

Report of the Athlete Services Group (Group 1)
2022 Board of Directors and Governing Council Meetings
April 2022

Athlete Services Group – Lynn Goldman, Coordinator

Coaches Committee	Phillip DiGuglielmo, Chair
Dance Development and Technical Committee	Elyse Matsumoto, Chair
Memorial Fund Committee	Lynn Auxier, Chair
Pairs Development and Technical Committee	Danielle Hartsell Minnis, Chair
Singles Development and Technical Committee	Stefanie Mathewson, Chair
Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee	Kristin Abbott, Chair
Synchronized Development and Technical Committee	Lauren O’Toole, Chair

As Athletes Services Group coordinator, I have had the pleasure to work with and the opportunity to consult and advise eight very talented, dedicated and hard-working committee chairs. One of my main responsibilities is to communicate the issues and needs of these committees to the Board of Directors and relay information back. It is also my duty to assist the committee chairs with their budgeting process. I have strived to establish good working relationships with these chairs, and I am grateful to each of them for their dedication to their positions.

The Athletes Services Group has had a busy year. Each committee is actively working towards improving the sport of figure skating in the U.S. and improving our international/world standings. Please take the time to read each of the chairs and sub-committee reports. Several ballot items will be presented to the Board of Directors and Governing Council. Each request for action (RFA) was created and thoroughly vetted by several committees in order to create the best possible solutions to existing problems/concerns and to create new opportunities for clubs and athletes.

As my third year as Athletes Services Group coordinator and member of the Board of Directors comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Athlete Services Group committee chairs, vice chairs and committee members, U.S. Figure Skating’s Board of Directors, and the Athlete High Performance Department, with a special thanks to President Anne Cammett, Juliet Newcomer, Kelly Vogtner and Justin Dillon. I look forward to continued service with U.S. Figure Skating in other capacities in the future. It is truly an honor to support our athletes and this diverse organization.

Coaches Committee – Phillip DiGuglielmo, Chair

It is an understatement to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Coaches Committee chair. Through my work, I have gained an expanded perspective on the impact that coaches have on their athletes and on the future of the sport. Quality coaches develop quality athletes.

Organization:

Since last May, the Coaches Committee has been holding monthly Zoom meetings to plan projects and build relationships within the committee. We added several new members this year, and the idea was for them to interact regularly. We have had exceptional attendance for each meeting.

Education:

We have produced two spin webinars with the help of PSA that were “sold out” on Zoom with 500 registered attendees each. They seem to have been well received, and we had many people reach out for further clarifications on rules through email. This means that coaches are thinking about spins and maximizing points, not only in levels, but with GOE.

Our committee also hosted an IJS Refresher Course with the PSA last September instead of our usual IJS rules update. This also had the maximum 500 registrants and had more than 200 live viewers. Again, many emails were received with further questions after the presentation to explain even more fundamental parts of IJS. Therefore, we may expand this presentation to explain even more. Our goal is to produce four webinars per year to reach different constituent groups.

Susi Wehrli McLaughlin joined one of our monthly Zoom meeting to bring us up to date on the many programs that Learn to Skate USA is doing. She asked for our help in producing some short videos on how to teach several learn to skate level elements. As we were happy to help, several of our members including Sean Rabbit and Phillip Chang made videos, in addition to Scott Hamilton, and Jessica Calalang with Sharon Smith. Those videos are already up on the Learn to Skate USA Instagram account.

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Representation at Events:

We are making it a point to publicize the work of the Coaches Committee at events. There were several members of the committee who attended the 2021 National High Performance Development Camp last August in Nashville and the 2022 National High Performance Development Camp in January, also in Nashville. We hosted a successful “rendezvous” with coaches and the attending officials. This camp also gave our committee an opportunity to meet in person many of the elite synchronized coaches who were invited for the first time. We look forward to forging stronger ties with the synchronized community of coaches and their discipline. We continued that representation and work at the National High Performance Development Camp after this year’s U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Several of our members were in attendance and helped coordinate, present and generally keep the camp moving. Heidi Thibert, Alex Chang and I were the team leaders for the coaches at these camps. We facilitated discussions and collected feedback on what coaches of that level would like to have included in future educational opportunities.

Cross Committee Communication:

Several of our members serve on other committees and/or attend their meetings to help inform decisions that affect our sport.

