

Officials Committee Winter 2021-22 Newsletter



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Officials newsletter. We hope that your day jobs and kids' activities are not disrupting your Olympic TV watching too much! Let's gooooooooooooo!

As usual, we have many updates to keep officials informed and up to date. We hope these newsletters keep you anchored 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.

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](#)

Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Saara Ehalt who has relocated to Cochrane AB, all the way from Finland! Saara brings with her an amazing resume, including International Judge – Singles and Pairs, Canadian Level Referee – Singles and Pairs, and Canadian Level TC – Singles. As well, Welcome Jamie Kosonic! Jamie has moved here from Ontario. She is a synchronized skating Sectional Level TS. Hopefully if you haven't already, you will have the pleasure of meeting Saara and/or Jamie on a panel, or on a screen soon.

Skate Alberta-NWT/NUN Website Check-In:

The Section website is your continuous link to information and updates in the Section. It's 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 regularly to check for updates so you remain aware and

connected on any restrictions or closures. Work is currently in progress to address the government's announcements as of last night, February 8.

While you are on the website please do regular check-ins on the Section Officials Committee, Competitions and Assessments pages on the website 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 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.

Course Certificates:

A reminder when you are printing or saving on-line 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. For any 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.

Workplan Update:

We continue to strategize and think outside the box for many areas of the Officials Committee workplan. Virtual educational activities have been provided in many areas. Keep an eye on your inbox for email blasts on educational topics coming throughout the winter season.

Evaluators:

Any evaluators who completed online training modules for STAR 6 – Gold over the fall 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 with a cc. to Erin ecoynen@northwestel.net and Kara misskaranina@gmail.com. Any evaluators with partial levels will be receiving emails to help arrange mentorship, co-evaluations and/or mentored assessment opportunities. Please let us know if you are still interested in becoming an evaluator.

Evaluator Virtual Learning Burst Seminars:

Starting in January, we will be hosting learning burst seminars for all Evaluators at all stages to look at different aspects of the evaluating world. Information has been sent out, and it on the Section website. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Assessment Day Process:

Just a reminder that clubs can contact evaluators directly for their assessment days needs. Please encourage all clubs to register their assessment day on the Section website.

Virtual Assessment Days:

From last year's Pilot project, Skate Canada has developed a process for hosting Virtual Assessment Days for Sections to follow. This process looks a little different than an in-person assessment day and requires existing evaluators to mentor with an existing virtual evaluator, along with the addition of a Service Technician to assist on-site volunteers with the technology. Skate Canada has developed three Guides (Service Technician, Club, and Evaluator) that outline the different components of the Virtual Assessment process. These guides can be found on the Info Center.

In October, four tech-savvy individuals trained to become Virtual Assessment Service Technicians. Kara and Erin hosted a virtual Club Information night on January 19 to provide the clubs with an overview of this process, requirements to host this type of assessment day, and to answer any questions.

Star 1-4 Event Assessor

Going forward, STAR 1-4 Judges are going to be known as **STAR 1-4 Event Assessors**. The new title identifies that the individual is assessing to a standard rather than judging a performance. They are looking for more feedback on the new title as it's rolled out to the field. Deirdre Coburn and Christine Low have recently been trained as Learning Facilitators.

Promotions:

Congratulations to the following officials who have achieved promotions this season. Keep up the great work!

Novice Synchro Judge – [Laura Slipp](#)

Senior Synchro Judge – [Kristen Belcourt](#)

Base Level Technical Official – [Desiree Tytgat](#)

Sectional Technical Specialist Phase 1; Dance - [Jayde Stewart](#)

Sectional Technical Controller Phase 1; Dance - [Christopher Mostert](#)

Challenge Technical Specialist; Dance – [Jon Okrainetz](#)

Challenge Technical Controller; Pairs – [Lynne Dey](#)

Challenge Referee; Singles – [Leslie Lawrence](#)



Remote Officials – *C. Anderson, K. Allison, K. Andres, M. Andriuk, K. Belcourt, D. Chief, P. Chislett, M. Desmarais, S. Dingle, T. Doctor, S. Ehalt, K. Fernandes, B. Ferris, J. Giesinger, J. Keliher, E. Ladouceur, C. Low, D. Mark, M. McDonald, S. Miller, V. Moses, C. Mostert, N. Rapati, F. Rapati, B. Salomons, L. Slipp, J. StCyr, K. Sutton, C. Thoms, M. Ure, J. Betts, L. Coombs, A. Jassman, H. Mayer, J. Holland, N. Patrie, C. Shaffel, L. Kelly, J. Kosonic*

Challenge Promotion Applications

You will soon be seeing an email in your inbox regarding applications for Challenge Level Promotions. All the details will be included, but in the meantime, to learn more about the process we encourage you to visit the Info Center [Officials - Officials Appointment and Qualification Procedure \(skatecanada.ca\)](#)

Competitions

We continue to work collaboratively with the Section Competition Committee and the Athlete Development Committee for approaches and adaptations that are necessary for events. The Remote Officiating Working Group lead by Krista Sellers has been extremely busy this season.

We have successfully hosted events with many different formats, including:

1. Video submissions, remote officiating
2. Live Skating, in-person officiating
3. Live Skating, remote officiating
4. Part live-skating, part video submissions, remote officiating

BIG THANKS to Krista and her trainers, especially Dallas Daniel and Devan Nychka, for their ability and willingness to constantly adapt and work through training of officials with patience and enthusiasm. We simply could not have done it without them!

