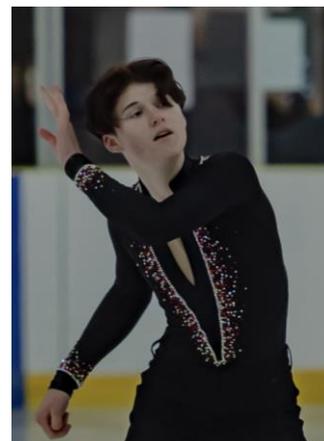


## JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

### ISU JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RUTH XU AND DOUG GERBER

We have just received the great news that the International Skating Union (ISU) have awarded both Ruth Xu and Doug Gerber with ISU Junior Scholarship Funding. The funding has been awarded to support their training towards qualifying and competing at the ISU Junior World Championships.

Congratulations Ruth and Doug!



### COVID-19 AND SKATERS WHO LIVE AND TRAIN OUTSIDE NEW ZEALAND

There are a small number of New Zealand citizens who live and train outside New Zealand. With regard to COVID -19 and the impact on New Zealand citizens (and their dance partners) who live and train outside New Zealand, the Board have agreed to the following:

#### **Obtaining the qualification score to attend New Zealand Nationals**

In the event that there are no appropriate local competitions for the skaters to achieve the required TES for entry to Nationals (refer 205.1), the Board have agreed that, given the exceptional circumstances created by COVID-19, these skaters are exempt from the requirement to attain the qualifying TES for Nationals 2021. However, the expectation is that skaters will make every attempt to identify and attend local competitions for the purpose of qualifying to attend Nationals.

#### **International selection if New Zealand citizens who live and train outside of New Zealand are unable to attend New Zealand Nationals**

In the event that New Zealand skaters living and training overseas are unable to attend Nationals, 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 subject to evidence of attaining the required TES for International A or B team or Australian Nationals as applicable. These skaters would be confirmed as last priority in that representative group (i.e. behind skaters who made selection at New Zealand Nationals or Australian Nationals). In the unlikely situation that we have more than one skater selected via this method, priority between those skaters be determined by total score.

## ISU CONGRESS DECISIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SKATE IN AUSTRALIA

Normally, every two years the International Skating Union (ISU) holds Congress. Congress is a meeting of delegates from all the member federations and covers speed skating as well as figure skating. The primary business at Congress is to work through any proposed changes to the Constitution and the General Regulations that apply to all. We would then split into our two groups to discuss and review the rules and technical requirements for our sport.

The 2020 Congress was postponed due to COVID-19 disruption. There are, however, a significant number of Congress proposals that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. To this end, the ISU has been working through a process with the ISU Member Federations to agree what items can be dealt with via electronic vote and which need to be held over to Congress 2022. As part of that process, New Zealand has made a number of submissions and comments on the agenda items in question. The ISU Technical Committees and ISU Council have taken on board several the minor recommendations and wording changes we had proposed. However, our request to postpone a couple of agenda items so that they can be discussed in person in 2022 has not been accepted by ISU Council. These proposals are being voted on electronically right now and are likely to have far reaching ramifications for New Zealand skaters.

### **Congress 2021 Agenda Item 40. ISU COUNCIL CLARIFICATION**

ISU Rule 107, paragraph 4.

Joint national championships of two or more ISU Members are not considered as International, but national competitions, provided they are announced as Joint National Championships and separate results are published for each participating ISU Member

*Add following wording at end of paragraph:*

Except for such joint national championships any competition (co-) organized by any ISU Member in which at least one Skater from a foreign ISU Member participates is considered an International Competition and must fulfill the requirements established by this paragraph 4 and be announced in accordance with Rule 110. This includes but is not limited to competitions as per paragraphs 5 to 13 below.

*Reason: Clarification of scope of joint national championships.*

We have not been able to confirm this yet with Ice Skating Australia, however, this requirement is highly likely to mean that the Australian Figure Skating Championships are not able to accept participation by New Zealand skaters or teams. Similarly, our New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships will not be open to our Australian neighbours. To fulfil all the requirements of an international competition would be a very significant challenge for NZIFSA.

### **Congress 2021 Agenda Item 45. ISU COUNCIL CLARIFICATION**

ISU Rule 107, paragraph 15.b) i)

*Add new sub-paragraph i) and renumber following sub-paragraphs accordingly:*

i) Interclub competitions must be conducted under the exclusive authority of the organizing club and their significance must be limited to the club sphere. Interclub competitions may not have any impact on the competitive activities of the ISU Member to which the organizing club belongs, e.g. by their results serving as qualifying criteria for participation in national or international championships, national best lists, etc.

*Reason: Clarification of the scope of Interclub competitions.*

The ISU have proposed this as a clarification. To our way of thinking this is a significant change and we had said this to the ISU. If Hollins Trophy, Winter Sun, Sydney Synchro Festival or any other Australian competitions are run as International Interclub competitions, they would not be able to use any of the results towards qualifying for their national Championships, or as a

benchmark event for international selection. Given that, it seems highly unlikely that they will continue to run these as International Interclub competitions and our skaters will not be able to take part. Taking into account our geographical isolation, this likely lack of access to these competitions presents a significant challenge for our skaters.

