



### 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 2024/25 Skate Canada Challenge in Winnipeg, 2025 Canadian National Skating Championships in Laval, 2025 Skate Canada Trophy in Edmonton, and 2025 Skate Canada Cup in Waterloo, as well as all other events you may have served at, a success, is very much appreciated!

## 2024-2025 SEASON

### 2024-2025 Challenge



This season marked the third time that Skate Canada hosted Challenge in Winnipeg. This competition brings together coaches, 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 event.

*“Serving as the Technical Representative at the 2024–2025 Skate Canada Challenge in Winnipeg was both exciting and insightful. Working closely under the guidance of my Co-Tech Representative, Sheila Beard, and Skate Canada staff, including Mollie Trainor and Beth Liverman, gave me a deeper appreciation for the planning and teamwork required to stage a national-level event. Sheila’s leadership and instruction were invaluable as we managed a two-rink setup, coordinated practice groups, and refined flood schedules to ensure a seamless experience for everyone on-site. One of the highlights was actively collaborating with the dedicated Data Specialist team led by Lyse Prendergast to effectively handle scoring and technical issues. It was also inspiring to witness the enthusiasm of skaters—especially those competing at this level for the first time—discovering the excitement of a national stage. I’m truly thankful for the commitment of all volunteers, officials, and LOC members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to deliver a high-quality event. This experience reminded me why I love being involved in figure skating and how each challenge offers a chance to learn and grow.” - Dingding Liu, Technical Representative.*



### Officials Trial Judge Program 2024

Skate Canada hosted a Trial Judge Program at the 2024-25 Skate Canada Challenge in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The purpose of this program was for officials to gain reports in the Singles and Pairs discipline, and to give smaller sections the opportunity to provide officials experience in disciplines that may not be well represented within their own section. Thirteen officials representing seven sections participated in this



program facilitated by Leslie Keen with support from Glenn Fortin. Participants were also provided the opportunity to sit in on pre-event meetings, and participated in a Music Foundations workshop. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this program.

*"The Challenge Trial judge program has been invaluable to my development as an official. Being able to learn from ISU judges and discuss new concepts with other members of the program has strengthened my knowledge and confidence. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the program." - Braden Davie, Trial Judge Program Participant, Senior Singles Judge, and Novice Pairs Judge.*

*"My experience at the 2024-2025 Skate Canada Challenge – Junior/Senior Trial Judge Program in Winnipeg was incredibly valuable for my development as an official. The music workshop led by Leslie helped my component marks, and the trial judge experience led by Leslie and Glenn allowed me to immediately apply these learnings to a diverse range of Pairs and Singles skaters at the event. Additionally, the opportunity to network with and learn from experienced judges at both the Challenge, National and International levels was instrumental in my growth. Overall, the experience helped build my confidence in judging at a high-performance level. A big thanks to Skate Canada and Skate Ontario for providing this amazing opportunity!" - Maggie Aziz, Trial Judge Program Participant, Senior Singles Judge, and Senior Pairs Judge.*

## **Skate Canada Trophy**



The 2025 Skate Canada Trophy was a great success in Edmonton. This was the first year that Pre-Novice and Novice competitors qualified straight from their section events. For many athletes this was their first time at a national event, and it was a busy week for all! The LOC, volunteers, and officials all contributed to a memorable event. It's always exciting to see Novice Canadian Champions crowned and Pre Novice skaters achieve their personal bests. Thank you to a great group of officials, volunteers and athletes for a successful event.

*"Serving alongside Brenda Hart as Technical Representatives at Skate Canada Trophy was a rewarding experience, made possible by the hard work and dedication of officials, Skate Canada staff, and an outstanding local organizing committee. The passion and skill displayed by these young athletes were truly inspiring, a testament to the strength of our sport's future. Witnessing their growth and determination firsthand is a reminder of why we do what we do — supporting the next generation as they chase their dreams on the ice." - Deirdre Coburn, Co-Lead Technical Representative.*



## **Canadian National Skating Championships**



The 2025 Canadian National Championships returned in full force with the top Junior and Senior skaters and teams competing for National titles. It was very exciting to have such a great crowd in attendance as it fuels the athletes AND the officials! Thank you to all the officials and volunteers that made this Championships a success.

