



APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Thailand Open Figure Skating Trophy, Bangkok Thailand 1-4 May 2026

Basic Novice Girls	Judy Tong
	Nicole Xiao
Advanced Novice Girls	Luna Wu
Junior Women	Ziyao (Nicca) Wu
Coach	Rosie Armstrong
	Tracy Hipkiss
Team leader	To be confirmed

Adult Figure Skating Competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, 17 May to 23 May 2026:

Bronze II Women Freeskate & Artistic	Juliette Sivertsen
Bronze V Women's Freeskate & Artistic	Eleanor Stanbury
Bronze V Women's Freeskate & Silver V Artistic	Sue Hoseit
Silver IV Women's Freeskate & Gold IV Artistic	Tammy Cowan

OCEANIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, AUCKLAND 19 – 21 MAY 2026

We are very pleased to confirm that we have ISU Development support for the upcoming Oceania International. The following is the great team of skaters we have for this event.



Basic Novice Girls	Anna-Bella Levien
	Mihiata Parkinson
	Lilian Peng
	Emma Thein-Xie
	Nicole Xiao
	Aeryl Zhang
	Alva Zhang
Basic Novice Boys	Eddie Luo (tbc)
Intermediate Novice Girls	Olivia Dickson
Advanced Novice Girls	Mia Chen
	Lilah Langi-Scott
	Olivia Mandle (tbc)
	Luna Wu
Junior Women	Brooke Cathro (tbc)
	Sophie Pokorny
	Cara Tang
	Alethea Wong
Junior Men	Ziyao Wu
	Yanhao (Dwayne) Li

NEW ZEALANDERS AT ISU SYNCHRONIZED SKATING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Congratulations to the New Zealanders who competed at the recent **ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships 2026** in Salzburg, Austria. 10 & 11 April 2026.

From left to right, Melissa Laby and Charlotte van Uden who compete for the Netherlands' Team Ice United and Anya Gipp, Liam McIver and Rebekah Sime who compete for Australia's Team Unity.

UPCOMING INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

All skaters, not just the International A & B team representatives, can seek permission to attend interclub competitions outside New Zealand by emailing secretary@nzifsa.org.nz and specifying what competition and what grade they would like to compete.

Ice Skating Australia's Champ Series events listed below are interclub competitions that are open to skaters from other member federations. Please note, until we have announcements, we can't confirm permission but hopefully the following information will help with your planning.

- Hollins Trophy, Erina, NSW, 6-8 June
- Crystal Challenge, Melbourne, VIC 6-9 August.
- WinterSun, Brisbane, QLD – 2-6 September
- Sydney Synch Festival, Erina, NSW, 12-13 September. Entries close 14 August.
- Swan Trophy, Perth, WA – 27-30 September. Note that Western Australian Ice Skating Associations plan to run this interclub competition alongside the Swan Trophy international competition

RECENT SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Development Camp with Kori Ade - Auckland (Botany), 10-13 April

Last weekend NZIFSA hosted a four-day training camp in Auckland, bringing together skaters from Basic Novice through to Senior level. While registrations were much lower than we had anticipated, the 22 skaters and 10 coaches that attended had a very full, informative and fun four days. Participants represented a range of disciplines, including synchronised skating, ice dance, and singles, creating a diverse and dynamic training environment.

We were fortunate to have American coach Kori Ade lead the camp, working with skaters in a variety of ways across both on-ice and off-ice sessions. On the ice, skaters focused on developing

edges, jumps, and spins, while off-ice sessions covered mental skills training, competition preparation, strength and conditioning, and nutrition. It was a busy but highly rewarding camp, with many hours dedicated to learning and development. Kori fostered a positive and inspiring atmosphere that encouraged collaboration, growth, and confidence among all participants.

We are incredibly grateful to Kori for taking the time to support and develop our skaters, and we look forward to seeing how the skills and knowledge gained will be reflected in the upcoming season.



UPCOMING SKATER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Singles Pre Elementary, Elementary & Juvenile, Dunedin 2 & 3 May and Auckland (Botany) 9 & 10 May

We are very pleased to confirm that we managed to engage Sarah Urieli (nee Macgibbon) to lead the Auckland development camp and Mathieu Wilson to lead the camp in Dunedin. A great opportunity for skaters to work with two great coaches that you probably haven't been coached by previously.

