



South Australian Ice Skating Association Incorporated (SAISA)

Delegates Report – Communiqué 29th April 2009

2009 Annual General Meeting of Ice Skating Australia Inc (ISA)

25th April, Sports House, Olympic Park, Sydney

Delegates: R. O'Connor, C. Dickman, N. Reese.

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1. Introduction

2009 ISA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting was held at Sports House which is in Sydney's Olympic Park (venue of the 2000 Olympic Games). It was very well attended. Most States sent 3 delegates. Apart from the Board and the Operational Director's (ODs) there were observers (mainly sponsored coaches) and also invited experts as well as assistants to the ODs and the Board.

The Board had spent a lot of time organising the room and the materials and facilities needed the day before and this resulted in a very well set up meeting.

The room was arranged so that the different sections were seated in discrete areas: the Board facing the meeting, the ODs at the side, the Delegates facing the Board in the middle, and the Observers behind the Delegates. This worked extremely well and appeared more efficient than other arrangements. The rules of the meeting were explained at the beginning and introductions made. Those wishing to speak were asked to raise their hand and, if invited to speak, to stand. The observers could only speak if invited.

The meeting began with a minute's silence in honour of Anzac Day. The meeting was kept on schedule and attendees made to keep to the topic and the motion on the table; points of order were called occasionally. The reports and associated presentations were excellent and evidence of a lot of effort on the part of the presenters. Breaks were taken for the well-catered morning and afternoon tea, and lunch, and the meeting finished on time at 5pm.

Overall, the meeting revealed a very positive direction for figure skating. It was evident that a lot of hard work had been happening behind the scenes over the past year and that the new material and directions presented were well thought out by very capable people. The airing of the idea by the presenters that cooperation and sharing of ideas was needed to improve the sport was very welcome.

What is reported here is a brief overview from the South Australian delegates who attended the meeting. Official reports will be released on the ISA website or by the ODs in due course.

Abbreviations used:

ADCO – Anti Doping Control Officer
AGM – Annual General Meeting
AOC - Australian Olympic Committee
ASADA – Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority
ASC – Australian Sports Commission
BOM – Board of Management
CEO – Chief Executive Officer
HP, HPP – High Performance (Plan)
IJS - International Judging System (of the Ice Skating Union)
ISA – Ice Skating Australia
ISU – Ice Skating Union (the international body for figure skating)
KPI – Key Performance Indicators
OD, ODs – Operational Director(s)
OWI – Olympic Winter Institute of Australia
SAISA – South Australian Ice Skating Association Incorporated
Synchro – Synchronised Team Skating
TS – Technical Specialist
USFSA – United States Figure Skating Association

2. ISA Disciplinary Committee Report

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Disciplinary Committee was formed in early 2008. Its function is to independently investigate any matters referred to it by the ISA Board of Management (BOM) in relation to misconduct of any skater, official or other participant in ISA or ISU (Ice Skating Union) activities.

Following an investigation, the committee then reports back to the BOM and makes recommendations including whether sanctions should be imposed, and whether any changes should be made to ISA Rules or procedures.

INVESTIGATION 2008 -2009

A report on an investigation into synchronized team skating for 2008-2009 was given. The investigation resulted in sanctions being imposed and procedural changes being made. These are now completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Lawyer, Allie Ford, will head the Disciplinary Committee.

The committee will use the experience gained in the 2008-2009 investigation to fine tune the whole process and structure involved.

3. SAISA Items

SUBMISSIONS

SAISA submitted 4 agenda items on behalf of its members and was the only State Association to do so by the required date. Two of the items were more of a workshop nature. As there was no possibility of workshops at this year's AGM because of the busy High Performance schedule in the same week these items were taken up by the BOM to be considered in forward planning.

ITEM 1 AND ITEM 2

Item 1: 'That there be more uniformity in policies across the States.'

Item 2: 'That along with the National Database there be consistent individual membership categories across the States'.

An example was included. There appeared to be agreement to this. It was consistent with the direction recommended by the High Performance people.

ITEM 3

'That all nominations and entries for international competitions and events go through the State Associations.'

This was attended to in other reports and all were in agreement with this procedural clarification.

ITEM 4

'SAISA requests;

A statement of outcomes from the investigation and sanctioning by ISA in 2008 of ---(removed) persons involved in figure skating ---(removed).

In particular:

1. What has been learnt from this matter,

and,

2. What policies and procedures are being put in place as safeguards to prevent a future occurrence.'

The response to this was largely covered by the reports of the Disciplinary Committee and the Synchronised Operational Director.

