

2023 ISA AGM - Sport Development Report

Kim Wilson – Sport Development Chair

It appears the world is back to normal and skate schools have been busy with classes.

The loss of Canterbury last year impacted on learn to skate in Sydney along with the loss of the Penrith rink. The good news is Canterbury will be back at some stage in the future.

From my home state, we are still without a rink. Skaters are travelling interstate to continue their training, with some of them still being active Aussie Skate members of the Australian skating community.

Communications

The Facebook Page appears to be working well. Angelique Clyde-Smith, Leslie Amacker and myself have been updating the content to keep skaters informed of international and national news and events.

Moira Henningsen continues to manage our Instagram so her contributions during our international events has been fantastic

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

Website

Have been continuing to update it. The Board has committed to redeveloping the website. This is currently in progress and is managed by the Board.

Aussie Skate

Memberships and Rinks

At the time of this report there are approximately 2600 registered members. This is continuing to grow. From a positive perspective it appears that people are getting used to the process that each year skaters need to renew. A large number of renewals took place at the start of the year.

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.

An issue we are going to encounter is the cessation of Register Now. It is moving to a new platform Race Roster. This needs further investigation.

Appendix A of this report has details of membership registrations.

Aussie Skate App

The feedback about the app has been very positive. I get many emails from members asking for the passcode so as a marketing tool for the program it continues to be successful.

Units downloaded from platforms since January 2021:

- Apple Units Downloaded – 1320
- Google Play Units Downloaded – 354

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 its third 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.

Aussie Skate Free Skating Divisions

I have been reviewing the Aussie Skate Free Skating Divisions. There is a proposal for change. I had submitted this to the Board, however they would like coaches to review for feedback. I have put it in this report as Appendix B.

Coaches

One of our barriers to running the program at smaller and more isolated rinks are coaches. Townsville contacted me during the year to discuss about coaching accreditation requirements and how these may be an impediment to running the program. I raised this with the Board and was advised that they have been working on the possible solutions to this problem.

Another coaching issue was regarding Synchronised Skating coaching by Level 0 coaches. After discussion with APSA it was determined that Level 0 coaches can coach Aussie Skate Synchro group lesson but cannot coach above that level.

Adult

During the year we have introduced a new level called Pewter. This is for beginning skaters who are not participating in the Aussie Skate program.

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

Overseas competitions are back in full swing. We had one skater compete at the North American event in Canada in September last year. This year we have 8 skaters attending Obertsdorf which is currently on.

The World Winter Masters Games are scheduled to take place next year. A number of skaters are planning on attending. However entries are limited and there is a possibility that not all will be able to go.

Australian Masters Games will be held in Adelaide in October.

Adult Google Classroom – I have undertaken a couple of sessions as part of Google Classroom for the Adult skaters. The sessions have been a music presentation and also for new adult skaters. The second presentation I recorded and uploaded to Youtube. Feedback was positive. Will look to do further sessions in future.

Theatre on Ice

Again with Covid easing, TOI has been getting back into action.

Fortunately there are more events that are providing competitive opportunities for TOI teams to compete. The largest of these events was the Gwen Petersen Trophy which was held on the first weekend of September last year. 7 teams competed and again it was a very entertaining event.

The most exciting news was Nations Cup which was recently held in Boston, USA in April. We had two senior teams compete – Sydney Ice Theatre and Pacific Stars on Ice. Well done to both teams on their competition. We had two judges attend which were Jan Gardner and Rachel Ramsay. Thank you to you both for attending. This helps us develop our judging expertise in TOI.

During this event the International Coordination Group held a meeting and worked through a number of decisions for the future of this discipline. Our representatives at this meeting were Jan Gardner, Linda Aubrecht and Rachel Ramsay.

Of note for us is the potential of hosting a Nations Cup in 2028. While this is well into the future, it does allow plenty of time for other teams to raise funds to attend. And we have the opportunity to continue to build the sport here.

Thanks to Jan Gardner for keeping us up to date with the international TOI information during the year.

ISA Test App

It has been 12 months since the introduction of the app. The feedback has been very positive.

Units downloaded from platforms since May 2022:

- Apple Units Downloaded – 987
- Google Play Units Downloaded – 216

During the year we added in Steps and Turns to the app. The app breaks down each individual step and turn element on each foot.

Thank You

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

Particular mentions go to:

- Wendy Meik – Treasurer extraordinaire who will be stepping down and be sadly missed from that role
- Angelique Clyde-Smith – always a great sounding board
- Monica McDonald – thanks with helping from the coach's side
- Debbie Noyes – communications and other technical stuff
- Dana Tang – our app developer who is still involved with helping on the technical side of the apps
- Peter Lynch – Thanks for your support as President
- Board of ISA – Thank you for your support in my role
- Thank you to those who have provided feedback and touch base with me. I appreciate it as sometimes being in Hobart I live in my little bubble and it helps me connect.

I particularly want to thank my state association FSAT who have been incredibly supportive. As part of this committee, while there is no rink, we are still active and working towards the future.

