

NZIFSA Skater Development Policy

Version 21.0 (14 Jul 2026)

1 Policy Aims

This policy sets out criteria for New Zealand Ice Figure Skaters to be selected to participate in NZIFSA and other development programmes. The policy aims to identify those skaters who are achieving above the level we expect to see for their age group, or are competing internationally or approaching a level where they are almost competitive internationally.

2 NZIFSA Skater Development Policy for Tier Level Ice Figure Skaters

Selected skaters are ranked in skater development tiers, as defined below:

High-Performance

Inclusion is based on results at the Junior and Senior World Championships, Four Continents Championship, Senior Grand Prix each year and will be open to those singles, pairs and dance couples who compete in the short program/dance and qualify for the freeski/freedance at any of these events. Also includes those skaters who qualify for Junior/Senior Grand Prix Finals, Winter Youth Olympic Games, or Winter Olympic Games, or who medal at a Junior Grand Prix event.

Development Skaters

Inclusion is based on results at the North Islands or South Island Championships, or New Zealand National Championships.

Selection is open to all skaters who meet:

- the age requirements specified in Appendix A as at 1st July preceding the North Island, South Island or National Championships; and
- achieve the Total Element Score (TES) (see Appendix A) at either the North Island or South Island Championships or New Zealand National Championships.

Those singles skaters who have not reached the age of 15 as at 1st July in the year of competition, are in Junior or Senior and do not meet the minimum TES points, but whose adjusted TES (see Appendix B) meets the Advanced Novice TES (see Appendix A), will be included in the Development tier level. Dance couples and pairs competing in Junior and Senior where the lady has not reached the age of 15 as of 1st July and the man has not reached the age of 17 as of 1st July in the year of competition will be included in the Development tier level if their adjusted TES meets the minimum TES for Advanced Novice (see Appendix A). The TES will be adjusted to reflect the element requirements for the lower grade.

Those singles skaters who have not reached the age of 19 as at 1st July in the year of competition, are in Senior and do not meet the minimum TES points, but whose adjusted TES (see Appendix B) meets the Junior TES (see Appendix A), will be included in the Development tier level. Dance couples and pairs competing in Senior where the lady has not reached the age of 19 as of 1st July and the man has not reached the age of 21 as of 1st July in the year of competition will be included in the Development tier level if their adjusted TES meets the minimum TES for Junior (see Appendix A). The TES will be adjusted to reflect the element requirements for the lower grade.

Synchronized Skating Development

Inclusion is based on results at North Islands or South Island Championships, or New Zealand National Championships each year and will be open to Basic Novice to Senior teams who meet the minimum Total Element Score (TES) in Appendix A. 75% of the skaters must meet the age requirements specified in Appendix A.

For a Synchronized Skating team to retain their selection to the Development Squad, 60% of the team must have been listed for the team that was selected at the previous New Zealand National Championships.

Publication of Minimum Technical Element Scores

The minimum TES points required for each level will be reviewed on an annual basis to take into account changing requirements and standards, and adjustments made by the ISU for the following ISU skating season. The minimum TES score will be published by 31 July each year.

3 Announcement of skaters for Development levels

A provisional announcement of those skaters who qualify for Skater Development levels will be made within 48 hours of the conclusion of the North Island and South Island Championships and the New Zealand National Championships or at the social function afterwards. Selections will be confirmed within one week of the end of the North Island, South Island and New Zealand National Championships. Any corrections to the provisional announcement will be discussed with the skater(s) concerned prior to publication.

Skaters are selected to the development squad for the period to the end of the New Zealand National Championships the following year, unless skaters discontinue skating or do not meet the monitoring requirements outlined in section 5.

4 Appeals

Appeals on selection to any of the Skater Development levels may be made only on the basis that the score for a skater or skaters at the North Island, South Island or New Zealand National Championships was not correctly calculated and that the error would have otherwise resulted in the skater's selection. Appeals on other grounds will not be considered including appeals on the basis that an element or its level was incorrectly called or that GOEs or programme components fell outside of any guidelines or rules. Appeals must be lodged within 7 days of the confirmed announcement of selections. Selections will be considered provisional until all appeals have been heard and decided.

