# **U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors**

#### Samuel Auxier, President

Serving year four of a four-year term Home club: Chicago FSC



Current Skating Involvement: Committee Member Former Athlete Official (Judge and Technical Panel) U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors

Click <u>HERE</u> for Samuel's resumé.



**Professional Experience:** Corporate Management Information Technology Management Consulting

## Information from 2022 election Why I would like to serve:

The opportunity to serve as president once again is exciting for several reasons, but, in particular the chance to leverage the experience and relationships I built in this role previously. The transition to the new board structure is a chance to transform the board by implementing the new model passed by membership last year. The new model will have the board focus on execution of the strategic plan, and I will use my experience at Deloitte working with numerous boards to implement a successful transition. This transition will require significant time and effort as well as frequent communication to membership about the impact on the organization and changes to the way we operate.

In addition, there are other specific areas we need to make progress in. We have done some very good work around DEI – particularly education and training, and we need to follow that up with activities to attract a more diverse group of parents and athletes to try our sport. USFS membership needs to look more like America. That will require a broad set of initiatives including community outreach, an active marketing campaign and coordination with Ice Rink ownership to implement our programs. This will be a long-term, grass roots effort but it is vital for figure skating's future in the U.S. if we are to grow and stay competitive with other sports and activities.

We must continue to focus on Athlete Development and Support, including a review of how our different skating programs 'fit together' and how our testing programs can be updated to lead to better development of skating skills, particularly at an earlier stage of development. We need to map out the purpose and goals of each program, so it is clear to the skaters and parents how to progress in our sport. It is critical that we work with the AAC and USOPC to identify updates to the overall support structure today's elite athletes need to be competitive. Working closely with our coaches and integrating them into our athlete strategy and development approach is also vital to this process.

While much of our attention is on our elite athletes, as the National Governing Body for our sport, there are many opportunities to expand the non-elite competitive and recreational tracks emphasizing healthy activity and social aspects of participating in figure skating and I will lobby for more attention on these areas.

We also need to focus resources on is getting Synchronized Skating into the Olympics. This will require working closely with the ISU and other countries with the same goal but refreshed approach to overcome past obstacles to success. The implications of this go well beyond winning medals at the Olympics and is important for our future.

The other important area for me, personally, is that we make progress with our leadership development programs so that we can identify and develop future leaders that can take on this role in the future!

#### Jackie Chang, Independent Director

Serving year two of a two-year term Individual Member: Stamford, Conn.





Click <u>HERE</u> for Jackie's resumé.

## Why I would like to continue to serve:

U.S. Figure Skating is undergoing a transformation. In addition to enhancing our focus on athletes first, we are rightsizing our financials and are focused on growing revenue. I'd like to continue to share and apply my knowledge in revenue generating activities at a major sports league, especially putting the organization in the best possible position going into its television rights renewals, to allow U.S. Figure Skating to better serve its athletes and members.

# Timothy Goebel, Director

Serving year two of a two-year term Home club: The SC of New York



Current Skating Involvement: Committee Member Former Skater Club board member/leader Club volunteer

Click <u>HERE</u> for Timothy's resumé.



Professional Experience: Data Science Management Technology

# Information from 2024 election Why I would like to serve:

I was honored and humbled to learn of my nomination to serve on the Board of Directors. The sport of figure skating has been an important fixture of my life since I was a toddler. As my involvement in the sport has evolved from athlete and Olympian to coach and official, and now purely in a volunteer capacity, I've been questioning where I can focus my efforts to drive more impact. I believe that serving on the Board would be the perfect vehicle and platform to do so.

As a global Program & Partnerships Manager at Google and a data science practitioner, I believe my professional experience has prepared me well for this opportunity. I am responsible for compiling feedback and driving consensus among a cross-functional team of stakeholders including Engineering, Product, Legal, Compliance, Marketing, and Sales - often with misaligned goals and priorities. Additionally, I am responsible for ranking program priorities and co-developing product roadmaps with limited financial resources and understaffed teams to achieve short-term goals while enabling long-term program growth.

