



## **Ice Skating Australia Inc**

### **Annual General Meeting Report, June 2020**

#### **ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mark Lynch – Chair  
and Jane Ashworth

1. **WYOG Age Eligible List** – with the Winter Youth Olympic Games 'cycle' ending in 2019, and therefor restarting again, all went on hold with the first 2020 half+ season shut down. When the season resumes, we will bring together a 'new' age eligible list and proceed with efforts to get a skater(s) to the next Games. This cycle there is an opportunity to 'monitor' skaters - see item later in report.
2. **ADC Representative in Each State** – will work to have this in place, last season not achieved. With the national Athlete Review initiative approved by ISA recently, there will be a need for coordination between States, clubs and ice rinks.
3. **Athlete Reviews** – as was highlighted post 2018 Nationals, there is a need to review athletes in a constructive feed-back loop session that is timely after they have skated. This type of objective feedback is conducted by many international federations. ISA has approved the initiative. A proposal has been drafted and next step is to consult with the States to 'customise' the mechanics for different ice rink availabilities and constraints. This is also very relative in this new 'dystopian Covid world' that influences the 'method', but a fair and reliable quality outcome always the goal.
4. **ISU Four Continent's Australian Bid** - ADC was pleased to assist with the very complex task of preparing a submission to the ISU. With my international travels to figure skating events (always at my own cost), there was an opportunity to promote confidence that Australia can do a great job. With the 'covid' chaos, and the recent formal awarding to Australia, I firmly believe the event will be a figure skating promotional and financial success for ISA. For 20 years ISA has wanted to have a world standing ISU event in Australia, and the ISA board has been successful, congratulations. This will be an historic event to inspire our youth, teenagers and adults to join our sport for various reasons, and for some greatness.
5. **'Oceania Series' backed by ISU Development Funding** - This the 3rd and last scheduled year was to be in New Zealand, and like everything else, its future is uncertain at the moment.
6. **National & International Events** - 2019 Queensland and National Championships, Asian Open Challenge series in Dongguan, China (basic novice through to senior), where several of our skaters acquitted themselves well. Also, the Mid Atlantics at the

New York Skating Club (intermediate to senior levels for singles and pairs). No Aussies there competing. This is a USA event with many competitors.

7. **Future of our Beautiful Sport** - The background is that our current and aspiring athletes need to have good rotational technique for their success at doing clean triple and quad jumps. These jumps dominate the 'singles' part of the sport. That means this issue flows into pairs as well. There is the eternal challenge of encouraging young skaters with 'wins' (with sometimes less than ideal technique). The price is paid when competing internationally where high rotational jumps are more the norm to be competitive. It is a quandary for the sport, state federations and ISA - do we bring pressure on coaches and the athletes to excel at rotational jumps, thereby losing skaters earlier. Is there an alternative, or a better mix?
8. **Is figure Skating still Fun?** - Stepping back in time - 60's through to 90's figure skating was more fun than it is today. Yes, we were serious back then, but there was more social fun, more group lessons, more on ice fun events several times a year. The coaches were friends, and a coach was the accommodation 'minder' for several coach's pupils. There was no fear of 'stealing' another's skater. Be assured, on the ice a pupil and coach were in full 'battle readiness' form against the others to win. The result was that more skaters stayed in the 'sport' for longer, many are still there today as officials and other capacities. Our sport needs ice rinks, and rinks need customers to pay the bills. Our sport is expensive and therefore if ISA can formulate a model where we can have many more skaters competing and having fun, with a smaller elite pathway that leads to international competition, the sport benefits. This issue is important for the vitality and financial viability of our sport. Having a 'judging' panel of 9 persons and two skaters in an event is not the way forward, neither is parents paying circa \$80 per hour for a youngster's 'private' lesson. Synchronised has boomed by offering a better 'product at a more affordable price'. Years ago, everyone in singles were encouraged (nee persuaded) to get their dance medals. There were many good reasons, and it aided our future skating success. In more modern times, there were many successful skaters that came from the small ice rink in Townsville, due to their dance and edge training 'necessity'.

Thank you to the ISA Board, its affiliated Federations, the many officials (in their myriad of roles), coaches, supporters, parents, skaters and ice rink operators for the great work you all do. Thank you.



Mark Lynch, Chair  
Athlete Development Committee  
21 June 2020

ps: I am somewhat outspoken, and those that know me, know my 'passion' and selfless commitment to the sport is greater than most. I do not coach, judge, not on any Council, do not otherwise receive financial benefit and not a skating parent. So, my thinking is whole of sport, constructive and uncompromised. The broad success of the figure skating is the goal, and my references to FS always equally includes synchronised.