



SAFSA

SOUTH AFRICAN
FIGURE SKATING
ASSOCIATION

SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

1 APRIL 2023

to

31 MARCH 2024



sport, arts & culture

Department:
Sport, Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: South African Figure Skating Association

NPO Registration Number: 005-978 NPO

SARS PBO Reference Number: 18/11/13/4433

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	Deputy President:	Mr C Viljoen
	National Secretary:	Mrs D Rees
	National Treasurer:	Mr V D' Aguanno
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INDEX

GENERAL INFORMATION	2
INDEX	3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	4
STATISTICS AND GENERAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE.....	7
GOVERNANCE	10
MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES.....	11
NATIONAL, INTERPROVINCIAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS	15
AWARDS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
ROLL OF HONOUR.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present my report on the activities of the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA) for the 2023 / 2024 financial year.

The primary objective of this association is to foster greater interest in the sport of Figure Skating in general and further develop its five disciplines of Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, Solo Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating in particular. In this vein, a primary objective of this organization remains the continued implementation of the Long Term Participant Development Plan (LTPDP). I am pleased to report that the implementation of the plan continues resulting in a far more pro-active management approach of athlete training and performance. All athletes competing at international level and all athletes identified as high-performance athletes by the NTC are now required to have preliminary LTPDP in place. As this practice becomes further entrenched within the sport over time, the detail of the LTPDP for each athlete will grow into a fully-fledged LTPDP for each athlete. The intention of LTPDP is to monitor and carefully manage the progress and development of the athlete according to set criteria and goals the athlete together with the sport have set.

In order for SAFSA to manage the sport of Figure Skating in the most effective and efficient manner, the continued evaluation of the current governance structures of SAFSA remains essential. It goes without saying that maintaining the status quo in an increasingly globalised environment is no longer an option with several challenges that need to be dealt with relating to development, capacity building and producing results that are deemed to be acceptable to all the national and international stakeholders in the sport of Figure Skating in particular, sport in general and the citizens of South Africa. The administrators, officials and volunteers in the sport govern and manage the sport of Figure Skating on behalf of the citizens of South Africa and we are answerable to all our stakeholders with regards to both the manner in which we govern and the decisions our structures make. We are simply the custodians and not the 'owners' of the sport of Figure Skating and thus we have an onerous responsibility in ensuring we manage the sport well for the benefit of current and future generations of South African citizens who wish to partake in the sport of Figure Skating.

The membership statistics for the sport indicate that the SAFSA direct membership averages around 512 direct SAFSA members for this and the previous four reporting periods. There was a 3.9% increase in numbers from the previous reporting period and a 23.5% increase in PDI members which bodes well for the future diversity of our sport.

Club membership in the country in those provinces who have solid club structures in place indicates continued growth with a total membership of 2435 members found predominantly in clubs nationally. This represents a growth of 10.4% from the previous reporting period mainly due to the fact that clubs affiliate in Gauteng Region and Cape Town is growing. The focus is for all Clubs in this Region to turn this around in order to get an upward trajectory in their membership numbers.

Total membership numbers are of course an important indicator of the size of the sport in the country. However, such total numbers cannot be seen in isolation as the membership should also reflect the demographics of the country or the district and province in question. The demographics of the club membership indicate that 62% of club members are from the previously disadvantaged grouping. For a non-mainstream sport such as Figure Skating, this is a good demographic statistic when one also takes into account the number of facilities available and the locations thereof. However, the direct membership statistics of the Provincial affiliates indicate that only 47% (21% in the previous year) of the direct members of the Provincial affiliates are from the previously disadvantaged grouping. The challenge the SAFSA must face is to continuously transform the direct membership so that this more closely reflects the club membership as the club membership is the source from which the direct membership of the SAFSA is derived. Initiatives in this regard have been commenced by some Provincial Affiliates.

On the coaching front, membership statistics are generally constant with some growth from the previous year. However, two more PDI has registered as a coach which brings the total number to 3 PDI coaching members. This diversity aspect of coaching must also continue to be addressed and more PDI persons must be encouraged to become coaches once they complete their competitive phase of Figure Skating.

The South African Department of Sport and Recreation (SRSA) as well as the SASCOC are adamant that the agendas of development, transformation and mass mobilisation continue to occupy the highest priority in the minds of sport administrators. In a sport as small as ours and compared to the other more prominent sports in our country, further development of the sport of Figure Skating is essential if the sport is to continue on a sustainable basis.

