

APSA PRESIDENT REPORT - ISA AGM 2020

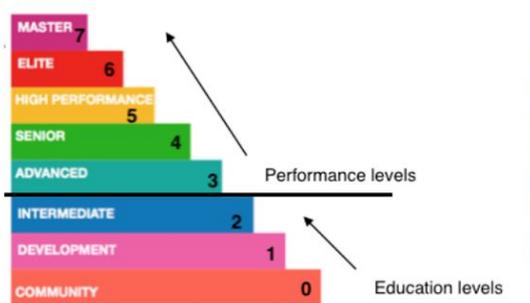
2020 has been a year of change for APSA. In February we held a Special General Meeting and workshop with the new APSA Committee and the State PSA representatives. The Special General Meeting was held to rewrite the Constitution and update the Member Protection Policy. Both of these were successfully accomplished and the Constitution lodged with NSW Fair Trading and accepted.

The one day workshop was held to present a draft of the new accreditation system and was agreed upon in principle and has since been implemented. Discussions were held with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) explaining our future pathway and was met positively. Accreditation has changed across many sports in Australia and APSA has followed in the same direction with both education and performance now being acknowledged.

The concerns raised by both ISA members and coaches across the country were instrumental in developing the new accreditation system. Meetings have been held with coaches across the country with a few more to be completed.

As part of the new system the structure of update points has been redeveloped. Points include practical coaching hours and areas of personal and professional development that are far more coach development orientated. The new structure allows for more eLearning opportunities whilst still maintaining a face to face component.

We have moved from a 4 tiered accreditation pathway to an 8 tiered pathway. Each level has been renamed more specifically to the level of education and / or performance level a coach has undertaken or achieved.



To be considered for the performance pathway you must have been the Primary coach of the athlete claiming recognition for, for at least 12 months prior to the competition in which the performance was achieved. Primary coach means that at least 85% of the athletes training program is directly planned and supervised by the coach claiming credit for the performance.

Coaches who consistently develop high quality and successful athletes who have moved onto other coaches may also apply for Senior and High Performance with details of the athletes they have coached. These applications will be assessed by an APSA sub-committee..

The performance pathway requires the coach to have produced multiple athletes at each level who have successfully performed the ISU requirements. For Junior skaters triple jumps are a requirement for both mens and ladies.

(the information document that was distributed to coaches has been attached as part of this report to give ISA and its members a more comprehensive understanding of the new system)

Coaches will be receiving a digital accreditation ID card which is live. If ISA or its members wish to use these as accreditation at competition it will display the current date and time to ensure coaches are meeting ALL accreditation requirements. To be accredited a coach MUST be a member of an APSA member, hold a current working with children check, be insured, be up to date with their required update points. If any of these requirements are not up to date the card will be deactivated and the coach will not have access to it until they fulfill the requirements as set by APSA.

At all levels above the Community Coach level (Level 0), coaches accreditation will be discipline specific. Coaches wishing to become a Development Coach (Level 1) will need to fulfill ALL of the required mentoring hours, education, assignments and assessments for EACH discipline.

Mentoring will become an important part of continued coach education at ALL levels. Mentoring will not only cover the on ice practical side of coaching but also cover how to deal with parents, what to expect at their first National, International or ISU event (JGP, Championships etc), how to work with athletes during and returning from injury etc.

The Community Coach course has been completed with a new manual and online classroom set up. We are currently finalising the new fee's and once approved the course will go live.

The Community Coach course focuses solely on ISA's national learn to skate program Aussie Skate™. As such we will be reaching out to Ice Rinks across the country and asking them to be a part of the new practical coaching component of the course. The candidates will be required to complete practical coaching hours as assistants to gain experience in teaching the group classes and curriculum. This will form part of their assessment process. The candidates will come under APSA's insurance policy and will be available at no cost to the ice rinks during this period. This is seen as a positive initiative for both the candidates and the ice rinks. Rinks will have the opportunity to see how the candidates fit into their coaching community whilst candidates gain hands on experience. Community Coaches will be required to coach a minimum number of hours per year on Aussie Skate™ classes to maintain accreditation. It is important to APSA that we support ISA and the national learn to skate program. (candidates will not be paid during their practical coaching experience, it will be set up similar to work experience as is common practice in many other industries / institutions).

APSA is working with experts in various areas such as off ice conditioning, planning, sports psychology and nutrition to ensure our courses are relevant and up to date. The new structure and delivery allows us to update each course as deemed necessary and provide access to coaches in remote areas.

There is a lot of work still to be done however, through our meetings coach feedback has been positive. Many coaches expressed a desire to have more educational opportunities and feel the new mentoring program is a positive initiative. We sent an expression of interest form for coaches to complete for accreditation. The response was far more than we expected with over 80 coaches submitting their interest across all levels.

Another achievement that I am proud to report is in regards to the COVID-19 lockdown of ice rinks. During this time coaches were adversely affected as were many. APSA set up a COVID-19 Emergency Hardship Fund for our coaches to assist anyone who was facing financial hardship. This was achieved with the support of the Committee and the APSA Members.

The working relationship between ISA and APSA is an important one. Whilst ISA oversees athlete development and APSA coach development, the two are intertwined. I believe the working relationship between ISA and APSA has improved significantly and look forward to this continuing to build in a positive and productive direction in the future. I would like to thank the ISA board members and Operational Directors who have reached out to ask for coach feedback. I would also like to thank the ISA members for raising their concerns at the 2019 ISA AGM regarding the direction of coaching. The feedback was an important part of addressing the new accreditation structure.

I look forward to continuing to work with ISA to ensure our sport continues to develop and grow.



Monica MacDonald OLY
President
APSA