

AFSC Adult Skater Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at O'Brien Icehouse on 4-December 2019 at 8:30am

Hosted by Kim Wilson (Sport Development) and Clarence Ong (High Performance)

Attendees: Karen Dukes (Minutes), Pam Reid, Hu Hu Chen, Mike Thacker, Ileana Kopic, Michele Barry, Lauren Moore, Bernadette Mercurio, Arielle Jennings, Richelle Perrin, Angela Schuurmans, Jane Kahlmaum, Mandy Moore, Jahmeil Wilson, Alisha Johnson

Introduction

- Kim started the meeting with a brief overview of adult skating history in Australia
- Noted that adult skaters come from both mainstream (eg Intermediate into Adult) and beginner programs.

1- Adult Calendar

- Kim has built an adult events calendar and made it available on the ISA website, and also put the international adult calendar there. This is intended to include all "national" level events that include adults (but doesn't include individual club events).
- Bernie suggested that the calendar should also highlight which adult events allowed for "young adult" entries (ie 18-28) as many adult events such as Oberstdorf do not

2- Technical scores for AFSC

- ISA is looking to introduce technical qualification scores for AFSC entry - Clarence noted this is "definitely coming" and that without increasing skill levels among competitors that lower level divisions such as Adult Silver are at risk of being dropped from the AFSC program (due to the pressure of increasing numbers overall)
- Bernie raised the concern that the current international scores are too high (eg the winning Adult Silver skater at AFSC would not qualify). Clarence described the process that would be used to calculate scores: this would be a "standard achievable program" for the division with mostly GOE=0 elements. (eg for Adult Silver it would not require an axel)
- Jane raised the question about strict tech panels in combination with qualification scores means that skaters won't attempt harder elements (eg just do an Upright Spin rather than attempt a Sit that is called no value). Clarence suggested that skaters need to be smart about their programs - only include one element that is "risky" because the no value call has such an impact: 95% of the program should be elements that will be called. He also noted that spins are a critical component of a good tech score and needed more focus.
- Jane raised the concept of having different scores for the different age brackets
- Most people accepted the concept of an entry score but were concerned about driving people away from the sport
- Clarence noted that AFSC should be considered the pinnacle of the sport and being selected an achievement in itself - it shouldn't be a "free run" to attend.

3- Technical tests for Adults

- ISA is also considering introducing technical tests as a requirement for adult levels. This is likely to be something like: Prelim test for Silver; Elementary for Gold and Basic Novice for Masters/Elite.
- Pam asked about the process for testing in other countries - Clarence noted that the USA as an example had a separate adult testing process, but that this would not be feasible for Australia to bring in (based on numbers).
- Some skaters felt that the existing pattern test was already sorting the levels and there was no need for further testing. Clarence responded that competition is based on technical elements, so it made sense for the test requirement to match.
- Concern was raised that having the Axel requirement in Elementary test would leave skaters stuck at Silver and unable to progress, despite potentially winning their current divisions.
- Clarence noted that the test requirement would just be for National competition and clubs could choose to implement it as they wished,
- Clarence suggested that existing skaters without the equivalent test levels should consider working on their tests.

4- ISA Website & Policies/Procedures

- Kim is working on putting more information into the Adult Skating page on the ISA website: please send her your suggestions about what information and resources you would like to see here
- Kim flagged ISA Policy #12 - Procedure for Members Proposal to Board. She described the ideal process for managing rule changes (for all levels not just adult) is consultation and feedback first before State delegates vote on changes but this isn't always possible. Clarence noted that ISU changes can be announced and applied very suddenly and ISA don't always have a choice about the implementation and timing of these. He also noted this is exacerbated by the different ISU and ISA skating calendars- ISU changes often come out in July before their season, but in the middle of ours.
- Kim also flagged ISA Policy #15 - Member Protection Policy and ISA Policy #16 - Code of Ethics & Behaviour as highly relevant. She raised the issues of social media use and the need to ensure that comments comply with the Code - she noted there are some current issues that need to be addressed. Clarence added that people should be aware that even "private" conversations on social media don't always stay private so the safest option is not to post!
- Clarence and Kim encouraged all skaters to report breaches of the Code of Ethics & Behaviour so they can be dealt with appropriately. ISA and State bodies cannot act on things they don't know about. Clarence also notes that States have access to ISA lawyers to assist in resolution of issues if required.
- Kim has created an "official" ISA Adult group on Facebook: this will be largely for official communications and will be heavily moderated. Iliana noted that comments could be turned off entirely if required, and suggested that posts could encourage people towards the official channels for feedback and response instead.

5- Volunteering

- Kim noted that many people have asked how they can help - and there are many small jobs that adult skaters can help with including sending photos and information from national/international events; helping build/review guidebooks etc

- Clarence encouraged all adult skaters to get involved with volunteering at club events: if you want competitions to run then help run them! There are also tasks available that don't require time on the skating weekend (registration, scheduling, certificates, data load) if that suits better - just ask your clubs. Most states would also love assistance with their official panels (judges, tech panel and support) as events get bigger and hours get longer.

6- Other Business

- Adult skating statistics: Adult skating is growing! Angela reported that at AFSC this year, 20% of the singles entries were Adult skaters. In Synchro, there were 6 Australian adult teams and 3 advanced adult teams. Huhu reported that OBI's Skate School program is 30% adults.
- Overseas Competitions - Clarence reported that there was also some moves to review the entry process for international adult events. A two-tier system is being considered, where all adult skaters could enter freely, but a TES requirement would exist to be a "nominated representative" which would also possibly include funding options.
- Australia Jackets - Clarence raised the issue of skaters with official Australia jackets adding ornamentation or other patches. He noted that skaters have to sign a non-alternation agreement when they receive a jacket (and that is in fact illegal to alter a jacket with the Australian coat of arms). He asked that all skaters treat their Australian team jackets with the respect they deserve.
- Asking Questions - Clarence and Kim both encouraged all skaters to send through any genuine questions they may have about the sport. If people aren't sure who (or don't have an address) then use administration@isa.org.au and it will be directed to the right people to assist you.
- Bernie thanked Kim for her work in taking on this role, and thanked both Clarence & Kim for this meeting.