An important benefit to the SAFSA in having officials at international level is the transfer of knowledge and experience these persons gain during their individual international assignments. In this regard, Mr Neil Garrard, and Mr Etienne Dreyer, Judge during this reporting period.

We continue to enjoy the wealth of experience each gain at these ISU Championships, International Competitions and seminars and in turn benefit from the transfer of knowledge to our own national Judges and coaches.

Within the borders of our country, several training seminars were held for both Judges and coaches during the course of the year. Furthermore, based on the experience and courses different members of SAFSA attended, Technical Panel courses were held in the Western Cape and Gauteng for the Technical Specialists and Technical Controllers.

On the international front, the SAFSA nominated and sent numerous athletes to international events to represent South Africa during the reporting period.

The SAFSA can be extremely proud of the achievement of these athletes and these results and this certainly bodes well for the future of these athletes and the SAFSA. We should be very proud to see our country flag in the podium positions of international competitions. We trust these athletes will continue to build on these excellent results and look forward to them continuing to represent South Africa at high level international events culminating in future Senior World Championships and the Olympic Winter Games.

Other athletes also took part in international competitions and trust that their exposure to international standards and athletes of the same age will give them a better and first hand understanding of what is required to achieve good international results in major championships in the future.

SAFSA National Colours were awarded to a number of our athletes for participating in international competitions and coach during this reporting period for participation in ISU Championships. The details of these awards can be found in the latter part of this report.

The cornerstone of proving that any sporting association is promoting and developing the sport actively is the holding of different competitive events. In this regard, the annual National Championship was held on 10-12 May 2024 at The Ice Station, GrandWest Casino and Entertainment Complex, Cape Town and a further three Interprovincial Championships were also held during this reporting period. A total of 312 athletes took part in the three Interprovincial events and the National Championships. A Roll of Honour for the medallists at these four championships can be found in the latter part of this report.

Provincial Affiliates also held annual Provincial Championships and numerous other smaller club, inter-club and inter-school competitions were held at club level. It is very heartening that many of our athletes are making use of these competitive opportunities in order to develop as competitive athletes.

As in my previous report there still remain major challenges that the SAFSA will have to address in the short term. The largest of these is the Recognition of Sport and Recreation Bodies regulations of SRSA and specifically the requirement of at least seven active Provincial Affiliates according to the provincial borders published by the Demarcation Board being registered in the sport in order to qualify as a national sport. We are well aware that the reason that the SAFSA does not yet meet this requirement is that there are only ice rink facilities currently in three of the nine Provinces in South Africa and it remains almost impossible to start a Provincial Affiliate in a Province without any facilities to develop the sport. However, this past year we have made a positive step forward where a new ice rink in Port Elizabeth has commenced operation and a new club established. Thus, according to the provincial borders of the country, Figure Skating is now active in four of the seven Provinces in the country.

It would be irresponsible for the SAFSA not to thank the many internal and external stakeholders in our sport who have assisted in sustaining the sport in this annual report. On behalf of the SAFSA I wish to thank SRSA, the ISU, SASCOC and Lotto Distribution Trust Fund for their assistance, guidance and financial contributions towards the daily activities and development of the SAFSA and its members. We remain truly grateful and humble for this assistance and guidance and look forward to a continued positive relationship with them.

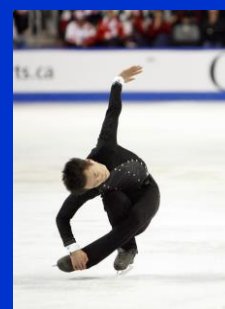
Finally, to govern, manage, promote and develop a sport with in essence only unpaid volunteers is never an easy task. To the many volunteers, officials, members, office holders and athletes, thank you for your continued support, involvement and dedication to the sport. None of the achievements reached to date would have been possible without your commitment, assistance and dedication and we once again look forward to your continued involvement and assistance in the future. It continues to remain both a privilege and a humbling experience to be able to lead such a fine group of diverse people for the benefit of the sport of Figure Skating in South Africa.

