



SKATE CANADA'S OFFICIALS ASSIGNMENT AND PROMOTION COMMITTEE UPDATE

261 - 1200 St. Laurent Blvd. (Box 15) Ottawa, ON Canada K1K 3B8
SkateCanada.ca - PatinageCanada.ca

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 contributions to domestic events in the 2019-2020 season. Your continued dedication to make our events of 2020 Skate Canada Challenge in Edmonton, 2020 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Mississauga, 2020 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Calgary, as well as all other events you may have served at, a success, is very much appreciated! Without the time and effort that each of you commit to our wonderful sport, these events could not function and provide an optimal competitive environment for our athletes.

2019-2020 SEASON

It seems hard to remember the rest of the season, when our current thoughts are engulfed with the Covid-19 Pandemic. As you know, Skate Canada was to host the 2020 ISU World Figure Skating Championships, which was cancelled due to Covid-19. I can assure you, this event would have been the best of the best, and the world would have been impressed! I know Skate Canada looks forward to the opportunity to host this great Championship again. The situation with Covid-19 is fluid, and therefore so is our skating calendar. As such, be sure to check the Skate Canada website for the latest information on events and Covid-19.

Covid-19

In difficult times, an opportunity to say thank you

In these uncertain times for our organization, our communities and our world, we want to assure our Skate Canada family that we are all in this together.

Thank you for taking the necessary precautions to limit the spread of Covid-19. By working together and going the extra mile, as an organization and as neighbours, we **can** make a difference.

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It is hard to believe that just a few short weeks ago we were preparing to welcome the world to Montreal for the ISU World Figure Skating Championships® 2020.

To the athletes, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers and fans from all over the world, we are grateful for all your hard work and dedication in the three years of planning leading up to the World Championships, one we know would have been a tremendous success. When our lives return to normal and the doors once again open in rinks from coast-to-coast-to-coast, we will look back on Montreal 2020 as the greatest skating event that never happened.

Our world has changed since then. Right now, we are facing a reality that not only transcends sports, but our everyday lives. Like the rest of the world, we are adjusting and adapting to suit the situation. We have risen to the challenge with flexibility, resilience and compassion, and will continue to do so for as long as we must. In difficult times comes an opportunity to be there for each other, help each other and care for each other. It is also a time reflect and be grateful.

To the world's best skaters, thank you for inspiring us by showing that in order to grow stronger, we must, at one time, conquer adversity.

To all sections, clubs, skating schools, coaches and officials at every level, thousands of Skate Canada volunteers, office staff and fans from all over the world, thank you for your dedication to our sport, our athletes and our organization.

Our thoughts are with all those affected in communities not only in Canada, but around the world. We are grateful for the healthcare workers, first responders and others on the front line. It is truly in times like these in which heroes are born.

This is an unprecedented time for all of us. There is no playbook to refer to. We need to follow the lead of our government officials and health care authorities and do our part to overcome this challenging time. And even at this difficult hour, we must remember this is temporary. Our lives and our organization will return to normal. We will learn from this and be stronger for it.

Until then, be safe and be there for each other.

From all of us at Skate Canada, stay healthy and **#StayHome**.

Brighter days are ahead. And we will get through this together.

Source: <https://skatecanada.ca/covid-19-response/>

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What happened at the Event: 2020 Challenge in Edmonton



Challenge brought together officials from coast to coast. As always, we are grateful for the officials at this event, as days are long, events are long, but we always find the time to have some fun!



It was wonderful to work with new people on panel and see old friends after the event. It's nice to grow into this new level of officiating and feel part of the group on all levels"
Devan Nychka, Challenge Technical Specialist

Honouring of Susan Blatz



The OAP continued to honour retired officials this past season. At the 2020 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships, Sue Blatz was honoured by the officials' community for her long-time dedication to the sport. Sue was as an ISU Judge and International Referee. Paul MacIntosh, Skate Canada Coach, eloquently described Sue in a beautiful speech. Below is an excerpt of this speech.



"What truly has made Susan special is her unwavering belief in putting the skaters first. She is always the first person in the rink and the last one out. Always the first to volunteer to fill the spots that others could not and always willing to sacrifice herself for the good of the skaters or fellow officials. As a result, she has spent countless hours on the development of skaters from grassroots to Olympic champions, but also to the development of officials to help the skaters meet their personal goals."
Paul MacIntosh, Skate Canada Coach

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2020 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Calgary

The 2020 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships did not disappoint. Canada's top synchronized skating officials descended on Calgary for the weekend and were treated to great skating from teams across the country. Joanne Shaw was the Technical Representative for this great event and describes the experience below.

