

U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors
Meeting Agenda

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, 8 p.m. ET
via Zoom video conference

- 1. Opening of the Board of Directors Meeting**
 - a. Welcome & call to order
 - b. Roll call/establishment of quorum
 - c. Approval and adoption of agenda
 - d. Conflict of interest disclosure
 - e. Acceptance of July 10, 2023 Board of Directors meeting minutes
- 2. President's Report**
 - a. General
- 3. U.S. Figure Skating Interim Coaches Council**
 - a. Update on the progress of coaches' integration project
 - b. Presentation of a recommended slate of members for Board approval
- 4. Update on the Progress of the Strategic Plan / Operating Plan**
- 5. Grievance Update**
- 6. Requests for Action**
 - a. DORM – reinstate allowances for competition judges to teach learn to skate, etc.
 - b. Adult Skating – rename adult solo dance tests to medal convention
- 7. Financial Report**
- 8. New Business**
- 9. Adjourn**

Next Meetings of the Board of Directors:

Monday, October 3, 2023, at 8 p.m. ET – Regular Board Meeting
Board Work Session 2 - TBD

**U.S. Figure Skating Board of Directors
Via Video Conference
Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, 8 p.m. ET**

Present – Voting Members

Samuel Auxier (President), Jackie Chang, Jennifer Hartley, Victoria Hildebrand, Pooja Kalyan, Jenna Longo, Kristina Lundgren, Colin McManus, Kimberley Moore, Heather Paige, Kevin Rosenstein, Matthew Slatos; Amanda Will, Kym Worthy, Felicia Zhang

Present – Non-Voting Members

Todd Bromley, Anne Cammett (Past President), Troy Goldstein (ISU Representative), Pilar Helm, Tracy Marek (Chief Executive Officer), Lauren O'Toole, Elise Preston

Absent

Simon Shnapir (alternate USOPC AAC representative)

Guests

None

Staff

John Anderson, Eric Fehr, Juliet Newcomer and Kelly Vogtner

I. Opening of the Board of Directors Meeting

- A. Auxier called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Auxier then took a moment of silence to acknowledge 9/11.
- B. Moore confirmed attendance and a quorum using the participant list in Zoom.
- C. The agenda was adopted.
- D. Auxier asked the members to disclose any conflicts based on tonight's agenda. No conflicts were disclosed.
- E. The July 10 minutes and report of action were approved as presented.

II. President's Report

- A. Auxier reported that Champs Camp went very well. Auxier also reported on the John Nick's competition.
- B. Auxier notified the board that the ISU updated their conflict of interest policy. Due to the changes, Lundgren will need to step down as vice president so she can continue to judge internationally. Auxier asked that anyone else who is interested in serving as vice president reach out to him.

<Hildebrand joined the meeting.>

III. Interim Coaches Council

Vogtner provided information on the interim Coaches Council and reviewed the process for selection. She then presented the recommendations and responded to questions.

Rosenstein moved to go into executive session.

Auxier moved to come out of executive session.

MOTION: To approve the interim Coaches Council members as discussed during executive session.
SECONDED. APPROVED.

IV. Update on the Progress of the Strategic Plan / Operating Plan

Vogtner reviewed the progress on the operating plans that go toward meeting the association's strategic plan goals. Vogtner then responded to questions from board members.

V. Grievance Update

Helm provided an update on the work of the Administrative/Legal Group. Anderson provided information on the plans for the Look & Learns this season.

VI. U.S. Figure Skating Requests for Action

- A. Moore reported on three e-ballots that were sent since the July 10 board meeting. The motions and results were as follows:

MOTION 1: To approve the staff and athlete selection procedures for the 2024 Youth Olympic Games. **APPROVED via e-ballot without objection.**

MOTION 2: To approve the athlete selection procedures for the 204 ISU Four Continents, 2024 ISU World Junior and 2024 ISU World Figure Skating Championships. **APPROVED via e-ballot without objection.**

MOTION 3: To approve the minimum total element scores (TES) required to qualify for the senior events at the 2024 U.S. Figure Skating Championships. **APPROVED via e-ballot without objection.** The approved scores were posted in Technical Notification 298.

- B. Bromley presented a request for action from the Domestic Officials Recruitment and Management Committee to restore rules from last season regarding coaching and judging, and then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to amend **rule DOR 5.03 (page 59, 2023-24 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook)** to reinstitute the rules that allow judges to coach group lessons as part of a learn-to-skate program and also allow coaching and judging for full-time college students. (Please see the Report of Action for this meeting for the full details.) **SECONDED. APPROVED.**

- C. Preston presented a request for action from the Adult Skating Committee to update the solo free dance test names and then made the following motion:

<Request for Action> to amend **rules 8362 and 8392 (pages 249 and 253, 2023-24 U.S. Figure Skating Rulebook)** to change the names of the adult solo free dance tests to medal colors. (Please see the Report of Action for this meeting for the full details.) **SECONDED. APPROVED.**

Auxier made a motion to go into executive session. Seconded. Approved.