New Vice Chair Positions:

I would like to increase the vice chair positions of the committee to represent more aspects of our sport. We will be adding a vice chair for programs that would include Theatre On Ice, Excel and adult. These areas are growing fast, and it is important that we have members who are focused on their development. There will also be a vice chair of communications. This position would be responsible for keeping our members abreast of projects, scheduling calls, helping with branding of presentations, etc. This also follows the strategic plan goal of developing leadership amongst our ranks.

Observations:

One conversation to note was at the coaches’ wrap-up session at the National High Performance Development Camp after U.S. Championships. Part of the curriculum has been to have a coaches roundtable discussion at the end of the camp, and Heidi has been facilitating these discussions. There was lengthy conversation about raising the bar or entrance moat for coaches in our sport. While all of these coaches had taken time out of their busy schedule to take advantage of the educational opportunity that this camp afforded and are committed to their continuing education, the group felt wholeheartedly that there are too many beginner coaches who can step into a rink and begin to teach without any credential or basic coaching education. In 2020, the Coaches Committee balloted an increase of education requirements for coaches and received many negative comments from several committees including the Adult Skating Committee. It was decided to table the idea when the pandemic started, and we focused on partnering with the PSA on free education for coaches that were sitting at home not being able to teach. As raising the bar for the coaches will directly raise the quality of skaters that our coaches develop, this committee believes we should renew our push in this direction.

New Business:

There has been discussion on how coaches can push collegiate skating to new levels. We have an exploratory group who is trying to understand the history of collegiate skating, where it stands in the world of collegiate sports, and if it would be possible to ever be on the track to become an NCAA sport. We realize that there have been attempts in the past, and there are many hurdles to overcome. With the cost of skating continuing to rise, many see skating as not competitive with other sports because of the lack of college scholarship opportunities. We want to keep this conversation moving.

As always, the work of this committee could not move along as smoothly without the help of Justin Dillon, Mitch Moyer and the PSA’s Heidi Thibert.

Dance Development and Technical Committee – Elyse Matsumoto, Chair

It was wonderful to see in-person competitions and begin to move back to “normal” in this ever-changing landscape. While there were still challenges throughout the way, it was wonderful to see athletes of all levels be able to participate in events in person.

In June, we offered virtual programming via Zoom to kickoff the season. Couples participated in a variety of off-ice dance classes, IJS and judging updates, and a special seminar with Emilio Dosal, associate choreographer of *In the Heights*, to discuss history, culture and movement of various hip-hop styles. High praises to Justin Dillon and Sarah Arnold for organizing a great curriculum for our teams.

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We kicked off the competition season with four key successful events: Cannon Dance Classic, Chesapeake Open, National High Performance Developmental Camp (held in conjunction with Chesapeake Open), Lake Placid Ice Dance International, and U.S. Figure Skating Novice and Junior Challenge Skate. With limited competitive opportunities in 2020, we were thrilled to see so many couples in attendance at each event, which included the U.S. Figure Skating Novice and Junior Challenge Skate seeing its highest number of couples in attendance (10 novice and eight junior teams respectively). We were also thrilled to bring back the qualifying season in a more familiar setting and saw great attendance in Blaine and Alpharetta. Many teams opted to compete at both competitive opportunities, and we saw many great performances across all levels.

The Dance Development and Technical Committee made adjustments to prerequisite requirements for the intermediate partnered free dance and solo free dance tests in partnership with the Tests Committee. We are also presenting additional changes to solo free dance requirements, updating gendered language in ice dance tests, and presenting our proposal for the ice dance season for developmental levels. Updating gendered language and outlines for ice dance is a huge undertaking and is why we are proposing to implement this in 2023, but I strongly believe that it will create an opportunity to make a large program in our organization more inclusive, offer an additional revenue stream and create opportunity for skaters to learn both sides of the dance, which will hopefully lead them to be more holistic skaters and coaches.

We are incredibly proud of our Team USA athletes for all of their accomplishments this season, but I would be remiss if I didn't call out specifically the performances in Beijing of Madison Hubbell and Zachary Donohue, Madison Chock and Evan Bates, and Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker. The international field of ice dance is incredibly deep, but U.S. ice dance specifically is truly world class. In Beijing, there were multiple personal best performances, two of which helped Team USA in earning their first team silver medal. In addition, Madison and Zachary skated two flawless performances during the individual ice dance event and brought home a bronze medal. Congratulations to all three teams for their inspiring performances. The legacy of U.S. ice dance is alive and well and, with this updated proposal, it will help continue this tradition.

