

2024 ISA AGM - Sport Development Report

Kim Wilson – Sport Development Chair

I present my Sport Development report for 2023/24.

From my home state, we are still without a rink, although the state government have given in principal support and commitment to help get a new rink established. FSAT as an association continues to be active and positive with looking to the future. Skaters are travelling interstate to continue their training, with some of them still being active Aussie Skate members of the Australian skating community. It has also been difficult for me personally to keep involved with attending events interstate.

Most of my time in the last 12 months has been taken up with managing the new Aussie Skate registration process and also the new website.

For all my various hats I have 3 email addresses. These are:

- Aussie Skate – aussie.skate@isa.org.au
- Sport Development – sportdevelopment@isa.org.au
- Web Administration – web.administrator@isa.org.au

Communications

Social Media

The Facebook Page is managed by Angelique Clyde-Smith, Leslie Amacker, Moira Henningsen and myself. Working to updating the content and to keep stakeholders informed of international and national news and events as well as notifying of ISA document updates.

Moira Henningsen continues to manage our Instagram.

The aussie.skate@isa.org.au email address still continues to have a steady stream of enquiries.

Website

The website has been redeveloped and is a great improvement on the previous website in appearance and functionality. Both Angelique and myself have access to this. Thanks to Moria for facilitating and Todd and Adam from SignalHP for their work on it.

With regards to management of the site, there has been a lot to update and it has been time consuming. I am also still learning the functionalities of it. If things haven't been changed (ie suggestions of photos) it is about managing priorities and doing what I can in the time I have available.

Aussie Skate

Memberships and Rinks

The biggest change in the membership process was due to the cessation of Register Now which required us to find a new membership portal. We are now using Uplifter to manage our Aussie Skate registrations.

Uplifter is a Canadian Company. It was actually founded to create a membership registration portal for a figure skating club in Canada and has since grown to become a major player in club and association registrations in Canada.

One of the major benefits of Uplifter are parents can create one account and register all their children under that account. This account can be managed from year to year. Otherwise the skater sets up their account and will use that account to register from year to year.

As the person responsible managing Uplifter, I have found it user friendly and whenever a problem arises I have been able to resolve, including help people to manage their accounts or issuing refunds or producing reports.

At the time of this report there are over 1600 registered members. Unfortunately there has been a massive drop in the number of skaters registered from Queensland. Will need to investigate.

Happy to work with associations and rinks to ensure all skaters competing in Aussie Skate competitions are members of the program. Please contact me and I will assist.

One of the issues we currently have is knowing the registrations under the previous system. We assume there are not many, but when they do arise we are unable to verify these memberships. We now have a form that skaters can complete to advise us of their previous Aussie Skate membership.

Appendix A of this report has details of membership registrations.

Aussie Skate App

This app has now been available for 3 years and continues to be a valuable resource for members of our program.

Aussie Skate Judging – Proposed Change

In 2021 a new Aussie Skate Judging System was introduced – Aussie Skate Calculation (ISA Communication 120). This brought Aussie Skate judging in line with ISA.

The system is now entering it's fourth year. I would not consider that it has been entirely successful as most states are not using it as intended and those that have are concerned that it is more complicated and time consuming than what it needs to be.

The current system if applied as per the communication has judging of every element and three components (Elements, Skating Skills and Presentation).

Reasons for change

- Only one state (NSW) is marking every element and using two components.
- Other states (SA, VIC and QLD) are only using components so they are not using the system as laid out in the guidelines.
- Feedback from ACT and Tasmania that have used the full system is that there are too many elements to judge compared to the length of the programs.
- Complaints about data entry for entering marks for every element – time consuming and risk of data entry errors
- Setting up the system with both elements and components is time consuming for regardless of whether ISUCalc being used or an Excel spreadsheet

Summary for change

There is a lack of consistency from the system across competitions and states and feedback has indicated the need for change. Subsequently I would recommend that whilst the system still applies

IJS principles, that states can choose to judge either components or elements. They would not be required to judge both. This would still mean there is consistency with most events.

As part of my report, I would like the members to consider this and provide feedback.

Adult

There have been a large number of adults competing at events here and overseas and this appears to be growing group of skaters. There are many skaters who have found their passion as adults and are competing in Copper, Bronze and Silver. However we are seeing more skaters moving out of Senior, Junior, Novice and Intermediate ranks who are now competing at the Elite and Gold levels. It shows the value of providing opportunities for those who still wish to be involved in the sport but not at the same degree of intensity needed to be a competitive skater in the Senior or Junior ranks.