Registration:

We've extended the registration date. Registrations are due **on or before Saturday 25 April**. Skaters and coaches can register online at:

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/2026PreElementaryToJuvenileCampsDNDOrAKL>

Cost information:

\$85 for NZIFSA Development Squad Members

\$165 for all other skaters

\$85 Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches

\$50 / day for Kiwiskate and Level 1 – 4 Coaches who can only attend part of a camp.

If you have any questions about these development camps, please contact our Skating Development Director, Sofia Heuman, at skating.development@nzifsa.org.nz

RECENT COACH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

NZIFSA ran a KiwiSkate course and Level 1 on-ice session in Dunedin on the 21 & 22 March. The course moderators were Kim Lewis and Rosie Armstrong with Ricky Cockerill assisting for a portion of the Level 1 course. Two successful courses attended by fifteen KiwiSkate coaches and eight Level 1 coaches.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Pub Charity Limited for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the KiwiSkate and Level 1 Coaching Course in Dunedin and the upcoming Pre Elementary to Juvenile Development Camps in Dunedin and Auckland.

The support from sponsors makes a huge difference to the development opportunities that we can offer to our skaters and coaches.



OCEANIA COACH DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR WITH SEAN RABBITT, 22 & 23 MAY

NZIFSA are very pleased to be able to extend an invitation to all **NZ Level 2 and up** coaches to attend the Oceania Coach Development Seminar being held at Botany rink in Auckland 22 & 23 May. Sean Rabbitt has been engaged to run this seminar for us, which is very exciting. Below please find a flyer with some additional information.

In order to save you the processing fees attached with the online payment system we invite NZ coaches to register via the following link and pay \$350 to NZIFSA directly.

<https://www.cognitofrms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/OceaniaSeminar2026/NZForm>

Note - we can only offer this to NZ coaches. We can't offer this direct payment to overseas coaches because of the transaction costs/ bank fees associated with overseas payments. Please do not pass this link on to anyone who is not paying from an NZ bank account.

Oceania International proudly presents...

Coaches Seminar

22-23 May 2026
Botany Ice Rink
Auckland NZ

\$350 NZD
per coach
plus credit card and processing fees

**Guest Coach
Sean Rabbitt**

Bring your coaching skills to the next level with Sean Rabbitt, an award-winning coach & former International Team USA athlete.

Sign up here!
<https://redirme.com/cqm5y9>

Sean will be delivering a dedicated coaches' seminar at the event. Coaches are welcome to nominate one of their own students who has participated in the Oceania competition for consideration as a demonstrator.

Please note that only a limited number of demonstrators can be accepted. Selection will aim to include skaters across a range of levels.

Email enquiries to:
oceaniask8@gmail.com

Sean Rabbitt is a former American Figure Skater and International medalist. He has extensive coaching experience including coaching skaters representing Team USA, Korea, Chinese Taipei, China, Canada and more at JGP's, International Events, as well as National Champions. He has facilitated many coaching seminars across the globe.

- ★ 2025 US Figure Skating's Top 5 Under Age 35 Coaches Award
- ★ 2024 US Figure Skating President's Award of Excellence

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UPCOMING OFFICIALS TRAINING

- Ice Skating Australia Referee Roles and Responsibilities online seminar for any Tier 2 judges interested in becoming a referee. Presenter – Joanna Miller. Online session now planned for 28 April.
- **Programme Components Seminar.** An online seminar presented by Sandra Williamson-Leadley (ISU Judge, TC, Int Ref) on **Saturday 2nd May.**
- Pair Skating– Judges training. Online sessions on 10 and 16 May presented by Debbie Noyes (ISU Pairs TC, Judge, Int Ref) from Australia.
- Referee Refresher – online session 20 June
- Initial Judges and Initial Tech Panel Meetings – online sessions 27 June

In addition to the above there will be online sessions to cover season updates.