The key to all three of these teams' success stemmed from the developmental levels regarding preparedness, competitive opportunities and the length of the season. As such, the committee is considering changes to the qualifying competition structure for ice dance. Most of the competitive flow would start the same, incorporating the changes of the National Qualifying Series (NQS). At the U.S. Ice Dance Final, the top nine teams in juvenile, intermediate and novice would be named to the National High Performance Development Team. These teams would begin their following season in May for a season kick-off competition to start their season earlier, which would include additional off-ice programming. By starting their season earlier and giving access to resources at an earlier date, this would allow the off-season for these levels to be the same length as when we had the U.S. Junior Figure Skating Championships, which was a larger concern for many dance coaches.

Additionally, our proposal would offer the top novice ice dance teams an opportunity to compete at an invitational challenge at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Bringing the top novice talent back to the U.S. Figure Skating Championships and to compete in a high-pressure situation is crucial to their development. As our top three teams have proven, the competitive opportunities to continuously push and support each other have allowed our teams to grow to new heights.

It has been my honor to serve as the chair of the Dance Development and Technical Committee. I am extremely grateful to those who served on my committee this year for some great discussions on how to move the sport forward. A HUGE shout out to my vice chairs, Julia Rey and Mary-Elizabeth Wightman, for always being prepared and knowledgeable. Thank you to Lynn Goldman for your endless patience, guidance, and support throughout this first year. Finally, a huge thank you to Justin Dillon, Mitch Moyer, Kelly Vogtner and Juliet Newcomer for your infinite amount of support and dedication for our athletes.

Memorial Fund Committee – Lynn Auxier, Chair

This year was once again a challenge for our committee, just as it was for the association. With all the COVID-19 restrictions and surges, it was difficult to plan and hold events for our committee.

1. **Rise Essay Contest:** There were 75 essays submitted, and our readers (Lexi Rohner, Mary Pottenger, Anastasia Canuscio, Ting Cui) chose the winners from submissions.
 - Seth Chang, Pre-Preliminary
 - Kenzington Brady, Preliminary
 - Mia Quarantillo, Pre-Juvenile
 - Molly Krupa, Juvenile

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2. **Fundraising events and totals for Memorial Fund:**
 - a. Virtual Fans at Skate America: 80 seats sold for \$4,800 profit
 - b. Look Back at Rise – U.S. Figure Skating Championships \$1,120 (83 tickets sold)
 - c. Individual Contributions – \$131,256.63

3. **Disbursements from Memorial Fund:**

Memorial Fund Scholarship: There were 210 applications this year with 184 applicants receiving funding totaling \$380,000.

Total ASP only: 62
Total CSAP only: 118
Total CSAP and ASP applicants (received both awards): 19

4. **Development Program:** The total distribution this year was \$139,000, with an additional \$11,000 to be distributed prior to fiscal year end. The funds were distributed as follows:

Women: \$52,000
Men: \$43,000
Pairs: \$18,000
Ice Dance: \$26,000

Again, thanks to the U.S. Figure Skating Foundation for managing the Memorial Fund investments and allowing us to continue to support our skaters because of their results.

Pairs Development and Technical Committee – Danielle Hartsell Minnis, Chair

The Pairs Development and Technical Committee's main purpose is to work in partnership with the US Figure Skating High Performance Department to support the objectives and programs to foster growth, development and long-term success of pair athletes in the U.S.

A summary of 2021-22 scheduled programs/events:

- National High Performance Development Camp for 2020-21 season held in Norwood, MA, August 2021
- U.S. Championship Series events held in Henderson, NV, October 2021, and Norwood, MA, November 2021
*42 pair teams competed in the 2022 qualifying season in juvenile through senior
- National High Performance Development Camp for 2021-22 season held in Nashville, TN, January 2022
- Team Up Camp, February 2022, scheduled for Nashville, TN, but canceled due to COVID-19
- Virtual educational sessions for pair teams and coaches: 8 sessions between March and April 2022
*Expert panels include national and world-level coaches, judges and technical panel officials
*Topics to be discussed: lifts, twists, death spirals, pair spins, side-by-side spins, jumps/throws, skating skills/step sequences and components

The committee has focused on the following objectives since June 2021:

