

The Officials Edge

Fall 2026 – Skate AB | NT | NU

Welcome to a New Season — and a New Chapter

Do you ever find yourself surrounded by rule-change documents, empty ink cartridges, and increasingly elaborate colour-coded cheat sheets, wondering, “Why am I doing this again?”

*Why am I
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again?*

It is a fair question — especially at this time of year. There are updates to absorb, new rules in effect and countless “what if?” scenarios to anticipate before we step onto our first panel of the season. On paper, becoming a figure skating official may not always seem like the most sensible way to spend our free time!

And yet, we keep coming back.

We come back because we care deeply about our athletes and our sport — but also because of the people beside us. We come back for the friendships we have made, the teamwork, the shared learning and that wonderful feeling of belonging to a community that understands why debating the finer points of an edge call that can be considered an enjoyable dinner conversation.

As your new Officials’ Committee Co-Leads, we are incredibly excited — and genuinely honoured — to welcome you to the 2026–2027 season. Over the past several weeks, we have had the opportunity to speak with so many officials from across our Section, and those conversations have been thoughtful, honest, hopeful and enormously helpful. You shared your experiences, your ideas, your goals and, in some cases, the things that have made your involvement more difficult than it should be. Most importantly, you showed us just how much knowledge, generosity, and commitment exist within our officials’ community.



One main theme that has emerged from these conversations was how much our officials value staying informed and connected with one another. We hope to build on the work already underway by creating even more opportunities to share information, exchange ideas and



strengthen relationships across our vast Section.

This newsletter is one of the first steps. Four times each season, we hope to share updates, introduce possible opportunities, celebrate achievements, recognize the people behind the panels and help all of us feel a little more connected, whether we are officials at our first competition, or have accumulated enough accreditation tags to require a reinforced jacket.

As we begin this new chapter, we also want to recognize and also sincerely thank the past members of the Officials' Committee. They gave countless volunteer hours, shared their expertise and stepped forward to serve our community. We are grateful for the foundation they created and for everything they have contributed to officials and athletes throughout our Section.

Building on that foundation, we know that connection and strengthening our community will not happen through one committee, one newsletter or one season. It will take all of us. We want a culture where people feel welcomed, are appreciated and are comfortable asking questions; where pathways and expectations are clear; where learning and mentorship are encouraged; and where we recognize that every role and every person matter.

Whether you are brand new to officiating, returning after some time away or entering your fiftieth season with a suitcase permanently packed for the rink, there is a place for you here. We hope this season brings opportunities to learn, to reconnect, contribute and perhaps even laugh together along the way.

Thank you for everything you give to our athletes, our sport and one another. We are proud to be part of this remarkable officials'

community, and we cannot wait to see what we can build together.

Welcome back — and welcome to the season ahead!



*Robin Forsyth & Devan Nychka
Officials' Committee Co-Leads*

Meet Your 2026/2027 Officials' Committee

We are beyond delighted to introduce the 2026/2027 Officials' Committee — a team of experienced and enthusiastic volunteers that are ready to help our officiating community learn, connect and move forward together.

Officials' Committee Co Leads: Robin Forsyth and Devan Nychka

Strategic Advisor: Leslie Keen

Technical Officials Co-Representatives: Robin Forsyth and Devan Nychka

Data Specialist Co-Representatives: Mary-Ann Macdonald and Krista Sellers

Synchronized Skating Officials Co-Representatives: Amanda Jassman and Christine Low

Judge/Evaluator Co-Representatives: Lauren Jones and Julie Smith



Base Level Technical Official Advisor: Karin Sutton

Member-at-Large: Jonathan Okrainitz

Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open, strengthen connections across our very large Section and create clearer, more accessible opportunities for officials to develop and contribute. We know we won't land every element perfectly on the first try — few of us do, but we are committed to listening, learning and working transparently alongside you.

Please reach out to any member of the committee with your questions, ideas or feedback. We're looking forward to a great season together, and we promise to keep the committee meetings more synchronized than our officiating calendars usually are!

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes: Welcome to the 2026–2027 Rules and Guidelines!

Just when you had last season's rules committed to memory, David Bowie, and the ISU would like to remind you that it is once again time to *turn and face the strange*.



The 2026–2027 season has brought plenty of changes from both the ISU and Skate Canada.

There are revised program

requirements, updated Scales of Values, new and modified choreographic elements, changes to level features and GOE guidelines, and enough fresh terminology to keep our highlighters, printers and group chats very busy.

Whether you are a judge, referee, a technical official or data specialist, please take time before your first assignment to review the documents that apply to your role.

Add These to Your Rinkside Reading List

Skate Canada resources

- [2026–2027 Singles Program Requirements Guide](#)
- [2026-2027 Pairs Program Requirements Guide](#)
- [2026-2027 Ice Dance Program Requirements Guide](#)
- [2026–2027 STAR Program Requirements Guide](#)
- [2026-2027 Adult Program Requirements Guide](#)
- [STAR and Special Olympics Event Standards for Assessment](#)
- [Skate Canada Competition Materials Catalogue](#)

ISU Singles and Pairs resources

- [ISU Communication 2786 – Single and Pair Skating Scale of Values 2026/27](#)
- [ISU Technical Panel Handbook: Single Skating 2026/27](#)
- [ISU Technical Panel Handbook: Pair Skating 2026/27](#)



- [ISU Handbook for Referees and Judges: Single and Pair Skating 2026/27](#)
- [ISU Deductions: Who Is Responsible? Single and Pair Skating](#)
- [ISU Figure Skating Rules, Handbooks and Clarifications](#)

A word of caution before you laminate everything: early in the season, the rules sometimes continue to...well...*change*. The ISU regularly posts Q&As and clarifications as questions arise, and Skate Canada may update its program requirements and supporting documents. A copy downloaded in June — or even August — may not remain the newest version.

Please keep checking the [Skate Canada Materials Catalogue](#) and the [ISU Figure Skating Rules page](#), particularly before your first few assignments. Check the document date and version number, replace outdated copies and watch for communications from the Section.

Most importantly, do not be afraid to ask questions. Rule changes are not a test of who can memorize the most pages before breakfast. We are all learning together, and a quick conversation with a colleague can often prevent a rinkside plot twist later.

So, sharpen up those pencils, charge those tablets and make room in your officials' bag for a few more pages. The rules may be changing, but our shared commitment to being prepared, supporting one another and giving every athlete our best remains exactly the same.



Development and Mentorship: More to Come

One message we have heard clearly from officials is the desire for more transparent development pathways, clearer expectations, and stronger mentorship at every stage of the journey. Whether you are brand new to officiating, working hard toward your next promotion or hoping to develop at the national or international level, you should have a clear sense of where you are going, and who can help you get there. This season, the Officials' Committee will begin strengthening mentorship and development opportunities across all disciplines. We are grateful to the many experienced officials who have already expressed an interest in sharing their knowledge and supporting others.

There is more work ahead before every piece is in place, but the wheels, or perhaps the blades—are in motion. Watch for more information throughout the season about mentorship connections, training opportunities and ways to identify and work toward your officiating goals.



Your Voice Matters

The best way to build a stronger officials' community is to hear from the people in it—and that means you.

We welcome your questions, ideas and feedback throughout the season. Tell us what is working well, where you need greater clarity, what development opportunities would be helpful or what you would like to see covered in a future newsletter. You do not need to have a perfectly polished solution before reaching out; sometimes a good conversation is where the best ideas begin.

You can connect with the Section office or your discipline representative. If we don't have the answer right away, we'll do our best to help find it or point you in the right direction.

No question is too small, and no idea needs a perfect landing. We're listening.

