



### A Sincere Thank You to All Officials!



On behalf of the Officials Assignment and Promotion Committee (OAP) as well as Skate Canada, we are very grateful for your participation in the various online educational sessions and section run competitions this past season. Your continued dedication to make our events of 2024 Skate Canada Challenge (Junior/Senior) in Winnipeg, 2024 Canadian National Skating Championships in Calgary, 2024 Skate Canada Challenge (Pre-Novice/Novice) in Oakville, and 2024 Novice Canadian Championships & Skate Canada Cup in Waterloo, as well as all other events you may have served at, a success, is very much appreciated!

## 2023-2024 SEASON

### 2023 Toronto Synchro Seminar

*"Skate Canada hosted an ISU approved Synchronized Skating Seminar in September 2023. All Canadian International and ISU Synchro Judges and Referees were available to attend, as well as a few National level officials that were invited to attend. We also had some of our friends from the US in attendance. It was a lively weekend with great discussions and very interactive component exercises and workshops. We thank Philippe Maitrot and Massimo Orlandini for moderating the weekend and enlightening us with all the latest updates for the season". – Karen Robertson, ISU Technical Controller and Judge*

### 2023-2024 Challenge – Junior/Senior and Pre-Novice/Novice



This season marked the second time that Skate Canada hosted two separate Challenge events. Held in Winnipeg and Oakville respectively, these competitions brought together officials, athletes, and spectators from across the country. The expertise and dedication of our officials continue to be a key contributor to the success of our Challenge events.

*"Having the opportunity to be the Assistant Technical Representative at the 2023-2024 Skate Canada Challenge - Pre-Novice/Novice event in Oakville was incredibly beneficial to my development as an official.*

*I worked closely with Tech Rep Brenda Hart and the Skate Canada staff Mollie Trainor and Beth Liverman in the lead up and during the event to plan for a seamless experience for the athletes, coaches and officials on-site. This was my first experience as a Tech Rep at a national competition, so getting the experience to better understand the operations and logistics of a national event, including the procedures of judges and tech panels before and at the event, was very insightful.*

*It was awesome to see many of the skaters and coaches who were also experiencing their first national event take in the excitement, which was a highlight of the experience for me!" – Maggie Aziz, Assistant Technical Representative, 2023-2024 Skate Canada Challenge - Pre-Novice/Novice*



## **2024 Novice Canadian Championship and Canada Cup**



The 2024 Novice Canadian Championships and Skate Canada Cup were a great success in Waterloo. The LOC, volunteers, and officials all contributed to a memorable event. It's always exciting to see Canadian Champions crowned and personal bests set. As always, synchro brought a wonderful atmosphere to the venue. It's always great to see spectators, skaters and officials all having fun.

*"It was a pleasure to serve as Technical Representative in Waterloo, ON. A great team of officials, Skate Canada staff and very dedicated*

*local organizing committee volunteers contributed to a very successful event. It was a privilege to witness the performances at the Novice level and know that many of these athletes will go on to reach higher levels and goals in the sport. Canada has a bright future ahead with the talent emerging at this level. I also want to give a shout out to the Synchro community for the energy and vibe they bring when they are in the house! Special nod to the Synchro Dads and their amazing outfits!*

*Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and expertise. We can not stage these events without you!*  
*Brenda Hart, Lead Technical Representative, 2024 Novice Canadian Championships and Canada Cup"*

## **2024 Canadian National Skating Championships- Junior/Senior**



The 2024 Canadian National Championships returned in full force with the top Junior and Senior figure skaters and teams competing for the National title. Thank you to all the officials and volunteers that made this Championships a success.

*"This year's Skate Canada National Championships hosted in Calgary, AB was an electrifying event. The athletes were ready to have their best skating efforts on display after having success internationally this season and with the World Championship at home in Montreal. The frigid temperatures did not cool the competition with many*

*outstanding and memorable programs. I left the rink at the end of the week inspired by the incredible level of skating displayed. Piper Gilles and Paul Poirier returned with an electrifying program and regained their national dance title. Les Suprêmes teams claimed both the Junior and Senior titles, and a number of skaters got to stand on their first national podium. An achievement they will never forget. The most electric moment, without a doubt, was watching Kaiya Ruiter perform an incredible program and claim her first Senior National Championship in front of her hometown crowd. This year's National Championships was an outstanding exhibition of the depth of skating across our country. Skating fans were treated to an outstanding event and will be cheering on our athletes as they move onto their next competition and into the next season."*  
*Deidre Coburn, Technical Representative, 2024 Canadian National Skating Championships- Junior/Senior*



### **Senior Elite 12 Added to Skate Canada Cup Canadians**

As an exciting addition to 2024 Skate Canada Cup, the event hosted Senior Elite 12 Synchronized Skating teams for the first time. Spectators filled the stands to watch the teams of this new category take the ice.

