

ISA DELEGATES REPORT FOR 2015/2016

From March 2015 to March 2016 there have been three ISA meetings attended by delegates to report: the ISA AGM for 2015, the ISA mid year meeting and the ISA AGM for 2016.

The appointed ACTISA delegates for 2015 were Adele Collett, Mary-Ann Ryall & Julie Stalker, with special thanks to Greg Ash and Angelique Clyde-Smith who have acted as proxies at the 2016 AGM. In addition Greg Ash has acted as the ACTISA representative on a special ISA working party during the year to complete the new ISA constitution.

2015 ISA AGM HELD 18th APRIL 2015

The main discussion prior to the 2015 AGM centred around the submitted draft of the new ISA constitution. At that time it was decided that the adoption of the constitution could not be voted on as there were still significant drafting issues to address. Instead a working group was formed to finalise the document, chaired by the ISA secretary and with a single representative from each member state.

Highlights from the Board and OD annual reports included:

- Judges mini seminars delivered in 2014 in six states to update officials on rule changes
- Steady stream of ISA judging officials being accepted for and passing international judges exams and attending Frankfurt seminar
- New ISA international selection policy had been drafted
- Adult Masters Games to be held in Adelaide 2015, figure skating to be included
- Awaiting decision of IOC with regards to Synchronised Skating being included in Winter Olympic Games
- Steady increase in numbers of synchronised skating teams across the country, technical seminar conducted in conjunction with Sydney Synchro Festival 2014

The following proposed rule changes were carried:

1. Changes to process of nomination of competitors for international competitions (rules 802-805)
2. Changes to requirement for step sequence in preliminary and elementary programs (rule 320)
3. Rules for adult skating programs brought in to line with ISU adult working group (rule 360)
4. Changes for synchronised skating rules around creation of new basic novice and mixed age divisions at Australian championships
5. Amendments to rules relating to judges and officials (section 7 of ISA rulebook)

The following proposals were not counted or not carried:

1. Changes to season start from February to July to align with ISU (therefore the season start as of Feb in Australia remains)
2. Changes to rules regarding adult competition to prescribe competitive level for previously competitive IJS skaters who transition in to adult skating
3. Changes to rules to dictate splitting of adult competition divisions by age
4. Changes to test structures and judging

Elections were held for positions of President, treasurer and three board member positions together with operational directors.

- Peter Lynch was elected as President for a 2 year term
- Wendy Meik was re-elected as treasurer for a 2 year term
- Debbie Noyes, Kylie Yacopetti and Karen Thompson were elected as board members
- Two new operational directors were elected: Clarence Ong (junior development) and Robyn Burley (high performance) and other operational directors were re-elected including Angelique Clyde-Smith as synchronised skating OD.

Following the AGM a full day of workshops were held to initiate development of strategic plans for the specific operational areas.

2015 ISA MID-YEAR MEETING HELD 31st OCTOBER

(Attended by Adele Collett, Greg Ash, Julie Stalker)

First ISA mid year meeting for several years.

A revised draft constitution was now ready for circulating back to the states by the constitution review committee.

Reports were submitted by operational directors and treasurer together with discussion on Aussie Skate and Adult skating programs. A discussion on how to grow ice skating as a sport in Australia resulted in states sharing ideas for promotion of the sport and retention of skaters.

ISA draft strategic plan was presented and discussed. The strategic plan needs to be available on the ISA website and be periodically updated.

2016 ISA AGM HELD 19th MARCH

(attended by Mary-Ann Ryall and by Greg Ash and Angelique Clyde-Smith as proxies)

It was pleasing to see that work had progressed in a number of important areas including the constitution, policies and procedures to enable novice athletes to attend international competitions although work had been slower in other areas (eg Progression of Aussie Skate program across country and athlete development) and these presented opportunities for workshops which were conducted on the Sunday following the AGM.

The administration for ISA now sits in the ISQ office with Jenny Houlahan as part time administration for ISA. This appears to have been a very positive move in terms of communication and efficiency for the board and operational directors. Minutes have been circulated to delegates in a timely manner after every board meeting of ISA.

Highlights from the Board and OD annual reports included:

- Placings for synchro teams in international competitions
- Personal bests obtained by our senior athletes at Grand Prix events, Four Continents and Junior Worlds
- Increased numbers of basic and advanced novice competitors attending international competitions including Asian Trophy (16 Australian competitors) and FMBA trophy (18 Australian competitors) with several podium spots and top ten placings. In all the numbers of novice skaters participating internationally increased from 14 in 2015 to 51 in 2016.