<Newcomer and Vogtner left the meeting.>

VII. Executive Session

Auxier made a motion to come out of executive session. Seconded. Approved.

VIII. New Business – None

IX. Closing Announcements and Adjournment

Auxier moved to adjourn the meeting. There were no objections.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the board will be via video conference on Monday, Oct. 2, at 8 p.m. ET. A second board work session (no actions taken) will be held on a yet-to-be-determined date.

Meeting concluded at 9:50 p.m. ET

Submitted,



Kimberley Moore, Secretary

Athlete Services Group Board Report

Submitted by: Lauren O'Toole, Athlete Services Group Coordinator

September 8, 2023

Overview

- Committees are beginning to work on study groups and projects now that they have their final rosters confirmed.
- Board of Directors approved minimum score for Senior Singles, Pairs, and Ice Dance for U.S. Figure Skating Championships.
- Feedback has been very positive on the Singles Protocol Feedback initiative. Exploring if this can be extended to levels below Juvenile.
- Athlete profiles for Singles currently in NQS handbook, page 28.
- Currently working with Megan Romeo, Ed Mann, Michael Keene, Discipline Committees and Competitions Committee on the “start” of the new season now that well balanced program requirements are removed from the rulebook.
- Synchronized has identified and named DREAM Athletes for upcoming season. Athletes serve as ambassadors for the Synchronized Discipline.

Discussions and Study Groups for Singles (research only, no RFAs)

- Singles Test Requirements: Assess content of and location of well balanced program and test charts. Determine the unintended consequences of having three program requirements charts for Singles. Work being done in partnership with Tests Committee.
- Age Banding: Looking at options for the future based on past season data.
- Open Juvenile / Juvenile Singles Discussion: Examine if Open Juvenile still has a place in the pipeline or is this level a duplication of what is available elsewhere.

Membership Development Group Board Report, September 2023

Submitted by: Elise Preston

Membership Update

Great news so far this season, as of September 5th we have registered over 91,800 members, a **6.6% increase** over last year.

Learn to Skate USA

For outreach we plan on continuing virtual workshops and training sessions with skating directors and instructors. We also plan on constant phone calls to programs while focusing on education and help for our underperforming programs.

Overall Learn to Skate is doing well. 38 states show an increase in membership over this same time last year. The top 5 states with growth are:

California – 49% increase

Virginia – 67% increase

North Carolina – 67% increase

Nevada – 115% increase

New York – 43% increase

Aspire Program:

- There are over 110 Aspire Programs registered. Many Aspire Programs are getting started after Labor Day so we will see Aspire skater membership begin to increase. These memberships are still being processed via Formsite.
- The new Aspire 1-4 competitive levels have been posted and will go into effect after January 1st. These levels are replacing Pre-Freeskate, Freeskate 1-6, Excel Beginner and Excel High Beginner and streamlining the competitive pipeline for our skaters.

Adult Committee:

- RFA: Ballot #1 passed unanimously to align with ballot to rename the Adult Solo Free Dance Tests to align with standard track.
- Currently collaborating with Competitions Committee on discussion of singles eligibility for former elite athletes.
- Working with Showcase committee regarding ‘ceiling tests’ for Adult Showcase events. The two committees appear to have come to a compromise and agree this is a work in progress.

Alumni Connect:

- Two successful in-person events were hosted in Chicago and Colorado Springs. With over 40 attendees combined from those events, we saw a great mix of current Alumni Connect members and new members!
- Beginning in July of 2023, we began sending out quarterly newsletters to our Alumni Connect network. Content within these newsletters includes information about upcoming events, new bucket list trips, job opportunities within the skating world, and member stories/news.
- Our Facebook group has reached 1300 members with an influx of new members joining right after those in-person events
- We are currently looking to establish regional chapters of the Alumni Connect program to assist with hosting local events and social gatherings, so if anyone is interested assisting with that, please let me know!

Collegiate:

- Renewal season just opened September 1 and we have already seen 6 new teams formed around the country, one of which is the very first team to represent one of the 107 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Howard University)
- We are entering the 25th (official) season of intercollegiate skating and we will be hosting the 2024 National Intercollegiate Final in Lake Placid, NY. The Final will be held April 12-14, 2024. We highly encourage everyone to advertise this event to their current and former skaters to help bring in some spectators and join in the celebration! We plan to host an alumni reception at the event as well. More coming on that soon!