A sincere "Thank You" to you all is well deserved!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricardo Jacobs', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

RICARDO JACOBS
PRESIDENT

DATE: 28 of February 2024



STATISTICS AND GENERAL INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

(SAFSA DIRECT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR THE ROLLING FOUR YEAR PERIOD 2019 – 2020)

Affiliate	Honorary Members	Longstanding Members	Ordinary Members	TOTAL	PDI*
Central Gauteng					
31 March 2020	12	13	110	135	14
Gauteng North					
31 March 2020	0	8	63	71	0
KwaZulu / Natal					
31 March 2020					
Western Province					
31 March 2020	14	30	215	259	75
SAPSU / SAFSCC**					
31 March 2020	2	11	17	30	3
TOTAL (all affiliates)					
31 March 2024	28	62	405	495	92

**South African Professional Skaters Union (Coaches Union) now called the South African Figure Skating Coaches Commission

CLUB MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS FOR THE ROLLING THREE FOUR PERIOD 2019 – 2020

Club*	Region / Province	Total Members	PDI	% PDI
Junior Blades Ice Skating Club	Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Province			
31 March 2024		509	221	43%
Black Panthers Figure Skating Club	Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Province			
31 March 2024		359	240	67%
Seals Junior Ice Skating Club	eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, KwaZulu / Natal Province			
31 March 2024		79	20	25%
Durban Junior Ice Skating Club	eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, KwaZulu / Natal Province			
31 March 2024		39	13	33%
KZN Synchronised Skating Club	eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, KwaZulu / Natal Province			
31 March 2024		0	0	0
WP Synchronised Skating Club	Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality, Western Province			
31 March 2024		47	34	74%
Gauteng Synchronised Skating Club	Gauteng Province			
31 March 2024		52	12	24%
Cutting Edge & Gauteng Adult	Gauteng Province			
31 March 2024		24	2	14%
TOTAL (31 March 2020)		1177	561	39%

*The listed clubs are members of the respective Provincial Affiliates. In the Gauteng region (Johannesburg and Pretoria) the activities of the clubs are performed by academies owned and managed by the Ice Rink itself. These academies are not members of the two Provincial Affiliates (Central Gauteng and Gauteng North) but it is estimated the number of participants in the academies in the three ice rinks exceeds 350

RECREATIONAL SKATING

It is estimated that conservatively 110,000 persons per month ice skate recreationally in the different ice rinks across the country. More accurate statistics cannot be supplied as the ice rinks are private commercial facilities and the association has no access to their individual ticket sales figures.

DEVELOPMENT AND PROFICIENCY TESTS

The following development and proficiency tests were successfully completed by the athletes during the reporting period commencing 1 April and ending 31 March the following year:

For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

Test Type	WP	KZN	GN	CG	Total
Skating Skills Series	50	0	37	31	93
Free Skating Test Series	0	0	0	8	8
Star Test Series	15	0	0	10	37
Total:	65	0	37	49	138

TRAINING FACILITIES

The following training facilities with different degrees of access are available for training by the athletes of SAFSA.

Name	Address	Town, City
The Ice Station	Grand West Casino and Entertainment Complex	Cape Town
Bay West Ice Rink	Bay West Shopping Centre Mall	Port Elizabeth (Closed)
Northgate Ice Rink	Northgate Shopping Centre Mall	Randburg, Jhb
Festival Mall Ice Rink	Festival Shopping Centre Mall	Kempton Park, Jhb
The Grove Ice Rink	The Grove Shopping Centre Mall	Pretoria
Forest Hill Ice Rink	Forest Hill City Centre Mall	Krugersdorp, Centurion
Durban Ice Rink	81 Somsteu Road	Durban (Temp Closed)
Galleria Ice Rink	Galleria Shopping Centre Mall	Amanzimtoti, Durban



GOVERNANCE

The SAFSA is promoted, controlled and managed by the following bodies:

THE COUNCIL OF SAFSA

The Council of SAFSA held its Annual General Meeting on the 31 of August 2023 online.

The Council of SAFSA met on the same day and venue. It should be noted that the Council also makes use of e-mail correspondence between Council meetings to make and ratify decisions of the Council.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL

The Executive Committee continues to be in daily contact by means of e-mail to plan and execute the necessary daily activities of SAFSA.

