

2020 Annual Report
Chair of Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Incorporated

Team Registrations

Forty-eight teams across five States registered for the 2019-2020 season. This included one Basic Novice A and one Aussie Skate team. Forty-two Australian and two New Zealand teams competed at the 2019 Australian Figure Skating Championships in Melbourne.

International Selection

Numerous expressions of Interest were received from teams for International Competitions. Preliminary entries were put in for all these events and the World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships and World Synchronized Skating Championships. One team received an invitation to Shanghai Trophy.
entry

Online entry for WJSSC and WSSC is a little easier now that mass entry of data is possible for some information but it remains multi step process over several days as approvals are required at most stages before being able to proceed. It is imperative that teams have all their information ready no later than the date stipulated by ISA, NOT the closing date of the event. All the teams this year had their information to me in good time which allowed for some errors to be corrected. The greatest difficulty this season was the entries for the new Challenger events as the ORS did not permit skaters or coaches to be registered for more than one team. There were a lot of emails between me, the OCs and the ISU to sort out in the entries which in one case was a set of lists via email as the ORS was not playing nicely. Thankfully, everyone involved was understanding, all our teams were entered and the ORS finally adjusted for Challenger events.

It is important to note, again, that teams MUST NOT undertake any entries themselves or communicate directly with Organising Committees without the express permission of ISA. This includes Adult teams and Masters Games entries and there are no exceptions. Occasionally the OC may send correspondence directly to the team coaches or management and not include the Federation however, this correspondence must be immediately forwarded to Ice Skating Australia who must also be included in any reply and further communication. Disappointingly this season an example of each occurred. One team made their own entries and although they had been approved for the event they were entering, all entries including names, dates of birth and nationalities had not been checked and confirmed by ISA. Another team had communicated directly with the OC without the knowledge of ISA. This came to light when I was judging at an international event where it was assumed by a senior SyS official that I knew something which I did not.

This season nine teams represented Australia in six divisions of eleven events, not including the postponed 2020 World Synchronized Skating Championships. This is the highest number of teams so far that have represented Australia in any one season. It demonstrates the commitment and hard work of all the skaters, coaches and team supporters to train, raise funds and undertake long international journeys and the commitment of the judges who were or should have been at eight of those events.

Congratulations to all teams but I give special thanks to Hayley Dunne who pushed her Senior and Junior teams to be ready with both their programs for first SyS Challenger competition, California Cup. It was extremely difficult to co-ordinate due to the timing of end of year exams for some skaters and preparation for the AFSC with several of the skaters being listed in both teams. If Australia had not sent a team for each of these divisions, the competition would not have been counted as a Challenger event.

Congratulations also to Team Unity for their invitation to the Shanghai Trophy which meant a rapid Free Skating program preparation on the new season's elements to be ready for early October. Commiserations that the 2020 WSCC were postponed which was a huge disappointment to all those involved.

- **Shanghai Trophy, Shanghai, CHN, 3rd to 5th October 2019**
 - Senior **Team Unity** (NSW) 3rd
 - Team Manager: Virginia Lynch
 - Coaches: Madonna Randall and Georgina Williams

- **California Cup, Irvine, USA, 6th to 9th November 2019**
 - Senior **Ice Storm** (Qld) 7th
 - Junior **Iceskateers Elite** (Qld) 5th
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Manager: Tegwen Marsdon and Miriam Pang
 - Coaches: Hayley Dunne

- **Lumiere Cup, Eindhoven, NED, 13th to 15th December 2019**
 - Advanced Novice **Southern Sky** (NSW) 6th
 - Team Manager: Steven Baker
 - Coaches: Adele Leghorn

- **Winter Masters Games, Innsbruck, AUT, 13th to 18th January 2020**
 - Adult **Evolution** (QLD) 6th
 - Coach: Sally Hecke

- **Zagreb Snowflakes Trophy, Zagreb, CRO, 17th to 19th January 2020**
 - Mixed Age **Southern Sky** 3rd
 - Adult **Evolution** 1st
 - Team Manager: Susanne Bragge
 - Coaches: Adele Leghorn, Christine Leghorn, Sally Scott

- **Hevelius Cup, Gdansk, POL, 18th to 19th January 2020**
 - Senior **Ice Storm** (Qld) 6th
 - Adult **Adelaide Ice Magic** (SA) 1st
 - Junior B **Adelaide Ice Magic** (SA) 1st
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Manager: Tegwen Marsdon
 - Coaches: Hayley Dunne, Bernadette Mercurio, Teresa Sinclair, Ashley Colliver

- **Leon Lurje Trophy, Gothenburg, SWE, 24th to 26th January 2020**
 - Senior **Ice Storm** (Qld) 12th
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Manager: Tegwen Marsdon
 - Coach: Hayley Dunne

- **French Cup, Rouen, FRA, 31st January to 2nd February 2020**
 - Senior **Nova** (Qld) 11th
 - Team Leader: Bev Donaghey
 - Team Manager: Margaret Bartlett
 - Coach: Natalie Bartlett

- **Trophy D'Ecosse, Dumfries, GBR, 7th to 9th February 2020**
 - Senior **Nova** (Qld) 1st
 - Team Leader: Bev Donaghey
 - Team Manager: Margaret Bartlett
 - Coach: Natalie Bartlett

- **Steel City Trophy, Sheffield, GBR, 7th to 9th March 2020**
 - Junior **Iceskateers Elite** (Qld) 3rd
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Manager: Haiping Wang
 - Coach: Hayley Dunne

- **World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships, Nottingham, GBR, 13th to 14th March 2020**
 - **Iceskateers Elite** (Qld) 13th
 - Team Leader: Peter Marcovich
 - Team Manager: Haiping Wang
 - Coach: Hayley Dunne

- **World Synchronized Skating Championships, Lake Placid, USA, POSTPONED**
 - **Team Unity** (NSW)
 - Team Leader: Rosemary Johnson
 - Team Manager: Virginia Lynch
 - Coaches: Madonna Randall and Georgina Williams

International Teams

Two clearances for Australian skaters were issued to represent Czech Republic and Great Britain in 2019-2020.

