NZIFSA

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS & NEW ZEALAND ADULT SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS, GORE 29 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2026

What an outstanding National Championships. We got to see some of the best skating we've seen in our Juvenile to Senior level events. What a privilege it was to watch. Our National Championships are the pinnacle event of our skating calendar and we wish to congratulate all those who met the qualification criteria to be able to compete. All results can be found on the competitions section of the NZIFSA website: http://www.nzifsa.org.nz/competitions/.

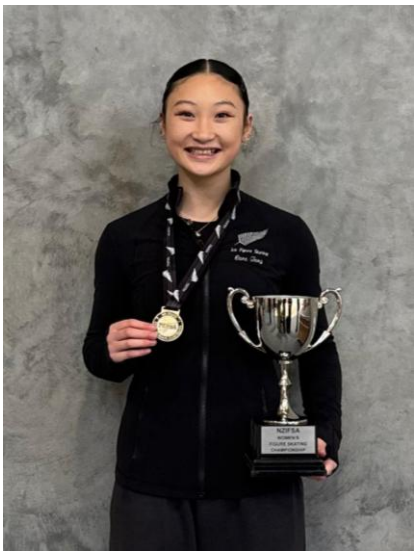
We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Ice Sports Southland organising committee for making this such a successful event. An outstanding team effort. Thanks also to all the officials who volunteered their time and the parents and skaters who picked up volunteer roles to make things work during the event. We simply couldn't run any competitions without all the people who volunteer their time.

A special thanks to our amazing IJS tech support Alan Greenstreet not only for his contribution to Nationals but who has also been so essential to the running of so many of our competitions during the year.

We would like to make special mention of the funding support we had from our major sponsors Bobby Foundation towards the ice time. Their generous support helps us keep the cost for skaters to enter our National Championships at a much more reasonable level.

BOBBY Foundation

And last, but by no means least, congratulations to our Senior Women and Senior Men Champions, Cara Tang and Dwayne (Yanhao) Li.





SELECTIONS FROM THE 2026 NEW ZEALAND ICE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS

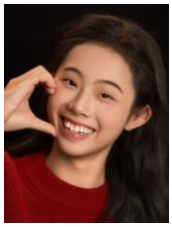
The provisional announcement of selection to development squads and of representative skaters was emailed to participant skaters, coaches and clubs after the completion of our National Championships. The confirmed selections are listed below.

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL A TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SKATERS

The following skaters have met the NZIFSA criteria to be eligible for selection to represent New Zealand at International Competitions and are in order of priority. Only Senior skaters that are age-eligible to compete Junior will automatically be considered for naming to Junior international A or B team. All other international A or B team skaters will be assessed on application if they are seeking to enter an international competition in a lower grade they are age eligible for.

Advanced Novice Girls
Lilia Lin
Nicole Xiao
Luna Wu
Emma Thein-Xie
Madison Bryce*
Lilah Langi-Scott*
Olivia Mandle









Junior Women
Cara Tang**
Judy Tong
Nicca Wu
Mia Chen
Brooke Cathro**
Alethea Wong








Junior Men
Dwayne Li **



Senior Women
Cara Tang
Brooke Cathro




Senior Men
Dwayne Li



* Skaters will age out of the indicated grade 1 July 2027.
** Senior skaters who are also age eligible for selection to Junior grade

SELECTION OF INTERNATIONAL B TEAM REPRESENTATIVE SKATERS

The International B Team provides an opportunity for a further group of skaters to gain experience at international competitions. These skaters are eligible to attend any international competitions where the number of spaces available to New Zealand in any grade exceeds the number of selected International A Team Representatives, but they aren't eligible for any NZIFSA funding for this. These are listed in order of priority.

Basic Novice Girls
Athena Macmac*
Rebecca Situ
Lilian Peng
Jasmine Ngan
Aeryl Zhang
Victoria Zhang
Charlotte Hua









Intermediate Novice Girls
Mihi Parkinson
Lydia Peters*
Anna-Bella Levien
Alva Zhang
Neve Kendrick*







Intermediate Novice Boys
Eddie Luo



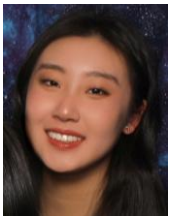
Advanced Novice Boys
Hunter Smith*



Junior Men
Michael Duan



Senior Women
Cordelia Shi



* Skaters will age out of the indicated grade 1 July 2027.