*“Waterloo, Ontario was our gracious host for another wonderful week of competition, uniting and showcasing the achievements of all figure skating disciplines in Canada.*

*NEXXICE, silver medalists at the 2024 French Cup International Synchronized Skating competition in Rouen, France, made history as the first Senior Elite 12 Canadian National Champions.*

*Skate Canada continues to lead the way in providing inclusive opportunities to promote Synchronized Skating alongside all disciplines. The Senior Elite 12 division, conceived by the ISU as Synchronized Skating’s key to entry and inclusion in the Olympic Games, was added to the 2024 Novice Canadian Championships/ Skate Canada Cup event.*

*The Novice, Gold (Intermediate), and Open teams, along with everyone in attendance and those who were watching on Skate Canada’s subscription-free livestream, were treated to Short Program and Free Skating Program performances by the NEXXICE, the gold medalists, representing Ontario and Black Gold Elite 12, the silver medalists, representing Alberta-Northwest Territories/Nunavut.*

*While creating a square is not the same with 12 as it is for 16, the innovation and creativity shown by the Senior Elite 12 division may help shape the future of the sport, paving the way for athletes and making the Olympic dream a reality. #WhyNotSynchro” – Cynthia Alepin*

### **Honouring of Beth Crane, Marion Dyke, Jamie McGrigor-**



The OAP continues to honour retiring international officials. At the 2024 Canadian National Skating Championships, we gathered to celebrate the officiating careers of two outstanding officials, Marion Dyke and Jamie McGrigor; at Novice Nationals, we celebrated Beth Crane’s esteemed career as an official.



*“Marion’s lifelong passion for Synchronized Skating and her skill set as an official, led to many years of volunteering in Canada and throughout the world as an International Referee and Judge. Jamie was certified as ISU Technical Specialist in Singles and Pairs in the first group of Technical Specialists trained by the ISU. He has seen the ISU Judging system evolve from the get-go and is highly respected around the globe for his integrity and incredible knowledge and teamwork on technical panels. Karen Robertson and Ted Barton each gave heartwarming speeches thanking Marion and Jamie for their work and friendship.*

*At the 2024 Skate Canada Novice Nationals in Waterloo, the celebration was for retiring ISU Referee, Judge and Technical Controller, Beth Crane...although Beth prefers to think of this as her graduation! As many will know, Beth has been an advocate for officials education throughout her career and her personal mandate for collaboration and sharing of knowledge has benefited officials worldwide. Of course, Beth wanted something FUN...Robin Forsythe and Devan Nychka delivered to a T with an entertaining game of Kahoot. As Pam Chislett so aptly put it, “we shared everyone’s appreciation for Beth being Beth!” At each celebration, Skate Canada President Karen Butcher presented each of these outstanding officials with a gift from Skate Canada.*  
– Janice Hunter

*“This year we had the pleasure of celebrating the outstanding contribution of our officials on two separate occasions. At the National Championships, we celebrated Marion Dyke and Jamie McGrigor. Karen Robertson and Ted Barton led us in lovely speeches outlining the remarkable contributions of these wonderful individuals. At Novice Nationals we celebrated Beth Crane with an entertaining game of Kahoot, and Beth had us in tears with her funny stories from her officiating career. I know all the skaters, coaches, and officials across the country join me in thanking Marion, Jamie and Beth for all their years as officials at the international level”. - Laura Baker, Senior Manager Performance Excellence and Officials.*

#### **Dr. Jodi Abbott – Order of Canada**



*We are very proud to share that the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, bestowed upon Dr. Jodi Abbott the Order of Canada. This is a testament to the incredible contributions that Jodi has made in the fields of healthcare, post-secondary education, figure skating and community building.*

*“The Order of Canada is how our country honours those who make extraordinary contributions to our nation. The contributions of such trailblazers are varied yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country. Their grit and passion inspire us, teach us, and show us the way forward. They exemplify the orders motto: DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM (‘They desire a better country’) “. - Governor General of Canada – Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon.*

Please join us in congratulating Jodi on this incredible accomplishment, one of the highest orders of recognition in Canada.





