

JUDGES AND OFFICIALS CODE OF ETHICS

Introduction

The Judges and Officials Code of Ethics outlines standards in competence, integrity and impartiality. The purpose of it is to define the judges and officials' role in the context of NISA.

NISA recognises that it has an obligation to its members and the communities where it operates, to observe and maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethics. Judges and officials will be held responsible for ensuring that all rules and policies of the ISU and NISA are observed on any occasion when they are present. NISA recognises the importance of the contribution of judges and officials to the creation of a positive skating environment within which all individuals can ultimately benefit.

The importance of establishing and maintaining appropriate ethical behaviour must be accepted by all judges and officials who act on behalf of NISA. They will be required to acknowledge in writing that he or she has received and reviewed a copy of this Code of Ethics and that he or she agrees to be bound by and comply with the Code of Ethics. Should a situation occur, where a judge's or official's application of this Code of Ethics may be called into question, it shall be considered in an objective and confidential manner.

Ethical Standards

1) Obligations to the Skaters and Coaches

To be *technically competent*. Judges and officials must be fully aware of the rules for tests, competitions and championships at the level appropriate to the functions being carried out by that judge or official.

To *pursue continuous education* or where appropriate technical upgrading in their knowledge of skating and of related fields beneficial to skating.

To be *independent and impartial*. Judges and officials shall not be influenced by audience, the reputation and/or the past performance of the skater. Judges must not use previously prepared marks or write down other judges' marks. When necessary, judges and officials shall present their assessment of the performance of the skater or the event in an impartial and technically sound manner while respecting the assessment of one's colleagues.

Judges shall not *monitor and/or liaise* with skaters or their coaches less than 14 days before they judge the skaters. Judges may not attend more than six training sessions in any year and may not attend more than one training session in any month without the permission of the Performance Director or nominated representative.

To refrain from judging or officiating if at any time a conflict of interest arises.

To request the consent of the skater's parent/guardian and/or coach before monitoring or liaising with skaters. The coach must be present during the monitoring. Prior permission to attend these training sessions shall be sought by the judge or official from the Performance Director or nominated representative. A short written report is submitted to the Performance Director within 30 days after the monitoring. Judges and officials shall use the official forms prepared by NISA for monitoring sessions.

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To invite all skaters of a similar standard at the rink or in the vicinity if advice is given to a group of single skaters. During the group session the judge or official shall give advice in general terms and ensure that all skaters are treated equally and that no conflict of interest is created.

To ***avoid adversely criticising skaters***, whilst providing constructive feedback where appropriate. Judges and officials shall use the formal assessment systems of test, competition and squad review procedures to provide an objective assessment of the performance of the skater.

To ***be mindful of the influence*** that judges and officials can exert over a skater.

2) Obligations to the Sport

To use every endeavour to ***avoid any actual or potential conflict of interest***. All judges and officials must not accept bribes in any form. They shall not express a preference for any athlete, coach, judge or official. Judges and officials must ensure that no action on their part could be seen as inappropriate.

To ***share technical and experiential knowledge*** of ice skating with stakeholders to enhance the development of the sport.

To ensure, within the limits of their control, the safety, health and protection of all persons with whom they work or owe a duty of care to.

To ***report any violation*** in a specific event to the Event Referee. It shall then be the responsibility of that Referee to take all necessary steps to deal with the matter. The Referee shall report to the appropriate Director where the Referee is of the view that it is necessary to do so.

To avoid any activities that could lead to NISA being brought into disrepute.

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Any conviction by a court of law, disciplinary proceeding or any related court proceedings must be reported to NISA. By signing this Code of Ethics, judges and officials certify that they are not known to any Social Services Department or any similar agency as being an actual or potential risk to children.

To use every endeavour to ***promote NISA, its activities and the sport of ice skating.*** Judges and officials must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of ice skating. Judges and officials shall act in a professional manner at all times, arriving punctually and conducting themselves in a suitable way. Appearance is a matter of personal taste but judges and officials shall project an image of health, cleanliness and functional efficiency.

To maintain membership in good standing with NISA and to provide NISA with accurate and reliable information.

3) Obligations to Colleagues

To ***avoid criticising*** other judges and officials, their assessment or their performance. The appropriate internal communication channels shall be used for concerns or criticism.

To ***attend pre-event and Round Table meetings*** where appropriate and complete all necessary paperwork to an acceptable standard within 28 days.

Not to improperly divulge any confidential information, unless legally required, about colleagues, NISA or any employee, during the course of acting as a judge or official and after.

Judges: To ***mark independently*** and not discuss or converse assessment during the event with any person, except where appropriate with the Referee of that event.

Statement of Acceptance of Judges and Officials Code of Conduct

I hereby confirm that I have read the NISA Judges and Officials Code of Ethics and I will retain a copy for my files.

I hereby agree to accept the terms of the NISA Judges and Officials Code of Ethics, NISA Safeguarding Policy, NISA Equity policy and NISA Social Media Policy and I agree to be bound by the contents.

I acknowledge that NISA will not permit me to act as a Judge or Official unless I agree to be bound by the above Code of Conduct.

Name:
Signature:
Date:
Membership Number:
Address:

This copy is to be retained by the individual.

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Name:
Signature:
Date:
Membership Number:
Address:

This copy is to be signed, dated and returned to the NISA office in an envelope marked 'Private and Confidential' for the attention of the Chief Executive.

About NISA

NISA is recognized by the Sports Councils (UK Sport, Sport England, Scottish Sports Council, Sports Council for Wales and Sports Council for Northern Ireland) as the governing body of ice skating in the UK. It is affiliated to the International Skating Union (ISU), the international governing body for ice skating disciplines.

The National Ice Skating Association of UK (NISA) is one of the oldest governing bodies in the UK, being founded as the National Skating Association of Great Britain (NSA) in February 1879. The NSA took part in founding the ISU.

NISA's current functions can be summarised as follows:

- Membership subscriptions and servicing
- Test systems
- Coach education
- Judge/official education
- Major event management
- World Class programmes

NISA has more than 6,000 members and is responsible for both ice skating disciplines that are Figure Skating (Singles, Pairs, Dance & Synchronized) and Speed Skating (Short Track).

More than 70 000 youngsters complete the NISA accredited Learn to Skate programme (Skate UK) every year, which is available from the majority of ice rinks across the UK. There are 10 stages of the programme and courses run for both youngsters and adults.

NISA is a company limited by guarantee (Registration number 2677064) and is controlled by an elected Board of Directors all of whom work on a voluntary basis for the Association.