

Governing Council 2003
Thursday, May 8, 2003
Adult Committee Meeting Minutes
2:30 p.m. Stratford Room
Sheraton – Norfolk, VA

Meeting hosted by Maggie Harding, Chair of Adult Skating Committee
Welcome to meeting by Board of Directors member, Bill Cloran

Introductions of Adult Committee members in attendance – Kianoosh Samii, Lester Ascher, Bill Cloran, Jennifer Simon

Overview of items affecting adults proposed for Governing Council 2003:

- ❑ Centennial/Pre-Silver Dance Events
- ❑ Proposal to lower passing averages of compulsory dances for adults
 - ❑ This did NOT go through the Adult Committee
 - ❑ In the GC Board Meeting, it was passed to send back to committee for further review
 - ❑ If item gets brought back at GC meeting, please send back for further review
- ❑ Adult Interpretive – proposal changes eligibility so that dancers can now compete in interpretive without taking freestyle tests
 - ❑ It is now equal with Masters interpretive in allowing dancers to compete without taking freestyle tests
 - ❑ The focus of Interpretive is expressing the music, which occurs through the skating, not jumping or spinning, though these can enhance that expression.
- ❑ Remove wording for Figures tests passed AFTER 1977 – currently some skaters were excluded from competing in freestyle due to their figures test versus their freestyle test. This affected skaters testing figures AFTER 1977. Removing this wording allows these skaters to compete in freestyle at their freestyle level.
- ❑ Well Balanced Program Requirements – this was added to work alongside the standard well balanced requirements and help the skaters, coaches and judges
- ❑ Lengthen competition times for Pairs Competition
 - ❑ Times are still 'maximum' times
 - ❑ This puts the times more in line with the pairs test structure.

Things we did this year:

- ❑ New Medals for Championship events
- ❑ Championships Qualifiers no longer pay to compete at Adult Nationals
 - ❑ Previously, Championship qualifiers paid their Sectionals fee, and then paid additional fee to compete at Adult Nationals if they qualified.
 - ❑ This was not equal to standard competition where the skaters pay one entry fee.
 - ❑ USFSA will now pay for these competitors that qualify from Sectionals
- ❑ Web Updates
 - ❑ Contact Information for ALL committee members
 - ❑ Moves in the Field Comparison Chart
 - ❑ Competition Listing of Adult Events
 - ❑ Results, Competition Information
 - ❑ Pictures of Events

- If attendees know of additional information or suggestions for the website, please contact Maggie Harding to get information added to website.
- Adult Skating Brochure – this was distributed at US Nationals in Dallas and Worlds in Washington, DC. Contact the USFSA for copies of this brochure to distribute in your area.

Announcements

- Adult Nationals 2004 is the 10th Anniversary of Adult Nationals and will be held in Lake Placid, NY.
- Pacific Coast Sectionals 2004 – All Year FSC, Culver City, CA – February, 2004
- Midwesterns/Eastern Sectionals – To Be Announced – check website for updates and more information

Statistics for Adult Nationals

- Held in Ann Arbor, MI 3 times, including 2003
- 100 more starts in 2003 compared to 1995
- Average Starts* over the past 9 – 760
- High Number of Starts* - 1000, was in Lake Placid, 2000
- Wilmington, DE Starts (1st Adult Nationals) – 530
- Skating Club of San Francisco had 25 starts in 2003
- Washington FSC had highest starts by 1 with 26 in 2003
- DuPage FSC had 20 starts in 2003
- *Starts - meaning number of event starts – 1 skater may be competing in 3 events, which would be 3 starts
- 70 clubs represented at Adult Nationals 2003

Future Ideas

- Expanding Adult Nationals to all qualifying Technical Events
- Interpretive – break into separate levels based upon freestyle and/or dance requirement – Bronze, Silver, Gold, Masters
- Trying to come up with new ideas to make clubs want to host Adult Nationals.
- Revamp Pairs events – work on aligning tests with competition structure
- Adding Young Adult to Program
- Adding Special Olympians?

Question & Answer

1. What is a start? 1 event = 1 start
2. Adult Synchro skater who does ISI, USFSA Synchro and Singles commented that ISI Synchro Nationals and Adult Nationals tends to be same weekend in April causing skaters to choose one over the other. Is it possible to coordinate events so they don't conflict?
Answer - Bill Cloran explained the scheduling of all events for the USFSA showing the limitations in time between Standard Regionals/Sectionals/Nationals, Adult Sectionals/Nationals, and Synchro Sectionals/Nationals. Adding the issue of looking out for ISI doesn't always work.
Comment - Kianoosh Samii – commented that many Accountants miss Adult Nationals due to it conflicting with Tax Season (showing an example of another conflict) and unfortunately, we can't accommodate everyone.
Post meeting note: Maggie spoke with Mike Paikin, a VP of ISI, and noted this situation.

- Mr. Paikin will look into it by contacting the person at ISI who schedules their events and ask that they check the USFSA schedule for Adult Nationals.
3. Ann Dougherty asked if 12/4 Redistricting is implemented, how will this affect Adult Sectionals? Will they become too small to be viable to host?
Maggie Harding – the Numbers aren't in for the adult sectionals, so we aren't positive of distribution of numbers, but we will see how we fit into the structure and work on a solution as necessary (possibly 2 Sectionals – East and West?).
 4. Moves in the Field – attendee heard that Gold Moves in the Field are too long. Are we still in a 'wait and see' mode as far as Moves in the Field is concerned?
Maggie Harding – Skating seems to be improving due to the Moves in the Field (the goal of implementing them). There has been concern with judging and numbers (passing) for tests – we are trying to get comparison charts out to test chairs and judges to get them informed of quality required for passing
 5. Comment/Suggestion - Masters Passing average should be judged 1 level below
 6. Economics information on clubs offering programs for adult skaters – is there any information to help encourage clubs to hold/offer adult programs?
 *Look into getting information on adult programs and economics of it
Ann Dougherty – Ann Arbor FSC – you want to sell adult skating to clubs; adult skaters are the ones who give back to the club
Jean Fahmie – St. Moritz FSC – their club focuses on adult skaters; 220 of 400 are adults (18 and over) and they require that board members be adult skaters or former skaters
Kianoosh Samii – comment - Adults are great members
 7. Kianoosh reviewed again the importance of Proposition 7 (lowering adult passing average for compulsory dance tests) to make sure people understood the issue. There was discussion over this issue.
Bill Cloran – suggested that the Adult Committee petition to become a permanent committee
 8. How do you stimulate the brochure and adult skating within your area?
Maplewood FSC – thing they do to promote adult skating – coaches do a parent/skater number in their annual show and it helps promote adult skating
Suggestion – have an open house where adults do programs to show parents they can do it and help introduce them to adult skating
 Get on Club Board
 Talk to people (you are your best PR)
 Encourage parents to try

Idea – find a club in the country that developed an adult program and document it. This could be put on the website as a way to promote adult skating.

Roundtables will be held at 5:00 p.m. The Adult Committee will have a table and several committee members available for more questions.

Maggie Harding thanked all in attendance. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Simon