## **Worlds Officials Development Program 2024**



Skate Canada hosted an Officials Development Program at the 2024 ISU World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal, Quebec. Ten officials were selected by the OAP committee and supported by their section to participate in this program, facilitated by Susan Heffernan, Karen Howard, Nicole LeBlanc-Richard, Janice Hunter and Laura Baker. The program provided candidates with exposure to live international level pairs, singles, and ice dance skating with the intention of further developing knowledge of pairs, singles, and ice dance as multi-discipline officials. Guest speakers included ISU delegates, international coaches and judges from around the world. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this program.

*"We cannot express how deeply grateful we are for running a stellar Worlds Officials Program. The calibre of the facilitators and guests was unparalleled. The immersive Program examined every facet of judging and greatly expanded our approach to being an official. Individually and collectively, we learned so much. We are acutely aware of the cost of this Program and feel extremely honoured and humbled that Skate Canada would provide such outstanding resources as we grow in our development. Thank you for your incredible and beautifully executed investment – we are all eternally grateful".*

*- Kristy Balkwill, Worlds Program Participant and International Ice Dance Technical Specialist.*

*"I feel so honoured and grateful to have been part of this program. The opportunities for learning were abundant - from our wonderful facilitators, exceptional guest speakers, the opportunities to trial judge, and of course our learnings from each other. The event was world class as was the program; the value of this experience cannot be measured. I look forward to counting to develop and grow as a community".*

*- Erin Chellew, Worlds Program Participant and Canadian Judge.*

*"It was an informative and inspiring week that I will remember and cherish forever. The detail and thought put into each of our sessions and how they would enhance our development and learning as officials was spot on and sincerely appreciated. From the expertise shared by each and every speaker, to the engaging and enjoyable hands-on sessions, all topped off with the opportunity to trial judge the top skaters in the world; it was a week of inspiration and enlightenment for which I am truly grateful. To our incredible facilitators and to Skate Canada and everyone involved in arranging this enriching experience, thank you. With sincere appreciation."*

*- Shannon Downing, Worlds Program Participant and Challenge Judge.*



**2023-24 Exam Candidates:**

This year we had numerous successful exams at our domestic events and would like to congratulate the candidates:

Alvin Chau	Challenge Dance Technical Specialist
Christine Bourdeau	Challenge Pairs Judge
Kristy Balkwill	Challenge Dance Judge
Laura Carr	Challenge Singles Technical Controller
Ethan Swinburnson	Challenge Dance Referee
Karine Boisclair	Challenge Singles Judge
Robin Forsyth	Challenge Singles Technical Specialist
Josh Diacur	Challenge Singles Judge
Angela Tremblay	Challenge Pairs Judge
Genevieve Rosa	Challenge Pairs Technical Controller
Elisabeth Higgins	Challenge Singles Technical Specialist

Erin Chellew	Canadian Singles and Pairs Judge
Hilary Quick	Canadian Singles and Pairs Judge
Laura Robertson-Binder	Canadian Synchronized Skating Judge
Karine Sauvageau	Canadian Synchronized Skating Judge
Ron Conacher	Canadian Dance Referee
Genevieve Rosa	Canadian Singles Technical Controller
Kevin Reynolds	Canadian Singles Technical Specialist
Reaghan Fortin	Canadian Singles and Pairs Referee
Trevor Crowe	Canadian Pairs Judge
Robin Forsyth	Canadian Pairs Technical Specialist
Karen Laurin	Canadian Synchronized Skating Technical Specialist
William Lindsay	Canadian Singles Judge



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**Message from Janice Hunter OAP Chair**

As we end the 2023-2024 season, I thank all who officiated at Skate Canada domestic events and who continue to volunteer in their Section. Your dedication to the sport and your own ongoing development as officials is a crucial piece in the smooth running of events in our country.