As a member of the Board of Directors, I will work to promote participation and athletic achievement in the sport of figure skating. As a former competitor, I will be a strong advocate for our coaches and athletes to facilitate competitive success in an inclusive, safe, and sustainable way. And I will partner with my colleagues to continue our legacy of competitive success and as a leader in organizational excellence among our NGB peers.

**Peggy Graham, Director** Nominated for a two-year term Home club: Denver Colorado FSC





Current Skating Involvement:

Committee Chair / NVC Official: Judge Official: Referee Official: Technical Panel

Click <u>HERE</u> for Peggy's resumé.

Professional Experience: Corporate Management Legal Education Public Administration / Nonprofit

# Why I would like to serve:

I would like to give back to our sport by contributing to a highly credible, efficient, effective Board. My legal training and experience can help identify and address risks and vulnerabilities. My extensive background as a skating official, along with my temperament and commitment to honesty, transparency and effective communication, would engender trust.

I would like to see us cultivate the joy of being involved in skating in our extended community. Skaters, families, officials, coaches and fans should feel supported, appreciated, and welcome however they choose to be involved. I would push our entire organization to be as transparent as possible in all aspects of our work.

My vision for figure skating and for the work of the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors is that we:

- Ensure athlete health, safety, and well-being are paramount
- Help develop in every athlete, coach, official, and spectator the immense, lifelong passion for figure skating that I have enjoyed
- Strive for maximum transparency in everything U.S. Figure Skating does
- Consistently honor, support, and engage the hundreds of volunteers who are at the core of U.S. Figure Skating
- Cultivate, recruit and educate a new generation of exceptional athletes, coaches, and officials through programs from Learn to Skate to Synchro, collegiate and adult skating
- Make being a member of U.S. Figure Skating consistently fun and rewarding
- Ensure U.S. Figure Skating's financial condition is solid and improving
- Always celebrate our successes and build trust by honestly and transparently confronting challenges as they arise.

I see all these priorities in the current Strategic Plan. I pledge my time and effort – both individually and together with our extremely strong team – to work to make U.S. Figure Skating live up to its ideals and aspirations.

#### Lisa Hernand, Director

Nominated for a two-year term Home club: St. Moritz ISC, Inc.



**Current Skating Involvement:** Official: Judge Official: Referee Committee member

Click <u>HERE</u> for Lisa's resumé.



Professional Experience: Corporate Finance Non-Profit Board of Directors/ Executive Committee

# Why I would like to serve:

I would like the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors because I can lend my experience and expertise while being able to contribute to the strategic direction and future success of U.S. Figure Skating. I will leverage my professional experience and combine that with my passion and dedication to the sport of figure skating to support the strategic direction and initiatives of U.S. Figure Skating.

I have experience as the most recent (and last) treasurer of the PSA and the four years in that role have given good perspective and exposure to being a part of the executive committee and board for a nonprofit organization that is also part of our sport.

I would like to see the organization continue to create and expand the fan base for the sport, which would also provide the means to support the athletes to be able to pursue their dreams and goals. Being able to expose more and more of the communities in and around the cities with large clubs and cities that host U.S. Championships is a great way to bring people into the sport and grow the base (of both athletes and fans).

Also, developing and creating a pipeline of volunteers (including all types of officials) that will then create continuity and a sustainable base for the future is important. Welcoming new ideas and thoughts through new board members and others is a good way to create a solid future path and continue to move the organization forward in a positive direction.

I am committed to supporting the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, as well as supporting the mission, vision, and values of this organization. I look forward to this opportunity and being able to support U.S. Figure Skating in this new capacity.

#### Victoria Hildebrand, Director



Serving year two of a two-year term Home club: Champlain Valley SC



Current Skating Involvement: Committee Chair / NVC Committee Member Former Athlete Official (Judge and Technical Panel)

Click <u>HERE</u> for Victoria's resumé.