2022 Sectionals Championships Update:

Many, many thanks to officials for their support at the championships. The event looked different again this year, but it was a special experience to watch live skating, have fans in the stands, and keep our officials in the comfort of their homes. Everyone worked together fantastically as a team, and we provided an amazing experience for the skaters and coaches.

2022 Mountain Regional Synchronized Skating Championships Update:

For the Section, this was yet another version of competition that we have experienced over the past year. And yet again, it was unique. This time, combining recorded video performances of the BC/YK teams, with the AB-NT-NU teams skating live, and the officials being remote. What a production! And for all the synchro officials, it was their first-time remote officiating. Big thanks and congratulations on having the courage to learn, pivot, adapt, and get 'er done! The synchro community was thrilled!

Out of Section Gigs: (Please let us know if we missed any)

Autumn Classic International – *Krista Sellers, Lynne Dey*

Skate Canada Challenge – *Brenda Hart, Deirdre Coburn, Marg Andriuk, Leslie Lawrence, Lynne Dey, Jonathan Okrainetz, Krystyna Banas*

Quebec Sub-Sectionals – *Pam Chislett*

ISU Grand Prix Skate America – *Lynne Dey*

Canadian Tire National Skating Championship – *Jeff Lukasik*

Four Continents Championship – *Jeff Lukasik*

Officials Assessment Commission Assignments (International Level) – *Jodi Abbott*

Synchro Officials Update – Chelsey Schaffel & Amanda Jassman

Synchro officials had the opportunity to attend refresher sessions in late November/ early December for technical and judging, as well as a refresher for the Novice judging candidates. The video monitoring program wrapped in December and the qualifying teams were able to receive in-person monitoring and feedback following the Rose Bowl competition. Thank-you to Jennifer Betts and Chelsey Schaffel for facilitating the refresher sessions and to everyone who helped with the monitoring programs.



Synchro has returned to competing! After a full season of restrictions and cancellations Section synchro teams were able to compete in December at the Rose Bowl competition, and in January at the Mountain Regionals. Officials, volunteers, and Section staff worked extremely hard to ensure safe synchronized skating events could be held in compliance with all COVID-19 protocols.

This month, our Section is hosting the 2022 Skate Canada Synchronized Skating Championships in Calgary, and the Ice Fest Invitational in March. Let's all hope for good health, and that these events proceed as planned.

The ISU has posted [Additional Questions and Answers #2](#). This can be found on the ISU.org website under Synchronized Skating > Rules > Handbooks in Synchronized Skating.

Technical Officials Update – Devan Nychka & Robin Forsyth

As officials, we know the importance of behind-the-scenes work to make events happen. A great example was when Deirdre Coburn and Renee Tatro were the on-site technical representatives for Sectionals and organized 60 volunteer officials with only 13 of those being on site. Amazing! While people don't always see the hours of work that go on during competitions, both in-person and virtual, we salute those who continue to adapt and manage a changing sports landscape and who make our skating events happen.

Similarly, much planning and practice have been going on in officials' development in the last year. Gradually, we are getting to see new names appear on panels and receive promotions which are very encouraging to see. So, "Welcome" to all those officials who were on the technical panel for the first time at Calgary and St. Albert STARSkate events, "Well done" to those officials who represented our Section at out-of-province events, and "Congratulations" to those candidates obtaining new promotions. We look forward to more growth and representation of our officials in the coming months.

Data Specialists Update – Sharon Dingle

Thank you for your patience these past few months as we tried to get back to normal competition mode. Unfortunately, normal didn't happen! We have gone from planning to have live skating and live officiating to remote and back again. At times, this has meant changing not only the data specialist assignments schedule but also our normal Result posting procedures to accommodate changing COVID restrictions. However, we did manage to see some happy skaters back in the rink.

We have noted a noticeable downward trend in the entries to competitions. This has meant going to two days instead of three for some competitions or starting later on Fridays and finishing earlier on Sundays. Due to not being allowed to post Results in the rink, we have made the move to online posting of Results, Start Orders and Officials Pages. We held a well-attended Zoom training session on January

11th to train all Data Specialists on the use of FileZilla at the rink to post Results. Documentation was sent out on the new procedures. We hope to do more training on other topics in the future on Zoom.

Colleen Gunnlaugson, one of our long-time Data Specialists has made the decision to retire. We want to recognize and appreciate the many hours she has contributed over the years to skating in our Section. Colleen dedicated over 28 years as an Official, volunteering as both a Judge and a Data Specialist. We will miss her at the rink but wish her well!

Recruiting Initiatives

The Officials Committee is exploring ways to attract and recruit officials to our community. Outside of encouraging existing officials to cross over into other disciplines and officiating areas we also want to bring in new candidates.

The Featured Official of the Month on Section's social media platforms will be returning in 2022! Each month, one of our Section Officials will be answering questions about what it is like to be an Official, from their experience.

Social media followers can then submit questions to the official, and they will answer them in a recorded video. It was a fantastic way to get interactive with our members and potentially pique the interest of a skater (current or retired), coach, parent, or anyone who may wish to explore a career in officiating. Stay tuned for our next feature!

On that note... do you follow Section on social media???

Facebook [@skateabnwtun](#)

Instagram [@skateab_nwt_nun](#)

Twitter [@SkateAB NWT NUN](#)

Feedback and Comments:

As a committee, we are open to receiving feedback. Continue to share your ideas and voice with us.

In conclusion:

THANK YOU to everyone within the Officials Community for your continued support and passion for skating. We are proud of you for all that you have learned, achieved, and accomplished over the past year. Looking forward to seeing you again soon whether it's on a screen or in an arena. We appreciate you!