"This year we went back to Calgary for the 2020 Synchronized Canadian Championships. At this event there was a variety of things off the ice happening at the competition, there was coach training, technical panel training and judge training. This is all very exciting to see so much interest in synchronized skating Also this year we probably had the best skating and programs in the Senior and Junior events. Any of the top three teams could have won the events, that is how close the teams were in their standings. It was my privilege to be the Technical Representative of such an exciting and well run event, thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time."

Joanne Shaw, Technical Representative



Officials and Respect in Sport

Skate Canada places the highest priority on a safe and fun learning environment for all its participants. As a community, we need to work together to provide a safe environment and that means making sure the education and training is available for all stakeholders.

Last season, Skate Canada made the Respect in Sport – Activity Leader training mandatory for all officials. Respect in Sport educates activity leaders including officials to recognize, understand and respond to issues of bullying, abuse, harassment and discrimination. This training will assist officials in creating a safe, healthy, respectful environment. It will help them in recognizing when a child may be at risk and will help them to be prepared in the event of a disclosure as well as the many ethical decisions one can face throughout the season.

This education is a key component of Skate Canada's Safe Sport program and we encourage officials who have not had the opportunity to take the training to do so. The Respect in Sport training is available through the eLearning site and is a mandatory training for officials to complete prior to officiating during the 2020/21 season. If you have completed the training, it is valid for three years.

We appreciate your commitment to keeping our sport safe.

Emma Bowie, Director of Safe Sport and Strategic Communications, Skate Canada

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2019-20 Exam Candidates:

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

Breanne McPhee	Challenge Singles Judge
Chelsey Schaffel	Canadian Synchro Judge
Chris Stokes	Challenge Singles Technical Specialist
Christine Bourdeau	Canadian Dance Judge
Dave Ferland	Canadian Singles Technical Specialist
Elizabeth Rivard	Canadian Dance Technical Specialist
Ethan Swinburnson	Challenge Singles Judge
Fanny-Eve Tapp	Canadian Singles Judge
Genevieve Rosa	Challenge Singles Technical Controller

Hilary Quick	Challenge Pairs Judge
Jeff Lukasik	Canadian Pairs Technical Controller
Jerome Poulin	Canadian Singles Technical Controller
Josette Perreault	Canadian Synchro Judge
Limin Jao	Canadian Pairs Judge
Lynne Dey	Canadian Singles & Pairs Referee
Robin Forsyth	Challenge Pairs Technical Specialist
Tiffany Edwardson	Challenge Pairs Judge
William Lindsay	Challenge Ice Dance Judge

Looking ahead...

In looking forward to the 2020-2021 season, the OAP plans to further develop and/or refine many of the initiatives of the past two seasons, as well as move forward with a few new priorities. Below is a snapshot of some of these items:



Essential/Soft Skills Webinar: A new Essential/Soft Skills Webinar will be launched on the Skate Canada eLearning site. This webinar focuses on the importance and development of essential/soft skills in the officials' community. It will focus on the concept of "aiming to be a zero" and how you can implement these concepts into your officiating. Once the webinar is live, a communication will be sent to all challenge and higher officials. However, if you would like to get a head start on this topic, you could read Chapter 9 of *An Astronaut's Guide to Life* by Chris Hadfield. Thank-you to Benoit Lavoie, Susan Heffernan, and Nicole LeBlanc Richard for their efforts in this webinar.

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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/Department: 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/department 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, it was felt it was 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.

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Referee and Technical Controller Feedback: Judges and technical panels are also given the opportunity to provide feedback on their respective referees and technical controllers. We have 360 degree feedback in order to help us determine our strengths and areas for development, which will help guide our training initiatives.



Maple Leaf March: Skate Canada was set to host a seminar in June 2020 on the Maple Leaf March (the new pattern dance for the 2021-2022 season), however this has been postponed until May 2021. Stay tuned for more details about this seminar, which will be open to International and higher Ice Dance Officials.

In closing, it has once again been a wonderful year of great skating served by our officials in all roles at all levels across Canada and at International events around the world. 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 2019-20 season

Chair: Nicole LeBlanc-Richard

Members: Jodi Abbott, Jennifer Betts, Marie Bowness, Andrea Derby, Karen Howard, Benoit Lavoie,
Jayson Peace

Skate Canada Staff: Debra Armstrong, Laura Baker, Mike Slipchuk, Olivia Toner, Kennedy Laing

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