

2021 ISA AGM -TECHNICAL REPORT

Many communications on COVID-19 continue to be written and circulated to the states, including continued relaxing of the pattern test requirements and changes to Benchmark panels for live competitions. These measures have been introduced to ease the pressure on the skaters by helping them to qualify for their state championships and move up levels.

The Bonus system document has been modified and Bonuses are now being implemented in all competitions. The results of the Bonus system are being seen in the raising of the level of jumps being executed in state run competitions with many Advanced Novice skaters now attempting the double axel and some triple jumps. This demonstrates ISA's continual commitment to improving and progressing the sport.

I would like to propose the following to aid in improving the younger skaters:

Elementary skaters are able to have features up to level 2 called.

My reasons for this are:

Many of these skaters are already doing level 2/3 spins and it would be good for them to be given credit. It would also make the transition from elementary to Basic Novice in competition easier as they would already have these spins. Maybe this could also improve the step sequences which, in many cases, need more emphasis.

The rules are continually being updated and uploaded onto the website and circulated to all state secretaries and APSA for distribution. Of particular note in the test rules is the inclusion of the possibility for tests to be done via online mediums. This has enabled the two pair teams (one training in the USA and the other in Russia) to pass their tests and qualify to represent Australia in International Competitions without the expensive need to return to Australia and undergo quarantine. This can pave the way for tests to be done in Darwin or other remote locations, where there is a limited availability of judges. Also included in the latest revision is the formalising of what is already done in practice in many states:- 'Tests may be conducted either in a dedicated test session or during a shared session'. (see By Law 201 for both of these).

Dance tests have also been modified to allow for recreational dance events. Many thanks to Angelique and Monica for their efforts and hours of hard work.

A variety of online competitions were trialled and introduced both in Australia and by the ISU. These online competitions provided an opportunity for athletes in all categories (Singles, Pairs, Dance, Synchronized and Adult) to compete. It also allowed officials from all states and who reside overseas an opportunity to participate without the fear of borders being shut and them being forced into expensive quarantine. Online events have also given skaters the chance to gain or improve their benchmark scores and have an opportunity to skate their programs and compete!

The ISU used an online platform to allow skaters to gain World Championship points and thus qualify for Worlds.

Online competitions have been very successful as demonstrated by the large number of entries from skaters in most states. In the 2021 event skaters entered and skated their programs in Russia, Malaysia, USA, Canada and other locations.

I would like to propose the following to help enhance the sport:

That ISA conducts annually an online competition for Preliminary, Elementary, adult Copper, Adult Bronze and Aussie Skate Free skating in September each year.

My reasons for this are:

These skaters do not go to Nationals and many of them do not travel to Benchmark events. This would benefit these skaters by making them feel more inclusive and a part of ISA. This could also enable Aussie Skaters to understand 'life beyond Aussie Skate' and encourage them to undertake their Preliminary test.

A special very big thank you to Kim Wilson who tirelessly uploads everything onto the ISA website for me.

Many thanks to Monica as APSA and ISA appear to be working well on all technical issues and she is readily keeping all the coaches up to date when I send through all communications. I would also like to thank all the coaches (too many to name) from across the country who readily give me feedback when I ask their opinions on new and innovative ways to do things.

I would also like to thank Susan, Rebecca and Angelique for all their efforts and help.

Debbie Noyes
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ISA Technical Chair