THE FOLLOWING FOUR PROVINCIAL AFFILIATES:

- (i) Central Gauteng Figure Skating Association (CG)
- (ii) Gauteng North Figure Skating Association (GN)
- (iii) KwaZulu-Natal Figure Skating Association (KZN)
- (iv) Western Province Figure Skating Association (WP)

THE FOLLOWING FOUR STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL:

- (i) International Selections Committee (ISC)
 - Singles and Pairs Division
 - Ice Dancing Division
 - Synchronised Skating Division
 - Solo Ice Dance
- (ii) National Technical Committee (NTC)
- (iii) National Judges Technical Committee (NJTC)
- (iv) Rules and Regulations Committee (R&RC)

THE SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURE SKATING COACHES COMMISSION (SAFSCC)



MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEES

THE PROVINCIAL AFFILIATES OF THE SAFSA

The Provincial Affiliates of the SAFSA reported that each Provincial Affiliate held its Annual General Meeting as required by their respective constitutions and regular Provincial Committee meetings to manage the daily affairs of the province. I am pleased to report that the four Provincial Affiliates are managed well, meeting their governance obligations and executing their mandates in the best possible manner under very trying circumstances. The growth and progress of the SAFSA is almost entirely driven by the activities of the Provincial Affiliates and thus their effective and efficient governance and management is of critical importance.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S OF THE SAFSA

1. International Selections Committee (ISC)

The ISC convened on two occasions during the period in review:

- 13 May 2023 (Cape Town)

The members of the ISC were as follows:

May 2023 meeting	
<u>Singles and Pairs Division</u>	
Chairperson (President):	Mr R Jacobs
Secretary (National Secretary)*:	Mrs D Rees
R&R Representative (Chairperson R&RC)*:	Mr E Dreyer
Members:	Mrs H Balk-Pinto
	Mr N Garrard
	Mrs J Brits
<u>Ice Dancing Division</u>	
Chairperson (President):	Mr R Jacobs
Secretary (National Secretary)*:	Mrs D Rees
R&R Representative (Chairperson R&RC)*:	Mr E Dreyer
Members:	Mrs H Balk-Pinto

Mr VS D'Aguanno Ms B Smith	
<u>Synchronised Skating Division</u>	
Chairperson (President):	Mr R Jacobs
Secretary (National Secretary)*:	Mrs D Rees
R&R Representative (Chairperson R&RC)*:	Mr E Dreyer
Members:	Ms B Smith
	Mr VS D'Aguanno
	Mr E Dreyer

* Ex-officio members without voting rights

2. National Technical Committee (NTC)

The NTC held its deliberations via e-mail during the period under review. The members of the committee are as follows:

Chairperson: Mr E Dreyer
Members:
Judges: Mrs J Brits (NJTC Chairperson)
Mr B Sign
Mrs J Griffiths
Coaches: Mrs S Marais (SAFSCC Chairperson)
Mrs H Ashley
Ms B Hawks

The function of the NTC is to review all competition and championship requirements and the continued further development of the various development test structures in the association and submit to the Council proposals for the amendment thereof. It has the further mandate to maintain and update the ISU Judging System software and hardware as and when required and to train and provide sufficient officials for the effective use of the ISU Judging System software during Interprovincial and National Championships.

The NTC held two meetings Interprovincial Championships during the period under review.

The NTC submitted several proposals to the Council based on its annual reviews and these have been deliberated upon by the Council. These submissions and proposals included:

- The Free Fall rule;
- Changes to the Singles Pre-Novice Components Program;
- Changes to the Pre-Novice fall deduction;
- Avoidance of conflicts of interest on the Technical Panel; and
- Continued implementation of the SAFSA Long Term Participant Development (LTPD) Plan for SAFSA.

Future projects that the NTC has identified include:

- further revision of the Skating Skills Test Series to ensure this is aligned with and supports the objectives of the SAFSA LTPD Plan;
- the compilation of a training video relating to the Skating Skills Test Series for athletes, coaches and Judges in order to assist with the identification of errors and good features in all the exercises and improve the consistency of the Judging across the country;

- the annual revision of the Star Test minimum Technical Pass Marks for all disciplines; and
- the annual revision of the International Selections minimum scores.