In year two as OAP Chair, I employed my navigation system a little more effectively...and following up to my message last year at this time, I am pleased to say that my jigsaw puzzle went from 3,000 pieces to 1,000 and I feel pretty sure that I didn't leave any pieces under the table! It was busy as usual with many Teams meetings with officials, committees, and my right hand in all of this, Laura Baker. The goals meetings that are offered biennially have proved to be a great way for me to meet officials across the country and to not only put a face to a name, but also an engaging personality. Although the All-Officials call is not the same as being together in a room, I do appreciate the fact that so many people joined, and it was nice to 'see' and hear from you. At this time, I think it is important to reiterate some of messaging from last year as it is ongoing and important. Please do your best to take ownership of your own pathway - whether that means staying at current level, advancing, training in a new discipline, or even taking on a new role. Keep track of your activity and don't expect your section office and/or national office to do this for you. For starters, taking a photo of the officials list at a competition is a good way to keep track.

If at any time if you have questions or want to make us aware of specific needs, please feel free to contact myself and Laura Baker so we both have the same information.

I would like to thank the OAP committee members for their thoughtful input and engaged discussion during committee meetings; as well, Laura Baker and her efficient support staff. Our officials community is in good hands with the involvement of such a committed group.

I look forward to next season and maybe my jigsaw puzzle will make it to 500 pieces 😊

Sincerely,  
Janice Hunter



## Looking ahead...

As we look forward to the 2024-2025 season, here is a snapshot of some of the OAP's plans:



### **Frankfurt Practice Training Sessions**

In preparation for the 2024 Frankfurt Seminar, Skate Canada is organizing Virtual Practice sessions for our Frankfurt-bound officials. Our facilitator, Beth Crane, will be providing these officials with a practice and training opportunity prior to their exams.



### **Individual Feedback**

As a result of numerous requests from officials, the OAP intends to summarize any critical feedback submitted in referee and TC reports, as well as in evaluation surveys to individual officials. This will provide officials with individualized information to grow and develop their officiating skills.



### **Skate Canada Trophy**

Skate Canada is pleased to announce a new national event – the Skate Canada Trophy – as part of the 2024-2025 competition season. This event will bring together the former Novice Canadian Championships and Skate Canada Challenge – Pre-Novice/Novice events under one umbrella.



### **Event Reports and Performance Feedback**

Referees and Technical Controllers are required to complete a report for each event at domestic competitions. This report provides an opportunity for them to give feedback and recommendations to the Skate Canada Event Team on logistics as well as to OAP on the officiating performances of the judging/technical panels. I would like to again take this opportunity to share with you below the criteria used on these two reports:





### INDIVIDUAL RATINGS

Using the rating scale listed below, please provide a rating for each of the judges/technical members on your panels for this event. Consider the following under each category:

**Technical Skills:**

**Judges:** Understanding of rules, integration of quality in GOE assessments, effective use of positive GOE's, accuracy of reductions, appropriate assignment of PC scores, reflects PC differences when warranted

**Technical Panel:** Understanding of technical knowledge/rules, calling process, review process, team work.

**Leadership/Deportment:** Self-management during competition and ability to manage stress, open-mindedness to other opinions, acts appropriately in situations, interacts well and/or demonstrates respect for athletes, officials, SC staff, volunteers, stakeholders

**M-**Meeting expectations of judging level of this event  
\*no comment necessary or per referee's/TC's discretion

**U-**Unsure of ability/skill set/deportment at this event  
\*please provide comments for the OAP committee

The objective of this performance management aspect of the event report is to watch for a pattern and not a "one off" bad day, which can happen to any of us. With the goal of transparency of these reports, the OAP feels it is important to share this with all Challenge and higher-level officials. If a pattern is noted throughout a competition, the OAP will provide the individual official with this feedback once all reports have been received, as well as provide them with suggestions on how to address the areas of development.

**Again, we thank you for your dedication to our sport, and your tremendous efforts throughout the year.  
Sincerely,**

***The Officials Assignment and Promotion Committee of the 2023-24 season***

**Chair:** Janice Hunter

**Members:** Jodi Abbott, Cynthia Alepin, Jennifer Betts, Andrea Derby, Raoul Leblanc, Nicole Leblanc-Richard, Gregor MacLean

**Skate Canada Staff:** Debra Armstrong, Laura Baker, Mike Slipchuk, Shae Zukiwsky, Mollie Trainor, Pavlo Khimich