

2021 ISA AGM - Sport Development Report

Kim Wilson – Sport Development Chair

The last 12 months have seen massive disruptions to the world of figure skating due to Covid-19. It has impacted on rinks and unfortunately learn to skate programs across Australia.

While many aspects of the sport were impacted by Covid-19, In the Sport Development space a number of positive initiatives for Aussie Skate reached fruition. There is still work being done on these and it is a gradual process. However this sets us up for future development and strategies.

Communications

The Facebook Page has been an important avenue of information dissemination. It is a quick way of communicating the latest rule changes.

The ISA Website is our main source of information. However this does need an overhaul. I have added this to the Future Agenda and Strategy Items in my report.

The aussie.skate@isa.org.au email address is active and has greatly improved the ability of members to communicate.

Zoom has been most useful when it has come to engaging with stakeholders. This was crucial for the curriculum review with Monica McDonald and Liz Cain. Looking to use this more in future.

Aussie Skate

Memberships

Have been working with rinks to get skaters registered with Aussie Skate. Self-registration can be an issue because we are dependent on skaters doing the right thing. Have been liaising with rinks and keeping them informed on the membership process.

Appendix A of this report has details of membership registrations.

Stakeholder Engagement

Over the last 12 months have been providing updates to the stakeholders on Aussie Skate Developments. This has been through email communication. Have also been talking directly to rinks when they have sought clarification on the program and changes.

During a trip to Victoria in March spoke directly to IceHQ and O'Brien Icehouse about the program changes. The Icehouse particularly was very receptive to the new curriculum.

Aussie Skate App

The App was launched in January. It has been positively received and I believe has encouraged members to register. Many thanks to Dana Tang in the US who did the coding and programming. She continues to provide support. Have been discussing further enhancements.

The beauty of this app is that while Dana developed the coding and programming, I am able to maintain the content. This is done through a platform called Firebase Console which is through Google. At first it appeared intimidating but has actually been very easy to use and incredibly flexible. Any updates go live immediately.

Units downloaded from platforms as at end April:

- Apple Units Downloaded – 443
- Apple Sales - \$209.92
- Google Play Units Downloaded – 137
- Sales – \$103.58

Coaches have been asking about access to the app. I am happy to provide access if the coach can show they provide volunteers services to the skating community (ie technical officials). It is less than a cup of coffee and many coaches have said they have no problem paying for it. It is a work tool of trade that can be claimed on tax.

Still work required on some videos and also to reformat it to the new curriculum.

Judging System

Judging system was approved and is gradually being implemented. Still working on the tools to support this. It has been slow to implement across the states due to Covid-19 and states gradually bringing back their competitions.

Two methods have been developed. One uses ISUCalc and is run as per IJS with Accountant and judges laptops set up. The other are spreadsheets set up using the same principles as ISUCalc but judges marks are entered manually.

As the system has elements being marked, SOV have been developed. This includes Aussie Skate specific abbreviations. An event template is available that can be uploaded into ISUCalc.

FSAT have been using the system for their competitions. As these are small competitions it is manageable and has worked very well. We have a mini IJS with an Accountant laptop and 4 judges laptops. The Accountant and Data Entry programs run from the same laptop.

NSW have been using the spreadsheets. Thank you to Rebecca Andrew for providing a great deal of feedback on this. It appears that many of the problems stem from the large number of skaters competing and the amount of work that is required during the event to undertake the data entry.

As more Aussie Skate competitions take place I anticipate there will be a great deal of feedback forthcoming.

Competitions

Set patterns for half ice events have been introduced and these are being used by coaches. I have been undertaking review of these with assistance of coaches from Ice Zoo who have most helpful with their feedback. Changes are complete and these will be sent out shortly to stakeholders. Judging sheets will be changed to reflect the new patterns.

Curriculum

The curriculum reviewed was accepted by the board and will gradually be implemented at rinks. This is available on the ISA website. Implementation will take some time as rinks have different requirements so will working with rinks as required.

Aussie Skate Program Handbook

The Aussie Skate Instructor's Manual will become a general Program Handbook. The aim is to encompass all aspects of Aussie Skate (basically becomes the program bible). Currently working on this and hope to release in the next month.

Aussie Skate Testing

Being based in Hobart, I am lucky to be part of an association and rink that has allowed me to test new ideas. One of these was the use of Jotform to run our Aussie Skate test sessions. Judges used their phone with a list of test elements and the results went directly into a database. Staff in the office could track the session as it was happening and had the results when skaters collected their badges. An SMS of the test result can be sent to the parent or skater so they have a record of it. I am happy to show people how we managed this if they would like to incorporate this into their programs.