- We welcomed 3 new collegiate ambassadors into our ranks, which rounds us out at 12 collegiate ambassadors total who represent different areas of collegiate skating from all around the country. Joining us this year we have Ian Kang (University of Denver), Megan Westphal (Adrian College), and Audrey Lu (UCLA)

Excel:

- Committee is working on finalizing condensing of levels to reduce or eliminate duplication, streamlining competitive pipeline.
 - Finalized technical requirements charts will be released by October 1 for implementation January 1.
 - 2024 Excel Series Handbook will also be released by October 1.
- Based on feedback, re-evaluating Excel Series Season end-date to allow schedule of Final to be finalized further in advance of event.
- Working with HQ to explore possibility of Final event hosted by US Figure Skating in order to share in profitability of program.
 - Bob Dunlop approached Broadmoor, but dates conflict with their summer camp programming. Looking at other potential venues in CO for US Figure Skating to work with for hosting in the future.
- Applications to host 2024 Excel Series competitions will open this month and will be accepted through end of October. Series competitions will be announced in November.

High School:

- Renewal season also opened Sept 1 for our HS teams, which has now officially transitioned onto Members Only. This is a huge step forward for this program and now we can really start tracking skaters who enter this pipeline. We already have 32 high school teams registered for the season with more coming in every day.
- We closed our bid application for the inaugural year of the Sectional HS Final. This event will serve as a way to get high school teams involved in an in-person competition beyond their local events. Host sites and dates are TBD as we begin evaluating bids next week. Anticipated dates for this event will fall in April 2024.
- This season will mark the first season of the brand-new High School Ambassador Program. Similar to how our Collegiate Ambassador Program is run, these high school skaters will assist the HS Programs Subcommittee in our pursuit of growing the high school skating program around the country. Applications close on September 31st!
- The 2024 Graduating Senior Award is back! Applications opened up on Sept 1 as well, with 131 applications already submitted. Criteria for each award level has changed again this year to be more inclusive to our skaters who may not choose a competitive track for their skating career. We hope to break 1000 applicants this year!

Solo Dance:

The 2023 National Solo Dance Final in Glenview, Illinois will take place this week, September 14 – 17, 2023.

- At the close of entries, almost every event is full (18 per level for Pattern Dance Only and Combined events, and 9 for Shadow Dance).
- Series registrations (774 skaters/929 events) were up 40% over 2022.
- Series began March 9th with two competitions (Atlanta's Magnolia Open and the Denver Invitational) and ended August 12th at Copper Cup in Salt Lake City.
- There were 27 competitions (down from 33 in 2022) ranging in entries from a high of 178 (largest in several years) to a low of 26.
- EMS threw us far fewer curves than in 2022.
- A Solo Dance Tech Seminar was held in February in conjunction with the annual International Solo Dance Camp hosted by Dallas FSC in Allen, Texas. Out of that Seminar four new "Solo Dance Technical Specialists" were approved along with one new "Solo Dance Technical Controller".
- We are working with the ISU International Solo Dance Group to finalize Rules/Requirements for 2024 and will have a draft thereof available at the Final. There should be several International Solo Dance events in 2024.
- Bid packages for 2024 Series competitions should be available mid-October for LOC's, with approvals announced very early December.
- 2024 National Solo Dance Final will be held in Wesley Chapel, Florida, September 12-15.

Showcase:

- The 2023 National Showcase was hosted by the Skating Club of Boston from July 31st to August 6th.
- Record year for this program with over 400 competitors participated in competition with over 1,000 starts.
- Committee is currently reviewing events and handbook for 2024.
- Effort is being made to align with new 'decoupling' of tests from competitive events.
- Event is highly profitable for hosting LOCs. Exploring models for future where US Figure Skating partners and shares in revenue/expense with hosting LOC.

September 11, 2023, BOD Meeting

Technical and Officials Report (Group Coordinator - Todd Bromley)

With the start of the new competitive season starting, all committees under the Technical and Officials umbrella have been very busy.

There is still a heavy emphasis on officials' recruitment of all types of officials. All committees under Technical and Officials are aware of this and work to continue to break down barriers and reevaluate appointment guidelines.

-Todd Bromley, Group Coordinator for Technical and Officials

Listed below are individual committee updates.

Competitions – Brenda Kickertz

NQS: Thirteen NQS competitions have been completed with two more taking place over the weekend of 9/9 and 9/10. In collaboration with Domestic Selections, the officials' rosters and assignments for each event were reviewed and approved in advance of each competition. To date, there has been one protest which was determined to be the result of a data entry error and was resolved. A total of 1302 competitors have registered for the National Qualifying Series and 912 have posted scores for the season thus far. A survey is being developed to receive feedback from all participants to use to improve the process and experience for the following years.

Non-qualifying competitions: The standard non-qualifying announcement was updated and posted on 8/2/23. Changes included corrected language due to rule changes, clarification of competitive floor, and Team Service Personnel information. The program requirement charts continue to be linked from the announcement to the correct website. Problems were identified with inconsistencies between the element charts that were updated by the singles committee and what is published in the Compete USA manual has been addressed.

Other events: The National Solo Dance Final will be held September 14-16. Registration for the Synchronized Skating season is underway.