Basic Novice Synchronized

Obsidian Basic Novice Crystal **

Florie Cheng
Anna Dennis
Valerie Kang
Stephanie Leow
Ellie Lim
Jessie Mitchell
Yehm Pangyani
Amelia Reed
Myla Roczniak
Alyssa Rogers
Karen Sih
Evan Wang



Senior Synchronized

Obsidian Senior **

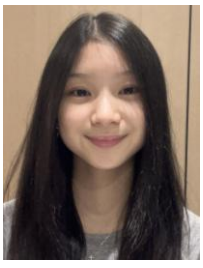
Megan Briggs
Katrina Chan
Jessie Grant
Neske Groenewegen
Victoria Heald
Sofia Heuman
Jasmine Hu
Ana Matsiborko
Vanessa Preston
Noelle Qiu
Ella Smith
Ava Marie Spencer
Vicky Wang
Jordan Etches
Stepan Kadlcik



** For a synchronized skating team to retain their selection, 75% of the team going to the international competition must have been listed as part of the team selected at the NZ National Championships and must meet the requirements for that grade for that competition.

Exemptions granted under section 7 of the Selection Policy

Renee Tsai and Petra Lahti have been granted exemptions to be considered for selection for International Competitions in Junior Women's grade and Senior Women's grade respectively and entry into the 2027 Clucas Cup Selection Competition, subject to medical clearance and monitoring.





NZIFSA HIGH PERFORMANCE

The NZIFSA Board is pleased to be able to reaffirm our commitment to recognizing and supporting our top athletes through the continuation of the High-Performance Squad selection criteria. Eligibility includes results from the Junior and Senior World Championships, Four Continents Championship, and the Senior Grand Prix series. Skaters who compete in the short program/dance and qualify for the free skate/free dance at any of these events will be considered for selection. Additionally, skaters who qualify for the Junior/Senior Grand Prix Finals, Winter Youth Olympic Games, or Olympic Games, as well as those who medal at a Junior Grand Prix event, are eligible for selection.

Based on the above criteria we are very pleased to confirm the following selection to the High Performance Squad

Senior Men
Dwayne Li



NZIFSA DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Inclusion is based on results at the North Islands or South Island Championships, or New Zealand National Championships. Selection is open to all skaters who meet the specified age requirements and Total Element Score (TES) for their grade at one of Championships.

Those marked with * met the Development Squad selection criteria at either the North or South Island Championships. These are listed alphabetically by surname.

Elementary Under 12
Kyleigh Li*
Melody Peng*




Juvenile Under 12
Florie Cheng*
Evan Wang




Basic Novice Under 12
Charlotte Hua
Rebecca Situ*
Victoria Zhang*





Basic Novice Girls
Athena Macmac*
Jasmine Ngan
Lilian Peng
Aeryl Zhang



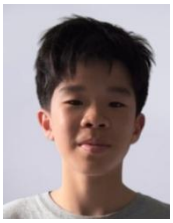



Intermediate Novice Girls
Anna-Bella Levien
Mihi Parkinson*
Alva Zhang





Intermediate Novice Boys
Eddie Luo*



Advanced Novice Girls
Madison Bryce*
Lilah Langi-Scott*
Lilia Lin
Olivia Mandle
Emma Thein-Xie*
Luna Wu
Nicole Xiao









Advanced Novice Boys
Hunter Smith



Junior Women
Mia Chen
Judy Tong
Alethea Wong*
Nicca Wu






Junior Men
Michael Duan



Senior Women
Brooke Cathro*
Cordelia Shi
Cara Tang*





Basic Novice Synchronized

Obsidian Basic Novice Crystal

Florie Cheng
Anna Dennis
Valerie Kang
Stephanie Leow
Ellie Lim
Jessie Mitchell
Yehm Pangyani
Amelia Reed
Myla Roczniak
Alyssa Rogers
Karen Sih
Evan Wang



Mixed Age Synchronized

Cutting Edge

Isabelle Dalley
Djuna Elkan
Emma Fotheringham
Amelie Henderson
Rachael Jannink
Arlea Lewis
Enbo Liang
Gemma Pickering
Selina Zeng



Senior Synchronized

Obsidian Senior

Megan Briggs
Katrina Chan
Jessie Grant
Neske Groenewegen
Victoria Heald
Sofia Heuman
Jasmine Hu
Ana Matsiborko
Vanessa Preston
Noelle Qiu
Ella Smith
Ava Marie Spencer
Vicky Wang
Jordan Etches
Stepan Kadlcik



OTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT NATIONALS

NORMAN CAMERON CUP OF EXCELLENCE



This cup is awarded to the skater, couple, pair or team that has excelled in skating over the year, in international competitions or have had an outstanding year in skating. The trophy is only to be awarded if a skater deserves it and fits the above criteria. The Board are very pleased to again acknowledge the outstanding performance of Dwayne Li over this past year by awarding him the Norman Cameron Cup of Excellence.

