

MINUTES  
of the  
ADULT COMMITTEE  
of the  
UNITED STATES FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

April 10, 2003, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Chairperson Maggie Harding called the meeting to order at 8:35 pm. She began by introducing Gail Sombati, Midwest Vice Chair and Tony Conte, Eastern Vice Chair, (the Pacific Coast Vice Chair, Alexis Foy, was unable to attend), then asking those other members of the Committee who were present to stand and be acknowledged.

Ms. Harding then welcomed the attendees. She advised all that the best means of communication with her or the other members of the committee was via e-mail. All committee members' addresses are available through the Adult Committee Page of the USFSA Website. She also explained that the purpose of the meeting was to have an exchange of ideas and that no decisions would be made until all sides are heard. The Adult Committee will eventually make the details and decisions with the adult skaters' input taken into consideration.

I. The following proposals to Governing Council were reviewed.

- ‰ Centennial Dance and Pre-Silver Dance Events
- ‰ The elimination of the figure requirement for Masters Novice and Junior categories
- ‰ The addition of allowing skaters who had passed all the Adult Pre-Bronze dance tests to enter Adult Interpretive.
- ‰ Establish guidelines for a well-balanced program for adults

In addition, a note is to be included regarding legal lifts for adult pairs - the lists are in the USFSA rulebook for everyone's reference.

A question was raised about the freestyle/moves tests and pairs tests with moves requirements in that they are out of balance. There was also discussion about removing the dance element requirement from pairs tests. There was further discussion requesting that pairs tests become a requirement because the freestyle tests were moving ability levels higher. Ability levels should be commensurate with the test levels to equalize competition. The way the structure is now, Adult pairs are all levels of adult skating, and masters pairs are all levels of masters skating.

Those pairs skaters who were present encouraged the Committee to push for the lengthening of pairs program times. If the proposal were submitted as New Business at Governing Council and passed, it would then be effective for the 2003-4 Competition Year.

II. Ms. Harding introduced Rhea Schwartz, first chairman of the Adult Committee, and the person who has done so much to promote and encourage Adult Skating.

Ms. Schwartz made the announcement that she had been approached by Sr. Ottavio Cinquanta of the ISU regarding an International Adult Committee, and subsequently an International Adult Competition sanctioned by the ISU. Ms. Schwartz and Sr. Cinquanta will work jointly on a statement to be issued by Sr. Cinquanta to the ISU Member Federations. At this point, there will be no change in the Mountain Cup. Initially there will be no interpretive, and there is still the question if it will be qualifying or non-qualifying. Speed skating would be a part of the International Adult scenario.

III. There were additional changes regarding Adult Nationals for the 2003 competition year:

- ⌘ There are now special medals for the Championship categories.

- ⌘ Those who qualified for Championship events did not pay for their championship entries, in line with the qualifiers for regular Nationals.

IV. The Adult Page of the USFSA Website is constantly being updated to include photos, links, and other information, along with the complete list of the Members of the Adult Committee. Ms. Harding requested that adult skaters send her any information that they would like to see on the website, especially if they know of local competitions that are offering adult events.

V. Ms. Harding showed the new Adult Skating Brochure, advising all that it is available by request at no charge through the USFSA. She also thanked Jennifer Simon, Julie Gidlow, and Paul & Michelle Harvath for the layout, design, and completion of the brochure. It's truly one the Committee can be proud of.

VI. Future Ideas

Again, Ms. Harding emphasized that no decisions were to be made at this time and that these ideas are just that, ideas. The Adult Committee will eventually define the details and make decisions with the adult skaters' input taken into consideration. The purpose of the meeting was to bring up some ideas and to discuss them, not to make decisions.

- ⌘ Making AN a qualifying competition for all technical events. Interpretive would remain as open events. Some of the points were:

S Many adults only come to AN; it is their one competition event per year. However, this may increase attendance at the Sectionals.

S By making AN all qualifying, attendance would go down and thus erode the revenue gleaned by the LOC from AN. However, there would be less ice time required, potentially fewer days of competitions, making it more attractive to clubs to host, and requiring fewer days off from work for competitors. The interpretive events will help with the revenue generated as open events.

S If the events were not split by age level, the same people would qualify repeatedly, thus discouraging the more senior skaters from even attempting to qualify. Therefore, consider splitting the groups by age, where appropriate, so that more people of all ages have a chance to qualify.

A suggestion was made to add a page to the website to present the idea, then request feedback from the Adult skating community to the Committee so it could be discussed in deeper detail.

Rick Kern, Chief Referee of AN 2003 was introduced. While the judges do appreciate the many (and good) levels of freestyle, the big discussion in the Judges' room had been Interpretive and their themes. Should the current categories be further split between dramatic and light entertainment? Pairs have expressed interest in doing Interpretive as a Pair; so perhaps an open event for similar/mixed pairs could be offered. But again, the question arises, how to make the groups, or how to split the groups to make the competition equitable?

⊘ Allowing pre-bronze dancers to enter the adult interpretive events. At the moment, there is no place for any pre-bronze skater at Adult Nationals. Ms. Harding reminded the group that there is a Report for Action being presented at Governing Council that will permit Adult Pre-Bronze dancers to enter the adult interpretive events. If passed, it will go into effect for next year's (2004) Adult Nationals. Perhaps Interpretive events should then be further split into Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Masters. This would encourage more beginning skaters to attend AN, which would raise the numbers, which would raise the revenue for the LOC.

⊘ Grandfathering MIF tests from the standard track: the suggestion was that if, for example, one has passed pre-juvenile moves, then one should not have to take that particular move

on the Adult Silver moves test, and so on. Ms. Harding explained that the administration of that would be impossible.

- ‰ A question was raised about tying MIF tests to pairs tests because the feeling is that for the most part, the pair duo have passed higher freestyle tests, and if so, the adult moves tests should have no bearing on the pairs tests.
- ‰ A request was made for Antique Practice Ice sessions. These would not be required of the more senior freestylers, but would be offered for those who want to practice with their peers, but don't feel comfortable skating on the same practice sessions with the Masters skaters.
- ‰ Perhaps some new guidelines should be set for warmup ice. Initially they were offered as a guarantee of getting at least one session on event competition ice; some this year were not on the competition ice. Should the skaters be charged for these warmup sessions? Consensus was that the adults would be willing to pay for those, as well as pay for regular practice ice sessions, thus boosting revenues for the LOC.

VII. A final question was raised about the requirement of age 25 to take adult level tests. It was suggested that a memo be sent to all Club test chairs reminding them of this fact. Post-meeting note: The age requirement is in the USFSA rulebook under TR 12.02 A (figures), TR10.02 A (Moves in the Field), TR26.02 A (Freeskate), TR33.02 A (Pairs), TR 40.03 A (Compulsory Dance-Adult), and TR40.04 A (Compulsory Dance-Masters).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Shere Everett