

Officials Sector

This past season again has been an interesting and stimulating challenge for the members of this committee. In order to improve its structure and provide a more uniform management of all officials files, a unique committee has been set, including judges, technical officials and data specialists as members. It is our vision of a team effort to include members of all phases of our activities for the advancement of figure skating.

TRAINING

Our ultimate goal is to provide our skaters with high quality evaluations at tests sessions and competitions. To achieve this goal, we must concentrate our efforts on recruiting and training officials. Thanks to the expertise and dedication of Denise Laplante, we have used an intensive style of training for judges/evaluators that permitted rapid progression for new officials with a good potential to acquire the expected qualities to meet the requirements of their new role, that is to provide regions with competent officials. Nine (9) training sessions have been given, resulting in twenty six (26) new judges/evaluators and one hundred and twenty nine (129) referees and judges/evaluators promotions from primary to senior levels.

After consultation with the regions, four (4) training sessions for data specialists have been given by Francine Tanguay and Mario Proteau, resulting in the nomination of eighteen new data specialists and of seven (7) computer data specialists for a total of twenty one (21) promotions for the 2009-2010 season, that is:

- Eighteen (18) level I data specialists, - IceCalc
- Three (3) level II data specialists

Concerning the technical officials, we had the honour to have two (2) of our technical officials to act as moderators at one of the Skate Canada technical officials training sessions in July 2009, that is France Séguin for singles and Julie Petrilli for synchronised skating. Eight (8) candidates from our section attended, resulting in ten (10) promotions at the section level as technical specialist or technical controller. We note an increase in the interest to become technical officials with more than twenty (20) requests for nomination in these functions on file for the coming season.

DEVELOPMENT

Trial judging at our provincial competitions was available for those who wished to familiarise themselves with higher levels of skating and take advantage of listening to or participating in the discussions held with high quality judges and referees. We also ensured those who were part of our officials development program were assigned to judge at our provincial competitions.

Many of our officials were also permitted to trial judge at the 2010 Eastern and Western Challenge Championships, the 2010 Winterfest, the 2010 BMO Canadians and the 2010 Skate Canada synchronised skating Championships. We were part of a national exchange program between sections of high calibre officials, improving this way our presence at the national level and accelerating the process of promotion to higher levels.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments to our provincial competitions have been made in accordance with clear criteria and objectives as explained on the Federation web site. We considered the technical qualifications of the officials, their professionalism, leadership, officials development and the control of expenses. As a rule, the atmosphere in the officials rooms were relaxed and agreeable.

OUR OFFICIALS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

We wish to highlight the exceptional high quality of many of our officials who have been assigned to national competitions this past season. Assignments on judging panels were as follows:

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| • Eastern and Western Challenge Championships: | 11 officials |
| • National Junior Championships: | 7 officials |
| • Canadian Championships: | 6 officials |
| • Skate Canada synchronised skating Championships: | 4 officials |

Three (3) of our officials have been promoted to the canadian or international levels this past season. They are:

- Sylvain Guibord : judge at the canadian level in singles
- Sophie Doré : technical specialist at the canadian level in dance
- Benoît Lavoie : ISU referee in singles and pairs

Four (4) of our officials wrote a canadian or international exam at the Canadian Championships. They are:

- France Séguin : Technical specialist at the canadian level in singles
- Sylvain Guibord : judge at the canadian and international level in dance
- Jérôme Poulin : judge at the canadian and international level in singles and pairs
- André-Marc Allain : judge at the canadian and international level in singles and pairs
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NEW JUDGING SYSTEM AT REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

We firmly believe the new judging system benefits our skaters. However, our number of qualified officials is not sufficient to easily satisfy our needs. It has been often difficult to find the necessary number of officials to hold some of our regional competitions. It is also noted that the computer equipment required to support these competitions is not fully reliable and create problems for the data specialists if it is not properly kept up-dated. Our committee works on the development of its officials with the objectives of preparing a sufficient number of officials to satisfy the needs of all regions but we are limited by the number of competitions expected by the Skate Canada policies.

TESTS

A new method of organising tests sessions has been experienced this past season. Based on an analysis of the needs of every regions and the creation of a bank of available judges/evaluators for each one of the centralised tests sessions, this new structure has made possible to find the necessary qualified officials in reasonable time delays for all regions. We have also managed to provide three judges panels for competition dance tests, pairs, Junior and senior tests instead of single panels as was often used in the past.

Sylvain Guibord
Administrator

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