Professional Experience: Corporate Health / Wellness Higher Education Management Public Administration / Government Technology

Information from 2022 election **Why I would like to serve:** I am passionate about driving growth and securing a strong future for our sport.

I'd like the public to be excited about figure skating again. That excitement would translate to an increase in membership, new talent, more volunteerism, and financial stability. Creating more opportunities to participate, bringing awareness to existing programs, creating new events and encouraging grassroots operations in remote areas can all have a positive impact on the public's enthusiasm.

I've been working at senior leadership levels in large corporations and the federal government for many years. I've been responsible for budgets up to \$3.5B and organizations as large as 16,000. While in government I had the opportunity to testify to Congress and represent the Dept of Transportation Secretary in presidential cabinet meetings. I have experience sitting on corporate boards. I believe my blend of government and business leadership experience can help U.S. Figure Skating plan for a successful future.

Heather Paige, Director Nominated for a two-year term Home club: Cutting Edge FSC





Current Skating Involvement: Coach Committee Member Former Athlete Rink Management / Skating Director U.S. Figure Skating Board Member

Click HERE for Heather's resumé.

Professional Experience: Choreographer Coach Event Management

# Why I would like to continue serving:

I want to serve on the board of directors for U.S. Figure Skating because I feel a deep responsibility to give back to a sport that has profoundly shaped my life and career. Figure skating has taught me invaluable lessons in teamwork, resilience, and perseverance, and it has opened doors to opportunities I never imagined. Now, I want to help ensure that the next generation of athletes can have access to those same opportunities.

Having been deeply involved in the sport, I understand both the joys and challenges athletes and coaches face across all disciplines. I'm passionate about advocating for their needs and creating an environment where skaters of every background and level feel supported and empowered to achieve their goals. By focusing on innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity, I hope to help U.S. Figure Skating thrive and continue to inspire a broad and diverse community.

## Statement of Purpose:

I am seeking the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for U.S. Figure Skating to give back to a sport that has shaped me personally and professionally. Figure skating has been a cornerstone of my life, instilling in me the values of teamwork, perseverance, and leadership. It has provided me with transformative experiences, and I am passionate about ensuring the sport continues to thrive and inspire future generations.

Having experienced the unique challenges and rewards of synchronized skating, I am deeply committed to supporting its growth and recognition within the figure skating community. I bring a perspective shaped by firsthand involvement in the sport, which allows me to understand and advocate for the needs of athletes, coaches, programs, and officials nationwide. My goal is to ensure their voices are heard and their aspirations play a meaningful role in shaping the future of U.S. Figure Skating.

To me, service is a chance to foster meaningful relationships and partnerships—both within the Board of Directors and with the committees that drive U.S. Figure Skating's initiatives. It is a platform for collaboration, creativity, and the exchange of knowledge. My dedication to service was forged through my background in synchronized skating and further strengthened through my experiences with teamwork and committee involvement. I approach service with a genuine passion for introducing new ideas, driving change, and working collaboratively to achieve shared goals.

As a board member, I aim to contribute my experience, collaborative mindset, and dedication to shaping the organization's strategic direction. I am committed to advancing U.S. Figure Skating's mission while ensuring it continues to evolve to meet the needs of skaters, coaches, and fans alike. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant future for the sport we all love.

# Kevin Rosenstein, Director



Serving year two of a two-year term Home club: Los Angeles FSC



# Current Skating Involvement:

Committee Chair / NVC Committee Member Former Athlete Official (Judge and Technical Panel) Team Leader/Team Physician

Click <u>HERE</u> for Kevin's resumé.

# Professional Experience: Corporate Management Marketing / Communication

#### Information from 2024 election Why I would like to continue serving:

It has been my honor to serve for the past year and a half as a Director at Large and I am excited about the opportunity to continue in this role.