Aussie Skate Test Badges

Badges will gradually be changed to reflect the new curriculum. As we run out of the old stock the new versions will be created.

Adult

The last 12 months for Adults has been rather quiet. There were a couple of issues raised with the Board which were asking for rule changes. These changes did not proceed

Warm-Ups

A request was put forward to ask for the Warm Ups for Copper, Bronze and Silver be extended to at least 5 minutes. After doing a risk assessment and comparison to all other divisions with a warm ups of 5 minutes or less, it was deemed that adults in those divisions were not at any great disadvantage or having a shorter warm up was any less safe compared to any other group.

Adult Age Groups

A usual hot topic for adults. A proposal was put forward to myself which I presented to the Board regarding incorporating more age groups splits. This was not accepted. Depending on growing adult numbers this could change in future.

Aussie Skate Adult

Recorded videos of the adult elements for the App. Currently working through editing videos to add them to App.

Theatre on Ice

Theatre on Ice has been very quiet over the last 12 months due to Covid-19. I look forward to teams being able to compete again now that there is some normality back in our skating scene.

Have updated the forms for teams to complete and have a contact list for the all the TOI coaches.

Looking to incorporate TOI judging into ISUCalc for our Australian competitions.

Thank you to Angelique for assisting with the TOI space. Changes to the By-laws have been drafted and will be presented for Board approval.

Thank you to Jan Gardner for keeping us up to date with the international TOI scene.

Future Agenda and Strategy Items

Aussie Skate Partners

Establish relationships with skating good providers who can offer Aussie Skate members a discount on purchases. The board have agreed to this by an advertising agreement. Just need to sort out logistics. Any other ideas welcome.

Website Refresh

I would like to ask the board to provide a budget to undertake a complete refresh of the website. Would develop a scope and seek expressions of interest for someone to take this on.

Looking to get a specific Aussie Skate website domain set up and have it freestanding (not attached with ISA). This is

Aussie Skate Marketing

Would like the Board to provide a budget for Aussie Skate marketing. Ideas to include:

- Promotional materials for rinks, skating goods businesses (through Aussie Skate Partners)
- Social media promotional campaign (eg paid Facebook)
- A video to promote learning to skate generally.
- Any other ideas???

Group Lesson Structure for Rinks (post Aussie Skate)

This has been discussed at past AGMs. Is there are reason why ISA couldn't develop a framework for rinks to adopt? One of the issues is the expense of the sport. Group lessons would help skaters develop technically while making it more affordable.

This would be worth working on with Athlete Development.

ISA Test App

After getting the Aussie Skate off the ground, I would like to see an ISA Test App. Already have a quote from Dana Tang (Aussie Skate App Developer) to produce this app. Outline of App is in Appendix B of this report.

If you are interested in seeing how this would work, Dana Tang has developed a Moves in the Field App for USFSA tests. Her website is <https://danatang.com/>.

Working Groups

Would like to have a representative from each state association that can be the main contact person for that state.

Hockey Players and Speed Skaters

Consider videoing hockey skaters for the Aussie Skate App to have examples of these skaters doing the elements that is required.

Include in the curriculum the elements that these types of skaters need to move through the levels and provide them a pathway. They do not need spins and jumps.

During the year spoke with Ryan O’Handley who is the Sport Development Chair for IHA. He was receptive to Aussie Skate having a role to play in teaching hockey players to skate. A particular group in hockey are older skaters, including teenagers and adults who lack the basic skating skills. Subsequently they get left behind those who have been playing for years.

I have not spoken to anyone in speed but again this is a potential group that we could engage with. An area that needs further work.

Teenage Skaters

WAISA presented a proposal for a Pre-Adult event division based on ISA Adult divisions. Have sent this out to states for their feedback. Has been a wide range of feedback received. Further work to be done on this to produce a framework that is feasible, including test requirements and competition divisions.

Thank You

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

Particular mentions go to

- Wendy Meik – Treasurer extraordinaire and always able to help when needed
- Angelique Clyde-Smith –being an valuable sounding board and eying over things
- Monica McDonald – fantastic work on the curriculum review and working with APSA
- Debbie Noyes – communications and other technical stuff
- Liz Cain – excellent work on the AS pairs curriculum
- Dana Tang – our app developer who has brought our sporting development into the future. She was very easy to work with and had some excellent ideas that have been incorporated.
- Peter Lynch – available to discuss things at any time and open to my ideas
- Board of ISA – getting my proposals over the line, reading my reports and supporting the initiatives

I particularly want to thank my state association FSAT who have been incredibly supportive and also open to new ideas which they are very happy to let me use them as guinea pigs. We face an uncertain future at this point in time with the sale of the rink. I feel privileged to be able to use my role to assist in the campaign for a new rink.

