

Fall 2014

# Rinkside Chatter

## Message from Glenda Power, Evaluator and Judges Chair

Hi all fellow officials!

I hope this finds everyone well and energized to start the 2014-15 season.

As I believe everyone knows we are now very close to implementing the STAR 1-5 events within our section. We had a great turnout for our training of this program on how to assess/judge each level on September 13th. If you didn't get a chance to get out to this event, take a look at the online training materials at <https://info.skatecanada.ca/hc/en-ca/categories/200194374-Competitions>. Look for [STAR 1-5 Competition Pilot Program](#) and you can listen and learn online! We understand it is a change, and it can be hard, but I am sure that once you get out there, you will become pros at it over time. I hope to see you all out at one of the area competitions this season to see these new events.

Speaking of new things.... The Autumn Classic International Senior B event was held in Barrie the second last weekend in October—a first! It was deemed very successful and I know some officials that were partaking in Octoberfest got to take advantage of their breaks to view a few skaters at this new event. I hope you all enjoyed it.

Octoberfest—what can we say about it...Another one in the books! It is getting to be a very large event as it attracts people from coast to coast. Thanks to Susanne Morgan, Deanna Tomietto (tech reps) and the wonderful volunteers at the Mariposa Club in making the arrangements for this event—and a big thanks for all of the officials that assisted us throughout the ordeal of the ever changing schedule and the event itself. We could not have done it without all of you.

Test days are running smoothly and Patrick is now organizing the low test days for all the areas to ensure they do not overlap one another. We hope this will assist clubs in obtaining officials more easily. I believe that with the changes coming (as early as next season), coaches assessing tests at the lower levels, this will ease some of the hardships of attaining officials for low tests.

In conclusion, we have a lot going on in our section this season, so it sure is shaping up to be another good one!

Thank you.

## Congratulations Susanne Morgan!

On October 1, 2014, Susanne Morgan was inducted into the Barrie Sports Hall of Fame in Builder Category. Susanne has been a volunteer with Skate Canada for over 50 years and has contributed to not only the development of figure skating in the Barrie area but has been an outstanding official for the section as an evaluator, judge and a technical representative extraordinaire. COS appreciates all you have done for the sport over the years and this award just reiterates what we have always known but perhaps not said enough—Thank you!

*Have you checked out the COS Officials Web Site yet??? The GO TO site for all the information you want and need to know for competitions and test days:*

[www.cosofficials.yolasite.com](http://www.cosofficials.yolasite.com)

## Rules of Conduct—Competitions & Test Days

With a new skating season under way, the COS Judges Committee would like to remind everyone of a few 'Rules of Conduct' when judging at a competition or evaluating at a test day:

- Regardless of your role whether on a judges stand during a competition or evaluating at a test day, the use of electronic equipment such as cell phones and tablets is prohibited. Ensure that your cell phone is turned off (or on silent/vibrate mode).
- Avoid checking e-mails, texts or texting throughout the event or test day (this includes ice maintenance and warm-ups).
- For referees at competitions, it is preferable that you do not use smart phones as stop-watches. Please let the Tech Rep know if you require a stop watch.
- Professionalism is reflected in both our conduct and image at any competition or test day. It is expected that all officials act in a professional manner throughout their time at the rink and to wear appropriate attire. This does not include torn or ripped jeans, very short skirts/shorts, t-shirts with logos, sweatpants or sweatshirts, work-out/yoga pants, leggings, flip-flops or beach wear.

Officials play an important role in demonstrating the respect we all share towards the competitors, test skaters, competition and test process. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## Test Days—Did you know...

- COS allows a skater to try only two interpretive tests in one test day and these must be two levels adjacent to each other—Introductory/Bronze or Bronze/Silver or Silver/Gold.
- Challenge Tests (Free Skate Only). A skater can try the Gold Free Skate Test without completing any of the lower Free Skate levels as long as they have a letter of permission from Skate Canada and pay the test fees for ALL levels of tests (Preliminary to and including Gold). This is a one-time only opportunity—if the test is not passed at the test day, then the skater must go back to the Preliminary Free Skate and complete every test for this and all other levels up to and including the Gold Free Skate Test.
- The following dances can be skated solo *or* with a partner:

