



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 2023 Skate Canada Challenge in Winnipeg, 2023 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Oshawa, 2023 Skate Canada Challenge (Pre-Novice/Novice) in Regina, 2023 Novice Canadian Championships, and Canada Cup in Calgary, and 2023 Canada Winter Games in Prince Edward Island, as well as all other events you may have served at, a success, is very much appreciated!

2022-2023 SEASON

The start of the 2022-2023 season saw the Program Components changed from 5 PCs to 3 PCs for all disciplines. We all had a quick turn-around to prepare for the new season! A big thank you to Karen Howard and Nicole LeBlanc-Richard who worked together to prepare a webinar for Skate Canada's eLearning site which was available for all judges in the country to access prior to fall competitions. The ISU produced comprehensive videos for each of the new Program Components and thanks to Leanna Caron, we were fortunate to have access to this material from the get-go. Thank you to all judges for embracing change and applying your new learnings at events this season.

"My experience with the three distinct components this season included accelerated study and learning of the new information in order to lead summer pre-competition meetings, film a webinar as well as facilitation of learning sessions across the country. It has been very enjoyable to interact with so many officials during my continuous learning journey. I love the reduced number of criteria to assess with only three program components and look forward to further refining my PC assessment skill set in the 2023-2024 skating season!" – Karen Howard, ISU Singles & Pairs Judge & Referee

A new initiative this season was an officials educational opportunity offered by Skate Canada to each Section. Most Sections chose to have an in-depth session with Karen Howard on the new Program Components – Karen was a bit of a travelling roadshow! Nova Scotia and Manitoba opted for a Pairs seminar for their officials and New Brunswick a Synchro clinic.

"Mexico straight to Halifax...to say my body had to 'adjust' would be an understatement! But the fantastic group of people I was working with – ranging from Juvenile 'in-training' to Canadian level – soon made me forget the temperature outside. To prepare for this seminar I went through the ISU videos again, this time with my Pair glasses on, and was able to really home in on program component details specific to pairs. The participants were so engaged, and I must add that the lobster chowder was to die for!" - Susan Heffernan, former ISU Singles & Pairs Judge and Referee, facilitator of Nova Scotia Pair seminar.



Orlando Seminar



Skate Canada and US Figure Skating finally hosted a joint ISU Seminar that had been planned for many years but delayed in April 2020 due to the pandemic. International officials from both countries came together in Orlando to learn from ISU Technical Committee Members in Singles, Pair, and Ice Dance. A session for Referees was also included. Leanna Caron was the Program Components Moderator at this seminar; Leanna was instrumental in developing new PC materials with the recent changes from 5 PCs to 3 PCs.



Honouring of Janice Hunter



The OAP continued to honour retiring international officials this past season. At the 2023 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships, Janice Hunter, ISU Judge and Referee, was honoured by the officials' community for her long-time dedication to the sport. Janice's daughter, son-in-law and her husband were present to celebrate her achievement. Janice was thrilled to have her ice dance mentor Ann Shaw present her with a gift from

Skate Canada. Karen Butcher eloquently described Janice in a beautiful speech. Below is an excerpt of this speech.

"Tonight is about honouring Janice as she retires from international officiating....

Her skills have been displayed over and over again, most importantly last February in Beijing.....

Her wisdom, actions and stories.... have influenced many of us here tonight.

I would like to thank and congratulate you for all your success at the international level and I look forward to many more years of domestic involvement." – Karen Butcher, Skate Canada President

"Celebrating the outstanding contribution of our officials is so important. The countless hours Janice has given to the sport are remarkable. It was a wonderful evening reception to celebrate Janice's contributions at the ISU level. I know all the skaters, coaches and officials across the country join me in thanking Janice for all her years as an official at the international level."- Laura Baker, Senior Manager Performance Excellence and Officials

Post celebration note from Janice - *"For those who were able to attend the celebration of my retirement from international judging (though I do prefer Beth Crane's word - Graduation), I so enjoyed your presence that evening and still smile every time I think of it. I had told Laura NO to this event, but my family convinced me it was important, not just for me. The opportunity to gather with my judging colleagues was not one to pass up. I am so glad Laura prevailed!! For those who were unable to attend, I appreciated and thank you for your kind words expressed over the week at the Canadian Championships.*

I feel we are a unique group in the world of sporting officials. The 'skating family' is alive and well and I am very proud to have been a part of this. I look forward to a few more years of meeting you again at domestic events." - Janice Hunter former ISU Referee



Junior World Officials Development Program 2023



Skate Canada hosted an Officials Development Program at the 2023 ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships in Calgary Alberta. Eleven officials were selected by the OAP committee and supported by their section to participate in this program, facilitated by Andrew Bosco and Erica Topolski. The program provided candidates with exposure to live international level pairs and ice dance skating with the intention of further developing knowledge of pairs and ice dance as multi discipline officials. Guest speakers included ISU delegates and international coaches and judges from around the world.

Thank-you to everyone who participated and contributed to this program.