Apologies to anyone I might have missed.

Appendix A – Aussie Skate Membership Statistics

Rinks

The membership statistics do not include the full numbers because Queensland rinks have registered the skaters themselves. We have been liaising with the rinks about getting the skaters to register via the ISA website link. This involves moving all previous skater registrations in the database so skaters can re-register.

O’Brien Icehouse which have always been a high membership base are lower because of Covid-19. We anticipate when they have their full programs running that memberships there will increase.

RINK	Total
Canterbury Olympic Ice Rink, Canterbury, NSW	50
Darwin Ice Skating Centre, Eaton NT	94
Erina Ice Arena, Erina NSW	2
Glenorchy Ice Skating Rink, Glenorchy TAS	39
Hunter Ice Skating Stadium, Warners Bay NSW	10
IceArena Thebarton SA	144
IceHQ, Reservoir, VIC	4
Iceworld, Acacia Ridge QLD	18
Iceworld, Boondall QLD	9
Liverpool Catholic Club, Liverpool West NSW	433
Macquarie Ice Rink, North Ryde NSW	7
O’Brien Icehouse, Docklands VIC	142
Olympic Ice Skating Centre, Oakleigh VIC	32
Penrith Ice Palace, Penrith, NSW	9
Phillip Ice Skating Centre, Canberra ACT	1
The Ice Skating Edge, Noarlunga, SA	19
The Ice Zoo, Alexandria NSW	201
West Australian Rinks, WA	15
Grand Total	1229

States

NSW is the largest membership base, due to the number of rinks. Liverpool Catholic Club contribute the most members to this state.

STATE	Total
ACT	1
NSW	712
NT	94
QLD	27
SA	163
TAS	39
VIC	178
WA	15

Gender of Members

As expected most members are female.

Gender	Total
Female	981
Male	248

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. I have broken down these to show potential participation groups that would benefit from more clearly defined pathways. The skaters over 18 are our potential adult skaters.

- Skaters 14-17 - 149
- Skaters over 18 - 163

Age Group	Number of Skaters
2-10	558
11-20	438
21-30	56
31-40	38
41-50	12
51+	10

FIRST TIME REGISTRANT	Number
NO	528
YES	701

Appendix B - Proposal for ISA Test App

Following on from the work that is being carried out with the Aussie Skate App, it is feasible that we could have an ISA Test App. This could be the one-stop shop for all information related to ISA tests for coaches, judges and skaters. A brief summary is below. A quote is attached.

Dana Tang who is developing the Aussie Skate App has already done a Moves in the Field App for USFSA. The format of this app would be similar to what the ISA Test App would be.

Structure of App

First page of the App would be broken into Disciplines

- Singles
- Pairs
- Dance
- Test Communications (so we can add these in here).

After clicking on a link, it would be broken down into the various levels.

Singles

After clicking on the link to the level, the following buttons would come up.

- Test Paper
- Test Diagram
- Technical Test Paper
- Video of Test

Pairs

Just need to have the levels and the next page for each level would be Test Paper. We could work towards putting the videos or any other relevant information later.

Dance

For each dance level, there will be the following buttons:

- Pattern Dance Test Paper
- Competitive Dance Test Paper
- Dance Pattern
- Videos of Dances - with this it would be listing each pattern dance that is done for the test. So for Preliminary it would be Dutch Waltz and Canasta Tango. We could either link to our own video or an ISU dance video
- Music – Would it be possible to put in links to the music? As everyone tries to find it when we have test sessions. That way the test convenor can just play it out of the app. This might need another page where we can list all the dance tracks. Each dance will have a separate page and then we put links to all the tracks for that music. What would be the copyright implications of using ISU or USFSA music and videos?

There may be other information to go in these such as Recreational Dance Tests but that is still being worked on.

Test Communications - will be a new page which we can then post our communications when they are released if they are relevant to current testing. This can be an announcement when people open the App.

Logistics

The Moves in the Field App which Dana has developed for the USFSA Test stream has some excellent videos. The quality of production and skater demonstrations are excellent. Dana used a camera called an Osmo Pocket which is similar to a Go-Pro.

Examples of the MITF App can be found on Youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUgRs6RRpPGgUBVQWEthJdA>.

As with the Aussie Skate App, the content is flexible and any changes can be made easily and uploaded straight away.

Cost of App

The quote provided by Dana is \$3,500US to produce the App. There may be additional costs to video the tests.