Two years ago, as a part of the nomination process, I noted my deep belief in the vision and mission of U.S. Figure Skating and the positive impact that the organization has on the entire skating family. After two years of serving as a Director, my beliefs have only solidified. As a member of the Board, I have been able to help advance the organization – in terms of our strategic plans and initiatives, in terms of our financial solvency, and in terms of our athlete-first focus. Another term on the Board would allow me to further advance this work, building on the foundation of these first two years.

I believe that my skills and experience, both within and outside of skating, position me to serve as an active and committed member of the board. I work in the realm of strategic planning and that work is directly applicable to my role on the board. My experience within skating as a committee chair, official, and volunteer provides great insight into the mission and operation of U.S. Figure Skating that I can apply to work in this role.

Beyond general participation in Board meetings and events, I have been active in three committees/working groups:

- Strategic Planning Committee
- Officials Innovations (working group of the Strategic Planning Committee)
- DEI Taskforce (just starting work with this group)

I would welcome the chance to continue with the initiatives that we are tackling in each group. Just as a note, I selected not wanting to serve as an officer as I feel like continued work on these committees/taskforces is more aligned with my strengths.

It has been exciting to be in a leadership position as Tracy has transitioned into the CEO role. She is bringing a new energy to the organization, and I would love to be a part of her continued partnership with the board.

Lastly, I have been involved in skating for over 50 years. I love this sport. I love the beauty and athleticism of the sport demonstrated at all levels and ages. I love the sense of community I feel when I walk into a rink locally or internationally or during a passionate text discussion. I love the life lessons that came from doing figures, having to perform in front of a crowd, of getting up when I fell, and of accepting a loss. I have gained so much from this sport and this organization, and I am grateful to be in a leadership role where I can give back just a bit.

Matt Slatus, Independent Director Nominated for a two-year term Individual Member: Phoenix, Ariz.





Click HERE for Matt's resumé.

# Why I would like to continue serving:

Over the past three years I have had the opportunity to serve U.S. Figure Skating as an Independent Director on the Board of Directors. This has provided me with the opportunity to bring together two of my loves, the business of sport and figure skating, in a meaningful way.

Growing up as the child of two skating coaches, I had the opportunity to compete as both a singles and pairs skater with my younger sister. In my professional life, I'm the President of a company owned jointly by two Major League Baseball teams; the Chicago White Sox and the Los Angeles Dodgers. On the U.S. Figure Skating BOD, I'm able to lend my expertise to discussions about the future of the sport as well as provide valuable insights into how to grow the business of figure skating. With business growth comes more resources for our skaters at all levels. I'm looking forward to continuing on the Board of Directors as we work together to grow skating across the United States.

As my third year on the Board of Directors comes to a conclusion, I'm proud of the work the Board has accomplished, particularly over the last twelve months. Never one to rest of my laurels, I'm excited for the work still to be done in the next year. As we march towards Milan Cortina in 2026, figure skating is ripe for transformational changes in its business model and I'm excited to have the opportunity to be part of the sport's continued growth and development.

The U.S. Figure Skating broadcast rights, presently allocated to NBC, expire in 2026 and the BOD must spend the next twelve months continuing to lay the foundation for a successful renewal of this agreement, while also beginning renewal negotiations. Corporate sponsorships also represent an opportunity for growth and my professional background in major league sports brings an area of expertise to the BOD, one that can support our talented staff in Colorado Springs.

I am also excited to watch the BOD support the high-performance team in Colorado Springs as they work with our athletes to bring home international medals across the next Grand Prix cycle leading up to the 2026 Olympic Games.

Finally, after record growth across Membership and Learn to Skate, the BOD must continue to support headquarters in its efforts to grow the sport at all levels. I firmly believe that our next Olympic champions are today's Learn to Skate participants.

The future of figure skating is bright, the leadership of the Board of Directors is strong and I'm excited for the opportunity to work to grow figure skating in the United States over the next twelve months.

# William Tran, Director Nominated for a two-year term Home Club: Pasadena FSC





Current Skating Involvement: Committee Chair / NVC / Committee Mb Official: Judge, Technical Panel Adult Athlete Club Board Member / Leader Club Volunteer

Click HERE for William's resumé.