“The Officials Development Program was an amazing and memorable opportunity for us participants. It was a busy and valuable experience as we were able to have many in-depth discussions on what we could expect to see in the performances of pairs and ice dance, how to better understand and apply marking criteria, music and movement, and everything it takes to be a successful official. Judging the pair and ice dance performances from the stands then allowed us to put everything into practice and simulate the full competition experience with initial meetings and roundtable afterwards. It's not often we get the opportunity to judge a large number of pairs or dance in competition like we did during the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships. Skate Canada and our facilitators did a fantastic job in connecting us with various speakers during the week who brought a depth of knowledge in their respective areas of expertise. Our group had a fun week connecting, learning, and building on our respective skills together. To narrow it down to one or two highlights from the program is difficult as there were so many great pieces from the week that we had the privilege to experience and will always remember.”- Brett Hines, Candian Singles Technical Specialist & Challenge Singles Judge

“The Junior Worlds Official Program was a great way to learn and develop our craft with facilitators and colleagues who are as passionate about skating as we are. It was a jam-packed week of great skating, dialogue and friendship. It was fantastic to have the time to talk about the skating we watched and get out of our comfort zone with our movement in the classroom and judging on our mock panels.”- Julia Mullins, Challenge Singles and Dance Judge



Synchronized Skating at Canadians

The Canadian Tire National Skating Championships not only hosted singles, pairs, and ice dance competitors, but also hosted Synchronized Skating Teams for the inaugural time. Bringing all disciplines together in the same venue created a great experience for athletes, officials and spectators.

“This Nationals was special as it was our first Nationals with Synchro participating alongside our other disciplines. It was wonderful to observe the reactions of those who had never seen Synchro before, or those who have not seen Synchro in many years and were unaware of this unique discipline’s evolution. It was wonderful to observe the many interactions between our officials, coaches, and athletes, as they engaged in conversations anchored in curiosity and respect. It was truly special to be a part of, and witness, our supportive skating community coming together.”- Shae Zukiwsky, Senior Director, Performance Excellence

2022-23 Exam Candidates:

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

Sarah Coombs	Challenge Singles and Pair Referee
Leslie Lawrence	Challenge Dance Referee
Katie Gilhooly	Challenge Singles Judge
Joanne Brandon	Challenge Singles Judge
Emmanuel Chauvin	Challenge Pair Judge
Brett Hines	Challenge Pair and Dance Judge
Erin Chellew	Challenge Pair Judge
Claudia Barron	Challenge Dance Judge
Genevieve Rosa	Challenge Dance Judge
Shannon Downing	Challenge Pair and Dance Judge
Elisabeth Higgins	Challenge Pair Technical Specialist
Jeffery Cann	Challenge Dance Technical Specialist

Lynne Dey	Challenge Singles Technical Controller
Veronique Gosselin	Challenge Pair Technical Controller
Ethan Swinburnson	Challenge Dance Technical Controller
Andrew Bosco	Canadian Singles and Pair Referee
Krystyna Banas	Canadian Singles Judge
Hilary Quick	Canadian Synchronized Skating Judge
Andrea O’Keefe	Canadian Synchronized Skating Judge
Annie Thibodeau	Canadian Singles Technical Specialist
Corey Sutherland	Canadian Pair Technical Specialist
Deanna Tomietto	Canadian Dance Technical Controller
Patty Klein	Canadian Singles Technical Controller



Message from Janice Hunter OAP Chair

This first year as Chair of OAP has been one of learning to navigate my way through the massive jigsaw puzzle that is OAP. I liken the easier border pieces of the puzzle to the 'big picture' work that I saw as a Challenge and higher official for so many years. Then came the body of the puzzle...the spreadsheets with all the data. I have truly been astounded by the amount of information that Laura and her amazing staff manage; things such as qualifications and when they were attained, tracking of promotions, tracking of domestic requirements such as Code of Ethics and Safe Sport, domestic assignments, international assignments, championship assignments, Referee and TC reports, feedback from events - to name a few! My brain went into overdrive (I actually think it was overload) trying to fit all these pieces into what I saw as a 3,000 + piece puzzle. Where am I going with this? To put it simply –there is the possibility that a piece of the puzzle will fall under the table and we don't discover it's missing until a deadline has passed. I cannot stress enough the importance of each individual official taking care of their own pathway. Take the time to know the rules and requirements for you to remain current at your present level and requirements to move forward if that is part of your personal goals. If you have advancement in mind, then please create your own spreadsheet/chart/simple list – whatever works best for you – to keep track of your activity and requirements to be met.

To all officials, 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. Our officials community is in good hands with the involvement of such a committed group.

I look forward to next season and hopefully a jigsaw puzzle that is a more manageable 500 pieces 😊

2023 Challenge- Junior/Senior and Pre-Novice/Novice



For the first time, Skate Canada hosted two separate Challenge events- Challenge Junior/Senior and Challenge Pre-Novice/Novice. As always, these competitions brought together officials from Coast to Coast. Thank you to all who participated in the Skate Canada Challenges. Your time and expertise contribute to the success of these important national qualifying competitions.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to receive an invitation to be a Technical Representative at the 2023 Challenge in Regina. Working with the team whose focus was ensuring the competition ran smoothly was very satisfying.