However, a brief discussion followed on whether there was a need to release the names of sanctioned individuals in the future. It was agreed that the release of names would likely be part of proceedings in the future. It was also made clear that any complaints not in writing risk being treated as gossip.

SAISA members who would like to see how the ISU or the USFSA reports sanctions can have a look at the following web pages:

<http://www.usfsa.org/MemberServices.asp?id=299>

http://isu.sportcentric.net/db/isu_front/comms.php

(you will need to copy & paste the links into your browser)

4. APSA Report

APSA

APSA is the Australian Professional Skater's Association. Coaches belong to this Association. It organizes their insurance and accreditation.

COACH ACCREDITATION

APSA is currently updating their coach accreditation requirements and is incorporating advice from experts into their updates before doing the required re-submission to the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

APSA reported that the ASC requires all coaches to be accredited.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

APSA is using a new technology called 'datafish' to assist coach development. This exciting computer-based video technology allows coaches to view, analyse and find out how to correct skating elements.

MEMBERSHIP OF ISA

Discussions are still in process to find a satisfactory way APSA can come under the ISA banner. APSA's preferred solution at the moment is to become a full member, just like a State Member Association and have 3 delegates and three votes, just like a State Member. All APSA matters would then go through APSA(National) and the APSA Delegates.

APSA did not feel the need to alter their Constitution and advised ISA that they should alter theirs to reflect the inclusion of APSA. The APSA representative also advised that APSA did not want to be dictated to. The Chair advised APSA that actually ISA may require some alteration to APSA's Constitution for any membership to occur.

5. Change to ISA Constitution

IN RELATION TO THE APSA REPORT

In relation to the above report, Article 5 in the Constitution of ISA was amended to include:-

“ Membership of the Association shall also be open to the Australian Professional Skater’s Association Inc (National) as the recognized representative of coaches in Australia. No other coaching organization shall be recognized for membership.”

6. Policy and Procedure Changes / Clarifications

GENERAL

Many changes were discussed because of problems with the validity of synchronized team skating (synchro) entries but the procedural clarifications are to be applied to ALL SKATING DISCIPLINES.

ENTRY FORMS

ALL entry forms MUST go through the State Associations. Forms not submitted via the State body and carrying a valid signature will be rejected. This applies to Interstate, National and International events and singles, pairs, dance and synchro (i.e. ALL disciplines). Once checked, the State Associations will forward the forms to the relevant bodies. This means entry forms must be submitted to State Associations EARLY. Entry forms for Synchronised Skating Teams MUST be completed and verified ready for submission ONE MONTH BEFORE the official close of entries.

Synchronised Team Skating forms MUST NOT be sent directly to the Operational Director. Entry forms (from any discipline) MUST NOT be sent directly to any Australian or overseas organising committees. The Operational Director or Australian organising committee will receive entries from the State Associations ONLY and will check them before passing them on to the relevant body. In the case of overseas entries, this is the BOM of ISA.

ISA, and ISA ONLY, will check and forward entries to overseas events.

POA NUMBERS

ALL Skaters MUST have a POA Number (Proof of Age Number). The POA number MUST appear on the entry form.

NON AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

ALL Non- Australian citizens MUST apply for clearance by MAY 31st of each year. This MUST go via a State Association well before end May.

TEST LEVELS

ALL Test levels MUST be checked by the State Association and declared correct.

MISSING TEST RECORDS

If records can't be produced an Application for Permission MUST be made. This MUST come through the State Association and MUST be done well before the close of entries of any event.

EQUIVALENCE FOR NON-AUSTRALIAN TEST LEVELS

The evaluation of any non-Australian Test level can ONLY be made by the BOM of ISA. An Application for Evaluation of Non- Australian Test Levels MUST come through the State Association. This MUST be done well before the close of entries of any event.

7. Competition news and eligibility changes/clarifications

OPEN SYNCHRONISED TEAM SKATING

The age restrictions for this division have been removed. It is now a true 'Open' event without any age restrictions. (Effective immediately)

The 25% 'Double-Teaming' Rule still applies.

Open synchro will be offered at Nationals 2009 as a judged exhibition event.

There will be any entry fee for this event (\$160).

ELEMENTARY & PRE-PRIMARY

Clarification:

To enter the Elementary section a skater must have passed both parts of the Elementary 1 Test (Figure Pattern and Technical) but not both parts of the Elementary 2 Test.

