

## Ice Skating Victoria AGM President's report

Dear Skating Community,

I would like to welcome everyone to the 106th Annual General Meeting of Ice Skating Victoria (ISV) and thank you all for your participation this year. We come here to elect a council that will carry on the good work of the previous council and continue to be innovative in the representation of our broad cross section of members.

It has been my absolute pleasure to be President of a council that genuinely works very hard to create the best possible environment for our skaters. To a person we are trying to create a vibrant and exciting atmosphere that both challenges our skaters and pushes them to be their very best. Members of the Council who are responsible for portfolios have done an outstanding job in bringing out the very best from the time and resources available.

I would like to congratulate our athletes, without whom this is all meaningless, on their improvements over the 2018 competition season. Victorian athletes are regularly finishing in the top half of their fields and even moving to the podium. All athletes across the full range are improving and skating better programs with harder elements, it is very encouraging.

The technical improvements have been very visible with quite a few working on the double axels and small triples. Spins and footwork are all improving with our athletes often doing better than Base or Level 1 and the components are starting to show a greater maturity and depth which is being reflected in scores. Congratulations must also go to our coaches who are developing their athletes and being receptive to feedback as well as keeping an appraising eye on the competition, both domestically and interstate.

Our utilisation of the Qualifying Score system for athletes attending AFSC has been very successful with ISV being in the delightful position of having to argue with ISA about allowing more of our athletes to compete. Our athletes mostly cruise past their divisional qualifier in the first event or so which leaves them in good shape to work on harder elements for a big block of the season. This is in stark contrast to when it was brought in and highlights the improvement in our competitive group. ISA are looking at implementing this qualifying idea across all states for AFSC participation in an effort to make it a stronger and more prestigious event. I have personally had quite a few discussions with administrators and judges from other states and had conversations as to what Victoria's methods for success are.

22nd January, 2019

Andrew Taylor has continued to improve our judging system (IJS) and has got it to a very efficient level. We managed to run all events with an absolute minimum of technical interruption and we look forward to another strong year of improvements in this area.

ISV's State Squad program has been very successful and has allowed our athletes to have access to good ice and strong, timely feedback from knowledgeable judges

My thanks go to our affiliated clubs, Melbourne Figure Skating Club, Oakleigh Figure Skating Club and Victorian Synchronized IceSkating Club and their volunteers for making this season's events a wonderful experience for our athletes and officials.

My thanks also go to all members of the 2018 committee who have contributed so well all year and indulged my rantings from the soapbox. They are very committed to making Victoria a very strong skating state. It truly has been a pleasure to have worked with you all and thank you for the laughs..

I wish all our athletes and their support teams the very best for the new season and I look forward to them competing at a higher level in the 2019 season and know they will continue to strive for their goals and make Victoria proud.

Mark Storton  
President, ISV