



2024 Skate Canada AGM Standing Committee Report

Standing Committee Name: External Relations Committee

Committee Chair and Members:

- Karen Butcher, Chair
- Debra Armstrong
- Benoit Lavoie
- Andrew Poje
- Ravi Walia
- Shawn Winter
- Sabrina Wong

Committee Mandate Summary:

Provide policy leadership in the areas of:

- Engagement with international and national sport policy bodies that are affiliated with the objectives of Skate Canada.
- Policies for developing and enhancing Skate Canada's relationships and reputation among related domestic and international organizations.
- Policies to guide the strategies for enhancing the role and position of Skate Canada representatives to international and national sport organizations.
- Monitoring Skate Canada's external relations programs and services to ensure consistency with Skate Canada's strategic objectives.
- Assessing risk and making recommendations to the Board to mitigate risks that could impede or prohibit Skate Canada from achieving its objectives and/or strategies relating to external relations.
- Recommending certain appointments of individuals to external sport bodies (e.g. representatives at AthletesCAN, the COC, etc.).
- Recommendations regarding proposed changes to the International Skating Union ("ISU") technical and general rules of sport.

Committee Report:

1. ISU 2024 Congress

In lead-up to the 2024 ISU Congress (June 2024), the committee discussed and evaluated Rule, Regulation and Constitution proposals for submission by Skate Canada to the ISU. Once the ISU



published the Congress Agenda, all Rule, Regulation and Constitution proposals were reviewed and various internal and external stakeholders were consulted to determine Skate Canada's position in preparation for Congress.

2. External Relations and succession planning

Annual succession planning focused on both the domestic and international environments was completed. Skate Canada regularly appoints individuals to various external committees. The Committee would like to acknowledge and thank everyone for their contributions, especially Benoit Lavoie, ISU V.P. Figure Skating and Debra Armstrong, CEO and COC Winter Sport Caucus Co-Chair. We would also like to thank Skate Canada Staff members, Dr. Shae Zukiwsky, Senior Director, Performance Excellence and Beth Liverman, Senior High Performance Analyst, for their support throughout the year.

Skate Canada led and participated in a variety of external meetings throughout 2023-2024, including hosting Presidents from many federations at the 2024 ISU World Championships as well as meetings with the ISU President and new Director General; the Grand Prix Group Host Organizers; Canadian Olympic Committee representatives; Own the Podium representatives; and members of the Kahnawake Mohawk community.

3. ISU initiatives

The committee continued to work with the ISU and other federations to find options for hosting international synchronized skating events in North America and virtually to provide more cost-effective opportunities for participating nations with the goal of growing the discipline globally.

The ISU posted International Solo Dance information and two international events were posted. The committee supports the evolution of Solo Dance and Skate Canada will be adding Novice, Junior and Senior domestic program requirements next season.

4. International Competition Hosting

Committee members are part of several Grand Prix Group Host Organizer working groups investigating potential changes to the Grand Prix Series events in line with ISU Vision 2030. Skate Canada will be considering changes to Skate Canada International 2024 as part of that initiative.

5. Media

The Committee provided advice and guidance on skating issues in the press (for example, Canada's appeal of the ISU's decision regarding medals for the Team Event at the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games).

Thank you to each of the committee members for their contribution and expertise at all the meetings.

Karen Butcher

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