



## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

What an incredible milestone for New Zealand at the 2025 World Junior Figure Skating Championships! This year's competition has been historic for NZ, marking the first time New Zealand has been represented by both a Junior Men's and Junior Women's skater at the same event. Dwayne's 10<sup>th</sup> place finish granted NZ 2 spots for Junior Men at the next Junior Worlds, also a first for NZ. Not only is this a testament to the growing talent and dedication within New Zealand's figure skating community, but it also highlights the country's increasing presence in the sport.

The competition itself was fiercely competitive, with over 40 skaters in each of the singles disciplines, showcasing the depth of talent from around the world. For New Zealand to have two skaters qualify and compete at this level is a remarkable achievement, reflecting the hard work of the athletes and coaches.

This milestone is a significant step forward for figure skating in New Zealand, inspiring a new generation of skaters to dream big and aim for international competitions. The success at the 2025 World Junior Championships is a clear indication that New Zealand is placing their mark in the sport of skating.



Dwayne Li, Bess Cao and Petra Lahti at the Junior Worlds Banquet

**From Petra Lahti on her experience at her first Junior Worlds**

I recently had the incredible opportunity to compete at the Junior World Figure Skating Championships. From the moment I arrived, the atmosphere was incredible! Overall, my experience was unforgettable, I learned so much from this trip and am so grateful for everyone who has supported me!

**BARBARA LINDSAY TAYLOR – RETIRING SENIOR REFEREE, JUDGE & TECHNICAL CONTROLLER**



**A Tribute to Barbara**

Barbara Lindsay Taylor has been a dedicated figure skating official for over 50 years, making a significant impact on the sport in New Zealand.

Her journey in figure skating began in Christchurch in the mid-1960s, where she passed both her Prelim Figure and Bronze Figure tests in 1965. That same year, she competed in the Intermediate Ladies category at the New Zealand Championships in Arrowtown—a time when the sport had only three competitive grades: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior.

After relocating to Auckland, Barbara continued skating at the Glen Innes rink, which opened in 1972. Her judging career started even earlier, in the early 1970s, first in roller skating and then in ice figure skating from 1974. She was mentored by Graeme Shepherd, a respected Senior NZIFSA Judge and International Roller-Skating Judge.

Throughout her career, Barbara has judged countless figure skating tests, mentored new judges and officials, and officiated at club, regional, and national events across the country. In earlier years, when financial support from the national body was limited, officials often covered their own travel expenses—a stark contrast to today's arrangements.

Beyond her officiating roles, Barbara has also contributed significantly to the administration of the sport. She served for many years on the Auckland branch of the NZISA Technical Committee, was a member of the NZIFSA Board from 2012 to 2013, and held the position of Vice President from 2014 to 2017. She was honoured with Life Membership of NZIFSA in 2006.

Barbara's leadership extended internationally as well, serving as Team Leader for the Four Continents Championships in South Korea in 2005 and the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in 2007.

In recognition of her longstanding service and dedication, Barbara was appointed Patron of the NZIFSA in 2023.

Her contributions to figure skating in New Zealand have left a lasting legacy, and she will be greatly missed in her officiating roles. We extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes for her well-earned retirement.



Competitors in NZ Intermediate Ladies 1965 in Arrowtown. Barbara is 2<sup>nd</sup> from Left.



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

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton).

The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

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. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz).

The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website along with the Provisional Schedule as soon as it is available.

## **UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

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

This camp will be moderated by Kevin Reynolds and Alaine Chartrand and will include all-day workshops from 18 to 21 April. In addition to the on-ice sessions, there will be standard off-ice, dance, and workshops on nutrition and anti-doping. An online or in person media training session may also be offered in conjunction with this camp.

Registrations for this camp have been extended for a few days and now close end of day on **Tuesday 18 March**.

[https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/\\_2025CampForBasicNoviceToSeniorSkaters](https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/_2025CampForBasicNoviceToSeniorSkaters)

### **A & B Team Technical Feedback Session, Auckland (Botany), 9 May**

This year, in conjunction with our officials' training, NZIFSA will be offering a technical feedback session for our A and B Team skaters with international technical panelists. We are very fortunate to have ISU Referee & Technical Controller Rob Rosenbluth and ISU Judge/International Technical Controller Steven Hsu (both from USA) sharing their expertise with us.

The skaters' session is focused on steps and spins, and is an opportunity to gain feedback on these elements of programs ahead of the season.

The schedule is modelled on similar sessions run overseas, and will be in two parts: A Team followed by B Team. All attendees from each team will be on the ice during their session. Coaches may observe from off the ice. Elements will be performed in isolation and our technical panelists will provide feedback for each skater. There will be space for skaters and coaches to ask questions.

**Time:** Friday 9 May, 7:15-9:45 am (approx.)

**Cost:** \$75 per skater; Level 2-4 coaches free.

Registration details will be sent to all A & B Team skaters soon, so please keep an eye out. The registration period will be relatively short so that we can plan effectively with our moderators.

### **Technical Rules Session (for everyone), Auckland/Zoom, 9 May**

We are also looking at including a free technical rules session on the afternoon of the same day as the feedback sessions above. This rules session will be open to all but will likely focus on information for novice grades and above.