At ANZAS in February I held a discussion forum for the skaters attending. I have attached the minutes of the meeting as an appendix to this report (Appendix C).

One of the major issues for adults is the discussion about an Adult Nationals. There are many differing opinions on this, from whether a separate event is required to the time of the year when it could be scheduled. At this stage nothing has been finalised.

Pewter division has now been accepted in the By-Laws. This is currently being finalised by Technical Regulations. Intended to be a very basic competitive level for adults, one consideration is it could be extended to provide opportunities for skaters with disabilities (Inclusive Skating) which is an area to date that has not been on ISA's radar.

The Adult Rulebook was updated in line with the ISU Adult Competition rules.

Adult competitions, here and overseas, are back in full swing and well supported. This is a summary of the events held in Australia and Internationally (not counting State Championships). This does provide a good snapshot of the number of adult skater entries for the main events. Skaters attending the international events are performing well and achieving medals. Apologies if I have missed any events from the list.

Note: List updated as at 26/5/2024

Name of Event	Location	Date	Domestic or International	Pewter	Copper	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Masters & Elite	Total
Hollins	NSW	Jun-23	D				8	6	5	19
Bannister Trophy	QLD	Jul-23	D		3	10	5	3		21
Swan Trophy	WA	Jul-23	D			5	8	5	2	20
Crystal Challenge	VIC	Aug-23	D		4	14	13	12	7	50
Winter Sun	QLD	Sep-23	D		3	10	6	5		24
Masters Games	SA	Oct-23	D		10	13	13	8	6	50
Panda	SA	Nov-23	D		4	1	1	2	2	10
AFSC	NSW	Dec-23	D				35	14	15	64
World Winter Masters Games	Italy	Jan-24	International							35
ANZAS	VIC	Feb-24	D - Open to International	5	15	24	9	7	3	63
Obertsdorf	Germany	May-24	International							7
Entries per division				5	39	77	98	62	40	
									Total Entries	363

Theatre on Ice

Here in Australia there competitive opportunities for TOI teams to compete being provided by the various skating associations. The largest of these events continues to be the Gwen Petersen Trophy held in Canberra in September. 7 teams competed last year.

Unfortunately this year we had no teams competing at Nations Cup which was held in Bordeaux, France in April. However were we represented by Jan Gardner, Angelique, Rachel Ramsay and Renee Reid who attended as judges and participated in the seminar.

With regards International TOI, Jan Gardner has kindly provided a report as member of the International TOI committee. She has been invaluable with representing Australia as a member of this committee. Jan, Angelique, Rachel Ramsay and Linda Aubrecht all have roles in the development of TOI internationally and I thank them for their contributions and representing Australia.

Jan's report on international TOI is included in this report as Appendix B.

One of the major outcomes of the decisions of the International committee is the proposal to have Nations Cup here in Australia in 2028. Jan is seeking the support of ISA and the skating community to hold this event.

ISA Test App

It has been 2 years since the introduction of the app. The feedback continues to very positive. With the change of the website this affected the links to documents. If you see anything that needs updating let me know.

Thank You

Thank you to all those who have supported me over the year.

Particular mentions go to:

- Wendy Meik –Who I continue to have a great working relationship with after many years
- Angelique Clyde-Smith – always a great sounding board
- Jan Gardner – for her TOI expertise and always keeping us updated on the latest developments
- Monica McDonald – thanks with help from the coach's side
- Sharon Mellama – for doing an fantastic job on all the technical stuff
- Board of ISA – thank you for your support in my role

I particularly want to thank my state association FSAT who have been incredibly supportive and are a pleasure to work with.

Apologies to anyone I might have missed.

Appendix A – Aussie Skate Membership Statistics

Rinks

Here is a summary of membership registrations through the ISA website as at 20/5/2024.

There is a concern that the number for the Queensland rinks has dropped dramatically from 2023. Last year at this time there were 726 skaters registered compared to 73 this year.

