

WOS Officials Update **Number 2 - August 2011**



Dear WOS Officials:

Welcome to the second email update from the Officials Committee for the 2011-2012 skating season!! As indicated previously, one of our goals is to keep in touch with you throughout the season with various email updates. After these updates are sent, they are archived on the WOS website at: <http://www.skating-wos.on.ca/officials/judges.htm> As well, at the bottom of this email you will find our contact information.

1. Official's Registration

Ensure that you register with a Skate Canada club prior to the September 1st deadline! From Members Services at Skate Canada: "Skate Canada's membership year runs from September 1 to August 31. Every Official must be registered for the current membership year before taking part in Skate Canada's programs, officiating tests or updating qualification."

2. Promotional Information

If you are trying to determine what is required for your next promotion, go to the Skate Canada website and log in to Members Only and follow the following path:

Members Only>Members>Officials>Officials Definitions Application and Qualifications Policy

You will note that this is a 30 page document so make sure to go to the next page by clicking on the arrow at the top of the document itself.

3. Timelines for Submitting for a Promotion

Promotion submissions for Sr. Bronze Evaluator and/or Juvenile Judge may be made at any time to Trevor Crowe or Charlene Jordan. As well, Gold Evaluator and/or Novice Judge may be made to Melissa Stevenson at any time. For Senior Promotion submissions, the deadline to have everything sent to Sabrina Wong for the fall is Sept. 9th. Please email Sabrina asap informing her that you are planning to submit.

4. Tech. Rep. Clinic

This is a reminder of the Tech Rep Clinic to be held at Isabelle Henderson, Charlene Jordan is the Clinic Leader. All Tech Reps for the upcoming season are asked to attend. Any judges who are interested in learning about becoming a Tech. Rep., are encouraged to attend as well! Please email Virginia Gillham and confirm your attendance at this clinic.

5. Keeping Yourself Updated

As per the Official's Code of Conduct, it is a requirement for all Officials to ensure that they are up to date with new rule changes, program requirements, etc. All Officials are reminded to download/print all documents that they need as they will not be supplied at any of the upcoming competitions. Only the Officiating Schedule will be provided to Officials at the competitions, and it will now be printed on letter sized paper. Please check the Technical Page on the WOS website for updates. <http://www.skating-wos.on.ca/technical.htm>

6. Officials Department

We would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of the season to remind all Officials of the Code of Conduct you have signed and review some department points. The Officials' Code of Ethics can be found on the Skate Canada Website>Members Only>Officials>Officials Code of Ethics and we ask that you take a few moments to re-familiarize yourself with it.

The success of Skate Canada is largely dependent on the image all Officials present to our skating family, volunteers and service providers. The skating community is a very small circle of friends and family. In the age of social networking, in addition to the physical time we spend together in an arena, we also spend a lot of virtual time together on social networking websites. As officials, we should always use very strong judgment when using social networking websites such as Facebook, Google+ and Twitter to publicly express our thoughts as they pertain to situations or outcomes of skating events at which we are acting/have acted as an official. We should always remember that we are representatives of Skate Canada and the Western Ontario Section, and we have an obligation as officials to promote Skate Canada and its programs and the sport of skating in general to the public, both in our actions and our words (verbal and written). As officials, we are to represent Skate Canada in a respectful manner, and to ensure that messages given are consistent with the mission of the Association and in compliance with all Skate Canada rules, policies and procedures.

Our perception to the public is always under scrutiny, and while on-site at competitions and events we should always remember to exercise appropriate discretion when speaking with other competition stakeholders (skaters, parents and coaches) within the skating family. Exercising good judgment in how and when we interact with other competition stakeholders at an event goes a long way in promoting the spirit of fair play and reducing any perceived biases that may be associated with such actions. Additionally, it is important to exercise discretion when using mobile phones during an event and to make sure that we do not take calls or send text messages while we are on the panel officiating.

Our professional image is represented not only by our conduct but also by the way we dress. Officials play an important role in demonstrating the respect we all share toward the competitors and the competition process. Certain guidelines should be used to determine what is appropriate attire to wear during a large invitational event or qualifying competition such as WOS Sectionals. While recognizing that temperatures in the arena aren't necessarily conducive for high-fashion, a basic level of casual business attire that balances professionalism and comfort should be worn in order to present a professional image to the stakeholders at an event. This does not include the following:

- torn, ripped or worn/weathered jeans
- casual sweatshirts or t-shirts with logos
- clothing that resembles pyjamas or lounge wear (i.e. sweat pants or track suits)
- very short skirts and dresses
- very tight hosiery or leggings only
- flip flops, running shoes, rain boots, or large galoshes

7. Officials Accreditation Badges

If you require an Officials Accreditation Badge, please contact Susan Blatz.