So that we can gauge interest, if you would be likely to attend *either in person or online*, please fill in the form below by **Saturday 22 March**.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025TechRulesSessionForEveryone>

## **RECENT COACHING COURSES**

### **KiwiSkate Coaching Course - Alpine Ice, Christchurch, 15-16 February 2025:**

We had 8 Kiwiskate coaches who attend the course.

### **Level 1 Coaching Course - Alpine Ice, Christchurch, 15-16 February 2025:**

Despite significant efforts, we encountered some challenging obstacles during the organizing process. As a result, we had to postpone the Level 1 coaching course until after Nationals 2025. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

## **UPCOMING OFFICIALS' DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

We have a number of officials training activities planned. If you have any questions regarding any of these please contact the Officials Director at [officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz)

**SYS Seminar for Judges and Technical Specialists** – online session April.

**Introductory sessions for new Probationary officials** – Interested in becoming an Official? Come Along to this Zoom session to find out about more!

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June (approx. 9am-3pm). Led by Michael Holtz & Melissa Cummings.

Registration:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025JudgeTrainingProbationaryOnline>

**Initial Judges Meeting (All Disciplines)** – online session late June. This is a preseason meeting. All judges are expected to attend. Further information will be announced closer to the time.

**Tech Specialist/Controller Seminar (Singles) - Auckland 10-11 May.** With ISU Technical Controller & ISU Technical Specialists Robert Rosenbluth & Steven Hsu, Auckland 10-11 May.

Robert Rosenbluth brings extensive international experience to the technical panel. He has served as a technical controller at numerous international events, including the 2022 and 2023

World Junior Championships. He also judged at the 2024 Senior Grand Prix in Canada and was part of the panel at the 2014 Winter Olympics.

Steven Hsu has been on the international panel since the 2005–2006 season, working as both a technical controller and specialist at various U.S. national competitions. He has also served as a data/replay operator at major events, including the 2024 Grand Prix Final and the 2023 Senior Grand Prix in China.

This is a valuable opportunity to work with two experienced moderators, allowing us to deepen our knowledge and enhance our skills as Tech Specialists and Tech Controllers in New Zealand.

**Please note:**

- PLEASE DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS until advised.
- Level 2-4 Coaches are invited to attend the training seminars for professional development. Continuing Education Points can be gained as per Appendix C of the Coaches Accreditation Policy.
- **Please register by Sunday 23 March.**  
[https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025Officials TrainingAucklandRegistration](https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2025OfficialsTrainingAucklandRegistration)
- A full schedule will be released closer to the time. Start and end times will be roughly as follows: Saturday - 10am – 5pm and Sunday - 9am – 3pm.

## **TEAM LEADER EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THAILAND OPEN**

The NZIFSA are seeking expressions of interest from suitably experienced individuals to fulfil the Team Leader role at the **Thailand Open Figure Skating Trophy – Bangkok, Thailand, 2-6 May 2025**.

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%20V8.0.pdf>

The NZIFSA Funding Policy <https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Funding%20Policy%20%20V11.pdf> section 10, outlines two different maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International. For the Thailand Open funding will be “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 Wednesday 26 March 2025**:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIThaiOpen2025>

If you have any questions, please email the General Secretary at [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)

## **NZIFSA AGM – CHRISTCHURCH, SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025**

The NZIFSA AGM is to be held in Christchurch on 5<sup>th</sup> April and will begin with a member forum. We encourage all clubs to ensure they have representation at the AGM. Reimbursement for club delegates will be as per section 3.3 of the Travel and Reimbursement Policy.

The following is an indicative schedule so that clubs can look to book travel.

10am – 10:45 welcome and member forum (*Operational Plan – feedback on priorities*),

10:45am – 12:15pm AGM

12:15 – 1pm Lunch

1-5 pm for Board, Development and Operations Group meetings (*Please note that attendance will be required by those elected into roles at the AGM*)

The venue for the AGM is confirmed as St Marks Church, 150 Withells Road, Avonhead, Christchurch. We have arranged the schedule to minimize the need for accommodation.

Clubs, please remember that the names of your delegates must be with the General Secretary [secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) seven days prior to the meeting (ie Saturday 29 March). Clubs are encouraged to send a delegate. Your club delegate has to be a member of an affiliated club but does not have to be a member of your club to be able to represent you (see section 4.6 of the Constitution). If a named delegate is unable to attend, they may appoint a proxy and must advise the General Secretary of this in writing before the AGM.

If you would like us to organise airport transfers for you, please advise Jeanette King via email at [Secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:Secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) with your flight details including arrival date and time by Monday 24 March.

NZIFSA will provide lunch for delegates and NZIFSA Officers attending the AGM. Please advise Jeanette King via email at [Secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:Secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) of any dietary requirements by Monday 24 March.

## **NZIFSA BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April following the AGM. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary ([secretary@nzifsa.org.nz](mailto:secretary@nzifsa.org.nz)) by Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Any correspondence received after this date will be tabled at the May meeting.

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