To enter the Pre-Primary section the skater must have passed both parts of the Elementary 2 Test.

SOLO DANCE

Solo Dance will not be offered at Nationals 2009.

FEES FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2009

Singles: \$250 each skater.

Pair: \$400 per pair

Ice Dance: \$430 per couple

Synch:

Adult & Novice: \$160 per team member

Junior & Senior \$175 per team member.

Late entries: double entry fee.

Banquet: to be advised later.

Chaperone passes: all singles, pair and dance couple will get one chaperone pass; synchronized teams will get one pass for every four team members.

Admission to events and practices: Each chaperone, team, pair, couple, singles skater will receive free admission to all events and official practice sessions.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2010

National Championships will be held during the late November to December time period from 2010 onwards. As there is now a bid process for Nationals and not a rotation system, the Board was empowered to call for bids and set the exact date and place of Nationals.

8. High Performance Report

HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM (HPP)

The HPP aims to;

- Develop and prepare elite Australian athletes for participation in and to achieve their personal bests at International Championship Events
- Provide support for those athletes representing Australia at International Championships

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The HPP has been in place now for three international seasons and has built a very sound base for the current ISA National Squad. The program will now be extended to provide consistent support from Primary through to the Junior level with the introduction of a Junior Development Squad.

MONITORING SESSIONS, TRAINING PLANS AND KPI

Monitoring Sessions, Training Plans, and KPI (Key Performance Indicators) are all part of the Squad requirements. The monitoring sessions give feedback and suggestions to athletes from at least one judge, a Technical Specialist, and a Technical Controller. Robi Chalmers from South Australia organized the sessions this past year.

CAMP SYDNEY

New this year was Camp Sydney (April 22 -23) which provided education for coaches and athletes, communication and sharing opportunities, and team building pathways. This was very successful and will provide the basis for the 2009 – 2014 HPP

INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN ICE SPORTS AWARDS

The Australian Ice Sports Awards is an initiative of the Olympic Winter Institute (OWI) in conjunction with Ice Skating Australia (Figure Skating), Australian Ice Racing (Short Track Speed Skating), the Australian Curling Federation and the Australian Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association. The event was held at the conclusion of Camp Sydney at a stand-up cocktail function at the Novotel, Brighton-Le-Sands. Ken Sutcliffe was the MC. The nominees for various awards were presented and then the final result announced.

Congratulations go to all nominees and particularly the winners for Figure Skating:

Cheltzie Lee (Athlete of the Year),

Matthew Precious (Junior Athlete of the Year),

Danielle O'Brien & Greg Merriman (Outstanding Achievement of the Year)

Kylie Fennell (Coach of the Year).

9. Strategic Plan 2009 -2014

A report was given on the achievements within the retiring Strategic Plan and presentations were given on the visions of the 2009-2014 Plan with directions forward to 2018.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The planning has been extensive and involved collaboration with the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and the Olympic Winter Institute (OWI). Based on the detailed HPP for the next 9 years the AOC has requested funding for Figure Skating from the Australian Government. The proposal put to the Government is driven by the potential for medal outcomes. Support from the Government would help the athletes as well as fund a CEO and administrative support, but will still require some further restructuring of the sport.

RETIRING STRATEGIC PLAN

Some of the achievements of the retiring Strategic Plan were:

- A new organizational structure
- Improved governance, policy development and management
- A High Performance Plan implemented
- Collaboration with the OWI
- Increased international judging and Technical Specialist activity
- Inclusive National identity promoted
- Budgets set and met
- The IJS (International Judging System) introduced

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Some of the main priorities are:

- Governance & Management
 - Hire of a CEO
- High Performance (HP)
 - HP 5 year plan
 - Junior Development Program (Oceana)
- Sport Development
 - Re-brand & revitalize Aussie Skate
 - Maximizing national participation and pathways
- Finance
 - National Registration

Continued:-

HP 5 YEAR PAN

The mission is to :

- Identify talent
- Change the culture so that:
 - The community is happy to share
 - Up-skilling occurs regularly
 - A positive environment is created

The Goals are to:

- achieve medals as well as create happy, positive environments where communication and sharing ideas is normal.

ASAS – “AUSTRALIANS SHINE AT SOCCHI” – (2014 WINTER OLYMPICS)

This program was announced and launched at the AGM. The logo was also introduced. ASAS is ISA's 5 year plan, 2009 to 2014, encompassing every ISA National Squad member towards 2014 for the Olympic Winter Games, World Championships, Junior World championships, International Competitions and Oceania Cup (new). The aim is to deliver athletes to the Olympic Winter Institute for 2014 and create the basis to do this again in 2018.