5 Monitoring of Skaters

Monitoring of skaters named to Developmental Tier levels of continued training and form will be the responsibility of the Skater Development Director or their appointed representatives. Monitoring will involve skaters completing goal setting documents, setting target dates and receiving feedback on programmes. Skaters will then be monitored at training sessions, club and regional competitions and New Zealand National Championships throughout the year.

Skaters who are not able to train or train fully due to injury, serious or lengthy illness or other issues will need to notify the Skater Development Director or assigned representative. Notification is the responsibility of the skater. Target dates or goals can then be monitored and reset (if necessary) according to training being resumed.

Skaters who discontinue skating for more than 6 months (other than for reasons of injury or illness) or receive three monitoring reports, with a rating of mediocre or below, within 6 months will be discontinued from the Development programme. Skaters discontinued from the programme will have the opportunity to regain selection to the Development programme at the next North Island or South Island Championships or New Zealand National Championships.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Development Squad Selection

Singles	Grade	Age – as at 1 st July preceding the competition	2026 Combined SP and FS Minimum TES
	Pre Elementary	Under 9	4.50 (FS only)
	Elementary	Under 10	6.50 (FS only)
	Juvenile	Under 12	8.50 (FS only)
	Basic Novice	Under 14	11.25 (FS only)
	Intermediate Novice Under 12	Under 12	12.25 (FS only)
	Intermediate Novice Girls	Under 15	12.25 (FS only)
	Intermediate Novice Boys	Under 15	13.00 (FS only)
	Advanced Novice Under 12	Under 12	28.75
	Advanced Novice Girls	Under 16	28.75
	Advanced Novice Boys	Under 16	32.25
	Junior Under 12	Under 12	35.75
	Junior Women	Under 19	35.75
	Junior Men	Under 19	45.75
	Senior Women	No age limit	39.25
	Senior Men	No age limit	60.00
Dance	Grade	Age – as at 1 st July preceding the competition	Combined SD and FD Minimum TES
	Juvenile	Under 12	13.75 (0.5x (PD1+PD2) +FD)
	Basic Novice	Under 14	17.25 (0.5x (PD1+PD2) +FD)
	Intermediate Novice	Under 15	28.75 (0.75x (PD1+PD2) +FD)
	Advanced Novice	Girls – under 16	40.00 (PD1+PD2+FD)
		Men – under 18	
	Junior	Under 21	50.50
	Senior	No age limit	67.50

Pairs	Grade	Age – as at 1 st July preceding the competition	Combined SP and FS Minimum TES
	Juvenile	Under 12	6.50 (FS Only)
	Pre Novice	Under 13	7.50 (FS Only)
	Basic Novice	Under 14	9.00 (FS Only)
	Advanced Novice	Girls – under 16	30.00
		Men – under 18	
	Junior	Women – under 21	46.00
		Men – under 23	
	Senior	No age limit	62.25
Synchronized Skating	Grade	Age – as at 1 st July preceding the competition	Combined SP and FS Minimum TES
	Basic Novice	Under 15	16.25 (FS only)
	Mixed Age	No age limit	20.25 (FS only)
	Advanced Novice	Under 16	19.00 (FS only)
	Junior	Under 19	44.75
	Senior Elite 12	Must have reached 15	49.75
	Senior	Must have reached 15	66.25

APPENDIX B – ADJUSTMENT OF TES FOR SINGLES

Grades	Adjustment to SP TES	Adjustment to FS TES
Senior to Junior	Nil	Remove the step sequence
Junior to Advanced Novice	Remove the flying spin Level 4 spins/steps will be altered to Level 3 Remove the 1.1 highlight distribution bonus Add applicable jump bonuses If a triple-triple jump combination is performed, substitute a double for the jump with lowest value.	Remove the <u>choreographic spin and amend the spin with flying entrance to one</u> that is valid in Advanced Novice, and the lowest value jump element Level 4 spins/steps will be altered to Level 3 Remove the 1.1 highlight distribution bonus Add applicable jump bonuses