8. Synchro Update

Please note there has been a change in the competition schedule for this season. The Lloyd Ogilvie Memorial Synchronized Skating Competition will take place on January 7th and 8th, 2012. This is three weeks earlier than the originally scheduled date. The competition is still taking place in Chatham.

The ISU has released communication #1678 which replaces Communications 1636 (Appendix A, B & C only) and 1658 (pages 1 - 3). While the contents of this document pertain to changes in difficulty groups for calling

elements and features, I encourage everyone to review the document at their leisure to see what changes are in place for the upcoming season so they can better understand the rationale for how some coaches may be constructing programs and elements. Details are available on the ISU website at the following link - just scroll down to Communication 1678. <http://www.isu.org/vsite/vnavsite/page/directory/0,10853,4844-130127-131435-nav-list,00.html>

Annual Update Seminar - Plans for a fall update seminar and judging workshop are currently underway, and details will be communicated as soon as they are ready for distribution.

9. Expenses at Competitions

If you are in the position to submit a meal expense at a competition, we would like to remind you that you cannot claim alcohol. Meals not provided for by the LOC at the hotel or venue will be reimbursed by the LOC to a maximum of the per diem rate (receipts required). Reasonable tips may be submitted providing the meal & tip do not exceed the allowance provided in the per diem rates.

10. Tech Reps (updates underlined)

The Tech Reps for 2011-2012 WOS Competitions are the following. Thank you to these officials for taking on this very busy role!!!

Spring Fling:	Charlene Jordan
Summer Sizzle:	Charlene Jordan
Isabelle Henderson:	Trevor Crowe
WO Sectionals:	Sabrina Wong
John McKay:	Roblyn Partridge
Charlie Dover:	Laurie Goulet
Pat Abela/Lyle McPhedran:	Sandi Wickett
Dennis Silverthorne:	Andrea Derby
OUA Finals:	Virginia Gillham
Boston Pizza:	Sandi Wickett
Futures: East - Simcoe:	TBA; Interclub North: Sheri Bradshaw; <u>West- Blenheim: Sharon LaPier</u>
Special Olympics:	<u>Sheri Bradshaw</u>
High School:	Sharon LaPier
Spring Fling (2012-2013):	Virginia Gillham

Synchro Competitions:

Bill Philips Memorial: Fred Saretz

Lloyd Ogilvie Memorial: Shellee Niznik

Bert Winfield Memorial: Mary Burdon

11. Clinics

a) Tech. Rep. Clinic

Dates: at Isabelle Henderson Clinic Leader: Charlene Jordan

All tech reps for the upcoming season are asked to attend this clinic. Further, any judges who would like to learn about this role are encouraged and welcome to attend! Please register with Virginia Gillham.

b) Pre Novice/Novice Pair clinic

Please contact Virginia Gillham if you are interested in this clinic.

c) **Novice Synchro and Junior/Senior Synchro**

Dates: this fall

Please contact Andrew Bosco if you are interested in either of these clinics.

12. Reminders

a) 2011 - 2012 WOS Competitions The competitions are posted on the WOS website. Please consult it to see the dates/locations. As well, if you are wanting to see which categories will be held at the various competitions, click on the "2010-2011 Opportunities Chart" link which is also found on this page.

<http://www.skating-wos.on.ca/competitions.htm>

b) Each year at the WOS AGM, volunteers are recognized and are presented with their 25 and 50 year Skate Canada Volunteer pin. In order to best track all of our officials and submit the correct information to the Section Office, we are asking you to email Diane Jamieson and inform her as to when you started volunteering in skating. Please note, it is not when you started judging in skating, but rather, when you started volunteering in skating; you may have been an amateur coach/program assistant, Board Member, etc. PRIOR to beginning your officiating.

Congratulations!!!!

Recent Promotions:

Primary Judge: Taylor Morrell

Primary Judge and Sr. Bronze Evaluator: Jade Hill

Diamond Dances: Charlene Jordan

Contact Information

Sue Blatz	Officials Chair	blatz@hhsc.ca
Andrea Derby	Secretary	andreaderby@hotmail.com
Virginia Gillham	Officials Development Coordinator	viriniagillham@aol.com
Trevor Crowe	Officials Development Juvenile	sk8judge@cogeco.ca
Charlene Jordan	Officials Development Juvenile	charlenejordan@hotmail.ca
Melissa Stevenson	Officials Development PN/Nov	melsk8@cogeco.ca
Sabrina Wong	Officials Development Jr/Sr	sabswong1@gmail.com
Andrew Bosco	Officials Development Synchro	andrew.bosco@gmail.com
Diane Jamieson	Communication/Web	dianej@execulink.com
Sabrina/Andrea	Technical Panel Official Development	