# Professional Experience: Corporate Management Legal Mental / Behavioral Health

# Why I would like to serve:

I am honored that my peers have nominated me to serve on the Board of Directors. Figure skating has been part of my life for almost as long as I can remember. And once I became established in my professional career, I proactively decided to carve out time and energy to serve the figure skating community as an official, as a volunteer, and as a leader.

My main reason for now wanting to serve on the Board is that I believe I can bring my professional expertise and perspective to the table in the following areas: media, as a risk expert, former employment lawyer, manager, trusted advisory with a Fortune 500 company, and as a professional who consults with doctors, psychologists, public relations executives, and standards and practices.

As all board members should strive to do, I want to come to consensus as to the Board's priorities. In terms of what I personally see as important to the organization's vision:

- Truly bringing the sport and the organization into the 21st century.
- Increasing our fan base and doing so in ways that do not require compromising what it was that made our sport so special in the first place.
- Recruiting and retaining more officials, and doing so in a responsible, organized, and transparent manner.
- Being even more strategic in how we identify and support talented athletes.
- Working in greater coordination with our clubs.
- Capitalizing on inclusivity.
- Improved and streamlined communication with all members and stakeholders.

#### Jordan Alexander, Synchronized Athlete



Serving year two of a two-year term Home club: FSC of Charlotte



Most prestigious int'l competition: World Synchronized Championships 2015-2020 **Most recent int'l season:** 2021-22

## Why I would like to serve:

U.S. Figure Skating is at a pivotal moment in its 100+ year history. More fans are accessing the sport through the internet and social media, viewing opportunities have evolved from live television to replay, and the global figure skating community has had a negative light overshadow it since the 2022 Olympic games. These circumstances have given the sport a chance to improve and change for the next generation, however, I do not believe USFSA has fully captured the opportunity in front of them. Serving on the Board of Directors is an opportunity to help position U.S. Figure Skating for the next 100 years and adapt with the changing environment around them.

I believe there are actions the Board can take today to better support U.S. Figure Skating's membership base from learn-to-skate beginners to Team USA Olympians. Following my retirement from figure skating, I joined the financial world with a focus on strategic investments across private equity and distressed debt. Today, I manage approximately \$3 billion of capital with a focus on turnaround situations where my day-to-day is structured around repositioning companies for future growth. I would plan to apply the same mindset to positioning U.S. Figure Skating for a stronger future.

Finally, I would like to serve on the Board of Directors as I believe there are opportunities I could help U.S. Figure Skating unlock including finding additional sponsors, making connections with potential banks/lenders, or solving the music/media rights issues through connections with media industry professionals.

# ASHLEY CAIN, PAIRS ATHLETE



Elected for a two-year term Home club: The SC of New York



Most prestigious int'l competition: 2022 Olympic Wintr Games (Timothy LeDuc) **Most recent int'l season:** 2021-22

## Why I would like to serve:

For the past decade, I have served on the Athlete's Advisory Committee. I am honored to be a person who my fellow athletes can trust to convey their thoughts in a governing environment. I place great responsibility in my role, and I strive to be the best representative and spokesperson for my fellow figure skaters. I have succeeded in my role in the AAC, which gives me the confidence to know I will succeed as a member of the Board of Directors. I know that this role will present different challenges and responsibilities compared to previous roles I have held, but I believe my experience as an athlete and as a member of various governing bodies has adequately prepared me.

Along with the AAC, I have served on the Aspire Subcommittee, Membership Committee, Singles Development and Technical Committee, Pairs Committee, and Sports Sciences and Medicine Committee. My governing experience has granted me a wider lens to view the sport of figure skating through. Interacting with officials, coaches, USFS board members, athletes of varying ages, and numerous other people within our sport, I have developed an understanding of everything that goes into making our sport so unique.