Foreign skaters: The following foreign athletes have been approved to participate in the qualifying season:

- Sophie Joline Von Felton (Switzerland) – Junior Singles
- Daniil Parkman (Georgia) – Senior Pairs
- Danila Savelev (Georgia) – Junior Dance
- Alisa Efimova (Finland) – Senior Pairs
- Agahan Berk Dortkol (Turkey) – Junior Dance

In addition, the following U.S. citizens who have represented another federation have been approved to participate in the qualifying season:

- Jillian Prever – Junior Dance; represented Turkey with Agahan Berk Dortkol
- Daniel Sahohin – Senior Men; represented Israel

Technology Subcommittee: The technology subcommittee has been working with HQ staff and discipline chairs to improve the timeline for updates to software. They are also working with Athlete Services to coordinate implementation of changes in program elements from season to season including adjusting the timeline.

Adult Skating Subcommittee: The chair of the Adult Skating Subcommittee with consultation of the Competition Committee Chair and Adult Skating Chair have updated the Referee Manual and LOC manual for the upcoming season.

Domestic Selections Committee – Kim Heim

DSC leadership finalized the Sectional Finals and US Pair and Dance Finals assignments and invites went out, as scheduled, on July 24th with a response deadline of August 7th. Reminders were sent out to those who had not responded by the deadline as many ISU/International judges were waiting on international assignments and trying to juggle their work schedules. Alternates for those unavailable have been contacted and we are currently waiting on one response for a replacement judge at Pacific Coasts. Since Pacific Coasts is hosting the US Pairs Final, we are intending to replace an unavailable official with one who is cross certified in Pairs and can step into a technical role last minute if needed. Having a Plan B on-site is crucial for both the Pairs and Dance Finals.

2024 US Synchronized Skating Championships and Synchronized Sectionals availability was sent out in June and were due back July 10th. Recommendations from DORM were requested and received for both US Synchro Champs and SYS Sectionals which then went to the SYS Sectional Vice Chairs for Domestic Selections. The SVC's for DSC then submitted names to DSC leadership in assignment order, for both competitions, based off availability, recommendations from DORM, current and past activity and any additional considerations. US Synchro Champs was balloted and with no objections, invites were sent out on August 16th with a return deadline of August 30th. DSC leadership is currently working on Sectional Synchro assignments. With Midwestern Synchro Sectionals being held in Cleveland which is the same week as the 2024 US Figure Skating Championships, it makes it a bit tougher to staff with no conflicts. Additionally, Pacific Coasts and Eastern Synchro Sectionals are both scheduled at the same time, the week before Midwestern Synchro Sectionals and US Champs. This makes staffing the three sectionals challenging with the already limited number of synchro referees and technical panel officials.

Since June, and over the span of the next 10 weeks, the Domestic Selections Chair and the three NVC's of Judges; Tech Panel and Event Management have been reviewing staffing weekly for each of the NQS competitions and either approving or asking for additional officials based on their entry numbers ensuring that there are enough qualified officials at each of the NQS competitions. This approval process is done approximately 30 days out from the start of each NQS competition. The 104 is then approved by the Competitions Committee 10 days out from the start of each competition. We are currently starting staffing approvals for the final Week 10 which includes the Texas Trophy, LA Autumn Classic and the Boston Open.

US Adult Championships availability is slated to go out September 4th. Barry Doren has agreed to be the Chief Referee of the 2024 US Adult Championships in Lakewood, Ohio. We are currently working with Barry on staffing needs for the US Adult Champs. With availability due on September 18th, DSC will be working on assignments with the assignment ballot out mid to late October and invites are planned to be sent out on or around October 25th.

Domestic Officials Recruit and Management (DORM) – Lynn Bell

Four of the five National Vice Chairs on the DORM team will be new: VC for Recruitment, VC for Technical Panel Management, VC for Event Management and VC for Officials Review.

• Judges Management Subcommittee – Linda Chihara

The list of synchro competitions that have been selected for trial judging was posted on Members Only in July. There has not been a synchronized skating competition on the Pacific Coast selected for a while. Further discussions are planned to add one next year.

The RVC and SVC's on this subcommittee were asked to look for incorrect GOE's at nonqualifying competitions. We asked them to speak to the judge who made the error at the competition and if that was not possible, to contact the judge afterwards. Lynn and I will keep track of the judges who make these mistakes and take additional steps if warranted. Lynn and I will review all online protocols from NQS competitions to look for incorrect GOE's. If the error appears to be a one-time mistake by a judge, then we will not take action. We will keep track of these errors and if a judge continues to make mistakes, then we will address the problem with the judge.

Virginia Mount passed away in July. She is already an Honorary Dance judge and referee.

The ad hoc Honorary Judge Committee voted to recommend Jeanette Davey as an Honorary judge in August. Jeanette officially resigned her remaining appointments in June per Juliet. On August 2nd, I sent a letter to Jeanette thanking her for her years of service and to inform her that she is being recommended for Honorary status.

