

APSA REPORT 2023 ISA AGM

This has once again been a busy year for APSA. Towards the end of 2022 we ran 3 accreditation courses, Level 0, Level 1 and a combined Level 0/1. The online workshops have given us and especially me as President the opportunity to talk with and meet our new coaches. It has also given the participants the opportunity to get to know others in the course and in turn I believe this will assist in growing a positive and supportive coaching culture across the country.

Coach accreditation has seen huge changes in most sports across the country. The ASC has been working hard on producing new coach education material to support these changes. It has been a huge task updating the accreditation system and courses to meet the needs and expectations of coaches in today's society. I participated in the ISU Level 1 coach education program to ensure that the direction APSA was taking was in line with the ISU. We have undertaken an enormous amount of research across many sports and looked at coach education programs in other countries.

APSA will be holding another Level 0, Level 1 and combined Level 1 course soon and we are currently finalising the Level 2 and 3 courses. All of our courses now include short PBTR courses from Sports Integrity which coaches will complete online through their learning portal. Included in the course for the Performance Pathway Levels 4 & 5 will be discussions on strategic planning to obtain ISU TES Championship scores, and what to expect at their first international, JGP and ISU Championship event and Drugs in Sport.

Last year our first Performance Pathway coaches were announced at our AGM. Coaches were required to hold Level 3 accreditation to be considered.

These coaches included:

Elizabeth Cain -	Level 7 Master Coach Singles
John Dunn -	Level 7 Master Coach Ice Dance
Kylie Fennel -	Level 7 Master Coach Singles
Monica MacDonald -	Level 7 Master Coach Singles & Ice Dance
Galina Pachin -	Level 7 Master Coach Singles
Madonna Randall -	Level 7 Master Coach Synchronized Skating Level 5 High Performance Coach Singles
Margaret Nicholls -	Level 6 High Performance Coach Singles
Richard Laidlaw -	Level 5 High Performance coach Singles
Bernadette Mercurio -	Level 4 Senior Coach Singles Level 4 Senior Coach Synchronized Skating
Teresa Sinclair -	Level 4 Senior Coach Synchronized Skating

This year we will be fast tracking current Level 2 coaches who meet the practical coaching requirements for the Performance Pathway levels of accreditation through the inclusion of Recognition of Prior Learning. It had been our hope to commence this process sooner but it was important to ensure the requirements in regards to continued coach education met the needs of the coaches.

There had been many concerns raised amongst the coaching community in regards to the use of the Harness. As such APSA has developed a harness course and manual. Harness accreditation is now levelled to ensure the safety of coaches and skaters. After a successful test run the course is now ready. Candidates will be able to enrol and complete this course at any time.

Last year we introduced the APSA Awards which is a way for us to acknowledge the achievements of our coaches and dedication and hard work of our volunteers. What makes these awards so prestigious is that it is the greater coaching community who nominate and vote. I would like to thank ISA for providing us with the opportunity to present these awards at the 2022 AFSC banquet.

The relationship between ISA and APSA has been a positive one and the implementation of a MOU between the Associations, as had been agreed upon in the past, will be a significant move towards a better understanding and transparency of how the two Associations will continue to work together for the benefit of the sport.

APSA will be commencing work on a National Coaching Seminar for 2023 with the goal to include education opportunities across all disciplines and levels. This will be a huge project to undertake and a sub committee will be formed to work on the project for submission to the APSA committee for consideration and approval.

It would not be possible for APSA to have undertaken the huge changes to coach education and accreditation without the many hours given by our volunteers, the support of our Members and the patience of the coaching community.

I would also personally like to thank the many officials who offer their assistance to the coaching community wherever possible and of course to the Board and the ISA Members for their support and trust in APSA and the new direction the Committee has taken. We still have a lot of work to do and much to learn along the way but it is a journey that I believe will benefit the greater coaching community and in turn our athletes who are the future of our sport.

Monica MacDonald OLY
President APSA