*“A chance to be a part of the Skate Canada National Championships is always an incredible experience, and this year was no exception. A sold-out crowd helped create an electric atmosphere as they cheered and celebrated every performance. From matching T-shirts to large signs and tons of stuff animals, it was amazing to watch skaters and teams' deliver phenomenal performances. Some memorable moments included Anthony Paradis captivating the crowd with a mesmerizing skate, the ice dance team of Alicia Fabbri and Paul Ayer celebrating a fabulous skate with an entire section of fans cheering extra loud for them, and Katherine Medland-Spence continue her seasons success with her first national medal. With repeat champions climbing to the top of the podium in the senior events, and new ones ascending to the top in the junior ranks, the future of skating in Canada is bright. This week left me inspired and honoured to have witnessed what great skating our nation has to show on the world stage. With the 2026 Olympics only a year away, this year's championships have set the stage for an equally exhilarating National championships in Gatineau next year.” - Sarah Miles, Lead Technical Representative.*

## **2025 Skate Canada Cup**



The Skate Canada Cup returned to Waterloo for another year with Gold, Novice and Open level events. This event showcased exceptional teamwork, precision, and artistry, as teams from across Canada came to compete for national titles.

*“Team spirit is alive and well in Synchro! Having the great honour to serve as Technical Representative with the team in Waterloo, Ontario for the Skate Canada Cup, I was witness to the spirit of the sport on all levels. Much like a musical ensemble, each group played its part to create a harmonious event; from the planning team that started months before anyone was on site, to the amazing group working behind the scenes on setup and teardown, our wonderful volunteers with the local organizing committee, the talented crew of officials, the spirited fans in the crowd (how do those “Synchro Dad’s” keep outdoing themselves?), and of course the amazing competitors on the ice. Each*



*group came together for the symphonic crescendo of the skaters' competitive season! The heartfelt emotion and gratitude I witnessed from the skaters is a testament to the incredible work of every individual who made this event possible—it's a joy to pass those feelings along to everyone who played a part.” - Justin Woodley, Lead Technical Representative.*

### **Honouring of Lorna Schroder, Karen Robertson and Debbie MacMurdo**



The OAP continues to honour retiring officials. At the 2025 Canadian National Skating Championships, we gathered to celebrate the officiating careers of three outstanding officials, Lorna Schroder, Karen Robertson and Deborah MacMurdo. Skate Canada President Karen Butcher thanked them for their significant contributions and presented each with a gift from Skate Canada.

*“Debbie's contributions as an international technical representative/liaison/on-ice manager at many, many events were appreciated where her leadership was fueled by integrity, commitment and passion. Lorna's officiating career has spanned over 50 years at the Section, National and International level. Her passion for skating, her laughter and comradery have made her a valued colleague on many judging panels across the country and the world. Karen had an extensive career as an ISU Official in Synchronized Skating - most notably as a Technical Controller and Judge. She is best known for her quiet leadership, technical knowledge and passion for contributing to the promotion of the discipline.” - Karen Howard, Reaghan Fortin and Jennifer Betts.*

*I was so pleased to be present at this evening of celebration. Honouring these three very different individuals, all leaders who have contributed immensely to the development of our sport and officials, was a wonderful way to start the National Skating Championships. Their dedication and commitment for so many years is evidence of true love of the sport. The laughter and tears that filled the room, evidence of the respect and friendship they have garnered from their peers. Congratulations and thank you, Karen, Lorna and Debbie!” - Janice Hunter, OAP Chair.*

### **2025 Vancouver ISU Officials Seminar**



Skate Canada and US Figure Skating hosted a joint ISU Singles and Pairs, and Ice Dance Judge and Referee Seminar in Vancouver, British Columbia from April 10 - 15. International and national officials from both countries came together in Vancouver to learn from ISU Technical Committee Members in Singles, Pair, and Ice Dance. Canada's Karen Howard was the ISU Program Components Moderator at this seminar.