The final count of appointments at the April in-person Chicago seminar is:

- 15 singles/pairs competition
- 2 dance competition
- 2 synchro competition
- 14 singles test
- 6 dance test

In July, Pam Pangle revised the Theatre on Ice appointment guidelines. The guidelines were posted on Members Only.

In August, a completed draft of the revised competition appointment guidelines for all disciplines was completed. Those guidelines are under review now. The new competition levels which begin January 1st, 6.0 certified, a revised nonqualifying, and qualifying, have been added to the guidelines. They are currently being reviewed. I am currently working on the test appointment guidelines. We will have only 2 levels of test judges for singles and dance starting January 1st.

The RVC's have been busy processing trial judge applications for nonqualifying and qualifying competitions that have been approved for trial judging. This year, 19 competitions were selected. The number of trial judges at each competition has increased from previous years with several competitions having at least 8 trial judges and one having 16!

The September date to apply to trial judge at sectionals/U.S. Pairs-Dance Final and U.S. Figure Skating Championships has passed. For Nationals, there are 6 applicants in dance and 19 applicants in Singles/Pairs. The SVC's are now compiling evaluations for National applicants, asking for feedback on whether an applicant should be approved to attend.

July appointments

Level/Discipline	#	Name
Bronze Singles Test	2	Christopher Brunner Jocelyn Delmar
Gold Singles Test	3	Kristy Brickel Jill Plough Janice Benoit
Gold Pairs Test		Janice Benoit
Nonqualifying S/P Competition	3	Leanne Abugov Kim Borzilleri Samir Mallya
Sectional Synchro	1	Lori Osborne

June-July resignations: 2

Jeanette Davey
Virginia Mount

• **Event Management Subcommittee – Wendy Sheridan**

○ **Accounting – Michael Meyer**

An Accounting survey was sent to all current Accountants with a deadline to submit answers by the end of August. Responses were not positive. Comments include long workdays with inadequate staffing, chief referees getting final schedule to accountants, etc. There are some issues that can be rectified almost immediately. Other issues will take some time to resolve.

An accounting drop-in meeting will be held September 19, 5pm ET. The focus will be on Synchro, TOI and Showcase Events, and presented by Amy Fairchild and Anthony Iarriccio.

This year's Rules Review and TA Exams will be available on October 1, 2023. Each test is worth 2 CEU's. Note: the TA test is only available to Technical Accountants. New for this year, the pass rate for each exam is 100%, and accountants will have unlimited attempts to earn a score of 100%. These tests are to be collaborative and designed to be a learning tool.

As part of submitting CEU reports, there is a section for Technical Accountants to report any system issues. Accounting Officials were gently reminded to fill out this portion of the form so issues may be addressed for future competitions.

There is a new feature that allows Referees to see the system clock on their judge panel. This feature is activated on the Data Screen under “Utilities.” The Competitions committee is notifying all Referees of this feature and would like it activated for competitions moving forward. TA’s must wait to clear the clock, as it clears from the referee screen when the TA’s clears it from the system. In the next IVR release, the system clock will appear on referee panel until the next skater is advanced by TA.

There is a new version of IJS Live in Accounting Central. All accounting officials were requested to update to the latest version of the software.

A bug was found in the newest version of IJS Companion and it causes printing issues. The previous version 3160 is back in Accounting Central.

○ **Announcing – Jeff Rendel**

An Announcer training seminar will be held at the Broadmoor Skating Club (Colorado Springs) on September 21. Dane Seldin (Sectional Announcer) was invited to lead this for Broadmoor club volunteers. This will be helpful in building volunteer interest for competitions hosted in the area. The seminar will be two parts: 1) classroom seminar; 2) World Arena ice rink. VC/Announcing-Domestic Selections Lexi Rohner and VC/Announcing-Event Management Jeff Rendel, prepared and sent materials for the seminar.

- Welcome Letter (shared with registered attendees upon arrival)
- General Training/Intro Information (outline to be used by Dane during seminar)
- Next Steps (to be sent after seminar, includes follow up survey link)

New Document: 2023 Official Practice Ice (OPI) Management. This document outlines and describes duties of an appointment Announcer serving in a volunteer role (1 person for each major USFS national/international event(s). Announcing leadership completed a final draft (OPI Manager description/document shared with USFS Event Production staff). The document was prepared by VC/Announcing-Event Management, Jeff Rendel and VC/Announcing, Domestic Selections, Lexi Rohner. The position will be engaged at major national/international events held in the U.S. as training/support for main Announce teams, at OPI manager’s own cost.

○ **Music- Allen Krawiec**

Music has formed two ad hoc committees this season. One to evaluate/remove offensive songs from the USFS approved music playlist, while also updating existing background music in iTunes library on competition computers. The aim is to provide a more contemporary playlist. The second committee will create a national database to encompass arenas across the country, including their music connections and equipment. This resource will serve as a reference for music coordinators who may not be familiar with specific arenas, aiding them in competition preparations.