- Continuing to review the current pipeline for pairs and determining if changes should be made
- Continuing to evaluate current rules and determining if changes should be made
- Voting to update rules to include bonuses for elements in developmental levels
- Updating calling clarifications to support changes made at Governing Council and the ISU Council meetings
- Identifying strong individual skaters to encourage exploration of pairs skating
- Encouraging entry into pairs as a supplement to singles skating
- Developing criteria for additional spots to the National High Performance Development Camp
- Creating online educational opportunities for pair teams and their coaches

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges to the competition season, our U.S. pair teams were excited to be back competing in person at events throughout the year. As we look forward to a new season our committee will utilize on-line platforms to provide educational opportunities for our athletes and coaches as well as continuing our support of in-person programs. The Pairs Development and Technical Committee supports the efforts of advancing pairs skating in the United States and will continue to seek ways to better utilize resources that will create opportunities for the growth and development of our pair teams.

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Singles Development and Technical Committee – Stefanie Mathewson, Chair

First, I would like to extend my wishes for health and safety to the entire membership of U.S. Figure Skating during these continued unpredictable times. COVID-19 has changed our world in ways we never imagined and, until we collectively regain a new found sense of normalcy, I wish each and every one of you well. Additionally, with respect to the geopolitical conflicts that impact our sport, specifically the war in Ukraine, I sincerely hope that each of your families and extended family members is safe and well. U. S. Figure Skating has worked tirelessly and nimbly to re-imagine competitive experience for athletes at all levels. As we begin to exit the pandemic and move to an endemic, I remain incredibly proud of our athletes, coaches, staff and parents in creating a community that supports sport during this difficult time. I am proud to serve in this organization.

The work of the Singles Development and Technical Committee relies on the commitment and expertise of its members. I would like to extend special thanks to Ann Barr, vice chair of singles development, and Dana Graham, vice chair of singles technical, for their collaboration, insights and dedication to our work. I would also like to thank each of our incredible committee members and our group coordinator, Lynn Goldman, for their expertise and assistance. Finally, I would like to thank Justin Dillon, our headquarters liaison, for his close collaboration, responsiveness and dedication.

The Singles Development and Technical Committee works closely with Justin Dillon, director of high performance development, Mitch Moyer, senior director of athlete high performance, and Heidi Thibert, PSA liaison. They and their teams do an amazing job making the camps and programs come to fruition and making sure the critical information is disseminated to coaches and parents, as well as athletes! We continue to be deeply grateful for their efforts.

As we turn toward the 2022-23 season, the short program and free skate charts have been updated. Special thanks to Dana Graham and Juliet Newcomer for their involvement in the updating process. The committee chair and vice chairs frequently revisit the documents with respect to real world and real time application in the field and stand ready to revise as required by the domestic competitive environment.

The National High Performance Development Camp, held immediately following the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Nashville, Tennessee, was a lot of work to pull off in a continuing pandemic, but was incredibly engaging for more than 100 athletes, parents and coaches! Being in the arena when future Olympians performed was thrilling for the campers. Campers, parents and coaches engaged in a full and enriching agenda focused on preparing them for the coming seasons and maximizing the opportunity to discuss critical aspects prior to the onset of their training for the 2022-23 season.

The Singles Development and Technical Committee has met via Zoom five times since July 2021. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2022. Items discussed/to be discussed were/are:

1. Discussion of additional bonuses specific to developing athletes
2. Revision of spin requirements in intermediate
3. Changes in software to offer more information to coaches and athletes for step sequences and combination spins
4. Extensive discussion of skating skills and importance for development
5. Possible domestic implications of reducing program components from five to three

Looking ahead toward the coming season, items under consideration by the Singles Development and Technical Committee during the 2022-23 season are:

1. As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we will remain considerate of and responsive to the ever-changing landscape of competition as well as the continued variability in training conditions. Work: Ongoing.
2. Develop concepts and plans in collaboration with U.S. Figure Skating staff for the National High Performance Development Camp (juvenile, intermediate and novice athletes) to follow our U.S. Figure Skating Championships in January 2023. Work: Ongoing.
3. Once data is received from the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 qualifying seasons, our committee will look carefully at the balance between the technical score and the program components score at our developmental levels to assure balance. This work was disrupted for the 2019-20 season by the COVID-19 pandemic. Work began spring 2021. The target date for a draft report has been postponed pending accurate data from EMS. This is potentially additionally impacted if the ISU adopts three components instead of five. If this occurs, we are prepared to implement program component factors that are reflective of our emphasis in athlete development domestically. Engagement/re-engagement: TBD.
4. Develop a research based and sports science informed progression of fundamental physical literacies for athletes at benchmark levels that position them to enter any discipline with opportunities for future success. This is a large project that will require input from medical and sports experts. Can be combined with item #5. Start date: TBD.