Name of Rink	State	Number of Skaters
Erina Ice Arena	NSW	23
Hunter Ice Skating Stadium	NSW	15
Liverpool Catholic Club	NSW	557
Macquarie Ice Rink	NSW	43
The Ice Zoo	NSW	341
Phillip Ice Skating Centre	ACT	7
Darwin Ice Skating Centre	NT	48
Iceworld (Acacia Ridge)	QLD	33
Iceworld (Boondall)	QLD	40
IceArena	SA	27
Glenorchy Ice Skating Rink	TAS	10
Ice HQ	VIC	230
O'Brien Group Arena	VIC	227
Olympic Ice Skating Centre	VIC	40
Perth Ice Arena	WA	1

Gender of Members

Gender	Number
F	1380
M	258
O	4
Grand Total	1642

Ages of Members

The largest group of skaters are those from 10-19 years old. The second largest are the 0-9 year olds. The skaters over 18 are our potential adult skaters. There is also a large group of teenage skaters who could eventually be competitive adults when they reach 18.

- Skaters 14-17 - 410
- Skaters over 18 - 409

Age Group	Number of Skaters
0-9	409
10-19	867
20-29	185
30-39	93
40-49	60
50-59	23
60+	5
Grand Total	1642

Appendix B

Report to ISA – Nations Cup 2024, Bordeaux

France 23/4/2024 to 29/4/2024

At this year's Nations Cup, we had 4 representatives from Australia. Jan Gardner, Rachel Ramsay, Angelique Clyde-Smith and Renee Badcock. Jan and Rachel were judging and Angelique and Renee attended as observers. This is the first time that this Interclub event has been held back to back as it usually is held every two years in April.

Unfortunately there were no Australian teams at this event, it's the first time that Australia has not been represented by a team in the history of the Nations Cup. All divisions had two parts, a Choreographic Exercise and a Free Performance.

It was a successful competition, there were 7 Countries represented with 47 teams and 900 skaters taking part. The new Open Division proving to be a hit with 11 entries from several countries. The other divisions were Adult, Novice, Junior and Senior.

There was an International Seminar held on the Wednesday with over 100 participants, Judges, Coaches and Choreographers who enthusiastically joined in with several group programs to identify various aspects of the required Theme, CE and Gesture processes. They were asked to identify and send video examples to an email address which later were shown on a screen and the leaders of the groups were asked to explain why they chose those examples. A very interesting session. Also the committee for the new Judging system was given time to show the work they had done over the last year, Angelique is Australia's member of this Committee and is well respected by the other members from France and the U.S.

Both France and the US have indicated that they would like to see a Nations Cup in Australia and would send as many teams as possible to compete. Also other countries would participate given enough notice. The next Nations Cup will be held in Lansing Michigan, in April 2026 and the proposed Australian event would be in April 2028. Of course this cannot happen without the support of Ice Skating Australia, if this event was officially sanctioned by ISA then we could start to prepare for it now to be held in 2028. As a marketing exercise it is very profitable with entry fees, many official badges, clothing and merchandise selling for the six days of the competition.

In the US they now have over 100 registered teams with 85 teams entered for their TOI Nationals in July of this year. Also, in the US and France, TOI has had no effect on Synchronized Skating numbers, it is bringing a whole new aspect and new skaters to the sport of Figure Skating.

With this report I would respectfully ask that ISA gives their official support to hosting this ISU sanctioned, Interclub Event in 2028. It is certain to attract new skaters to the sport and generate funds for ISA and the Club and ISA Member that holds this event.

Sincerely

Jan Gardner

International Committee Member for Theatre on Ice.

4/5/2024

Appendix C

Meeting Minutes: Adult Skaters Meeting Feb 2024

Date: 9-Feb-2024

Meeting: 1:30pm - 3:45pm

Presenting: Kim Wilson (ISA Sport Development), Leslie Amacker (ISA High Performance Chair)

Attending: 15

Joanna May (Tas) - synchro, solo dance
Wendy Meik (Vic) - ISA, ISV
Pam Reid (Vic) - Bronze, TOI
Heidi Fearnside (NSW) - Silver, dance, judge
Jaimee Robertson (NSW) - Gold
Elektra Schubert - (Vic) Masters
Julie Kernich-Curigliano (Vic) - Bronze, occasional pairs
Christine (WA) - Gold
Katie Yarnold (NSW) - Bronze, solo dance
Alex Cooke (QLD) - Bronze, synchro, judge
Carolyn Phillips (Vic) - Silver, speed
Aylin Dulagil (NSW) - Silver, dance, solo dance
Anne-Marie Gut (Vic) - Silver
Karen Dukes (Vic) - Bronze, synchro, solo dance
Maxine Gray () - Bronze, dance

Adult Nationals

Will not happen this year but may happen from 2025.

