



Officials Committee Spring 2021 Newsletter



Happy spring! This edition has many updates to keep officials informed and up-to-date and we hope this issue will provide connections to the skating world and serve as a little momentary distraction from the challenges out there in life right now.

A reminder that the OC newsletters are also posted on the Section Officials website page for you to reference.

Committee Structure and Contact Info:

Officials Core Committee Members:

Officials Committee Co-Lead – [Leslie Lawrence](#)

Officials Committee Co-Lead – [Brenda Hart](#)

Technical Officials Co-Representative – [Devan Nychka](#)

Technical Officials Co-Representative – [Robin Forsyth](#)

Data Specialists Representative – [Krista Sellers](#)

Synchronized Skating Officials Co-Representative – [Chelsey Schaffel](#)

Synchronized Skating Officials Co-Representative – [Amanda Jassman](#)

Judge/Evaluator Co-Representative – [Leslie Lawrence](#)

Judge/Evaluator Co-Representative – [Brenda Hart](#)

Member at Large and Education Advisor – [Lynne Dey](#)

Advisory Circle:

STAR 1-4 Training Advisor – [Marg Andriuk](#)

STAR 1-4 Training Advisor – [Deirdre Coburn](#)

Singles Judge Training Advisors (Juvenile to Senior) – [Deirdre Coburn](#) and [Leslie Lawrence](#)

Senior Judge Advisor – [Krystyna Banas](#)

Evaluator Advisor – [Renee Tatro](#)

Base Level Technical Official Advisor – [Dallas Daniel](#)

Technical Officials Advisors – [Devan Nychka](#), [Robin Forsyth](#), [Lynne Dey](#) and [Leslie Lawrence](#)

Interim Section Assessment Liaisons – [Leslie Lawrence](#) and [Brenda Hart](#)

Competition and Tech Rep Advisors – [Leslie Lawrence](#) and [Brenda Hart](#)

Check-in for membership and course work:

The Skate Canada membership season begins September 1 – This is a gentle reminder to check your Skate Canada Members dashboard for your Registrations and Course Achievements and contact your club to register for the 2021-2022 season before September 1, 2021. Officials must be registered to participate in competitions and assessments when those activities are permitted in person, AND for virtual events you may be invited to participate in.

Members Site Check-In Steps:

Login to the Members site, go to My Profile and General Information to check your membership registration and course completions on the Official Dashboard. Online courses are available to all members on the Skate Canada eLearning site. Take a moment to review what is available to you. A new webinar on Essential Soft Skills for Officials was added to the eLearning site. An excellent webinar that we highly recommend all Section officials view.

Please confirm that the following items (as applicable to your officiating qualifications and roles) are up to date on your Skate Canada online membership profile:

- ✓ Current Skate Canada membership
- ✓ Code of Ethics online course certificate for current membership year
- ✓ Respect in Sport online course certificate. This course is valid for three years but for anyone who has yet to complete it please follow the steps and check that off your to-do list.
- ✓ Judges: +5 –5 online webinar and marking guideline exercises. A reminder to all judges that this is a mandatory course in each discipline in order to be assigned to events and officiate in that discipline.
- ✓ Evaluators: STAR 6 - Gold Introduction, Freeskate, Dance, Artistic and Skills modules are all refreshed and available. The modules have been streamlined and exams are all updated. If you previously completed the modules and received a certificate it is not necessary to take the exam again. It is recommended that you go through the modules again as it will serve as a refresher and different video clips are now incorporated. If you wish to take the exam again you will receive a second certificate/achievement for the course work.

Please reach out to the Judge/Evaluator Representatives if you have any questions on accessing the Members site or about the coursework. We are happy to take questions or assist you.

Course Certificates:

A reminder when you are printing or saving online course certificates, please follow the prompts provided and wait until the date populates on the certificate. This is a very important step! It may take up to thirty minutes after you complete the course so be patient and continue to follow the directions. The date is a 'critical part' of saving the record of achievement. Certificates that are sent into the Officials Committee or the Section office to verify coursework for promotions or membership requirements, if the date is not included on the certificate, it requires Lisa Bonderove to do a 'manual check' in the Skate Canada database which of course takes time to do. Lisa also sees the same screen as you see in that she must sift through many pages of course achievements in each member's profile as she searches for course completions. Thanks in advance for following the steps in saving your course achievement certificates with the date on them.



Skate Alberta-NWT/NU Website Check-In:

The Section website is your continuous link to information and updates in the Section. It is your go to source for the latest Covid-19 protocols as they relate to figure skating activities and procedures surrounding those activities. Please consult it weekly to check for updates so you remain aware and connected on any restrictions or closures.

While you are on the website, please do regular check-ins on the Section Officials Committee, Competitions, and Assessments pages to stay current on all news, resources, and documents pertaining to these areas.

