

## Officials Committee Fall 2021 Newsletter



Welcome to the 2021-2022 skating season! We hope that this season will bring us more in-person opportunities so that we can see our wonderful officials community face-to-face!

### Officials Committee Start Up:

The Officials Committee endeavours to support an ambitious array of workplan activities again this season, regardless of what COVID throws at us.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce the committee. The core officials committee currently consists of the following positions: Officials Committee Co-Leads, Data Specialists Representative, Judge/Evaluator Co-Representatives, Technical Officials Co-Representatives, Synchro Officials Co-Representatives, and a Member-at-Large. Core committee members have a vote on the committee, are responsible for conducting or overseeing workplan activities and will attend and contribute at meetings when they are called.

The committee is also continuing with an advisory circle this season. The advisors are tasked with specific areas of responsibility that mostly represent official's development areas, but assessments, competition organization and tech reps are also included. Advisors are invited to Officials Committee meetings, are invited into discussions at the meetings, but have no vote at meetings. They will conduct various workplan related activities and have a core committee member that is assigned to monitor and support them in the work they carry out on behalf of the committee. We expect the advisory circle to evolve over the course of the season and involve additional officials as we get specific areas refreshed and up and running. In time we expect that some advisors may move onto the core committee as they gain experience or feel they can devote the time to a core committee role.

### Officials Core Committee Members:

Officials Committee Co-Lead – [Robin Forsyth](#)  
Officials Committee Co-Lead – [Lisa Bonderove](#)  
Technical Officials Co-Representative – [Devan Nychka](#)  
Technical Officials Co-Representative – [Robin Forsyth](#)  
Data Specialists Representative – [Sharon Dingle](#)  
Synchronized Skating Officials Co-Representative – [Chelsey Schaffel](#)  
Synchronized Skating Officials Co-Representative – [Amanda Jassman](#)  
Judge/Evaluator Co-Representative – [Erin Ladouceur](#)  
Judge/Evaluator Co-Representative – [Kara Fernandes](#)  
Member-at-Large – [Lynne Dey](#)

### Advisory Circle:

STAR 1-4 Training Advisor – [Deirdre Coburn](#)  
Singles Judge Training Advisor (Juvenile to Senior) – [Deirdre Coburn](#)  
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](#)

Section Assessment Liaison – [Erin Ladouceur](#)

Tech Rep Advisor – [Renee Tatro](#)

Competition Scheduling & Officials Assignments – [J. Okrainetz](#), [M. Desmarais](#), [M. Ure](#), [C. Mostert](#), [R. Forsyth](#), [K. Fernandes](#), [S. Miller](#), [D. Coburn](#), [D. Daniel](#)

We are grateful to core committee members and advisors for their support and dedication. We are also extremely thankful to have [Leslie Lawrence](#) and [Brenda Hart](#) available as background resources as we learn our way this season! We'd also like to thank them for the tremendous amount of work they both put into this committee over the past year, and their steadfast dedication to our officials' family.

*Robin Forsyth and Lisa Bonderove*



### **Start of the season check-in for membership and course work:**

The Skate Canada membership season began September 1 – Have you contacted your club to register for the 2021-2022 season? Please kindly do this now so contact lists can be confirmed as activities begin this fall. Officials must be registered to participate in competitions and assessments.

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.

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:

- ✓ Skate Canada membership for 2021-2022
- ✓ Code of Ethics online course certificate for 2021-2022 (valid for one year)
- ✓ Respect in Sport online course certificate. (valid for three years)
- ✓ **NEW - Backchecks are required for all officials to be considered in good standing for the upcoming season**
  - Must have this screening complete before participating in any event or assessment this season
  - Deadline of December 31, 2021 for all officials to have their backcheck screening completed
  - <https://noticeboard.skatecanada.ca/2021/08/10/officials-screening/>
- ✓ Evaluators: STAR 6-Gold Introduction, Freeskate, Dance, Artistic and Skills modules
- ✓ Judges: +5 –5 online webinar and marking guideline exercises. A reminder to all judges that this is a mandatory course in each discipline to be assigned to events and officiate in that discipline

### **Documents Update:**

Please check the Section Officials Committee page on the website to read all OC-related documents. If updates occur, the updated content will be underlined so you can easily capture what was added or changed. Please make it a habit to check in on this page regularly throughout the season for more updated content and information pertaining to officials' topics. As we introduce new procedures we do expect to edit and add content as we learn and try new things!

### Skate Canada Info Centre:

Have you checked out the Officials Guide on Skate Canada Info Centre? This area 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 go explore and bookmark this as an easy reference throughout the season to find what you need!

### Workplan Update:

We have been updating our workplan to address recruitment, training, communication, support, assignment, and retention of officials. We have begun to brainstorm ideas for virtual training and region support roles, officials training opportunities, and generally just thinking outside the box on how to approach the year with Covid-19 still lurking in the background!

### 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@skateabnwtun.ca](mailto:lisa@skateabnwtun.ca) with a cc. to Erin Ladouceur [ecoynes@northwestel.net](mailto:ecoynes@northwestel.net) and Kara Fernandes [misskaranina@gmail.com](mailto:misskaranina@gmail.com)

Any evaluators with partial levels will be receiving emails to help arrange mentorship, co-evaluations and/or mentored assessment opportunities.