OCEANIA JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This program was announced. It is a joint development between Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Hong Kong for Primary to Novice singles skaters from 2009 to 2011. It aims to fast track skaters to Junior International level and provide competition and up-skilling opportunities.

PAIRS PROGRAM

This is a component of ASAS. It is aimed at achieving placing(s) in the top 5 internationally.

DIRECTION PATHWAY

“The Olympic Pathway starts at Aussie Skate”.

Aussie Skate -> Club -> State Representatives -> ISA ->OWI

The concept is that skaters are introduced to figure skating through the new Aussie Skate program and that those who wish to compete are delivered to the clubs or State Associations for lower level competitions. From there they are delivered to the State Development Programs. The State Representatives are then delivered to ASAS and Oceania where they will come under the ISA umbrella for further opportunities. ISA will deliver the athletes to the OWI for the Olympics or other peak competitions. The delivery at each stage will involve talent identification.

ISA will be looking to the States to help fund these athletes' further development. There will also be an annual registration fee for every club and/or State Association member. There will be a once only registration fee for every Aussie Skate participant. When this is in place there will also be opportunities for grants from the ASC and ISU.

10. The New Aussie Skate

A totally revitalised Aussie Skate program was presented. It is a very exciting and positive change. The publications and resources that will be available with the new course are extensive and very attractive. The new course was tried out in Queensland and was spectacularly successful. There was initial resistance and doubts from the rink managers who didn't think it would work and didn't think families would want to pay the registration fee. This fee is on a par with that charged by other children's sports but to date figure skating has not used the same approach.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course has been adjusted. The approach is more like the USA's 'learn to skate' programs. The lessons are intended to be organized firstly in skill levels and then in age groups. Class size is 8 at most. The lessons are half hour lessons and skaters are able to mix and match these half hour lessons. The lessons occur in 'patches' on the ice and the whole ice area is mapped out. Most skaters in the trial ended up wanting to take 3 lessons a week. E.g. they might come in on a Monday to take their Elements lesson and then do the Stroking class that was scheduled straight after. Then they might come in on Wednesday to do Dance and their practice. At the end of the term the skaters could go in a competition if they wished. This resulted in the biggest ever Aussie Skate competition with those who didn't join in this time planning to join in next time.

MANUALS AND GUIDES

There are new separate manuals for Rinks, Coaches, Competitions and Skaters. There is a Parent guide and a Frequently Asked Questions. The rink manual is particularly impressive and detailed. The 'mud-maps' were interesting and showed how the lessons could be accommodated on the ice surface. It was clear that this new course could result in a very well used ice surface and more opportunities for coaching. The coaches are expected to be accredited and trained in teaching the course.

BADGES ETC

There are new badges, certificates and ribbons.

PROMOTION

The course designers will come to any rink and present the new Aussie Skate course and assist the State Associations with its promotion.

11. Chief Medical Officer and ADCO Report

(A written report only)

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

Markers of Athlete Development (MAD) are being used. These are meant to compare one athlete's development over time and not meant for comparison between athletes.

INJURIES

A database is being planned to record these to allow future recommendations.

INJURY MANAGEMENT

A move to a sport focus approach is recommended rather than just rely on First Aid. Recommended that sports trainers (Level 1) (Sports Medicine Australia) be present at competitions.

Injury follow-up guidelines to be developed.

ADCO (ANTI DOPING CONTROL OFFICER)

The new anti-doping policy was approved by ASADA on Nov 2008 and effective Jan 1.

ISA athletes are currently in the ASADA Domestic Testing Pool and do not have to complete Athlete Whereabouts Forms. None of them are in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP).

12. Judging and Officials

The new panels were released.

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST PANELS

SAISA Technical Specialists are:

Bernadette Mercurio:

Singles – National Level
Synchro – National Level

Robi Chalmers:

Singles – National Level
Dance – International Level
Synchro – International Level

Robi was also nominated for promotion to ISU TS Synch and to attend the Frankfurt Seminar.