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5. Continue to improve the off-ice training regimens of developing skaters to prepare them for the limited ice availability at international events. This regimen has included education and suggestions for warm-up and cool down routines to include strength training, technique training and mental toughness training. We look forward to continuing to build on our prior work and enhancing off-ice training further to increase the efficacy of time spent on ice. This work was disrupted, but also enhanced, in the 2019-20 season by the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope to leverage the increase in off-ice training and expand the paradigm around training for figure skating to include a significant amount of thoughtfully designed off-ice training and preparation. Research and implementation are ongoing. For example, the participants of the 2022 National High Performance Development Camp were asked to complete a survey detailing their on-ice and off-ice training regimens. This information will augment our data on the benefits of off-ice training coupled with on-ice training. This is a large project that will require input from medical and sports experts. Can be combined with item #4. Start date: TBD.

It remains my privilege and honor to serve U.S. Figure Skating in the capacity of chair of this committee.

Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee – Kristin Abbott, Chair

The Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee continues its work in support of the athletes and U.S. Figure Skating programs.

- Continue to develop and grow our network of sports medicine professionals to support local events and contribute to Team USA medical pool
- Review of Team USA medical staff credentials and qualifications to maintain an appropriate standard for the field.
 - Medical staff selections for international and ISU events, including review of evaluations by team members to assist in future assignment decisions.
 - During the 2021-22 season we aimed to send two medical providers, often a physician (MD) and physical therapist (PT) or athletic trainer (AT) to each international event. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some events had late withdrawal of medical staff due new COVID-19 diagnoses or other extenuating circumstances. When a physician was not able to travel, a physician was identified to provide telehealth support to the AT or PT from the U.S.
 - 31 events were supported by medical professionals.
 - The U.S. Figure Skating delegation was supported by a multidisciplinary team of a physician, physical therapist, sport psychologist, and sport dietitian at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, China.
- Committee members continued to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic including updates from the CDC, WHO, USOPC, and ISU.
- Supported U.S. Figure Skating events staff in advising LOC volunteers and medical teams hosting in-person competitions, including assisting with development and review of COVID-19 mitigation procedures and protocols.
- Supported Athlete High Performance staff and director of sports medicine and performance services in reviewing international and ISU event COVID-19 mitigation protocols and supporting delegations in identifying testing resources and timelines.
- Ongoing monitoring of injuries and health concerns of Team USA and ISP athletes in collaboration with athlete high performance sports medicine staff and contracted service providers:
 - Our network of medical volunteers facilitate connecting athletes with care near their home or training site.
 - Reviewed and performed pre-participation medical reviews with 2021 Champs Camp eligible athletes
- Organization, maintenance, and distribution of medical kits for medical staff.
- Continue to review and apply SafeSport policies and procedures to ensure safety of athletes.
- Annual review and update of Medical Standards of Care for LOCs hosting qualifying and nonqualifying competitions.
- Continue to explore injury surveillance and develop programs for injury prevention.
- Continue to support training camps.
- Encourage research in the sports sciences to benefit our skating athletes. Projects are being actively developed by some Team USA medical personnel at their respective institutions.
- Collaboration with other U.S. Figure Skating committees in providing educational programs for athletes, coaches, team leaders and officials.
- Annual education for referees on concussion identification and other sports medicine topics that may impact an athlete at competitions.
- Cooperative effort with the USOPC to provide up-to-date tools in the care of elite athletes, including injury management, nutrition, mental health and health maintenance.

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The Sport Sciences and Medicine Committee thanks the Athlete High Performance staff (Mitch Moyer, Justin Dillon, Gretchen Mohney, Ingrid Benson, and Courtney Burson); and the Events staff (Bob Dunlop, Mia Corsini Bailey, Megan Romeo); and many others who have supported and collaborated with the committee this past year as athletes, coaches, officials and club volunteers navigated returning to competitions during an ongoing pandemic.