### Competitions:

Section will be moving ahead with competition planning with continued enhanced safety measures. As we face a lot of unknowns about how the season will unfold, we are taking a step-by-step approach and employing thought and care into all decisions. Rest assured that planning will focus on staging an event that is compliant with health protocols with significant attention devoted to keeping officials physically distant and safe while volunteering. We will be working collaboratively with the Section Competition Committee and the Athlete Development Committee with approaches and adaptations that are necessary for events.

Availability surveys will be sent out to all officials to address upcoming events. Please kindly make it a priority to promptly reply to all surveys as you receive them.

### Assessments:

The process for contact and assignment of evaluators and coach assessors was reviewed and refreshed last season with a greater emphasis on removing existing barriers within the system and providing a variety of ways for skaters to access assessments. Traditional Assessments Days will also happen, but we hope to encourage more centralizing as we continue to expand our Evaluator base. Please encourage clubs to register their assessment day on the Section website when volunteering for their day.

**Gold Skills Assessment** – Skills Exercise Challenge implementation has been moved to January 1, 2022. Please refer to the Notice Board for further information.

Skate Canada added more contemporary music choices for Pattern Dance – Approved list is on the Info Center.

In the coming weeks, Erin and Kara will be meeting with Region Assessment Coordinators to introduce themselves and help ensure consistency across assessment days for all clubs. They look forward to working with each region to help get their skaters the assessments they need in a timely fashion.

### Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Saara Ehalt, all the way from Finland! Saara moved to Cochrane this summer, and skating has been part of her life for over 30 years. We are so looking forward to meeting Saara in person and learning more about her. She must not be one to let dust settle... she's just arrived in her new country and already was on panel at ACI in Quebec last weekend!



### Retirements

Recently three long-time Section Officials advised us of their retirements from officiating. Shauna Shaw (34 years), Linda Courtman (42 years), and Karen Penrice (49 years) of dedication to the Section and the skaters has truly been appreciated. We recognize and appreciate the countless hours they contributed over the course of each skating season in their roles of Judges, Evaluators, and Referees. We wish these ladies all the best in their retirements!

### Synchro Update – Chelsey Schaffel & Amanda Jassman

Things have been quiet for synchro officials over the summer, but we are quickly gearing up for a busy fall and winter season. Please watch your inbox for communications regarding the following:

#### Technical and Judge update sessions

Updates for National-level officials have been scheduled for late September. Following these, we'll communicate a plan for providing updates to Section officials and coaches.

#### Virtual monitoring program

We expect to run a virtual monitoring program again this fall. Experienced officials will be contacted to request your participation so we can continue to offer this great initiative for teams.

### **Competition availability**

Alberta is once again fortunate to be hosting four synchro competitions this season: Rose Bowl (December), Mountain Regionals (January), Nationals (February), and an Invitational (March). We'll be reaching out soon to request information about officials' availability to officiate and/or trial judge at these events.

### **Novice Judge promotions**

Those who participated in the Novice Clinic this spring can expect follow-ups soon regarding next steps with respect to trial judging and any outstanding written exams.

We look forward to getting the synchro season started and seeing you back in the rink!

### **Technical Officials Update – *Devan Nychka***

While it has been challenging to have in-person experience for officials this year, we appreciate everyone who continues to practice and refine their officiating skills at home. We also want to remind everyone that opportunities to advance and be promoted still exist even if our on-ice events are not consistent.

Our Section will be sending officials to train for Sectional Dance and Singles training this year and plan on hosting a Singles Sectional Training in summer 2022. If you are interested in achieving any of these goals, or goals in another discipline, please contact myself or Robin Forsyth to discuss your options.

The technical officials would also like to congratulate the following officials who received Base level promotions over the summer: Karen Allison, Karin Sutton, Sandra Goplin.

Thank you again to all officials for remaining active and involved over this unforeseen time. We sincerely look forward to seeing all of you soon and know it will be special occasion whenever that time shall come.

### **Data Specialists Update – *Sharon Dingle***

Things have obviously been quiet for the Data Specialist community as many of you have not been in a rink since February 2020. However, that doesn't mean that nothing has been happening behind the scenes. Skate Canada has updated the CSS Manual and added a new CSS Remote Manual as well as issuing a new update of the CSS software.

This past August, the annual Wild Rose Competition was conducted remotely with Data Specialists from Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan. All from the comfort of their at home computers. The Novice Women's event included Judges from Nova Scotia, Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan, all linked through the Skate Canada remote server. And – it all worked! Truly an interesting experience.

Plans are under way for the new season with an emphasis on recruiting and training. Thank you to all who responded to the DS Survey. A DS Assignments schedule should be available by the end of September. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the rink!

## **2021-2022 Program Requirements:**

[STAR Program Requirements](#)

[Competitive Program Requirements](#)

[Adult Program Requirements](#)

[Special Olympics Program Requirements](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

Fall Invitational Competition – Leduc Recreation Centre, October 1-3, 2021

Sectional Championships – The Meadows Recreation Centre Edmonton, November 4-7, 2021

## **Feedback and Comments:**

As a committee, we are always open to receiving feedback. Please reach out to us if you have thoughts or comments about volunteering this season. We are constantly learning and value what you have to say. Continue to share your ideas and voice with us.

