

# **2020 ISA AGM - Sport Development Report**

## ***Kim Wilson – Sport Development Chair***

I have been in the role for 12 months now and it has been a busy year. I apologise in advance for the length of my report but there is a lot to cover and also apologise if I have missed anything.

### **Communication**

One of my major focuses has been improving communication, including ensuring the website and Facebook pages are updated. There has been some great contributions by those at the events sending photos and results for social media. This has been valuable when there has been a full weekend of international events where it is difficult to find results. Also being able to have direct access to the ISA website has provided the flexibility to update the areas of my jurisdiction.

One of the first things I did when taking on the role was to set up Facebook pages for Aussie Skate, Adult and TOI. This has enabled getting information out to the skating community quickly and feedback has been positively received. Thank you to Angelique for assisting with the administration of these pages.

When possible I have taken the opportunity of face to face engagement with stakeholders. At AFSC last year I held meetings for Adult and Aussie Skate. Both sessions were positively received.

I do feel the website could use an overhaul to make it more user friendly and professional in appearance. Currently I spend time updating it and also trying to promote what is posted so that people can find the information. It may be worth engaging someone who could work on the appearance and formatting.

### **Aussie Skate**

#### **The Judging System**

A new judging system was developed by a working group with representatives from every state. I submitted the proposal to the Board in August 2019. In September this was sent out to States for their approval. Only one state responded which is my home state FSAT.

To date I have not had any feedback, questions, or comments from the other states. Unfortunately we still have no standardised system in Australia for Aussie Skate competitions. The system is ready to go - it just needs the blessing. I am sending it back to the Board for review and vote.

#### **Competitions**

Aside from the judging system, we are looking to have set patterns for the levels from Tiny Tots to Intermediate. This will assist with judging programs and also provide a better comparison between skaters. Thank you to Maureen Sumner for helping with this task.

We would like coaches to ensure that programs presented for Aussie Skate focus on the elements. Once the patterns are released it would be a good opportunity to provide some guidance around this.

#### **Curriculum**

There has been much discussion over the last 12 months about this, particularly from a number of coaches. APSA now have this in hand and Monica is working with coaches to look at this. It is aimed for a relaunch of Aussie Skate in 2021.

I have also suggested we replace the current curriculum names and name them as Levels. There also needs to be some splitting up of the elements of the levels as some have too many elements to successfully get through the curriculum in a term.

### **Manuals Online and Guidebook**

The Aussie Skate Manual and Parent's Guide were converted to Word documents and are now available online. Corrections can be made quickly and uploaded.

There is also a guidebook which is still in draft format but covers many of the questions that have been raised.

### **Vocal Music**

Was formally communicated and introduced for Aussie Skate freeski.

### **App**

I found a coach in the US who has developed an app for the US Moves in the Field and she has provided a quote to develop an app. This would cost less than \$3,000 to produce and we can self-manage. The Board have now approved this so we can move forward with production. This will be a fantastic initiative for our sporting development.

The App would be available for Aussie Skate members for free. For others they will be able to purchase it from an App store for approximately \$3.

### **Administration**

Sent updated Agreements to all rinks however had some positive and not so positive experiences with stakeholders. Not everyone responded. Unfortunately ISQ decided they no longer want to continue with the Aussie Skate program. I submitted a report to the Board around this. There are a range of issues that need to be looked at.

I have been fortunate to meet up with Hu Hu Chen at the O'Brien Icehouse a few times on my trips to Melbourne where we have had some really positive discussions.

### **Challenges**

There are still many challenges ahead, particularly with promotion and organisation of the program.

- The withdrawal of ISQ from the program
- Judging System – as above we need a consistent judging system.
- Marketing – there needs to be some investment in the program of promotional materials and resources. Have spoken to Monica McDonald about this who is happy to provide assistance.
- Lack of Regulations around Aussie Skate. Unlike the other areas there are no By-Laws.

### **Adult**

It has been great to take on the role for Sport Development because of Adult Skating. I have been an adult skater myself and also friends with many members of the adult community. Plus judged and panelled many adult competitions.

I have received some great support from members of the adult community. There are some times I have put out a call for assistance on various things which were positively responded to. On the other hand there have been some not so positive aspects which I will discuss below.