JUDGING PANELS

The SA judges are:

Bob Battersby:

National Championships – Novice for Singles, Pairs & Synchro
State Championships – Senior for Singles, Novice for Pairs & Synchro
Tests - Senior for Singles, Novice for Pairs

Tara O'Connor:

National Championships – Novice for Singles
State Championships – Senior for Singles
Tests - Senior for Singles

Ruzena Baranikova:

National Championships – Novice for Singles
State Championships – Senior for Singles
Tests - Senior for Singles

Kelly Binelli:

State Championships – Primary for Singles
Tests - Elementary for Singles

Cathy Dickman

State Championships – Elementary for Singles
Tests - Elementary for Singles

13. Rule Changes/Clarifications

The changes are presented here for your interest only and are not meant as an accurate record of the exact wording of the Rules. Please refer to the ISA website for the Official version of the Rule changes. Clarifications and ISU driven Rule changes are effective immediately, others as indicated.

SYNCHRONISED TEAM SKATING

Rule 1027

This rule has been changed so that the ISA Rules for Novice automatically update when the ISU Rules update.

Reason for change:

This makes the ISA Rules for Novice work in a similar way to the ISA Rules for Junior and Senior Synchro.

Rule 1027 now reads:

“A well-balanced Novice program must contain elements as defined in ISU Communication 1528 and subsequent updates to this communication”

Rules 1031 and 1055

These rules have been amended to reflect changes in ISU rule numbers

Rule 1031 now reads:

MUSIC

1. General
See ISU Rule 905.1(e) & 911.1(p)
2. Additional remarks for Novice and Adult
Music shall be related to the age and ability of the skaters.

Rule 1055 now reads:

TEAM/COACH COMMUNICATION

See also ISU Rule 702.1

Rule 1049

This rule has been amended to remove the requirement for all members of a Senior Synchronized Skating team to have passed the Elementary 1 Technical test.

Reason for change:

Originally the ISA Elementary 1 Technical test required the skater to just perform individual elements but now this Test consists of a singles program performed to music. The ISU technical requirements for Senior Synchro have recently changed so that jumps do not necessarily have to be performed by all team members. In conclusion, the Elementary 1 Technical Test was presented as being of no real benefit to Synchro skaters and its removal as a requirement requested.

Rule 1049 now reads:

SENIOR SYNCHRONIZED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP OF AUSTRALIA

Participation in a Senior Synchronized Skating Championship of Australia shall be open to members of a State Association in a team.

1. All members of a Senior National Championship team must have passed the ISA Elementary 2 Pattern Test or the Elementary 2 Dance,

ICE DANCE

Rule 337

The dances to be skated at States and Nationals for the selected group will now be pre-defined in the rulebook.

Reason for change:

Each year the compulsory dance group is selected by the rotation listed in the ISA rulebook. Then, for Primary and Novice, two Dances were drawn just before a competition from the three dances available in the group. After this year's Rule change there will no longer be the draw. All Dances will be performed at some stage during the year. One Dance will be skated at all competitions. A second Dance will be selected for Nationals only and the third Dance will be skated at the other Competitions. These are set, as shown below, so all dancers will know what they need to perform at each event. The more difficult dances are skated at Nationals.

Rule 337 now will read:

COMPULSORY DANCES FOR ELEMENTARY, PRE-PRIMARY, PRIMARY & NOVICE

The group for competition to be announced annually:

a) Elementary

- Group (1) Dutch Waltz, Canasta Tango
- Group (2) Dutch Waltz, Fiesta Tango
- Group (3) Dutch Waltz, Swing Dance

b) Pre-Primary

- Group (1) Canasta Tango, Fourteen Step
- Group (2) Swing Dance, European Waltz
- Group (3) Fiesta Tango, Foxtrot

c) Primary

- Group (1) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. European Waltz, Silver Samba
National Championships Silver Samba, Blues
- Group (2) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. Foxtrot, Cha Cha Congelado
National Championships Cha Cha Congelado, Tango
- Group (3) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. Fourteen Step, Starlight Waltz
National Championships Rocker Foxtrot, Starlight Waltz

d) Novice

- Group (1) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. American Waltz, Quickstep
National Championships Rocker Foxtrot, Quickstep
- Group (2) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. Blues, Paso Doble
National Championships Paso Doble, Starlight Waltz
- Group (3) Club, State and Interstate Competitions. Tango, Kilian
National Championships Kilian, Westminster Waltz

COMPULSORY DANCES FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR

Refer ISU Rule 607

REQUIREMENTS AND MARKING

Refer ISU Rule 608

Continued:-

ICE DANCE cont.

Rule 419

This rule is amended to clarify the pass mark required for the all tests in Rule 419.

Reason for change:

The marking will now align with how compulsory dances are judged at competitions. The Test sheets will also be amended to include the sequences and steps that the dances require.