My Tech Rep partner was Deirdre Coburn and we worked closely with Beth Liverman and Mollie Trainor. Beth and Mollie organized a comprehensive operations plan which meant we were well prepared to handle any difficulties. Not surprisingly, winter weather was problematic causing delayed arrivals for some officials. The night before day one of competition we were juggling judge and tech panels. The officials were so willing to change event assignments and alter their schedules at the last minute. Fortunately, the full slate of officials did eventually arrive and there were no disruptions to the events. This was my second experience as a Tech Rep for a national competition. The role could be daunting as you never know what might go wrong. But issues are solved with a team approach, and everyone has the same goal to create a positive experience for the athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and spectators of families and friends. I believe this competition went without a hitch, or at least nothing that anyone noticed! Of course, the chance to watch performances by a field of talented skaters is what I will remember the most. " – Joanne Nickel, Technical Representative 2023 Challenge- Pre-Novice/Novice



2023 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships- Junior/Senior



The 2023 Canadian Tire National Championships returned in full force with the top Junior and Senior figure skaters and teams competing for the National title. This was the first time since Covid-19 that the Championships ran with some normalcy. Thank you to all the officials and volunteers that made this Championships a success.

“The Canadian Tire National Skating Championships are always a highlight of the skating season for me, a chance to see the best skaters from across Canada compete for National titles at both the Junior and Senior level. This year was no exception. After a successful grand-prix season, fans, officials and skaters were in for a great week

of skating. This year was special for many reasons and a couple of highlights stood out. This season, for the first time, national titles for synchronized skating were awarded at this event. The discipline and their fans brought an electric atmosphere to the arena while skaters across all disciplines were able to celebrate and cheer on one another. After the cancellation of the 2021 CTNSC and lack of audience in 2022, it was wonderful to welcome back an audience to cheer on the skaters. However, my most memorable moment was watching Keegan Messing skate to a final national title. A true competitor, respected athlete and showman, he left the crowd on their feet. A perfect way to end a memorable week of skating, celebrate Canada's best skaters and create an excitement for the rest of the season.” - Sarah Miles, Technical Representative, 2023 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships- Junior/Senior

2023 Novice Canadian Championship and Canada Cup



To finish off the domestic event season, Skate Canada hosted the Novice Canadian Championships and Canada Cup. The Championship highlighted Canada's top Novice athletes. This Championship continued to unite skaters from different disciplines, as Synchronized Skating was introduced to the event for the first time.

« I had the chance to act as a technical representative at the Canadian Novice Championships and Canada Cup. I would like to congratulate Skate Canada for the great organisation of this competition. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of this event.

*Je tiens à féliciter tous les athlètes qui ont participé à la compétition. Grace à vos performances inspirantes, nul doute que l'avenir du patinage au pays est assurée!
Bravo aussi à Patinage Canada d'avoir intégré le patinage synchronisé aux autres disciplines cette saison. Il s'agit d'une belle vitrine pour ce volet parfois un peu méconnu et qui, je l'espère, gagnera en popularité dans les années à venir.*

Merci aussi à tous les bénévoles qui ont travaillé de près ou de loin au succès de cet événement. Sans vous, rien de tout ça ne serait possible. » - Karine Bouisclair, Technical Representative, 2023 Novice Canadian Championships and Canada Cup



Canada Winter Games

The 2023 Canada Winter Games took place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Over 80 athletes and 20 officials came together for an event that featured Canada's top Pre-Novice and Special Olympic skaters. The energy in the building was electric throughout the week,



showcasing the support and love for the sport held by all participants. Officials, athletes, coaches, and volunteers alike left the event rejuvenated and with an appreciation for the exciting talent Canada has developing in all categories and disciplines.

"I competed at [Canada Winter Games] in 1987 in Halifax so being here to judge was such a meaningful experience to me, to be able to come full circle with judging and to give back to the kids of today. It was fantastic. The level of skating was amazing. The team spirit and the energy:

everything about this experience has enriched me. I would love to come back out here again. The people of PEI are some of the nicest folks on Earth. Everywhere we went we were welcomed. I would recommend this to anybody." – Joanne Brandon, Challenge Singles & Pairs Judge

Looking ahead...

As we look forward to the 2023-2024 season, here is a snapshot of some of the OAP's plans:



2024 ISU World Skating Championships

Skate Canada is hosting the 2024 ISU World Figure Skating Championships. We will be hosting an officials development program at the world championships. Stay tuned for more details on this program.



Synchronized Skating Seminar

The ISU has accepted Skate Canada's application to host a synchronized skating seminar for our international and ISU officials. This seminar will take place in Toronto from September 29th-October 1st. Pending approval from the ISU, national officials may be invited to attend.



OAP Goal Meetings

This season there will be the opportunity to request a Goals Meeting with a member of the OAP. These were very successful in 2021-2022 and the intent of the OAP is to offer these on a bi-annual basis.



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.



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, 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 2022-23 season

Chair: Janice Hunter



Skate Canada
Patinage Canada

Box 15, 261–1200 boul. St. Laurent Blvd.
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1K 3B8
SkateCanada.ca – PatinageCanada.ca

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, Kennedy Laing, Miranda Williams