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

There were two nominations for this award this year, with each of the nominees have made a significant contribution to the administration of our sport. The nominees were **Keith Darvill** (GFSC) and **Jodie Ross** (ISS). The nominating club is noted in brackets.

Criteria:

- Take on a leadership or integral role in their club/sub association.
- Take on administrative/organizational roles and perform their duties in a manner that progresses the sport or enhances the functioning of the club/sub-association.
- Positive role model for other administrators of our sport.
- Possibly work in a mentoring role within the club/sub-association.

The Board are very pleased to award the Administrator of the Year award to **Keith Darvill.**

NZIFSA also wish to acknowledge Jodie Ross and the valuable part she plays in creating a positive environment for our skaters.



Sally Garelja (NIISSA President) handing over the trophy to Keith Darvill

The following is taken from the nomination from GFSC for Keith Darvill.

Keith was nominated in recognition of the enormous contribution he makes to figure skating competitions across the North Island and beyond. He has been responsible for the organisation and management of competition music for many years, supporting Auckland's club competitions, North Island Champs, and Nationals. It is a huge amount of work, much of which happens behind the scenes.

For competitions in Auckland, Keith also works alongside Mike Slater, helping with the computer setup and pack-down. He is there from the beginning of the day until everything is packed away, helping make sure the technical side of the competition is ready to go, and functioning properly.

He is proactive in solving problems before they become issues. He continues to give an extraordinary amount of his time and energy to the skating community. He does it without fuss, without seeking recognition, simply because he cares about the sport and the skaters. Without him, competitions would not run as smoothly as they do. Keith is thoroughly deserving of the Admin of the Year award, not only for the enormous volume of work he undertakes, but for the reliability, patience, care and generosity he brings to every competition.

SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

We received five nominations for this significant award. The nominees were **Rachel Hope** (AISC), **Gemma Pickering** (DISC), **Hunter Smith** (CISC) and **Genevieve Webby** (ISS). The nominating club is noted in brackets. Each of these individuals has made a marked contribution to the sport and we are proud to recognize their dedication and impact on our community.

Criteria:

- Positive role model for other skaters
- Demonstrate a "fair play" attitude/good sportsmanship
- Positive and tangible contribution to their club and the sport in general
- Active role in the activities offered by the club and/or skate school, e.g. club nights, fundraising, Kiwi Skate coaching sessions

The Board are very pleased to award the Sportsperson of the Year award to **Hunter Smith.** The NZIFSA also wish to acknowledge all the other nominees for this award and the valuable part they play in creating a positive environment for their fellow skaters.

From the nomination by CISC for Hunter Smith.



Hunter was nominated in recognition of the outstanding contribution he makes to our skating community, both on and off the ice. Hunter is an outstanding ambassador for our sport. He consistently demonstrates a positive attitude, celebrates the achievements of others, offers encouragement during challenges, and creates an environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

One of Hunter's greatest strengths is his genuine kindness and friendliness. He is welcoming to skaters from all clubs across New Zealand, making everyone feel included regardless of their age, ability, or club affiliation. His approachable nature has helped build lasting friendships and strengthens the sense of unity within the sport.

Hunter is also an excellent role model for younger skaters, leading by example through his sportsmanship, respect, dedication, and humility. He regularly takes the time to offer younger athletes advice, support, and confidence when they need it most. He is always happy to help coach & support KiwiSkate skaters at their very first local competition, ensuring they feel encouraged and welcomed into the sport.

What truly sets Hunter apart is that he is universally respected and admired. He treats everyone with genuine warmth and compassion, whether he is welcoming a new skater, congratulating a competitor, or supporting teammates and rivals alike. Hunter embodies the true spirit of sportsmanship. His positivity, inclusiveness, and unwavering support for others are matched by his commitment to giving back to the skating community. He consistently steps up to volunteer at both local and national competitions, as well as club events, willingly helping with whatever is needed—from event set-up and delivering hot water bottles to officials, to assisting coaches and supporting younger skaters.

