



2025 Skate Canada AGM Standing Committee Report

Standing Committee Name: External Relations Committee

Committee Chair and Members:

- Karen Butcher, Chair
- Debra Armstrong
- Ravi Walia
- Tracy Wilson
- 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:

The External Relations Committee met at regular intervals throughout 2024-2025. The following is a summary of topics the committee focused on.

1. ISU 2025 Extra Ordinary Congress



In lead-up to the 2025 ISU Extra Ordinary Congress (July 2025), the committee discussed and evaluated the draft ISU Constitution and related documents in preparation for a Member Conference held in March, 2025. The ISU Member Consultation Group North American member was Blair Carbert (Speed Canada). Members of the External Relations Committee kept in touch with Blair throughout the season to aid his work (committee members provided feedback to the Constitution Drafting Committee on the contents and structure of the new Constitution).

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.

Skate Canada participated in many external meetings throughout 2024-2025, including meetings with the ISU President and new Director General; the Grand Prix Group Host Organizers; Canadian Olympic Committee representatives; Own the Podium representatives and ISU Member Federation Presidents and CEOs.

3. ISU initiatives

Skate Canada continues to work with other federations and the ISU SYS Technical Committee on two important projects aimed at increasing participation and visibility of Synchronized Skating globally. One project is focused on getting Synchronized Skating included in the Olympic Winter Games. The second project is focused on testing camera technology. The goal is to provide most cost-effective opportunities as improved video replay for officials at all in-person competitions.

International Solo Dance competitions continue to increase in number, and with domestic requirements in place, Skate Canada noted solo dance events started across the country. Skate Canada looks forward to Canadian skaters participating in international events next season.

4. International Competition Hosting

Skate Canada continues to wait for the ISU to publish new requirements and the committee continues to monitor and provide input into ideas under consideration. For example, the use of digital rinkboards was piloted at the Grand Prix Final. Skate Canada is impressed with the look and capability and provided feedback on safety concerns.

5. Misc.

Many other topics were also discussed throughout 2024-2025 to enable Skate Canada to provide advice, guidance and feedback as appropriate, for example:

- Updates to the Athlete Release Procedure
- Standards for Junior Grand Prix and Challenger events as the ISU changes schedules and selects new locations.
- Future of Sport in Canada Commission progress



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- Changes to the ISU Code of Ethics

Thank you to each of the committee members for their contribution and expertise. Special thanks to Skate Canada Staff members, Dr. Shae Zukiwsky, Senior Director, Performance Excellence and Beth Liverman, Senior High Performance Analyst, for their support throughout the year.

Karen Butcher

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External Relations Committee Chair