I have a strong desire to continue to represent my country and the sport of figure skating. I have enjoyed my recent opportunities to travel the country teaching different seminars to athletes of varying levels. I have coached at Champs Camp, National Development Camp, Access to Excellence Camp, and Excel Festival. Furthermore, I am privileged to have contributed to roundtable discussions with U.S. Figure Skating where I was able to contribute my thoughts and ideas regarding the present and future of figure skating in our country. I take pride in the responsibility, and I have full confidence in myself and my ability to perform in this role.

# ALEXA KNIERIM, USOPC TEAM USA ATHLETES' COMMISSION



Serving through December 2028 Home club: DuPage FSC



Most prestigious int'l competition: 2022 Olympic Winter Games (Brandon Frazier)

Most recent int'l season: 2022-2023

# Why I would like to serve on the Team USA Athletes' Commission:

Serving as Team USA's AC for the pair skating discipline is a great honor. It is my mission to give back to this wonderful sport. I am capable and qualified to serve as a representative of pairs skating. Having been a committed member of Team USA and the USFSA for more than a decade, I have acquired valuable experience and insights that can significantly influence our sport at the highest level. As a recently retired athlete, my unique viewpoint, combined with my ongoing relationships with current skaters, will foster a genuine connection that will assist the USOPC in comprehending the needs of the athletes.

My primary focus is figure skating, and I am prepared to participate in Team USA AC meetings, NGB AAC, or IMS AAG meetings. I am dedicated to attending all virtual meetings. My plans are to stay actively engaged in figure skating in several ways such as coaching, mentoring, performing and advising.

Figure skating has afforded me remarkable opportunities and various avenues for success. It is my objective to impart the knowledge and expertise I have gained throughout my career, from its inception to the present day.

My sincere gratitude and appreciation for the USOPC and USFSA inspire me each day to enhance our sport. The success of our sport relies on the unity of both athletes and board members. It is a privilege to represent our athletes, and I am committed to fulfilling this role. I will provide support for the athletes and serve as a voice for expressing their needs and aspirations.

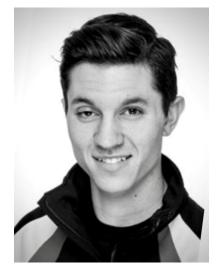
## Why I want to serve on the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors:

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve on the U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors to further the objectives of U.S. Figure Skating. My aim is to help formulate creative strategies and to champion the interests of athletes, thus fostering the advancement of our sport.



COLIN MCMANUS, ICE DANCE ATHLETE

*Elected for a two-year term Home club: The Skating Club of Boston* 



**Most prestigious int'l competition:** 2016 NHK Trophy (*Anastasia Cannuscio*)

Most recent int'l season: 2016-2017

# Why I would like to serve:

It has been an honor to serve on the board over the past several years, and I truly look forward to the opportunity to continue in this role. Being an athlete director on the board is certainly demanding, but it's so rewarding to have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of the athletes. I want to continue to add my perspective to the long-term planning for this association. I want to bring my athlete experience along with my perspectives as a coach, technical official, and team leader to help shape the vision for what the athlete experience will look like for our next generation of skaters.

## **MIRAI NAGASU, SINGLES ATHLETE**



Elected for a two-year term Home club: Pasadena FSC



Most prestigious int'l competition: 2018 Olympic Winter Games Most recent int'l season: 2018-2019

#### Why I would like to serve:

Figure skating has shaped my life in ways I could never have imagined when I first stepped onto the ice as a young girl. It has taught me discipline, perseverance, and resilience—qualities that extend far beyond the rink. As a competitor, I was privileged to experience the highest levels of the sport, from the national championships to the Olympics. Now, I want to give back to the sport that has given me so much by helping to shape its future in a meaningful and impactful way.

Serving on the Board of Directors for US Figure Skating is an opportunity for me to use my experiences to advocate for athletes, promote inclusivity, and ensure the long-term growth and success of our sport. I have seen firsthand the challenges skaters face at all levels—whether it's access to resources, financial barriers, or mental health struggles. I understand the dedication required to excel and the sacrifices that come with it. My goal is to ensure that every skater, regardless of background or circumstance, has the support they need to thrive both on and off the ice.