If you have any questions about training as an official, please contact our Officials Director, Melissa Cummings, at officials.director@nzifsa.org.nz

CLUCAS CUP SELECTION COMPETITION, CHRISTCHURCH 13 & 14 JUNE 2026

In recognition of the contribution made to figure skating this competition is named after our late Patron, Wendy Clucas (nee Grafton). The Clucas Cup will be awarded to the skater/ couple / or team that gains the highest percentage above the A team Selection TES, with the highest unfactored programme component score as the deciding factor if more than 1 skater is on a par.

As per the NZIFSA Selection Policy, this competition is to determine selection and priority order for international competitions with a closing date between 7 July 2026 and one week after our National Championships. The competition will be open to skaters in Basic Novice to Senior grades in all disciplines, plus Mixed Age Synchronized skating, who competed at the 2025 National Championships and who are age eligible for international competition in their respective grade as at 1 July 2026. If you any have questions regarding eligibility, please email the Secretary at secretary@nzifs.org.nz.

The Announcement will be posted on the NZIFSA website as soon as it is available. Note, the technical requirements for this event are as per the ISU Regulations and relevant ISU Communications for the current 2025/2026 season.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Aotearoa Gaming Trust for their grant funding towards the cost of ice time for the Clucas Cup Selection Competition.



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GAMING
TRUST**

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE FOR CLUCAS CUP

Note the following is a provisional schedule for the 2026 Clucas Cup Every effort will be made to hold the events on the days listed below, however, the order of the events will change from that listed below.

Saturday 13 June

- Basic Novice & Intermediate Novice FS
- Intermediate Novice FS
- Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior SP
- Synchro up to and including Advanced Novice FS (includes Mixed Age)
- Synchro Junior & Senior SP

Sunday 14 June

- Advanced Novice, Junior & Senior FS
- Synchro Junior & Senior FS

Official practices are expected to be held each morning with competition as per the draft outline below. The times outlined below are indicative only.

Days/Dates	Unofficial Practice	Official Practice	Competition
Friday 12 June	3:30 – 5:30pm		
Saturday 13 June		10:00am – 1:30pm	4:30pm – 7:30pm
Sunday 14 June		7:30am – 10:30am	10:30am – 1:30pm

NZIFSA AGM – AUCKLAND, SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2026

The NZIFSA AGM was held in Auckland on 28 March and was followed by member forums. There were a number of positions up for election at the AGM and we received the following nominations.

- Vice President - Caitlyn Paul
- One Board Member - Connor McIver, Caitlyn Paul
- General Secretary – Rachael Jannink
- Technical Director – Michael Holtz
- Officials Director – Melissa Cummings
- Honorary Solicitor – Julian Airey
- Skater Development Director – Sofia Heuman

In addition to these we received expressions of interest for some of the Board appointed roles. Thank you to all who have put their names forward to be considered for election or appointment.

Congratulations to those who have been elected/appointed.

Each year, at the AGM, elections are held for approximately half the positions that make up the NZIFSA. Which positions are elected each year is spelled out in the Constitution (which you can find at the top of the Rules & Regulations section of the NZIFSA website). In addition to the elected positions, the Board are responsible for the appointment of a number of Operations Group roles. These appointments were considered at the Board meeting the day after the AGM.

Those that were elected at the 2026 AGM are indicated by an * and those that were appointed by the Board are indicated by **.

Board
Responsible for strategic planning, policy review and the prudent financial management of the Association.
President – Robyn Morris Vice-President – Caitlyn Paul* Board members – Djuna Elkan, Connor McIver*, Mike Slater
Operations Group
Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Association. In addition to the more visible roles like the Secretary responding to communications, and the Treasurer keeping track of the finances, there are all sorts of other activities that take place in the background that make the organisation function. For example, the police checking of all our coaches, the oversight of the test results, and the grant applications to mention just a few.
CEO – Jeanette King** General Secretary – Rachael Jannink* Treasurer – EJ Liang Test & Competition Secretary – Ina Paul Honorary Solicitor – Julian Airey * Anti-Doping Officer – Anna Smith Marketing & Promotions Officer – Nataliia Serikova** Safeguarding Officer – Sheryl Squier Grants Officer – Melissa Booth Administrative Support Officer – vacant Technical Support Officer – Alan Greenstreet**
Development Group
Responsible for coordinating the development of officials, skaters, coaches and the Rules and Regulations.
Skater Development Director – Sofia Heuman* for 1 year term Technical Director – Michael Holtz* Officials Director – Melissa Cummings* Coaching Director – Tracy Hipkiss High Performance Officer – Kevin Reynolds **