We anticipate that the ISU Council proposals will be adopted, and even if they are not the ISU has given a very clear steer as to their view of the scope of both joint National and Interclub competitions. As part of the current Selection Policy review we have proposed some changes that include removal of the Australian Figure Skating Championships from the policy, and the replacement of Hollins Trophy with a Nominated Selection Competition.

## **CONSIDERING TRAVELLING TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS?**

If you are considering travelling to international competitions, we do need to draw your attention to the following:

- The New Zealand Government are still advising against travel to the rest of the World (other than Australia and selected Pacific Islands).
- In choosing to travel you increase your risk of exposure to COVID-19 markedly.
- Skaters who live and train in New Zealand need to attend the 2021 National Champs if they want to be selected to any representative grade in 2021/22.
- You need to be very aware that if you travel overseas there is increased likelihood of disruption to travel and you may face unexpected delays in managed isolation.
- Skaters will need to cover the costs of MIQ on return to NZ. The latest information from Sport NZ suggests the government won't even be considering reviewing the MIQ requirement until September.
- MIQ spaces are limited. The assistance we can get from Sport NZ to get spaces is likely to be limited, as we don't have skaters on the High Performance lists. But we will assist where we can.

## **ALTERNATIVE SELECTION COMPETITION**

As noted in the May newsletter the decision had been made not to use Hollins Trophy as a Selection Competition. This decision was in response to uncertainty and risk around travel to Australia as a result of COVID-19. Further to this, Ice Skating Australia (ISA) had released information to their skating community discouraging Inter-State competitions. After consultation with DISC Committee, the Board decided that DISC Championships would serve as a Selection Competition in place of Hollins Trophy this year. All skaters who were eligible for selection to international A or B team at Hollins should have all received an email regarding this decision.

As a replacement for Hollins Trophy this event is the opportunity for selecting and prioritising skaters for competitions whose entries close between 1 July and 1 week after Nationals. Please refer to the NZIFSA Selection Policy.

We would like to offer our special thanks to the DISC Committee for being so accommodating.

## REPRESENTATIVE SELECTIONS FOLLOWING DISC CHAMPIONSHIPS

The NZIFSA Selection Policy provides an opportunity for skaters who were selected to a representative level at the New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships last year, to meet the international representative selection criteria based on their performance at the Hollins Trophy. This provides an opportunity for skaters to be selected to a higher grade if they have moved up since nationals and for reprioritising our international squads for competitions with closing dates from 1 July 2021 to 1 week after the finish of our National Championships. As noted above, the Board had selected DISC Championships as an Alternative Selection Competition in place of Hollins Trophy

We are very pleased to announce that the following skaters have met or re-met the selection criteria at DISC Championships to be included in the International Representative Teams.

### International A Team selection criteria met at DISC Champs

- Junior Ladies – Dani Gebser (re-attained selection TES for A Team)
- Junior Ladies – Mirika Armstrong (re-attained selection TES for A Team)
- Junior Ladies – Ella Smith (re-attained selection TES for A Team)

### International B Team selection criteria met at DISC Champs

- Junior Ladies – Asia Tapelava (re-attained selection TES for B Team)
- Junior Ladies – Misaki Joe (re-attained selection TES for B Team)
- Junior Ladies – Hanna Sime (re-attained selection TES for B Team)
- Advanced Novice Ladies – Brooke Cathro (re-attained selection TES for B Team)
- Intermediate Novice Ladies - Jazmyn Evangelou (re-attained selection TES for B Team)
- Intermediate Novice Ladies – Georgia Chinn (moved up from Basic Novice and attained selection TES for B Team)
- Basic Novice Ladies – Sophie Pokorny (attained selection TES to B Team)

Skaters who met the selection criteria at the 2020 New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Championships, and who are still age eligible for that grade at 1 July 2021, are still included in the International Representative Teams, however, the order of priority for assignment to international competitions may have changed following the Alternative Selection Competition. The confirmed list of all the international representative skaters in order of priority is as follows:

### International A Team Representative Skaters

Skaters marked with an \* are eligible for selection to a grade other than the one they competed in because of their age.