One of my primary focuses would be athlete representation and well-being. Competitive figure skating can be both exhilarating and demanding, and I want to be a voice for skaters navigating the complexities of training, competition, and life beyond their athletic careers. By fostering better communication between athletes and US Figure Skating leadership, we can create an environment where skaters feel heard, supported, and empowered.

Additionally, I am passionate about expanding opportunities for skaters from diverse backgrounds. The sport has made strides in recent years, but there is still work to be done to make figure skating more accessible and welcoming to all. From increasing funding for grassroots programs to strengthening mentorship opportunities, I want to help bridge the gap so that more young skaters can see a place for themselves in this sport.

I also believe in evolving the way figure skating engages with fans and the broader community. With my experience as a competitor, coach, and ambassador for the sport, I understand the importance of storytelling in keeping audiences engaged and invested. By embracing digital platforms, social media, and new forms of outreach, we can strengthen figure skating's presence and attract new generations of fans and athletes.

Ultimately, my desire to serve on the Board stems from my love for this sport and my commitment to its future. I know what it feels like to dream big, to fall, and to get back up again. I want to use my journey—both the highs and the struggles—to contribute to the evolution of figure skating in a way that benefits current and future generations. It would be an honor to work alongside fellow leaders in shaping policies, initiatives, and opportunities that reflect the best interests of skaters and the sport as a whole. Lauren O'Toole, Athlete Services Group Coordinator Non-voting, serving year two of a two-year term Home Club: The SC of New York, Inc.





Current Skating Involvement:

Committee Chair / NVC Committee Member Former Athlete Official (Judge and Technical Panel) Team Leader

Click <u>HERE</u> for Lauren's resumé.

Professional Experience: Corporate Management Marketing / Communication Project / Process Management Technology

#### Information from 2024 election Why I would like to continue to serve:

I would be honored to continue serving on the Board of Directors and to continue to support the U.S. Figure Skating Strategic Plan and all the members of U.S. Figure Skating.

As the Athlete Services Group Coordinator, my responsibility will continue to be updating the Board of Directors on initiatives of the discipline committee chairs. My role is to ensure that the initiatives are in alignment with the Strategic Plan of U.S. Figure Skating while protecting the U.S. Figure Skating brand.

# Statement of Purpose:

As the returning Athlete Services Group Coordinator, my vision includes the below points.

- Serve as a resource and partner for the discipline committee chairs as they focus on supporting our coaches and athletes through various initiatives.
- Ensure that discipline programming caters to the full spectrum of athletes, from the elite athletes focusing on international success to the new learn-to-skate participants.
- Continue to foster and encourage more regular communication amongst the discipline committee chairs concerning best practices, current initiatives, and to imagine ideas for future consideration.
  - During the past two seasons, I have led quarterly meetings to increase communication. This season, I invited the chairs from Competitions, Tests, and Giving Programs to ensure alignment with committees in different groups.
- Work in concert with the newly formed Coaches Council.
- Partner with the Sports Science and Medicine committee on enhanced mental health training.
- Build an onboarding plan for new committee chairs within the Athlete Services Group.
- Continue to utilize metrics to measure successes and/or failures of programs.
- Embrace my new role as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Board Liaison.

**Scott Brody, Membership Development Group Coordinator** *Non-voting, appointed to fill vacancy* 

Home Club: Skokie Valley SC





**Current Skating Involvement:** Committee Chair / NVC Official: Judge Official: Referee Official: Tech Panel U.S. Figure Skating Board Member

Click <u>HERE</u> for Scott's resumé.

Professional Experience: Corporate Management Technology Health / Wellness

# **Statement of Purpose:**

It is an honor to be selected by the Board of Directors to fill the vacant Membership Development Group Coordinator role. We have an incredible base of members and numerous opportunities for them to participate in the sport. I am dedicated to highlighting the value that our skating programs bring to the organization and continuously seeking opportunities for innovation that drive participation and strengthen our overall community. All work will be guided by the Strategic Plan as a compass, ensuring that every initiative aligns with the long-term vision and goals of U.S. Figure Skating.