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Preliminary   | Preliminary Creative Dance (can also be a shadow dance)   |
| Senior Bronze | Bronze Creative Dance (can also be a shadow dance)  |
| Junior Silver | American Waltz, Keats Foxtrot   |
| Senior Silver | Blues, Kilian, Silver Creative Dance (can also be a shadow dance)                                 |
| Gold          | Quickstep, Silver Samba, Gold Creative Dance (can also be a shadow dance)                         |
| Diamond       | All dances skated with a partner—no solos can be requested by the evaluator or done by the skater |

## STAR 1-5—Points of Interest...

- ⇒ In STAR 1-4, the STAR panel of judges talk to each other and come up with one assessment for each element and program component.
- ⇒ Technical Officials can act as judges on STAR 1-4 panels.
- ⇒ Coaches can be on the ice, with skates on, during STAR 1 events.
- ⇒ In STAR 1, all 6 skaters in a group complete the Creative Expression Exercise at the same time. Music is played once for the skaters to practice to, and then a second time to complete the exercise.
- ⇒ Skaters in STAR 1-3 are assessed against a standard—not ranked. They will receive a rating of Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit for each element and Program Component and one overall rating.
- ⇒ STAR 4 is the first level in which skaters are ranked.
- ⇒ Skaters in STAR 4 receive a rating for each element (Gold, Silver, Bronze or Merit), an overall placement (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.) but NO detailed point total.
- ⇒ STAR 5 events are judged using CPC like STARSkate Sr. Bronze and higher events—full Technical and Judging Panel.
- ⇒ Referees of STAR 1-4 panels do not write anything down, they simply tell the other judges their assessment as they watch the elements and program. Judge 2 writes down all official assessments of the panel on the marking sheet and hands these papers in at the end of each flight of skaters.
- ⇒ A skater can enter any level in STAR 1-5. They are not required to progress through the levels in numerical order.
- ⇒ A skater can change their STAR 1-5 level from competition to competition if desired. For instance if they enter their first competition at STAR 4 but find that level too difficult for their current skating skills, they can enter their next competition at STAR 1, 2 or 3.
- ⇒ A skater can enter one level in STAR 1-5 Free Skates and the same or different level in STAR Elements. They do not have to enter the complimentary Element Level event to their STAR 1-5 Free Skate event. However, they can only enter one event in each division, one Free Skate event and one Element event.

*As of September 2014, the following Senior Competitive promotions will be approved by the Section Judges Committee:*

**Judge Promotions up to and including Senior Section Level: Singles, Pair, Dance, Synchro**

**Referee promotions up to and including Senior Section Level: Singles, Pair, Dance, Synchro (Regional)**

**Data Specialist up to and including Level 1**

The judges committee would like to extend on behalf of all section officials our deepest sympathy to Carol Hopper on the sudden loss of her husband Ted this past summer and to Jennifer Schurr (nee Lynch) on the recent passing of her father. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.

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## 25 and 50 Year Pins

Let Patrick at the COS office know the year you started volunteering with Skate Canada so that you can receive your Pin!

## Congratulations to:

David Matuszewska on the birth of Charlotte in May 2014!

Jenifer Lynch on her marriage to Gord Schurr on September 1, 2014!

### High Test Evaluators

Please forward to Patrick, at your earliest convenience, any test days you might be able to help out at, after reviewing the test day monthly calendar from the COS office.

High test evaluators are also reminded that if they are contacted directly by a test chair about servicing a test day without the test chair going through the office, the evaluator is to direct the test chair to contact the COS office about obtaining an evaluator. Please do not accept any direct requests for servicing a test day without first ensuring that Patrick is aware of and confirms that it is okay for you to do so. Thank you!

## Synchronized Skating Seminar

November 22, 2014

11:00am to 5:00pm

Hershey Centre, Mississauga

For more information please contact the COS office

### Officials—Expenses and Travel Arrangements:

- ◆ Please let the organizing committee or test chair know any travel requirements, either to or from a competition or test day, before the event starts if at all possible. This will ensure that you will have that needed ride to or from the airport or train station at the appointed time.
- ◆ Please keep receipts for all taxis, buses, planes, food, etc. and provide these, with your expense sheet, to the Tech Rep after arrival at the competition or to the Test Chair.
- ◆ Please keep track of your mileage. If you are picking another official up and driving them to the competition as well, please note this on your expense form before handing it in to the tech rep.



### Congratulations to the following Officials on their recent promotion:

Beth Begin—Full Clinic Leader

Amy Doucette—Novice Singles

Vitaly Birbraer—Primary Dance, Singles

Emma Green—Novice Singles

Judy Cotter—Full Clinic Leader

Jeffrey Morden—Juvenile Singles