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 11/5/2023.

Row Labels	Count of RINK
Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, Canterbury, NSW	17
Darwin Ice Skating Centre, Eaton NT	85
Erina Ice Arena, Erina NSW	33
Hunter Ice Skating Stadium, Warners Bay NSW	22
Ice Zoo, Alexandria NSW	365
IceArena Thebarton SA	52
IceHQ, Reservoir, VIC	310
Iceworld, Acacia Ridge QLD	378
Iceworld, Boondall QLD	348
Liverpool Catholic Club, Liverpool West NSW	612
Macquarie Ice Rink, North Ryde NSW	34
North Queensland Figure Skating Association, Towns	3
O'Brien Icehouse, Docklands VIC	264
Olympic Ice Skating Centre, Oakleigh VIC	31
Phillip Ice Skating Centre, Canberra ACT	3
Tasmania - Figure Skating Association of Tasmania	17
Warrina Ice Rink, Townsville Qld	2
West Australian Rinks, WA	32
(blank)	
Grand Total	2608

Gender of Members

Gender	Total
Female	2092
Male	516

Ages of Members

The largest group of skaters are those from 2 to 10 years old. The second largest are the 11 to 20 year olds. The skaters over 18 are our potential adult skaters.

- Skaters 14-17 - 414
- Skaters over 18 - 591

Age Group	Number of Skaters
2-10	1053
11-20	1025
21-30	270
31-40	142
41-50	90
51-60	18
61+	5

Appendix B

Proposed Update Competition Requirements Aussie Skate Free Skating Events 1-4

I have reviewed the Free Skating divisions for Aussie Skate. This was in consultation with Monica McDonald as part of ASPA as well as Mark Hochman at O'Brien Icehouse.

The purpose of these changes is to incorporate a stroking element in each Free Skating level and also provide some clarification and options for skaters and coaches. This is to help develop those basic skating skills.

The other consideration for this is to give skaters to have an option for particular elements. It is assumed they have done all the elements in both direction or both feet to pass their tests. This way they can present their best element in the competition.

Free Skating 4 is also designed as a precursor to IJS. I have developed this on the basis of what I observed at Winter West competition in WA. Skaters should submit a PPC and the event should have each element judged as well as

The changes are marked below.

Division	Current Elements	Proposed Elements
Free Skate 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1-foot spin (correct entry & exit; 3 revs) 2. Lunge (R&L) 3. Waltz jump 4. Ballet jump (R or L) 5. Forward attitude (R&L) 6. FO spirals (R&L) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1-foot spin (correct entry & exit; 3 revs) 2. Choice of either Lunge (R or L) or Forward Attitude (R or L) 3. Choice of either Ballet Jump (R or L) or Mazurka (R or L) 4. Waltz Jump 5. FO Spiral (R or L) 6. Forward Stroking – Figure 8 Pattern
Free Skate 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fwd cross leg/scratch spin (min 3 revs) 2. BI pivot (R&L) 3. Spread-eagle (CW & ACW) 4. Half flip jump (jump without the split) 5. Salchow jump 6. Waltz 3's (3 turns in each direction) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fwd Cross Leg/Scratch Spin (min 3 revs) 2. BI Pivot (R or L) 3. Spredaeagle (CW or ACW) 4. Half Flip Jump (jump without the split) 5. Salchow Jump 6. Waltz 3's - minimum of 3 turns in each direction 7. Advanced Backward Stroking (Bwd Crossovers in Figure 8 Pattern)
Free Skate 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Back spin with free foot in crossed leg position (min 3 rev) 2. Sit spin (min 3 rev) 3. Advanced fwd stroking (fwd crossovers in fig 8 pattern) 4. Fwd power 3-turns (R&L) 5. Toe loop jump 6. BO spirals (R&L) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Back Spin - free foot in crossed leg position (min 3 rev) 2. Sit Spin (min 3 rev) – only basic sit position, no features 3. Fwd Power 3-turns (R&L) – minimum of 3 turns in each direction 4. Toe Loop Jump 5. BO Spiral (R or L) 6. Stroking Exercise – Forward to Backward

		preceded by change of edge and finished in landing position. Choice of CW or ACW
Free Skate 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Camel spin (min 3 rev) 2. Change of foot upright spin (min 3 revs per foot) 3. Advanced bwd stroking (bwd crossovers in fig 8 pattern) 4. Loop jump 5. Waltz jump/loop jump combination 6. Flip jump or Lutz jump 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Camel Spin (min 3 rev) – basic position, no features 2. Change of Foot Upright Spin (min 3 revs per foot) 3. Loop Jump 4. Waltz Jump/Loop Jump Combination 5. Flip Jump or Lutz Jump 6. Choreographic Sequence – Skaters has a choice to incorporate basic steps and turns (mohawks, 3-turns), spiral, ina bauer, teapot, lunge, attitude, half-rotation jumps, etc. Focus is on presenting the sequence to the chosen music and giving skaters the opportunity to be creative.