

General Meeting – U.S. Adult Figure Skating Championships

April 15, 2005

1. Governing Council Items discussion
 - a. Everything must pass the Governing Council before becoming "official".
 - b. Several items passed the BOD meeting in October including modifications to MITF.
 - c. Add requirements for the pre-bronze level to the rulebook to help standardize non-qualifying competitions.
 - Note: this is not to add pre-bronze to nationals
 - d. Open singles / dance and pairs to 21 +
Rearrange the groups, adding another group, not changing age ranges in classes 3,4,5.
 - Comment against: There will be no age groups for Championship event. It isn't fair to older people to have to compete against 21 year olds. The ISU events start at 30.
 - Comment for (A. Conte): After studying statistics, there is a group of older people who have moved through the age groups for 10 years, but there has been no influx of new, younger people starting. We need to encourage them to start.
 - The Adult Committee is developing a marketing plan to increase participation
 - The numbers are dropping in all of skating, and in sports. This isn't specific to figure skating.
 - Suggestion: Make it 23 instead of 21 – younger skaters can do collegiate.
 - e. Increase time of all masters events by 30 sec., increased adult OD time to 2:30 sec.
 - f. Clarify how figure tests affect a skater's level
 - g. Grandfathering and crossing over to the standard track
Only standard track to adult, not reverse. Purpose is to encourage more skaters to enter adult from regular track.
2. Bidding on Adult Sectionals (Gail Sombati)
 - a. Need more clubs to bid on Sectionals. People want them closer to their home... bid on them!
 - b. Sectionals are profitable - Profit range from \$3,000 to \$15,000 since 2001 (first year of Adult Sectionals)
 - c. Deadline for bidding on 2007 Adult Sections is December 1, 2005. Ideal to have LOC's chosen so they can be announced at prior year's Adult Nationals.
 - d. Only one ice surface is needed. Sectionals are generally a two-day event with practice ice in the evenings and in the mornings.
 - e. Minimum time between Adult Sectionals and Adult Nationals is four weeks.
 - f. Gail encouraged clubs to contact her with additional questions and also offered bid packets to those who requested them
3. ISU information (Rhea Schwartz & Paula Smart)
 - a. Adult working group for the ISU presenting the Oberstdorf competition
This is a developmental program in many ways. The ISU system will be tested for lower level skaters, the success of it will help to earn support from the ISU
 - b. The event will be used to help other federations establish testing standards.
 - c. The U.S. is the leader worldwide in adult skating
 - d. The age will be 30-65. The U.S. would like to see this expanded in the future. ISU president was concerned about liability.
 - e. 125 athletes representing 10 countries are registered to compete
 - f. All judges will be selected by the ISU, they will all be ISU judges trained on the new system.
 - g. The ISU is demonstrating their support by providing funding for the event.
4. ISU Judging System / Adult (Mary Cook)
 - a. The Governing Council will be voting to implement the ISU judging system in the U.S.
 - b. The plan includes Sectionals and Nationals in 2005-06 for novice, junior and senior only.

- c. For the second year, collegiate events, regionals and junior nationals will be included. Adult nationals can be included, if the athletes and committee are in support.
 - d. Questions:
 - Q1: How will this affect the interpretive events with a wide skill variety?
A: However the committee wants it to. The 6.0 systems could be used for that, or a small committee could be formed to decide how to just use the program component marks. It will be used only where appropriate and we will be flexible.
 - Q2: What about the cost?
A: It won't change. Technical Specialists are volunteers, too. You may have fewer judges to make up for the increase to the technical panel.
 - Q3: Will we need program content sheets?
A: Yes, most likely.
5. Competition issues (Ann Dougherty)
- a. Withdrawal issues and combining events
 - b. Referee may combine events by age group (not combine levels)
 - c. There is approximately a 10-20% withdrawal rate
 - d. We may need to be more flexible with non-Championship events
 - e. Suggestion: make it mandatory to combine events, rather than a choice of the Chief Referee
 - f. Only combine ages, not levels
 - g. Options:
 - Not hold events with less than 3 skaters
 - Combine events with less than 3 automatically to prevent withdrawals that would cancel events
 - Critiques? (John Cole) Only feasible if there are two entries and one withdraws at the event and the other entrant is already there. The judges already have extremely long days.
 - h. No refund policy: Necessary for the LOC's – they have to put out all of the funds based on the entries. If a skater withdraws for any reason, they still have those added costs.
 - i. Discussion of entry deadline. Concern: too far in advance of event increases withdrawals. But, LOC needs that time to prepare.
6. Financial update (Maggie Harding)
- a. Events are financially viable. Sectionals profit \$3,000 - \$15,000. Encourage your club to host!
 - b. Nationals are profitable. Ann Dougherty has helped all recent LOCs and is willing to continue to do so.
 - c. U.S. Figure Skating demonstrates support though continued LOC grant to hold events.
 - d. The Adult Committee was given funds for marketing: either handbook or video to help standardize adult tests – will help athletes and officials understand expectations.
7. Other comments / concerns
- a. Practice ice. Early practice ice on competition surface should be available and skaters need the opportunity to skate entire program, not just 1 minute. 2006 LOC chair & Ann Dougherty will address.
 - b. Note: The warm-ups prior to competition are optional, and were paid for by a grant to the LOC. Do not expect that in the future.
 - c. There will be a vote at Governing Council to elect U.S. Figure Skating officers and committee chairs. Tony Conte has been nominated to be the chair of Adult Skating Committee. Ron Hershberger has been nominated to be the president, however, Ron Pfenning is running against him for this position. Maggie commented that she has known Ron Hershberger for many years and he has always been a strong supporter of adult skaters.
 - d. 2006 LOC Chair introduced and a preview to Dallas given!