There are three key areas that I would like to focus on during my term:

- 1. Work to make skating more accessible to broader communities and seek opportunities to reduce barriers to entry.
- 2. Leverage untapped data to better understand our members, the journeys they take in skating over the course of their lifetime, and the key factors that influence their engagement with the sport.
- 3. Work with our various programs to innovate and identify revenue generating opportunities.

I will approach this role with a spirit of collaboration, working closely with committee Chairs, subcommittee National Vice Chairs, the Board, and our membership to ensure that our efforts align with the strategic goals of U.S. Figure Skating. I am dedicated to building on our previous success and inspire a new generation of skaters and enthusiasts across every stage of their journey.

# Rachael Naphtal, Technical and Officials Group Coordinator

Non-voting, serving year two of a two-year term Home Club: The Skating Club of Boston





Current Skating Involvement:

Committee Chair / NVC / member Official: Judge, Technical Panel Team Leader Former Athlete Club Volunteer

Click <u>HERE</u> for Rachael's resumé.

Professional Experience: Corporate Management Technology

# Information from 2024 election Why I would like to serve:

I have had an opportunity to participate in U.S. Figure Skating in a variety of ways as a competitor, club volunteer and official. I strongly believe in the impact of skating and the importance of creating life-long positive experiences for athletes. It's something I have dedicated a lot of my life to and want to help in whatever way I best can.

Officials are critical to the success of the athletes and organization, and I think we are at a pivotal point when it comes to their cultivation and retention. Many factors, including the competition for prospective official's time and changing technological ecosystem have led to a point where we need to fundamentally change components of how we manage officials. The Official's Innovation group is a great example of this- recognizing that fundamental changes need to be made and bringing in diverse groups of voices to figure out how to move forward.

I think that I have unique qualifications that will make me effective at moving the organization forwards towards our goal of official and coach growth. As a relatively recent athlete, I have experienced the transition to officiating and the process of coming up as a technical official and judge in multiple disciplines. I have extensive recent experience in the training and promotion of officials including serving concurrently in three active vice chair roles on DORM. I also have experience outside of skating in leading teams and driving consensus between large groups of people. I think that all those experiences in skills will be critical in the process of understanding how to best create a pool of educated and welcoming officials.

**Pilar Helm, Administrative/Legal Group Coordinator** Non-voting, serving year two of a two-year term Home Club: Baltimore FSC





**Current Skating Involvement:** Committee Chair / NVC Committee Member Former Athlete

Click <u>HERE</u> for Pilar's resumé.

Professional Experience: Legal Public Administration / Government

## Information from 2024 election Why I would like to continue to serve:

It has been a privilege to serve as the Admin/Legal Group Coordinator for the last two seasons - a lot of important work has been accomplished with much left to do. I believe my professional skillset as well as my experience within the sport continues to make me a highly qualified candidate for the role. I am inspired by the renewed vision and focus of the organization under Tracy's leadership and hope to continue to be a part of the movement in making our sport truly "athlete first." I understand that the work of the committees that fall under the Admin/Legal portfolio is instrumental in creating an honest, transparent, supportive, and most importantly, safe environment for our membership.

# Statement of Purpose

As Admin/Legal Group Coordinator, my goal is to provide support and guidance to the Committee Chairs as well as effectively communicate their work and initiatives to the Board of Directors. My continued vision for the committees in the Admin/Legal Group includes aligning priorities and initiatives with U.S. Figure Skating's Strategic Plan, supporting the DEI Task Force, ensuring that safety of our athletes and members remains the top priority, thinking creatively about effective fundraising methods, and choosing to be "athlete first" in all the work.

The work that the Admin/Legal Group conducts ultimately translates to how much the membership and athletes trust the organization – being transparent and responsive is important and necessary.