

2021 Annual Report
Chair of Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Incorporated

Team Registrations

Forty-two teams across five States registered for the 2020-2021 season, including one Basic Novice A and five Aussie Skate teams. Although this is fewer than the previous season, it is the same number which competed at the last Australian Figure Skating Championships held in 2019.

International Competition

While last season we had the highest number of teams ever representing Australia at international events, sadly, this year was the lowest since the 1980's.

However, Australian teams were fortunate to have been given the opportunity to enter various overseas online competitions. Although the ISA SyS International Selection Policy did not come into play, teams were still expected to comply with ISA By-Laws and ISU Regulations with respect to eligibility and submit their teams on the ISA Team Entry Sheets for checking by their State and by ISA.

The entry process differed with each event with the most complex being those hosted by US Figure Skating. With their new Entry Management System (EMS) each skater, coach and team official were required to obtain a login before the team as a whole could register. This is had to be done by each individual since a personal email and password is required. This did cause some problems as it was not as straight forward as it sounds but with the assistance of the team at USFSA, it was eventually sorted out.

The online events in which Australian Teams participated were:

Porter Classic, Ann Arbor, USA, November 2020

Advanced Adult Adelaide Ice Magic (SA)	Coaches: Bernadette Mercurio and Ashley Colliver
Advanced Adult Revolution (NSW)	Coach: Sarah Durbridge
Adult Revolution (NSW)	Coach: Sarah Durbridge
Junior Iceskateers Elite (Qld)	Coach: Hayley Dunne

Hevelius Cup, Gdansk, POL, December 2020

Advanced Adult Adelaide Ice Magic (SA)	Coaches: Bernadette Mercurio and Ashley Colliver
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Colonial Classic, Boxborough, USA, January 2021

Advanced Adult Adelaide Ice Magic (SA)	Coaches: Bernadette Mercurio and Ashley Colliver
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ISU led Online SyS evaluation, November and December 2020

Senior Ice Storm (Qld)	Coach: Hayley Dunne
Junior Iceskateers Elite (Qld)	Coach: Hayley Dunne
Junior Majestic Ice (NSW)	Coaches: Madonna Randall and Elizabeth Mayers

ISU Elite 12 Demonstration Video Submission, April 2021

Senior Adelaide Ice Magic (SA)	Coaches: Bernadette Mercurio and Teresa Sinclair
Senior Ice Storm (Qld)	Coach: Hayley Dunne
Junior Iceskateers Elite (Qld)	Coach: Hayley Dunne

Even though, there were no teams travelling, the administration side of entries and checking team compliance remained busy, particularly working around the officiating at local and international online events and the added challenge of multiple time zones.

Forms and Policies

These were updated for the season as usual and uploaded on the ISA website from May 2020. The new season 2021-2022 forms and policies are now available.

International Teams

No clearances for Australian skaters were issued for this season. There were a few skaters accepted into teams in North America and Europe but sadly they were unable to take up their places and remained with their home teams.

Officials

Three of our international SyS officials were invited to participate in the following online activities this season:

Rebecca Andrew (NSW)	ISU Led Online SyS Evaluation, December 2020 – Judge
Angelique Clyde-Smith (ACT)	ISU Led Online SyS Evaluation, December 2020 – Judge Tri States Virtual Synchronized Classic, USA, February 2021 - Judge
Tara O'Connor (SA)	ISU Led Online SyS Evaluation, December 2020 – Judge

All Officials, including Liz Alexandre (Qld) and Allie Flack (Qld), provided feedback to teams throughout the year.

Non-Australian Citizens

This season there were 12 requests from non-Australian citizens from 6 Federations seeking clearance to skate in teams here. Since there were no teams travelling or entering online events with foreign skaters, no clearances were applied for.

2020 Australian Figure Skating Championships

With the cancellation of this event, many teams took the opportunity to participate in the ISA Online Competition held in December 2020. An Element Only Evaluation competition for April/ May has proved to be understandably unpopular as teams are beginning to regroup and reform for the new season feel they have not had enough time to prepare anything to submit.

Other Tasks

Once again, I was asked to be a reference for grant and scholarship application through schools or tertiary institutions. Update of the Ice Dance and SyS pages on the ISA website continues as does additions to the ISA Proof of Age Register which now totals over 6000 names.

In Conclusion

In a difficult season for everyone, it is wonderful to know that the SyS community in Australia did their best to maintain connections even if they were unable to train together on or off the ice for weeks, or even months at a time. There were many creative solutions via many electronic meeting platforms and skaters were introduced to some new off ice activities and morale boosting fun. I would like to congratulate the coaches, skaters and team officials who worked hard to ensure that the team spirit remained alive and well for everyone and wish them well for the season ahead as they rebuild their teams and keep the faith that live competition will be possible in the very near future.

Angelique Clyde-Smith

**Chair, Synchronized Skating Committee
Ice Skating Australia Inc.
June 2020**