ISU Development Seminar

In May 2019, coach Hayley Dunne from Queensland and four junior skaters participated in this Seminar in Vierumaki, Finland. There were a number of expressions interest and applications for the Development Seminar this year. Due to the limited numbers allowed, five coaches and eight skaters were selected but there were three other coaches and eight skaters also interested. Everyone who has previously attended has commented how helpful and worthwhile it is so hopefully it will continue to be an annual event.

Officials

Congratulations to Tara O'Connor on her appointment as International Judge, Synchronized Skating and to Rebecca Andrew on her appointment as International Referee, Synchronized Skating.

Our SyS officials' activity this season:

Liz Alexandre (Qld)	Shanghai Trophy - Judge World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships - Judge
---------------------	--

Rebecca Andrew (NSW)	California Cup - Judge French Cup – Judge World Synchronized Skating Championships – Judge
----------------------	--

Angelique Clyde-Smith (ACT)	Lumiere Cup – Judge
-----------------------------	---------------------

Tara O'Connor (SA) Hevelius Cup – Judge
Leon Lurje Trophy – Judge

Madonna Randall (NSW) California Cup - Technical Specialist and Assistant Technical Specialist

Non-Australian Citizens

This season there were 17 requests from non-Australian citizens from 7 Federations seeking clearance to skate in teams here. Clearances were received for all but one skater; that Federation never responded but fortunately it did not affect a skater in a team for international competition.

2019 Australian Figure Skating Championships

Forty-four teams across seven divisions competed in Melbourne last December including two teams from New Zealand. My thanks to Ice Skating Victoria and their organising committee who worked hard to ensure a smooth running of the event. Thank you also to Wendy Meik and Peter Marcovich for the scheduling of practices and the events and managing the inevitable changes that come along. Many people helped make this Championship so successful – the teams, coaches, officials, volunteers and rink staff. A special thank you again to Reina O'Connor and Moira Henningsen for tirelessly checking the team accreditations at rink side which helps me later on when checking eligibility for other events.

The annual SyS meeting was held with SyS coaches, skaters and officials where the main discussion centred around Adult teams and their required elements. The ISU has added a second Adult Division – Masters but we were ahead of the game three years ago when we added Advanced Adult. General discussion at the meeting and emails in April indicated the preference to use the ISU published elements provided they are notified early enough for our teams when they start training. Last year, they were published too late which is why our elements were a little different. We were not the only Federation to do this. Many announcements where an Adult division was included showed that most went with a variation on the Basic Novice elements like we did.

Congratulations to the Synchronized teams included in the National Squad this year - Senior Champions Team Unity (NSW) and Junior Champions Iceskateers Elite (Qld). Medals were presented to all team members at the SyS Banquet held after the conclusion of the 2019 AFSC.

Forms and Policies

With the settling down of the required elements, +5/-5 GOE and SOV, the benchmark requirements for international teams went back to using a score but the requirement to have no deductions for illegal, non-permitted or additional elements remained. At the request of the Board, a minimum qualifying score for the AFSC was suggested but has not been applied for this season as planned. A new policy and form for Synchronized skaters seeking clearance to represent other Federations has been implemented. This is to ensure that they have no outstanding debts to their team, club or state association before approval is given.

Other Tasks

I was asked to write letters for skaters to pass onto their schools or employers as well as for supporting information for grant and scholarship applications and in the wake of cancelled events, letters for insurance claims. Update of the TOI, Ice Dance and SyS pages on the ISA website is ongoing as is maintenance of the ISA Proof of Age Register.

OneTeamMVMT Development Camp

Sadly, the OneTeamMVMT Development Camp planned for the Easter weekend at O'Brien Icehouse had to be cancelled. Working again with New Zealand Ice Figure Skating Association, we were successful in obtaining another ISU grant, this time for CHF10,000. After discussions with the Adult teams at AFSC, it was also hoped we could utilise the resources of the camp to have an Adult SyS Development Day on the Tuesday after Easter.

Thank you to:

- Lisa Carriere, President of OneTeamMVMT and her staff for all the preparations,
- Amber Williams, Michelle Coetzee and Huhu Chen for their groundwork in Victoria,
- Jeanette King and NZIFSA for their assistance,
- ISU Development Commission for their submission advice and funding,
- Wendy Meik ISA Treasurer for assistance with the ISU grant payments,
- All the skates and coaches who registered to attend.

We remain hopeful that we can organise another camp for 2021.

In Conclusion

I am grateful to everyone who has supported, encouraged and helped me to perform my duties as Chair and as an Official but particularly:

- Liz Alexandre, Rebecca Andrew, Allie Flack and Tara O'Connor;
- Kate Rotondo for her tireless work organising jackets for dozens of SyS skaters;
- All the SyS judges and officials in Australia;
- ISA Board and Administration for supporting my policies and requests;
- The ISA Standing Committee Chairs and assistants for their hard work.

And lastly but most importantly - all the SyS skaters and coaches because you are so amazing!

Thank you.

Angelique Clyde-Smith
Chair, Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Inc.
June 2020