State associations will bid to host; requirements won't be as restrictive as for AFSC

Adults in 2023 Nationals - 6.5 hours of skating (too much for one day, not quite enough for two)

Would offer synchro but expect synchro teams will typically go to AFSC with other synch teams

Looking at including a Bronze Trophy event (not an official "national championship" title)

Looking at including solo dance - pattern & free dance

Qualifications will be required for Adult Nationals.

Will have qualifying scores and state quotas (ie. same as AFSC)

Will not include Artistic events (only technical events)

It was noted that if both Bronze & Solo Dance are added, may impact scheduling and ice time and also may lead to limiting of entries.

Opportunities for artistic events was also discussed (cover in Opportunities). Lots of adults who aren't keen on technical but are capable of great artistic programs. Flagged that there are other artistic events held in Australia.

(Note solo dance is covered separately by ISA - refer to Angelique Clyde-Smith)

Scheduling:-

Noted that before Christmas is a bad timing

Early in the new year between Nationals & Oberstdorf (May) was a suggestion
It was noted that NSW were unlikely to add another event at that time of year
Also need to consider when judges are available (lots of international events at this time)
Perhaps late Feb / early March?
Consider swapping ANZAS for Adult Nationals? (And perhaps move ANZAS later in the year)

AFSC 2024 Technical Scores:-

Leslie presented the general approach for determining qualification scores: for each division, it is made for a "basic" program - considers the required elements at a base level and base GOE, with a multiplication factor applied.

Qualification scores can be achieved at any benchmark event or event with appropriate qualified panel.

State organisations may have their own additional criteria.

Age Splits

More adults are coming into the sport, including skaters coming out of the IJS divisions.

With this growth, it is a good time to look at age split options

Noted that the ISU Adult events are 28+ (though other international events may be lower).

Various age splits have been proposed to ISA including:

18-28, 29-50, 50+

Oberstdorf 10yr categories, combining small number divisions (eg 4 person minimum)

It was raised that 70+ type categories might still be useful to encourage participation.

Don't want to end up with lots of categories each with just one or two skaters.

Suggested we match age group naming with Oberstdorf categories (ie. 18-28 might be Class 0)

Adult Rankings

Proposed Adult Rankings similar to ISA/ISU High Performance

General feedback was that a ranking did not have a real purpose - do we need them?

But others noted that it may be useful for tracking qualifications for Adult Nationals / AFSC? Or as an incentive? May be good motivation for skaters with no-one else locally in their division?

Would it look at just TES or also components? (May be more suited to adults?) Don't have the same limitations as existing high performance (ie ISU requirements).

How do you manage consistency between events? eg Oberstdorf is typically more generous for components to Australian events. US/Canadian event judging is also quite different.

The logistics for managing rankings is difficult and time-consuming (who would manage and track it?).

(Side discussion on Silver division - there seems to be a perception that an Axel is required for Silver, but there is no requirement for this. Axel is allowed but not required.)

Also flagged the "tap on the shoulder rule" - judges should flag skaters who are clearly skating well above the required level.

Testing

Current requirement is pattern tests for adult divisions but this doesn't necessarily reflect technical performance.

eg. Prelim pattern test doesn't mean skaters are capable of Bronze elements, but are no longer able to skate in Copper.

Proposal for a basic technical test for Bronze - would become a requirement for Bronze.

Would allow existing skaters with Prelim pattern to go back to Bronze

Some skaters recommend doing Prelim technical test anyway - get good feedback and work on elements you might not otherwise

Others raised that this is a barrier that could decrease participation: some skaters may not be able to do all the required elements but can still do a program

Kim presented possible adult technical test structure

Structure might include (eg) 4 jumps, 2 spins - not prescriptive as to type.

Only purpose is to show that skater is capable of the technical elements required for their level

Feedback was generally positive

Agreed that test should not be prescriptive for type

Suggested that Gold level should not require axel (since it is not required at Gold level)

Existing tests would provide credit for these (ie. no requirement to re-test)

Also queried if it should be limited to base Oberstdorf requirements (ie no jumps)

Flagged the value of testing as providing targets to achieve

Also wanted to ensure this would only apply for Technical events (not artistic)

Spot poll on adult test - perhaps 6 votes in favour

(Noted that Pewter was introduced as an alternative to the Aussie Skate stream).

Workshops

What types of workshops do people want?

- Artistic expression
- Judged examples - eg with skated videos, explain tech calls & judging decisions, especially adult specific elements & levels
- Matching choreography to music - program assessment

Keep an eye out for Adult Google Classroom in the adult skating facebook group.