

COACH COMMITTEE REPORT

2021 ISA AGM

I would like to thank ISA for the opportunity of being Chair of the ISA coaching committee over the past 12 months. It has been a fantastic opportunity to help grow the relationship between coaches and ISA and enabling coaches to have more input into the continued development of figure skating in Australia.

The current committee consists of coaches from across the country and have a wealth of knowledge across all of the disciplines. The current committee includes:

Monica Macdonald - Chair
Liz Cain
Richard Laidlaw
Hayley Marcovich
Evgueni Borounov
Madonna Randall

The past year has seen skaters and coaches face many difficulties with the closure of ice rinks during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a time that sports have had to find different ways to keep all participants involved, skaters, coaches and officials. A time that sports federations both locally and internationally have had to think outside of the box.

The coaching committee wishes to acknowledge and thank ISA for their efforts with the National online events which has been a very positive way of keeping all those in the sport involved.

I had the opportunity to work with Kim Wilson on further developing the Aussie Skate™ skill structure along with other members of the committee. Kim has put an enormous amount of time and effort into improving the program in the pursuit of increased participation. We have introduced 'introduction to steps and turns' levels to teach the basic concepts of the steps and turns required in the National test structure and competitions. The curriculum aims to develop the more difficult turns i.e rockers, counters and choctaws by using basic 2 foot exercises on an axis. Simple swizzle exercises are also included. I have commenced videoing the exercises for Kim to include in the Aussie Skate™ app. I look forward to continuing to work with Kim and helping in the development of the sport at the grassroots level.

Ice Dance has seen an increase of participation at a social and adult level. As such I spoke to coaches from across the country to attain feedback on the current test structure. Coaches felt that some of the previous changes were too difficult for the demographics that they were now teaching and with the ISU including lower level dances in the Novice levels it made sense to relate the competitive stream directly with ISU requirements from a lower level. Angelique's support in updating the ice dance test stream is greatly appreciated and I would like to thank the Board for approving the new test structure. We hope the new structure will further encourage participation at both a recreational and competitive level.

Whilst not all of the proposals put forward to the Board over the past year are practical from an organisational perspective, having the opportunity to share our ideas and receive feedback from ISA is an important part of the process.

The committee looks forward to continuing to work with ISA

Monica Macdonald
Chair
ISA Coaching Committee