 – Hong Kong, 2 - 6 September.

Junior Women	Renee Tsai
	Misaki Joe
Substitutes for Junior Women	Qiwen (Christine) Aixinjueluo
	Brooke Cathro
	Jazmine Evangelou

Team Leader will be confirmed shortly

John Nicks Pairs Challenge, New York, USA, 3-4 September 2024.

Judge Sue Petricevic

Junior Grand Prix - Bangkok, Thailand, 11-14 September

Junior Women Renee Tsai
Junior Men Dwayne (Yanhao) Li
Coach Bess Cao
Team Leader Dani Gebser

Swan Trophy International 2024 – Perth, Australia, 23 – 25 September.

Junior Women Renee Tsai
Intermediate Novice Girls Bridey Sangster
Judge Sandra Williamson-Leadley
Team Leader Yet to be appointed

This competition is for Basic Novice to Senior Singles International A & B Team Slaters. If you would like to attend, please send your request for permission, including the grade you wish to compete, by **6pm Monday 12 August**.

ISU International Adult Competition, Calgary, Canada, 18-21 September 2024.

Bronze II Woman Artistic and Freeskate Victoria Marinova
Bronze IV Women's Artistic and Freeskate Jeanette King

Junior Grand Prix – Wuxi, China, 09-12 October

Junior Women Cara Tang
Junior Men Dwayne (Yanhao) Li
Coaches Bess Cao
Gordon Rushton
Team Leader Junko Kimura

RECENT INTER-CLUB EVENTS:

14th City of Nagoya Figure Skating Competition Minato AQLUS Cup 2024, Japan, 21-23 July

Junior Women Renee Tsai SP 10th /41 FS 9th /41 Overall 11th /41

UPCOMING INTER-CLUB EVENTS:

Crystal Challenge 2024 – Melbourne, Australia, 8 – 11 August.

Senior Women Ella Smith (GFSC)
Junior Women Alethea Wong (AIFSC)
Victoria Larsen (GFSC)
Advance Novice Girls Ziyao (Nicca) Wu (AIDC)
Intermediate Novice Girls Mia Chen (AIFSC)
Basic Novice Girls Emma Thein-Xie (AIDC)
ISA Elementary Girls Hailey Ng (AIDC)
Anna-Bella Levien (GFSC)

SKATERS' ACTIVITIES:

Christine Aixinjueluo recently created a painting to enter an Art Exhibit.

The following is an introduction from Christine:

This painting was submitted into the 2025 Embracing Our Differences Juried Annual Exhibit. Through researching old classic paintings featuring skating, I saw people across cultures, languages and times enjoying this sport. This inspired me to create this mixed media piece with acrylic paint and newspaper clippings. Guess which leg is Yuzuru's?



CALL FOR EOI FOR TEAM LEADER FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to fulfil the Team Leader role at the following international event:

- **Swan Trophy International 2024 – Perth, Australia, 23 – 25 September.**

For all events with 2 or more skaters a skater's coach or parent will not normally be named as Team Leader.

We are looking for a team leader who has enough experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. As outlined in the position description, they need to be able to handle crisis situations as well as routine administrative tasks; be team players who can work with all athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators; have knowledge of the NZIFSA rules and agreements surrounding international participation; and, have local knowledge that will assist them in carrying out their role.

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%20V8.0.pdf>

The NZIFSA Funding Policy section 10, outlines two different maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International as indicated below:

- For events in North/South America, Asia and Oceania, \$1,650 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.

Please submit your EOI and any supporting documentation online by **6pm on Sunday 11 August**.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOISwanTrophy2024>

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

We encourage clubs and individual members to nominate the person who you think is the most outstanding volunteer administrator and the skater who displays 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 nomination forms can be found on the forms section on the NZIFSA website <https://nzifsa.org.nz/forms/>. The Board will be the selectors for this award and will announce the recipients at the social function at the end of the 2024 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 sportpersonship
- 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

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 13 August. 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 6 July. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the September meeting.

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