- Dance teams competing internationally at novice and junior level including at Junior Worlds
- Aussie Skate online registration system being worked on, Aussie Skate signed agreements with 16 rinks/state bodies. Work planned to investigate whether ASC sporting schools program may be interested in figure skating participation and how we might go about that
- Adult skating numbers increasing (31 at Nationals 2015, 24 competitors approved to compete internationally in 2016 so far), successful Masters Games held in Adelaide October 2015
- Synchro coaches and skaters attending ISU synchro development seminars in May 2015 and 2016. Australian athletes and coaches also invited back to ISU pairs and dance seminars
- Unfortunately Synchronised Skating is not to be included in Olympic Winter Games but was included in latest ISU Grand Prix Final
- Our Australian judges continue to be successful in their ISU judging exams with Australian judges participating in international competitions in all disciplines. 10 judges have been nominated by ISA to attend seminars and sit exams in Frankfurt and Oberstdorf for 2016.

The following proposed rule changes were carried:

1. The new ISA constitution will be adopted with current rules being accepted as new by-laws. This will take effect on registration in the ACT over coming weeks. One significant change is that the current operational directors become chairs of standing committees (and are formally able to appoint their own members to their committee) and these report directly to the ISA board on their area of responsibility. This means that voting for rule changes at the AGM will no longer be required which will save time and ensure that necessary changes are not held up. The ISA President gave the meeting an assurance that the new standing committees would be expected to operate in an open and collaborative manner.
2. Pre-primary, primary and novice divisions in singles renamed to reflect ISU novice divisions as Basic Novice A and Basic Novice B and Advanced Novice including renaming of tests (but not test requirements) to reflect the new divisions. Renaming of primary dance and pairs to basic novice dance and basic novice pairs with renaming of tests. Renaming of novice dance and pairs to advanced novice dance and advanced novice pairs with renaming of tests.
3. Age distinction between Basic Novice B (formerly primary) and Intermediate to be elevated to age of 15 on the July 1st preceding event (<15 on July 1st basic novice B, >15 intermediate)
4. Pre-primary singles division (now named Basic Novice A) to be included in Australian Figure Skating Championships.
5. Adult divisions silver and gold to be split where greater than 15 competitors in a division in to aged 18-35 and aged 36 and over.
6. Adult program rules to change to reflect ongoing revisions to ISU adult rules
7. Changes to dance tests to create a pattern stream of testing and a competitive stream of testing where junior and senior competitive dance teams will now complete a short dance test and dancers without partners can complete junior and senior pattern tests. The pattern dances to be completed for basic and advanced novice have been changed (and reduced in number).

8. Announcements for interstate and local competitions to be submitted to local state association by 6 weeks prior to the start date of competition
9. Announcements for interclub competitions where international competitors are invited must be submitted to ISA for verification and sanctioning at least 8 weeks prior to the start date of the respective competition
10. Changes to synchronised skating rules to create a new adult basic division to be trialled for two years and to limit the numbers of more advanced skaters skating in basic novice teams
11. Changes to TOI (section 12) to bring rules in line with ISU rules regarding duration of programs and deductions together with creating clarity around rules for cross-over skaters and ages of skaters in junior and senior TOI teams.

PLEASE NOTE ALL RULE CHANGES WILL APPEAR ON ISA WEBSITE AND IN ISA TECHNICAL REGULATION COMMUNICATIONS ONCE FINAL DRAFTING IS COMPLETE

The following proposals were not counted or not carried:

1. Changes to content of singles and pairs tests
2. Proposal to limit the same skater competing in both adult and junior/senior competition in the same year
3. Proposal to dictate competitive skating levels for adult skaters transitioning from mainstream competitive stream to Adult stream
4. Proposal to further delineate age divisions for adult skating competitions as per international adult competition levels
5. Proposal to limit ages in basic and advanced novice divisions to match ISU international novice competition rules withdrawn

Elections were held for positions of Secretary and 3 board members together with operational directors.

- Carole Ashworth was elected unopposed to the position of secretary
- Judith Sivasubramaniam and Don Nicholls were elected to the board for a two year term and Peter Marcovich for a one year term.
- A new operational director was elected to the technical regulations OD role (Jackie Gold) and Robi Chalmers was re-elected to the Sport Development OD role. Other operational directors were re-elected unopposed.

A workshop was held on the Sunday following the AGM where ideas for development of Aussie Skate were discussed. A working party will now be set up with a representative from each state to progress this work.

An Adult Skating working party with representation from each state will also be formally developed.

Judith Sivasubramaniam as new board member will take on responsibility for developing a team to work on updating the ISA website

A proposal for high performance development was put forward for consideration and will be further developed.

The 2016 ISA mid year meeting will be held on 27th August in Sydney.