2023-24 season introductory and welcome email from Music VC was sent to all USFS music coordinators, providing details for the season, enhanced inclusivity in participation, general information, and a huge “Thank You” to Nancy Ginkus O’Connor for her dedicated service as the outgoing VC/Music.

The SVC Music Eastern Section prepared an updated draft of a document outlining known defects/barriers in USFS Music processes.

Music VC proposed an RFA adding a VC of Music to the Recruitment Subcommittee. The request was submitted to DORM Chair & Technical Officials Group Coordinator for review.

- **Technical Accountants – Valerie Berger**

VC of Technical Accountants met with Dave Hopson, Gordon Mackay and Susan Neiman to brainstorm ideas to promote interest in technical accounting. Their goal is to recruit new TAs, while also strongly encouraging current accounting members to consider becoming Technical Accountants. Several ideas presented:

- Current TAs encourage Regional+ Accountants to sit rink side with assigned TA(s) (needs Chief Accountant approval)
- Current Regional+ Accountants request to sit rink side with TA(s) (needs Chief Accountant & Chief TA approval)
- At Adult and Collegiate competitions, invite competitors to visit accounting room for overview of role and more info
- At non-qualifying events let parents visit the accounting room at for overview of role and more info.

- **Referees – Kathleen Krieger**

William Beharrell (National Referee, Synchronized & Singles/Pairs; National Competition Judge, Synchronized Skating; ISU Judge, Synchronized) passed away earlier this month. The NVC Event Management would like to submit for an Honorary National appointment.

A meeting to review and discuss current Dance Referee appointment guidelines and Referee application was held. VC of /Dance Referees, Carol Wooley proposed a new document draft to update Dance Referee criteria and Dance Referee applications. NVC Referees, Kathleen Krieger, Carol, and NVC of Event Management, Wendy Sheridan met, with Carol leading the discussion. Both documents have been sent to Lynn Bell and Todd Bromley for feedback.

Referee School update: VC of Referees held informal conversations with judging and referee colleagues during Copper Cup (Utah) competition. Discussion and a proposal of a virtual Referee School being held via Zoom was submitted. It is believed that more officials will attend if the school is held virtually with no cost to participants or USFS.

- **Technical Panel Management Subcommittee – Stephanie Lab**

There have been no new technical panel appointments or resignations during the last two months. There was one request for inactive status that was fulfilled as listed below.

- Wendy Meck

DEO Training webinars were conducted during the month of July for both coaches and officials. The coaches webinar (June 28 – after submission of June report) was presented in collaboration with the PSA. Presenters for this webinar were Stefanie Matthewson, Phillip DiGuglielmo, and Stephanie Lab. Additionally, Lena from the ISU joined and presented during this webinar. The officials webinar was presented on July 10 and was a joint effort between our group and OTC. This educational event targeted officials with regional and higher appointments who would be qualified to serve at the NQS events this season. Presenters for this webinar were Alexandria Newman and Stephanie Lab (singles), Whitney Gaynor (pairs), and Julia Rey (dance).

Ongoing Projects: The NQS season is well under way. The TPMS is continuing to assign technical panel captains to the series events and monitor the official feedback from the captains, along with the event results. The links for officials' conflict of interest and evaluation were updated prior to the start of the series and are currently active. There have been no reported issues with technical officials at these events.

In working to further the DEO alternate pathway for advancement project, a survey was sent to all non-qualifying and qualifying DEO's to gauge their interest in advancing their appointment. The results of these surveys indicate that officials prefer January or February as ideal months for this opportunity. Stephanie is currently looking at the locations and types of events offered during this timeframe with the goal of finding an event with suitable entries and diverse events to offer a DEO advance opportunity during winter 2024.

The annual rules review for technical panel officials is set to open on September 12. Members of the OTC have been working on writing these assessments. Stephanie Lab and the DORM vice chairs have collaborated in this process by serving as proofreaders and question vetters for each discipline assessment. Using the precedent set with the universal DEO exam this summer, this season's rules review will require a 100% completion score to meet the season requirement without limit on the number of opportunities to take the exam. The DORM discipline vice chairs are set to track the results of this year's rules review and provide deadline reminders as needed.

In collaboration with USFS and OTC, the TPCMS is working to redesign the technical panel training and testing event historically held in March. An initial brainstorming session was held on July 7 and conversations are ongoing. This year's event is likely to be moved to May and be held in conjunction with: a judge's school, jump on it camp, and coaches summit.

Future Projects: The following future projects are still under consideration and will be addressed as the NQS season comes to and end: activity tracking for technical panel officials, continuing education for long term NQ officials, training updates for technical panel officials who show inadequate performance in the field, and revision of the element readbacks following the printing of IJS results.