## **2024-25 Exam Candidates**

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

Emmanuel Chauvin	Challenge Singles Judge
Keiko Marshall	Challenge Singles Judge
Darren Bogle	Challenge Pairs Judge
Erin Chellew	Challenge Dance Judge
Sabrina Wong	Challenge Singles and Pairs Referee
Erica Topolski	Challenge Dance Referee
Limin Jao	Challenge Singles Technical Controller
Mark Scott	Challenge Pairs Technical Specialist

Trevor Crowe	Canadian Singles Judge
William Lindsay	Canadian Pairs Judge
Brett Hines	Canadian Ice Dance Judge
Genevieve Rosa	Canadian Ice Dance Judge
Andre-Marc Allain	Canadian Singles and Pairs Referee
Veronique Gosselin	Canadian Pairs Technical Controller
Ethan Swinburnson	Canadian Ice Dance Technical Controller
Rebecca Zylberstein	Canadian Synchronized Skating Technical Specialist



### **Message from Janice Hunter OAP Chair**

As we end the 2024-2025 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. For those of you who also officiate internationally, thank you for your additional time away and for your willingness to be assigned as substitute judges should the need arise.

I am continuing my messaging theme from year one and year two as OAP Chair. In year three I successfully installed an update to my personal navigation system which I was most grateful for! I am pleased to say that my jigsaw puzzle became a more manageable 500 pieces, although I did find a few under the table throughout the year – clearly my update was not as efficient as MicroSoft! It was busy as usual with many Teams meetings with officials, committees, and my right hand in all of this, Laura Baker. This past season Skate Canada offered section outreach for officials' development opportunities. Each section is unique in their needs and many different sessions took place, such as Music and Movement, Program Components, Referee seminars to name a few. Thank you to our skilled facilitators for your time and expertise. The feedback from the sections has been overwhelmingly positive and this initiative will continue next season. Goals meetings with officials will move to a quadrennial timeline with the next ones being offered in the 2026-2027 season.

At this time, I will again 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 feel that we have missed something, or if you want to make us aware of specific needs, please feel free to contact myself and Laura Baker so we both have the same information and can cross-check follow up, so it does not get missed.

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 official's community is in good hands with the involvement of such a committed group.

I look forward to my final year as OAP Chair and I will be happy if my jigsaw puzzle stays at 500 pieces 😊

Sincerely,  
Janice Hunter



## Looking ahead...

As we look forward to the 2025-2026 season, here is a snapshot of some of the OAP's plans:



### **Singles Pathway**

The new Senior Section Level Singles Judge pathway will be delivered to new Learning Facilitators May 22-25 in Toronto. Thank you to Reaghan Fortin, Sheila Beard, and Trevor Crowe for their work to update the materials, as well as the external review group who provided valuable feedback on the eLearning materials. The course will be formally launched in June 2025.



### **Ice Dance Pathway**

The new Senior Section Level Ice Dance Judge pathway will be delivered to new Learning Facilitators June 19-22 in Toronto. Following the Toronto Training, the course will be piloted in four sections: British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada (Nova Scotia). Thank you to Hilary Quick, Leslie Lawrence, and Ethan Swinburnson for their time and effort to develop the materials, as well as the external review group who have provided valuable feedback on the eLearning materials. The course will be formally launched in July 2025.



### **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. We 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, teamwork.

**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. To increase transparency, a "pattern" is defined as receiving a U rating in either two events in a row or two seasons in a row.

**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 2024-25 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