#### Advanced Novice Ladies

Hope Zhang  
Marina Chen



**Junior Ladies**

Dani Gebser  
Mirika Armstrong  
Ella Smith  
Ruth Xu\*



**Junior Men**

Douglas Gerber\*



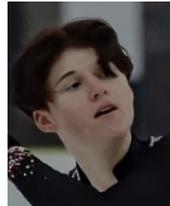
**Senior Ladies**

Ruth Xu



**Senior Men**

Douglas Gerber



**Senior Dance**

Charlotte Lafond-Fournier & Ricky Kam



**International B Team Representative Skaters**

**Basic Novice Ladies**

Sophie Pokorny  
Christine Aixinjueluo  
Alethea Wong



**Intermediate Novice Ladies**

Jazmyn Evangelou  
Georgia Chinn  
Cara Tang  
Ann Kyle  
Olivia Pokorny  
Alex Hamilton



**Advanced Novice Ladies**

Brooke Cathro  
Rebekah Sime



**Junior Ladies**

Asia Tapealava  
Misaki Joe  
Hannah Sime  
Jess Hay  
Natasha Woodacre



**Intermediate Novice Dance**

Gemma Pickering & Benji Pickering



**Advanced Novice Dance**

Ann Kyle & Blake Barraclough

**Mixed Age Synchro\*\***

Cutting Edge: Zara Anthony-Whigham  
Djuna Elkan  
Anya Gipp  
Abby Grimaldi  
Amelie Henderson  
Rachael Jannink  
Levi Keller  
Rosie Maley  
Jazelle McCormick  
Katie Sewell  
Briar Short  
Katie St Clair-Newman  
Paige Symister  
Tallulah Wilson-Brown



\*\* For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ national championships and must meet the requirements for that grade for that competition.

**JEANNE BEGEJ RECEIVING OFFICER OF THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT MEDAL**

Last year, Jeanne Begej was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020 for her contribution to figure skating and is now an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Jeanne did not attend the medal award ceremony last year, instead choosing to delay that so that she could be there to judge at our National championships. She finally had the opportunity to receive her medal at Government House in Wellington, from Dame Patsy Reddy on 7 May 2021, and was accompanied by family members and special friends from our skating community.



Jackie Wyatt, Julie Adams, Barbara Lindsay-Taylor, Lyn Baret, Sir David Gascoigne, Dame Patsy Reddy, Jeanne Begej, Peter Wyatt, Wendy Clucas and Marg Whelan.

## RESULTS FROM RECENT AUSTRALIAN INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

### Hollins Trophy, Sydney, Australia 12-14 June 2021

Senior Men                      Doug Gerber                      SP 1<sup>st</sup>      FS 1<sup>st</sup>                      Overall 1<sup>st</sup>/1

Hollins Trophy was livestreamed. If you have not watched Doug's programmes you can find them here.

Short Program - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJm5fwFg-O4>

Freeskate - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxU6kvcm8Gg>

## RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT SEMINARS

### Pre-Elementary, Elementary and Juvenile workshop – Queenstown 8 & 9 May

The third and final Pre Elementary to Juvenile level Skater Development Seminar was held in Queenstown with Stephanie Woodacre as the moderator. Nineteen skaters and three coaches made for a very busy and very successful seminar. A great way to start the season, particularly for those skaters who do not have the luxury of year round ice.

Thank you to QISC for the logistical support offered for this workshop.



## RECENT COACHING COURSES

### Level 1 Coaching Course - Queenstown 22 & 23 May

A successful Level 1 Course was held in Queenstown with 19 participants. Kim Lewis and Caitlyn Paul were the moderators for this course. Again a special thank you to QISC for the logistical support and organising skaters for the practical assessment sessions.



### **LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSE DELAYED**

Unfortunately it is now likely to be 2022 before we are able to run a Level 2 Coaching course. We have been communicating with the ISU Development Commission and some of the people charged with developing the course material for the ISU Coach Education Qualifications Framework. We had previously been anticipating that the ISU Level 3 course (equivalent to our Level 2) might be available later this year. However, there have been some delays with development of the curriculum materials, in part due to the disruption caused by COVID-19. The various contributors are committed to delivery of the course materials by 31 December 2021 and then there may be a short delay between then and getting the material on-line. We will keep you advised of any updates we get on when the course material will be available and when we can run the course.

## RECENT OFFICIALS' TRAINING

### Judges Seminar (Programme Components) – Christchurch, 8-9 May

A Singles Skating Programme Components Seminar was held in Christchurch on 8 & 9 May. There were 15 participants at this seminar plus one who joined on line. Beth Crane from Canada was the remote moderator for this seminar.

### Judges Seminar (GOE for Singles Skating) – Christchurch, 22 & 23 May

A GOE seminar was held in Christchurch from the 22nd-23rd May, with 17 judges in attendance, plus two on Zoom. Beth Crane, Susan Heffernan and Jamie McGrigor were the remote moderators for this seminar.

### **Seminar for Announcers/Music plays is scheduled for Sunday 6 June – On-line**

Wendy Martin is currently a rink side event announcer for Skate Canada nationally, and within her province is known as the “Voice of BC” for livestreaming of all figure skating events produced by the BC/YK Section of Skate Canada. Wendy was engaged to run a training course. There were eighteen people from around the country joined in this online seminar. Wendy’s presentation and a number of scripts have been sent to participants.

### **Data Operator / Replay Operator Training – Auckland, 20 June**

NISSA organised a training session for ten people interested in the Data Operator / Replay Operator role the IJS Calc Operator / Accountant role. Derryn Neaves and Mandi Gerber ran this introductory session, with technical support from Mike and Hannah-May Slater.



## **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](mailto: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 2020 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

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