▪ **Recruitment Subcommittee – Alyssa Liverette**

The Recruitment Subcommittee continues to monitor the new interest form. Recruitment is now being copied on all mentor placement letters to complete the handoff from the interest process. July included a Zoom call with the 2023 graduating seniors who expressed interest in becoming an official. Information was distributed to those on the call and to those that could not attend. The Coach/Test Official FAQ sheet was posted on the website. Recruitment met with USFS headquarters to discuss marketing strategies to promote officials and increase interest.

A Recruitment Subcommittee meeting was held in August to discuss progress and future goals. Members identified barriers for interested officials. Time, money, and accessibility continue to be the largest struggle for people earning or seeking appointments. Recruitment identified mentorship as a barrier for judging and other types of officials. Having a good mentor can help move candidates through, but an uninformed or unmotivated mentor can be detrimental to official advancement. Recruitment created a document to post on the "Officiate" page with general information on becoming an official. That has been posted online with plans to distribute in person in the future. Recruitment discussed making specific information pages for each type of official. Moving forward, Recruitment is making plans for an informative webinar series and to increase focus on the adult/collegiate community.

Interest Forms Data

	July	August
Announcing	4	1
Music	4	1
Accounting/TA	7	0
Singles Test	19	9
Dance Test	10	8
S/P Comp	21	8
Dance Comp	6	7
Synchro Comp	7	3
Showcase	8	2
TOI	4	2
Data	11	3
S/P Tech	15	6
Dance Tech	5	3
Synchro Tech	5	3
Total	22	9
Average Age	21 years old	35 years old

Officials Review Subcommittee – Matt O’Toole

No Letters of Concern were sent in August 2023.

Priority work is to assign the Officials Review Captains for the Sectional Singles Finals as well as the Pair and Ice Dance Finals. Kim Heim, Chair of Domestic Selections, was able to provide the lists of officials’ assignments to aid in the selection process.

Upcoming projects include scheduling the first subcommittee meeting. Additionally, we will need to partner with Headquarters Staff to map out a process for tracking letters of concern to ensure that officials continually receiving assessments are performance managed appropriately.

Officials Training Committee (OTC) – Lori Osborne

OTC has been super busy in planning for trial judging at NQS events, Sectionals events and U.S. Championships. Work is in progress on scheduling virtual and in-person schools. Listed below are individual training updates for OTC.

- **Accounting and Technical Accounting – Valerie Berger**

The Annual Rules Exam and a new Technical Accountant exam have been written and are being entered into Classmarker. The tests will be collaborative and require a 100% pass rate. Accountants will have unlimited attempts to complete the test. An incorrectly answered question will provide the source to find the correct answer.

IJSLive and IJSCompanion tutorial videos are being created and will be posted on Accounting Central when completed. Technical Accountant school details are being finalized and will be held in conjunction with the US Sectional Singles Championships, US Pairs Final and US. Dance Final.

- **Announcing and Music – William Goen**

Updated Music Coordinator Appointment Guidelines and Applications have been posted to Members Only. Quick Review guides for Announcers and Music Coordinators have also been posted to Members Only. Additional guides are in progress.

- **eLearning – Heather Feinstein**

The following courses have been published:

- Professionalism for Officials
- 6.0 Accounting
- GOE Singles

Work continues with the Skating Skills courses. Several other courses are close to production. USFS hired a full-time employee to assist with the coaching integration learning and elearning for officials, Cassandra Lock. Cassandra is currently onboarding with USFS. Once up-to-speed, she will be a tremendous asset for all elearnings.

- **Judges – Kerry Jennings-Cooper**

Singles and Dance test rules reviews, and Synchro competition rules review are finalized and will be sent to officials in 1-2 weeks. The competition rules reviews must be completed one week before officiating at any qualifying competition. Test rules reviews are due by December 31.

An exam has been created for test officials who will automatically be given a NQ competition appointment based on their current test appointment beginning January 1, 2024. The intent of the exam is to make sure our test judges are aware of competition rules. Recently, we have seen issues where test judges are on IJS panels and making critical mistakes (such as missing mandatory -5 deductions in short programs). The review will be strongly recommended for all test judges to complete by December 31.

JETS have been assigned to 2 NQS events that had 16 trial judges at each event. We learned from the first event that 2 JETS were required for groups over 10. The team is working to assign JETS for Sectionals (Pacific Coasts and Midwesterns) and U.S. Championships. We have a request for additional budget funding for JETS at several of these events, as the current budget does not cover the necessary staffing.

The budget for judge's schools was significantly cut, leaving only enough funds for one virtual school for test judges. An in-person competition school is scheduled for May 2024. We are currently reviewing options to hold the in-person competition judges' school alongside the Technical Panel and Coaches Education Summit in May 2024. We are also reviewing opportunities to host a virtual test judges' school in February and/or October 2024, depending on how quickly we can update the training materials, videos, and exams.

