



Ice Skating Australia Inc

Annual General Meeting, April 2018

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Sharon Hedley

Jane Ashworth

Leah Bates

Mark Lynch – Chair

REPORT

Following the 2017 AGM two energetic ladies, Sharon and Jane, were invited and agreed to join the Committee, giving us diversity of perspective in a world figure skating event wanderer, a judge and a coach.

I sincerely thank Sharon and Jane for great teamwork and a busy first year. It is fair to say that Athlete Development took on some major tasks and worked with other Committees as needed. Personally I witnessed the great work that our skaters, officials and coaches do locally and overseas.

Some of our projects/activities included:

1. **WYOG Age Eligible List** – this was regularly updated through benchmark events. Some improvements and collation of data were implemented.
2. **WYOG Policy** – the WYOG Policy updated. Thank you to Judith for keeping the website updated. The work she does keeping this key communication site up to date and operating is amazing.

The WYOG Policy was formed based on the 2016 AFSC Element Protocols for the levels of *Basic Novice A & B and Advanced Novice*. Our aim was to form a measurable policy from Elements called by Technical Specialists at ISA Bench Mark events. The Policy Elements were decided upon from the higher placed skaters from these divisions and what Elements/Levels they achieved. It was noted that there was a difference between Male & Female abilities in the levels and the Policy is reflected accordingly.

3. **Australian Championships WYOG Presentation** - As a part of the Awards Dinner on 8th December 2017 all of the WYOG squad were presented a framed certificate. Big thanks to Carole, Jane and Sharon who organised these Certificates and did the presentation on the evening. This initiative was a part of ISA's drive to recognise achievement by our up and coming young athletes.

The few 'anomalies' in the awards (skater no longer competing etc) has identified that we need to involve the States to ensure that the WYOG database stays current. Early in 2018 we will formalise what the States need to do to assist us in this task.

- 4. ISU Development Funding Success** – On 4 January 2018 the ISU formally advised ISA that the ISA initiated and led joint proposal by Australia and New Zealand for creation of a trial new event “ISU Oceania Novice International Competition” and Coaches Seminar has been approved under the ISU Development Funding process by the ISU Development Commission.

The financial support relating to the above Project totals CHF 47'945, being circa A\$62,000. The first installment of CHF 35'000 (A\$45,000) released to Ice Skating Australia. This funding was essentially the full potential of CHF 25,000 per country, per year, available for qualified proposals under Development Funding guidelines.

Awesome thank you to Jane and Sharon for their great efforts in this projects success, plus a very special mention and thanks to Leah Bates, who joined our group at this time, for her amazing professional skills in making this a winning submission. Thank you to everyone in responding with the provision of further information super fast. Additional thanks to Wendy for the local ISV organising committee, Clarence and Judith - Thank you to all for a job well done.

The innovative Oceania event idea came from the current Presidents of ISA and NZIFSA, thanks.

BACKGROUND - It was in fact Australia's Proposal, to the ISU Congress in 2016, to mandate a right for all Members to receive Development funding, that prompted the ISU Council to put its own Proposal that substantially increased the Development Funding and made it an entitlement to all Members (for the first time in history):

Quote from the minutes:-

“Through its Budget Proposal, the Council proposed to increase the annual Development funding by CHF 1.8 million each year, i.e. from CHF 6.2 million to CHF 8.0 million. Out of the CHF 8.0 million Development Program Budget, CHF 3.0 million would be spent in form of annual contributions to ISU Members amounting to CHF 25'000 per ISU Member and Branch (i.e. CHF 50'000 for ISU Members representing both Branches)”.

After Congress the ISU Development Commission was formed under new guidelines, operating with the assistance of the Sports Directors & Technical Committees to establish performance and success indicators. Priority is given to Development Projects targeting development of Skaters in the Junior or lower age categories.

- 5. 'Figure Skating 2020' (FS2020) Proposals to 2018 Congress**

During the year your AD Chair has been actively involved with an international group preparing a proposal, following on from Australia's 2016 Congress initiative supported by the ISU Council, to evaluate the event structure and entry criteria for 'Divisions' at World's, Europeans and 4 Continent's. The aim was more countries represented at these big events, and that the expanded Events costs are constrained. The proposals were drafted with the help of Susan.

This has involved after world wide consultation with other figure skating countries, media, technical committees, very senior ISU personnel, and others. What eventually evolved is somewhat more far reaching than originally envisaged, and has been named “*Figure Skating 2020 : Creating the future of Figure Skating*”. The proposals

seek ISU Members and Council, to formally progress with an expanded group to full review, improve and refine the FS2020 ideas for the Congress 2020 to approve. This initiative, as in the past, will bring benefits to Australia.

6. Hall of Fame - shameful representatives

This may not seem like a ADC domain, but it is in that ISA and others went to efforts to recognise achievements in various areas of the sport at the formal end of the Championships and skating year. All those in attendance, especially young athletes, TRUST the ISA Boards judgement.

The Hall of Fame awards on the night are supported by the ADC.

The action by Mr Medhurst, apparently on behalf of some 'hall of fame group' that proposes nominees was reprehensible for publically taking the stage unannounced, to refute the ISA Boards decision and put down someone whom had just been awarded.

It was suggested that the group he was representing be disbanded. The ISA Boards recent formation of an awards committee is certainly applauded.

CONCLUSION

It is interesting that in the Figure Skating world Australia is rising up in all areas. The most pleasing part is that over the last couple of years we are again leading with our skaters having Men's, Ladies and Pairs all attaining podium positions, and 1st place in some instances including a Junior World Championship. News Flash – a recent pairing of 2 high level singles skaters to form a Dance Partnership is already paying dividends with World Championship performances. .

Australia has had for some time Judges and Technical Officials at the highest level, even holding an elected position on the ISU Technical Committee, and at Congress ISA is putting forward Proposals seeking to shape the sport on the world stage.

This has been a strong year of achievement for the new ADC: thank you Jane, Sharon and Leah for the great efforts.

Be assured, 2018 will be even busier.

In conclusion, thank you to the ISA Board for the work you do, and your support.



Mark Lynch, Chair - Athlete Development Committee
19th April 2018