

# ART NEWS FLASH 16 AUGUST 2017

## 2017/2018 REQUIREMENTS

Skate Australia has changed their age groups and grade requirements to match the CEPA (Europe) regulations. This puts New Zealand at odds with Australia and the rest of the world. It has been suggested that New Zealand urgently considers aligning our age categories and requirements as well.

The key positive features of the rules changes will be

- Alignment and collaboration opportunities with Australia
- Adopting CEPA requirements is seen as pathway to develop top skaters to compete at European events such as Cup of Europe (dance), German Cup (Fig & Free) with a realistic outcome.
- Improve the standards in grades such as Primary and Juvenile
- Adding medal tests to National Standards to improve overall quality of skaters

We must be seen as a united group and a component of the Asia-Pacific group.

The adoption of the new rules model is a planned change. It is important for the overall success that the change is implemented in a positive way.

Points noted include:

- Australia has unanimously decided to structure their grades and requirements to mirror CEPA. This will be full immersion by 2019.
- Part immersion for 2018 is that the CEPA requirements for each grade will be introduced but will retain the current Australian ages for grades. For 2019 all ages for all grades will be adopted.
- Essentially for Primary and Juvenile the age range will narrow, to be of a 2-year age span, and cadet becomes 13-15.
- Cadet affects New Zealand with it being an Oceania Grade.
- If we procrastinate and decide to wait another year to implement changes we will be 2 years behind Australia and comparative development within New Zealand.

Swift change action is required to ensure success for the coming year as the implementation takes place.

Members of the High Performance Coaching Commission (HPCC) together with members of the NZ Artistic Committee have assessed the changes taking place in both Australia and Europe and unconditionally agree that the way forward for our sport in

New Zealand is to adopt these changes. If we do not take this step forward now we will put our sport up to 5 years behind, which will weaken the sport further in New Zealand.

FIRS are already looking at the Asia/Pacific region and expecting more growth and rapid progression otherwise as a region we are in serious jeopardy of losing our place in the future of this sport. Both the HPCC and the Artistic Committee have seen that it is imperative for us to act now and obviously at some short notice.

Therefore, we acknowledge that there will be a delay in putting forward the requirements for the 2017/2018 year whilst these changes are being assessed and discussed. The targeted date of 6<sup>th</sup> August was not achievable and we ask you to bear with us as we sort this in the best interests of progress for New Zealand.

We anticipate that the new requirements will be released in a staged manner with the Figure requirements almost ready. We hope that the NZ Artistic skating fraternity will embrace these changes in a positive light and work with us and Australia to progress the future of Artistic skating in this region and internationally.

Yours in skating

Jane

Technical Advisor to the NZ Artistic Roller Sports Committee