- **Technical Panel – Lisa May**

The NQS Technical Panel kickoff call was held in July. Based on feedback from NQS events, coffee talks will be announced and kicked off in September.

Technical Panel rules reviews will be sent to all current tech panel officials on September 12. This exam is a requirement for all officials holding technical panel appointments. Exams will require 100% pass completion, encouraging collaboration and learning. Officials will have six weeks to complete these for all disciplines.

Planning has started for the Technical Panel school. This is tentatively planned with Coaches and Judge's schools and will likely be held alongside Jump on It camp. Currently evaluating other ways to do evaluation/promotion in the field (outside of the Technical Panel school in May) but may need to postpone until the 2024-2025 season due to budget constraints.

- **Referees – Lynn Goldman**

Completed and posted referee reminders for NQS and updated them to include Rule 1071 8Ciii: Special Factor (bonus after the halfway mark). We are working to get an email blast to all judges (as many are event/unappointed nonqualifying referees) regarding the reminders and the time deduction issue below.

Referee reminders have also been completed for synchronized skating. The committee is working with the Sports Medicine Committee and Gretchen Mahoney to see if any of the medical guidelines posted in EMS are current and up to date.

It has come to our attention that not all referees consistently apply the time deduction. This was discussed with the referee education sub-committee, and the consensus was only to take the deduction(s) after the first full second goes over maximum versus timing to the 100th of a second as it can be a costly deduction which could be costly to the athlete due to the possibility of human error. This will also be posted on the referee page in Members Only. The latest IJS accounting update, which shows a timer on the referee screen (in full seconds only), will be included in the email blast. Valarie Berger, National Vice Chair of Accounting, informed the technical accounts of the timing deduction clarification.

The committee has started working on a virtual referee school with Kathleen Krieger, National Vice Chair Referees (DORM), with tentative plans to hold this in February or March. For the virtual referee training the Accounting Leadership Team has been invited to participate in providing recommendations that a chief referee could implement to help with efficient scheduling and putting a competition together more efficiently while keeping the needs of all officials in mind.

- **Tests Committee – Anthony Iariccio**

Our Summer Round Table discussion with Test Chairs was held on August 16th. The meeting was hosted by Eastern SVC Laura Days and Anthony Iariccio. Kathy Dreves and Juliet Newcomer were both present from USFS. We had a lively discussion with many good questions regarding virtual testing and virtual trial judging. The Q&A summary has been posted to Members Only. The next round table will be scheduled in late October. Forty-two (42) tests were awarded via IJS Test Credit in August and seventy-five (75) in July for a total of 117 tests via test credit since the last report.

Eleven (11) requests were received for Foreign Test Credit since July. Eight (8) have been processed, and three (3) are in process.

- Jakub Galbavy – Slovakia – Pairs – Pre-Gold Credit
- Annalena Beck – Germany – Singles – Bronze Credit
- Sophie Von Felton – Switzerland – Singles – Pre-Gold Credit
- Ruth Cheng Cheng – China – Synchronized – Pre-Bronze Credit
- Agahan Dortkol – Turkey – Pairs – Silver Credit
- Tallulah Belle – Cypress – Ice Dance – Pre-Silver Credit
- Hayden Balucating – Philippines – Singles – Pre-Gold Credit
- Iris Routto – Finland – Synchronized – Pre-Silver Credit

International Group Report

Sam and I discussed early on a goal of bringing new and innovative proposals to the ISU for next year's congress. We established a process to bring ideas forward, with Mitch and I co-chairing individual discipline brainstorming groups with coaches and officials to identify, where we wanted to take the discipline, what was in the way and how to change those barriers into opportunities or solutions. Our deadline for technical submissions was September 1st. We have submitted 8 technical proposals across singles, pairs, dance, and synchro. More to come on these as we move forward. We can still submit general proposals over the next couple of months, and we are reviewing ideas for those as well.

Our first two US run international events of the season were both a success. Cranberry Cup for singles was held in Boston with 13 countries taking part and both Junior and Senior Men and Women events counting for points and officials' activity. This past weekend the John Nicks International Pair Challenge was held in NY with 8 countries taking part and both Senior and Junior Pairs events counting for points and activity. The final spots at Skate America have now been submitted to the ISU.

The Junior Grand Prix is underway, Dance kicked us off with a gold at JGP1. At JGP2 we won the silver in Pairs, as well as bronze medals in Men and Dance. Finally, this past week we won silvers in Pairs and Dance.

As for Champs Camp, the event was a huge success and well received by our athletes. We saw more complete programs than ever before, and the preparation seemed to really be on target.

We are currently working on activity opportunities for our officials in need and focusing on providing opportunities for our athletes to balance the budget with our athlete first goals.

Our Selection procedures all were approved and implemented in time for the first events. Officials and Team leaders are fully assigned though the Grand Prix events awaiting the draws for championships. Handbooks have been updated as well.