THE ALLCHURCH SHIELD

The Shield is named after Sandy Allchurch and is awarded to the club that gets the highest number of points, based on where their members place in the various grades, at our New Zealand National and Adult Skating Championships. Sandy Allchurch was actively involved in the Association for many years and was at the inaugural meeting in June 1937 of what was, until 2011, the New Zealand Ice Skating Association. Sandy was also Patron for our Association for many years and was very dedicated to supporting ice skating. Being able to present this award each year is a rather special acknowledgement to Sandy and the contribution that he, and others like him, have made to our sport.

The Allchurch Shield was won by Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club by a significant margin. Congratulations AIFSC.

Summary of the Allchurch Shield points:

Auckland Ice Figure Skating Club (AIFSC)	42
Glenburn Figure Skating Club (GFSC)	27
Allegro Ice Dance Club (AIDC)	26
Canterbury Masters Figure Skating Club (CMFSC)	19
Centaurus Ice Skating Club (CISC)	17
Dunedin Ice Skating Club (DISC)	13
Alexandra Ice Skating Club (AISC)	11
Ice Sports Southland (ISS)	4

NATIONAL CHAMPS VENUE FOR 2027

The Board have accepted an Expression of Interest from Dunedin Ice Skating Club to host the 2027 New Zealand National Ice Figure Skating. The proposed dates are 28 – 31 October 2027.

EOI FOR TEAM LEADER FOR ISU CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are seeking expressions of interest for Team Leaders for a number of ISU Championships. At this point in time we do not have confirmation of whether we will have skaters/teams at some of these events, but we are seeking EOI in anticipation.

- ISU Figure Skating Four Continents Championships - Almaty, Kazakhstan - 9-14 February 2027
- ISU Figure Skating Junior World Championships - Sofia, Bulgaria - 24-28 February 2027
- ISU Figure Skating World Championships - Tampere, Finland - 17-21 March 2027
- ISU Synchro9 World Championships - Nottingham, Great Britain - 27-28 March 2027
- ISU Synchronized Skating World Championships - Nottingham, Great Britain - 3-4 April 2027

We are looking for team leaders who have enough experience of international competitions, ideally either as an official or coach, to be able to coordinate the activities of our team members. As outlined in the position description, they need to be able to handle crisis situations as well as routine administrative tasks; be team players who can work with all athletes, coaches, judges, parents, and administrators; have knowledge of the NZIFSA rules and agreements surrounding international participation; and, have local knowledge that well assist them in carrying out their role.

The Team Leader position description can be found on page 10 of the Job Descriptions for Appointed Positions on the NZIFSA website
https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Job%20Descriptions%20for%20Appointed%20Positions%20V9.0.pdf

The NZIFSA Funding Policy https://nzifsa.org.nz/rules/Funding%20Policy%20%20V11.0.pdf section 10, outlines two different maximum funding criteria based on the location of each ISU Championship or International as indicated below:

- For events in North/South America, Asia and Oceania, $1,650 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition
- For events in Europe and South Africa, $2,750 plus cost of official accommodation if not provided by ISU for official days of competition

Normally a person may be selected for a team leader position only once per funding season, however if circumstances require an individual to serve as team leader at more than one competition, funding will be provided in all cases.

Please submit your expression of interest by **5pm Sunday 29 November**

https://www.cognitoforms.com/NewZealandIceFigureSkatingAssociation/TeamLeaderEOIForISUChampionships2027

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Challenger Series PGE Warsaw Cup 2026, Warsaw, Poland, 25 – 29 November

Senior Men	Yanhao (Dwayne) Li
Coach	Bess Cao

JGP Final in Chongqing, China, 10-12 December

Senior Men	Yanhao (Dwayne) Li
Coach	Bess Cao

RECENT INTERCLUB COMPETITIONS

Ice Skating Victoria State Championships, Melbourne, VIC, Australia, 17-18 October 2026

Senior Women	Cara Tang	SP 1st/3	FS 1st/3	Overall 1st/3

WORLD ICE SKATING DAY – SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

Look out for activities that might be happening in your area. The World Ice Skating Day (WISD), created and organized by the International Skating Union (ISU), is a one-day global festival dedicated to Ice Skating. This year's annual celebration will be held on 20 December and the mission is simple: **Bring Your Friends to the Ice!**

Information has been shared with clubs and rinks encouraging them to join this global celebration by registering their local initiatives and encouraging skaters to bring their friends, family members and anyone who has yet to discover the joy of skating onto the ice on 20 December 2026.

NZIFSA BOARD MEETING

The next meeting of the NZIFSA Board will be held on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 November. If you have any correspondence that you would like the Board to consider, please send it to the General Secretary (secretary@nzifsa.org.nz). Any correspondence received after 7 November will go to the next meeting.

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