Pass Marks

Each dance is evaluated independently as a Pass or Fail; a pass cannot be awarded if more than one **sequence** of a dance has a GOE of -3

SOLO DANCE

Rule 601 paragraph 20

This was changed to clarify entry requirements for Elementary and Pre-Primary events.

Reason for change:

Up to the present, a skater who had passed the Elementary 2 Dance Test could choose to either skate “down” in the Elementary section or skate “up” in the Primary section.

Now, it should be clear that those who have passed the Elementary 2 Dance Test should enter Pre-Primary events.

Please refer to ISA website for the release and exact wording of this clarification.

TESTS - PASS MARKS FOR SINGLES

Rule 409

The wording is ‘tweaked’ to clarify the pass marks required for the Tests (Primary, Novice, Junior & Senior).

Effective immediately the Rule reads:

‘The assessment will take into consideration the grade of execution of the elements and the program components in determining a pass or fail. *The program components must be to a fair standard throughout the program.*

A pass cannot be awarded if more than one element has a GOE of -3 *or more than 2 elements have a GOE of -2.*

INTERMEDIATE SINGLES – Men and Ladies

Rule 525 (effective for all competitions after 1 September 2009)

This Rule has been changed to clarify that Intermediate is a section for skaters who have passed their Primary Test but are aged 14 years or over and so are no longer eligible for Primary.

Reason for change:

Intermediate was never intended to be a “stepping stone” to Novice. It is only meant for those skaters 14 years and over who have passed Primary. The Primary section is for those who have passed Primary but have not reached the age of 14 years by the required date. The Rule change will separate out those two groups and prevent over 14 year olds having to compete against the younger skaters who really could do the Novice Test and move up.

So:

- If a skater is aged 13, before 1st July, they will compete in Primary (even if they have their 14th birthday on 2nd July or after, because on the 1st July they are only 13).
- If a skater is aged 14 before the 1st July (e.g. 30th June or earlier), they will compete in Intermediate.

Rule 525 will read, after 1st Sep 2009:

INTERMEDIATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS OF AUSTRALIA

Participation in an Intermediate Singles Championship shall be open to a member of a State Association who has:

1. Passed the primary level test or its equivalent, but not higher at the close of entries:
2. Reached the age of fourteen (14) by 1 July in the year in which the event takes place.

Rule 310 and Rule 320 (effective for all competitions after 1 September 2009)

To reinforce the clarification that Intermediate is a division for the Primary level skater aged 14 years and over, the requirements for Intermediate are made the same as Primary. This will allow the 14 year old to continue competing without having to change their program.

These Rules will read the same as the respective Primary Rules for both required elements and program lengths.

PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY SINGLES – Men and Ladies

Rule 320 (effective for all competitions after 1 September 2009 or earlier if agreed)

These changes are intended to standardise the elements performed in the Free Skate through all the divisions

Reason for change:

Currently the ladies perform a spiral sequence but do not perform a step sequence until Novice. It is intended to leave the short program as is with the ladies performing the spiral sequence, but in the free skate they will need to do a step sequence.

Rule 320 will then include:

Pre-Primary and Primary Well Balanced Program

A well-balanced Free Skating program must contain:

- Maximum of 6 jump elements (one of which must be an Axel type jump);
- Maximum of 3 spins, one of which must be a spin combination, one a flying spin and one a spin with only one position;
- Maximum of 1 step sequence (Men and Ladies)

ADULT SKATING – Men and Ladies

Rule 360 and 601, paragraph 25.

Requirements for Adult competitions have been changed to be the same as those used by the ISU in its sanctioned Adult competitions.

Reason for change:

This will make it easier for those skaters who compete in Adult competitions in Australia to be able to compete in the ISU sanctioned adult competitions overseas. The changes will be to the familiar Master, Gold, Silver and Bronze system of events. In Australia, the age restrictions will be 16 years or older to 71 years of age before July 1st, preceding the competition.

Rule 360 and Rule 601, paragraph 25 will be completely replaced with the proposed changes.

SAISA members who would like to read what the Rules will look like and what the Adult competition requirements look like can download the Announcement for the International Adult Figure Skating Competition 2009 in Obersdorf, Germany May 28 – May 31.

The link is provided here (you will need to copy and paste it into your browser).

The Announcement (as a '.pdf') is also on the SAISA website for your convenience.

<http://www.isu.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,4844-162197-179412-nav-list,00.html>