## **Local Competitions**

Adults have been provided many opportunities for competitions around Australia. The only event that did not have adults was Hollins. However this year Hollins was planning on including Adults from Silver and above which was a very positive development.

Comments have been made about having an Adult Nationals so that all adult divisions could be included (at the moment Silver and above compete at Nationals). Copper and Bronze are given the opportunity to compete at Federation Challenge. Events such as ANZAS which is held bi-annually could logistically fulfill this need. However with full competition calendars and a stretched volunteer workforce, a separate adult nationals would need a full commitment from adults to volunteer and organise.

Where divisions have not been accommodated by events, this needs to be addressed with the clubs and associations holding those events.

Adult representation at AFSC has grown over the years. In 2019 there were 44 skaters competing over 9 events. This year the Masters and Masters Elite were held on same day as Senior events. An issue were the age division splits which were decided when full entry lists were received by the Organising Committee. I have addressed age splits later in my report.

ANZAS was held in February with over 90 individual entries over technical and artistic events. A great competition with some excellent performances.

## **International Competitions**

There were two main international events that skaters attended – Obertsdorf in Germany and the World Winter Masters Games. Congratulations to all skaters on their efforts.

Obertsdorf had a smaller team last year with 9 skaters. 8 skaters competed in 2 events each (Technical and Artistic). There were a total of 5 medals (4 gold and 1 silver)

32 individual skaters and one synchro team attended the World Winter Masters Games in Innsbruck, Australia. The medal tally was:

- Gold - 7
- Silver - 6
- Bronze - 5

6 skaters competed in two or more events. Two skaters also multi-tasked by also successfully competing in speed skating.

There were four skaters who competed at ANZAS New Zealand, all taking home medals.

One Australian skater decided to compete as a USA competitor without clearance.

## **Administration**

Overseas competitors must complete the international approval form. It has been a focus to tighten up the administrative requirements for this. A form was set up in Jotform which once a skater completes they get an automated email. There were a couple of hitches but overall it worked well. Also with the large number of entries for the Masters Games, it was time consuming to administer. The skating community assisted by passing on messages and by the time of the event everyone who was competing had completed the process. Thanks to those skaters who helped out.

## **Age Divisions**

This is consistently one of the hot topics in Adult Skating. A large range of opinions and perceptions makes it difficult to get consensus. This is an ongoing issue which at this stage will remain as listed in the Adult By-Laws but can always be reviewed in future.

One issue that has arisen was the age splits at 2019 AFSC. Because age splits were not done at state championships, this meant that some skaters may have missed out on competing at AFSC where age splits were implemented for Silver and Gold Ladies. I will work with the board to address this for this 2020 AFSC.

## **Sportsmanship**

Unfortunately there are a few adults who demonstrate a very poor standard of sportsmanship which taints the rest of the community. I had skaters express concerns to me about the impression it creates throughout the skating community, not just on social media but also at rinks.

Skaters need to be aware of the Social Media Code of Conduct but also how their behaviour impacts on how members of a community are viewed.

The issue of Warm-Up groups created some heated discussion on social media which was implemented to bring adult divisions in line with the ISU Novice Communication. Research was carried out before the proposal was sent to the states for their acceptance. Most adults accepted the change and adjusted their warm-ups to accommodate the reduced times.

## **Theatre on Ice**

While this is a quieter area of my role, it has been a pleasure to work with those who are passionate about TOI. I judged the Gwen Peterson Trophy in Canberra and saw some fantastic programs. This area of the sport is really about inclusion and having competitive participation opportunities for skaters who do not necessarily want to do the other disciplines but enjoy the camaraderie of a team in a fun environment.

Getting groups incorporated into Artistic Rules was important as there were no uniform Australian rules. There are now formal rules for time limits and other artistic rules will apply. Again this provides other opportunities for skaters to be involved. I hope we see many more groups in future.

Jan Gardner and Angelique have done some fantastic work on TOI and I really appreciate their work. Jan is great for keeping us up to date on the international TOI scene.

## **Thank You**

Thank you to all those who have supported me over the year. Particular mentions go to Robi Chalmers (for helping with the handover and support), Wendy Meik, Angelique Clyde-Smith, the Judging System Working Group, Debbie Noyes, Monica McDonald, Hu Hu Chen, Peter Lynch and the Board of ISA. I particularly want to thank 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. Apologies to anyone I might have missed.