Skate Canada Info Centre Check-In:

Have you checked out the Officials Guide on Skate Canada Info Centre? This resource was launched earlier this fall and offers one-stop clicking to find the following topics:

- ✓ Section Contact List
- ✓ Officials Pathways for Judge, Evaluator, Coach Assessor, Referee, Technical Official, and Data Specialist
- ✓ Officials Pathway Resources – Judge Assessments, Technical Panel Phase II Assessments, Data Specialists
- ✓ Officials Registration
- ✓ Eligibility to Officiate Resources
- ✓ Rules Pertaining to Officials
- ✓ Officials Resources – Competition Resources, Assessment Resources, Video Resources
- ✓ Officials Worksheets – Judge, STAR, Technical Panel, Special Olympics
- ✓ Online Learning

Please explore and bookmark this to serve as an easy reference throughout the season to find what you need! Keep in mind that these pages are updated by Skate Canada and remain the most current references to follow. Look for the dates beside any printed resources you have to make sure you are using the most up to date version.

ISU Communications:

The latest ISU Communications outlining requirements for the 2021-2022 season have been released. Watch for further releases and clarifications over the spring and summer.

ISU Communication 2371, 2393: Ice Dance

ISU Communication 2380: Synchro

ISU Communication 2382: Singles and Pair Short Program Requirements

Terminology Change:

As Skate Canada works to improve equity, diversity, and inclusion in our sport, they have begun to identify items that need corrective action. This revision works toward the decolonizing of our terminology and aligns with our commitment to anti-racism.

Steps formerly identified as ***Mohawk*** and ***Choctaw*** will now be known as:

Mohawk = ***C Step***

Choctaw = ***S Step***

Workplan Update:

Virtual educational activities have been provided for BLTO, TS, Novice Synchro Judges, soft skills training for new Evaluator candidates and virtual co-evaluations. Keep an eye on your inbox for email blasts on educational topics coming in the spring/summer season.

Evaluators:

Any evaluators who completed online training modules for STAR 6 – Gold and have not submitted for a promotion or have completed additional disciplines are reminded to send certificates in so the promotion paperwork can be put in process. Please include the Introductory certificate and any other disciplines that you have completed. Certificates should be sent to Lisa Bonderove

lisa@skateabnwnun.ca

Evaluator promotions have new language surrounding the multi-stage training process as they are brought into the system. New candidates that have completed the In-Person Evaluator Seminar and STAR 6 - Gold Introductory online module are eligible to receive Evaluator In-Training promotion. As the officials complete the STAR 6 - Gold online modules and exams in Freeskate, Dance, Skills and Artistic they are then eligible to receive 'Trained Evaluator' status.

As they complete co-evaluations (the new terminology for trial evaluating) and/or a mentored assessment (new terminology and procedure for supervised trial evaluation) they then are eligible for 'Qualified Evaluator' status in the respective disciplines. The officials contact and qualifications list for evaluators highlights all promotions and any 'in training' or 'trained evaluators' are highlighted in orange to show that they are in progress to 'qualified evaluator' status.

Virtual Evaluator Seminar Update:

Renee Tatro led a group of six candidates through the new evaluator soft skills training in late February in two virtual sessions. Participants engaged in individual and group exercises designed to highlight the soft skills an evaluator needs to handle themselves while conducting assessments. Emphasis is put on communication skills including being mindful and self-aware. Another important topic is feedback, participants spend time constructing proper feedback that will be specific rather than general, given sooner rather than later and what the skater needs.

An In-Training Evaluator Check-In was offered in April as an opportunity for Evaluators In-Training and Trained Evaluators to come together as a group. Topics included co-evaluations, mentored assessments and promotion steps and provided a chance just to chat and share together as this group has limited opportunities to meet up.

Assessments:

The procedure for contact and assignment for assessments was introduced at all Region Meetings and Assessment Coordinator meetings and was recently updated. The discussions and interactions have been positive. Although the ability to arrange assessments have been impacted by Covid-19 protocols and recent health restrictions, the new procedure has been welcomed for the ease of which clubs have access to directly contact and confirm evaluators.

Assessments Guide on Skate Canada Info Centre:

In early December Skate Canada launched a new area on Info Centre to showcase all pertinent information relating to Assessments that is accessed by clicking on 'Guides'. Information and hot links are included for: Resource Guides, Summary Documents, Standards Videos, Assessment Sheets, Music, Assessment Coordinator Guide, and eLearning for Assessments. Please take the time to check out this page. Skate Canada is now listing the dates that documents or resources are updated. If you print any documents for your binders, please check this page to see that you are using the 'most current version' of any resource.

Virtual Assessment Pilot Project:

Skate Canada continues to pilot a project on virtual assessments. Not only will this help clubs and skaters to access assessments during the pandemic, but this format is expected to become a permanent feature. Several Section clubs applied to be part of the pilot. Stay tuned for further updates on this project.