The AGM is also an opportunity to recognise the significant ongoing voluntary contribution of those that keep the Association running. A special thank you to all our NZIFSA Office Bearers for their time and effort they put in. The AGM is also a chance to acknowledge the contribution of those that are stepping back from their roles or who were not re-elected.

We would like to acknowledge Mandi Gerber for her contribution as a General Secretary over the past year, and immediately prior to that as our Administrative Support Officer. We would also like to acknowledge Mathieu Wilson’s contribution as High Performance Officer over the last two years.

NZIFSA MEMBER FORUM AT THE AGM

The member forum session held in conjunction with the AGM provided a great opportunity to discuss topics that members had identified prior. The 2 main topics discussed were:

Athletes Voice Group

It was great to hear all perspectives and in general, apart from a couple of clubs wanting the AVG to be a more formal and structured group, governed by the NZIFSA Constitution and rules, there was predominantly a shared understanding and alignment on the current purpose and intent of the AVG. It is a group that is self-managed with support in an advisory capacity from the NZIFSA CEO. Processes such as appointments, terms of membership, meeting procedure, roles etc. are self-determined and developed internally by the group members. This is in essence what makes the group so valuable to the participants. They are there to act as a consultative group to provide feedback to both the NZIFSA and clubs. A more formal structure would alter the intent, making it less effective and appealing to be part of. The Board in particular intend to utilize them more as a consultation tool for policy review and development. The forum discussion held urged all to actively encourage and support the visibility of Athletes Voice representatives within their clubs so other club members and stakeholders know who they are and what they do.

Social Media

The social media discussion supported NZIFSA utilizing social media as a marketing and promotion tool but attendees would like to see input from a variety of clubs around the country as to date it appeared to be quite North Island focused. Part of this has arisen from the need to get consent to use images and for information to be supplied as in many cases, members contacted are not responding to requests from the NZIFSA Marketing and Promotions Officer. There is merit in having an on the ground social media contact identified within each club who are able to supply the information directly to the Marketing and Promotions Officer. While Instagram is the main platform used to date, to help in broadening the scope of social media to different generations Facebook was also discussed via linking the platforms. The need for a clear social media policy was also discussed. This is being developed by the NZIFSA Board.

CONTACTING NZIFSA

If members have questions or need clarification of a policy or information they can't readily find on the NZIFSA website please make contact via the NZIFSA General Secretary, Rachael Jannink, at secretary@nzifsa.org.nz in the first instance. This ensures that all correspondence is dealt with appropriately and so that nothing gets missed in error. The Secretary should also be copied into all other correspondence.

In order to keep a good line of communication open between the NZIFSA Board and our affiliated clubs, the Club Presidents meetings will be reinstated in 2026 with the aim of meeting 3 times per year. We will sort a date very soon for the first meeting and get this out to clubs.

NZIFSA POLICIES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

The Board is seeking member feedback on the **Members' Forum Acceptable Use Policy, Health and Safety Policy** and **Anti-Match-Fixing and Sports Betting Policy** (feedback due by **30 April**) and on the **Skater Development Policy** and **Selection Policy** (feedback due by **30 May**). Your

submissions will be considered by the Board when they review the policy, and a draft of any proposed amendments will be put back out for member submissions.

Submissions on the **Finance Policy**, **Child Protection Policy** and **Funding Policy** closed on 20 March. No submissions were received. The Board reviewed these policies at their meeting on 29 March and have proposed some amendments to the Child Protection Policy with feedback due by 27 April.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Tuesday 12 May. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz) by Tuesday 5 May. Any correspondence received now will be tabled at the next meeting.

All the best in skating,
Robyn Morris and Jeanette King
President and CEO
NZIFSA