Synchronized Development and Technical Committee – Lauren O’Toole, Chair

The Synchronized Development and Technical Committee has had an active season and is thrilled to return to in-person competitions. The entire committee along with the vice chairs, Devon Hensel (technical), Felicia Haining-Miller (development), and myself have worked on numerous initiatives.

For the 2021-22 season, the agreed upon four key focus areas are:

- Provide timely, transparent, and consistent communication
- DREAM Program
- Re-imagine developmental programming for athletes and coaches
- Continue coach mentor program(s) (Coach Connect and Coaches’ Development Program)

To date, the number of registered synchronized teams in the U.S. is 547. I am happy to share that we are 89 percent of the way back to pre-COVID-19 levels of registered teams.

Working groups were established within the committee to continue to move the discipline forward. Working groups include: ***Adult Synchro, Coaches Development Program, Costume Guideline Review, Collegiate Synchro, Data Analytics for Pipeline Revision, Re-imagine Camps, and Progression Documents for Synchronized Skating.*** Projects were categorized into short and long-term durations, and every committee member had an opportunity to participate. As a result of the ***Costume Guideline Review***, adornments will be permitted at all divisions beginning in the 2022-23 season.

We continued the ***DREAM Program***, with 12 athletes from junior and senior Team USA organizations serving as ambassadors. This season, co-captains Elizabeth Hume and Brittney Rivelli worked with Felicia Haining-Miller as well as headquarters staff on all initiatives. The initiatives this season were centered around increasing engagement on our social media platforms, as well as providing athletes with tools for success as the sport returned to the competitive scene after a season off due to COVID-19. We recorded between 10K-32K views on Instagram reels that were a part of a ***Team Training Update*** series where DREAM skaters recorded pieces of their training to share with the community. Additionally, the DREAM Wordpress website was discontinued in exchange for the U.S. Figure Skating Fan Zone website. The articles written by DREAM skaters have had greater reach with this change, and we are happy with the increased inclusion of synchro-related posts on the U.S. Figure Skating Instagram and Facebook accounts.

The second season of ***Coach Connect*** proved to be successful. Coaches who teach juvenile through novice teams were paired with officials, and preliminary through open juvenile coaches were paired with a mentor coach. As of this report, 49 coaches participated and 23 officials volunteered to support this program. Additionally, 15 coaches served as mentors for preliminary, pre-juvenile and open juvenile coaches. Looking ahead to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships, we are thrilled to host the ***Coaches Development Program – Domestic*** for the second year. The program focuses on our developmental coaches at the preliminary, pre-juvenile and open juvenile levels with the goal of assisting with progression to our qualifying divisions. A coach participant of the 2020 program said: *“I genuinely enjoyed the entire weekend and the sense of achievement once I got home and got back to work. The sense of achievement is still thriving in me two years later.”* Three coaches have been accepted, representing all three sections of the country.

The ***Re-imagine Camps*** working group, led by Jenny Cherry, took on the task of determining the best path forward for developing synchronized skating athletes and coaches. The group created a robust plan to be implemented over the next two seasons. For the 2022-23 season, we will host a virtual Coaches College and an inaugural ISP Elite Camp, bringing together all ISP teams, coaches and officials for monitoring and development. To preemptively kick off the 2023-24 season, we will offer an in-person camp for both athletes and coaches in May, in addition to virtual Coaches College and ISP Elite Camp in the Fall.

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This season, the committee continued coach office hours. These calls were held on the following dates: Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 9 and March 23. During these one-hour sessions, a variety of topics were discussed including: pipeline revision data analytics, well-balanced program requirements for the 2022-23 season, and upcoming committee projects. As a continuation from last season, we also continued providing a data overview regarding metrics associated with teams transitioning to IJS (for review: this season was preliminary, pre-juvenile and open juvenile). Example metrics included test levels and ages. We plan to continue office hours for future seasons, as they have proven to be very successful since their inception in January 2020.

As we reflect on the season, I would like to express my gratitude to all members on the committee and Manager of Synchronized Skating Kyleigh Gaff for her dedication to the sport. Thank you Athlete Services Group Coordinator Lynn Goldman for your guidance. Additionally, much appreciation to Rachael Naphtal for your work on the IJS component factors.

It has been an honor to serve as chair of the Synchronized Development and Technical Committee for the past three years.