Promotions Update:

We may not be at the rink as much this season, but our officials have been working their way through training or next steps required for promotions. We are quite 'jazzed' to announce the following achievements:

STAR 6 - Gold Qualified Evaluator in Freeskate, Dance, Skills and Artistic:

Jinelle St Cyr, Erin Ladouceur

STAR 6 - Gold Qualified Evaluator in Freeskate: *Lauren Coombs*

STAR 6 - Gold In-Training Evaluator: *Jenna Kormos, Shaelyn Kormos, Mackenzie Meyer, Jennifer Keliher, Ann Dow-Clarke, Jillian Wilson*

Remote Official: *Devan Nychka, Robin Forsyth, Lynne Dey, Jonathan Okrainetz, Dallas Daniel, Rebecca Marsh- Naturkach, Deirdre Coburn, Krista Sellers*

Base Level Technical Official: *Tina-Marie Yenna*

Section Singles Technical Specialist: *Kara Fernandes*

Section Pair Technical Specialist: *Devan Nychka, Rebecca Marsh-Naturkach*

Section Pair Technical Controller: *Robin Forsyth*

Section Dance Technical Controller: *Jonathan Okrainetz*

Synchro Update – Chelsey Schaffel & Amanda Jassman

10 individuals successfully completed a Novice SYS Judge clinic, conducted virtually over 8 sessions from December 2020 through March 2021. Thank you to Jennifer Betts and Chelsey Schaffel for all your work planning and facilitating these sessions. We look forward to working with these candidates in the coming season to help them move through the next steps towards promotion.

Our Canadian and higher-level judges continued to participate in virtual education sessions run by Skate Canada. Thank you to Skate Canada for offering these sessions; they produced great conversations and were an excellent way to stay connected to our colleagues across the country.

Over the next few months, we will be making plans to help judges and technical officials refresh their skills for the new season. Please watch your inbox over the summer. We hope to see our family of synchro officials in person again soon!

Technical Officials Update – Submitted by Dallas Daniel, BLTO Advisor

How is it already May and the end of an unprecedented skating season? This year was one for the ages, and although not ideal by any means, I think we should all be very proud of the work accomplished. Virtual Training was a big learning curve for all of us, but with it came great opportunities. I believe I can speak for the many officials that participated in Sectionals, as that being one of the highlights of the season and showed what our Section can accomplish under extenuating circumstances.

Many of our technical panel officials had the great pleasure of participating in virtual events held by other sections or Skate Canada. It was a tremendous experience to bring our officiating world together. Our officials showed strength, commitment, and tenacity in continuing to develop their skills. The online training sessions and simulations were a huge success, and we would like to give an immense thank you to all who participated. The strong participation and collaboration led to huge development from all.

On behalf of myself, Robin, and Devan we would like to thank you all for your commitment this season. We are looking forward to the upcoming skating season, and we truly hope to see you all in the arena very soon. Please keep a look out for emails regarding upcoming opportunities and information on next

season. As always, the three of us are always available to support you, so please reach out with any questions you may have.

Out-of-Section Remote Officiating Gigs:

Saskatchewan Virtual Cup: Leslie Lawrence, Jonathan Okrainetz, Brenda Hart, Dallas Daniel
Skate Canada Virtual Assessment Pilot: “covering the country like a blanket” - Leslie Lawrence, Brenda Hart

Featured Official of The Month (FOOTM)

This continues to be a fantastic piece on Section’s social media platforms each month. Thank you to Chris Mostert and Kara Fernandes for their continued work on this fun recruitment program. Stay tuned to Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter to see who is featured next!

Facebook [@skateabnwtun](#)

Instagram [@skateab_nwt_nun](#)

Twitter [@SkateAB_NWT_NUN](#)

Officials Recognition

If you have been following on social media, you may have seen that we are celebrating (virtually) throughout the month of May. We are very proud to share the following officials awards/recognitions with you:

Section Officials Award - *Devan Nychka*

John Vipond Officials Scholarship – *Megan Ure*

Long Service – 25 Year Official – *Fred Rapati*

Congratulations to this year’s recipients! Please read more about them and their awards throughout the month on section social media.

Upcoming Events:

Section Awards Recognition – the longest Awards Banquet you’ve ever attended... watch all through the month of May as we proudly recognize all award recipients.

Section Annual General Meeting, Saturday May 15, 2021

<https://skateabnwtun.ca/2021-annual-general-meeting-information/>

Skate Canada Ice Summit <https://skatecanada.ca/2021icesummit/>



In conclusion:

To all of you in our officiating family, thank you for your support, encouragement, hard work in a season where we met mostly online. With the great spring weather, we hope you are able to find fun things to do and enjoy the great outdoors!