3. National Judges Technical Committee (NJTC)

The NJTC held its annual meeting during the National Championships in May 2023 in Cape Town. The members of the NJTC are as follows:

Chairperson:	Brits, Mr J	Vice Chairperson:	Mr N Gerrade
Secretary:	Mrs J Glatter		
Rules and Reg.:	Dreyer, Mr E		
Members:	Balk-Pinto, Mrs H	Sighn, Mr B	D'Aguanno, Mr VS
	De Kock, Mrs B	Griffiths, Mrs J	Cochrane, Ms A
	Jacobs, Mr R	Rivett, Ms F	Smith, Ms B
	Golden, Miss L	Boshoff, Mrs A	
	Devine, Mrs F		

Over and above the twelve Judges that are members of the NJTC, there are additional Judges who are progressing through the ranks in the association and once they become Senior National Judges will become members of the NJTC. What is also extremely pleasing is that more previously disadvantaged individuals are showing interest in judging and out of the total of 22 active Judges in the country, five (29%) are from the PDI grouping. This bodes well for the future diversity of the judging panels and officials in the organisation.

The NJTC is required to consider the annual promotions and compile the final list of Judges and Referee's and levels of qualification. In addition, the NJTC must resolve any disputes relating to Judging and Refereeing matters and must draw up the panel of Judges and Referees for the different sections at the annual National Championships.

The NJTC also regularly submits proposals to the NTC for consideration by both Judges and coaches prior to the proposal being submitted to the Council.

4. Rules and Regulations Committee (R&RC)

The R&RC does not hold regular meetings. Its function is to submit constitutional, rules and regulations proposals to the Council for consideration based on the needs of the association and changes in the regulatory framework, both nationally and internationally, in which the SAFSA operates. It furthermore advises the Council with regards to proposals submitted and clarifications required with regards to the current rules in effect.

Acting Chairperson: D'Aguanno, Mr VS

5. The South African Figure Skating Coaches Commission (SAFSCC)

The primary function of the SAFSCC is to manage and govern all coaching related matters in the SAFSA as well as developing and training of new coaches for the sport. The members of the Executive Committee of the SAFSCC are as follows:

Chairperson:	Marais, Mrs S
Vice Chairperson:	Broodryk, Mr D
Secretary and Treasurer:	Stigant, Mrs L
Western Cape Representative:	Hawks, Ms B
KwaZulu/Natal Representative:	Ashley, Mrs H

Gauteng Representative: Vacant

There are currently 38 members of the SAFSCC consisting of:

- (a) Three Honorary Member Coaches
- (b) Twenty Two Longstanding Member Coaches
- (c) Thirteen Ordinary Member Coaches

The SAFSCC together with the NTC continues to assist with the implementation of the framework for the Long Term Participant Development (LTPD) Programme that was initiated by the SAFSA in conjunction with the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee in previous years.

A number of active competing athletes continue to participate in the Teaching Apprenticeship Program under the guidance of an experienced coach who acts as their mentor whilst providing training assistance to other active athletes. The hope is that these athletes will, once they have decided to retire from competitive skating, use this mentoring opportunity well and use this basis to become coaches and members of SAFSCC and actively contribute towards the development of the sport in years to come.



NATIONAL, INTERPROVINCIAL AND PROVINCIAL EVENTS

The SAFSA held a number of competitive events throughout the reporting period. The details of the events are as follows:

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the introduction of the Long-Term Participant Development (LTPD) programme, the SAFSA annual competitive events calendar was amended so as to be more supportive of the aims and goals of the LTPD Plan. As such, the annual National Championships now takes place close to the end of the skating season. The 2019 National Championships took place on the 10 - 12 May 2019 at The Ice Station, GrandWest Casino and Entertainment Complex, Cape Town. A total of 105 athletes took part in 10 Single Skating sections, 1 Pairs Skating sections and 1 Synchronised Skating sections.

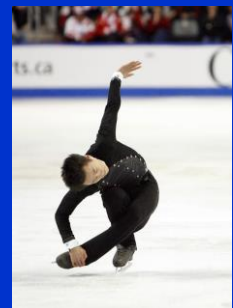
Historically, the participation statistics of athletes for the National Championships were as follows:

KZN IP:	39	70	67	131	70	87	103	22.4%
GAU IP:	161	104	82	79	71	63	74	10.0%
WCA IP:	206	150	147	141	121	132	129	4.5%
TOTAL:	406	324	296	351	262	282	306	11.7%

These participation numbers represent a compound annual growth rate of 11.7% per year.

OTHER COMPETITIONS

Numerous other competitions including club, interclub and inter-school competitions were held during the period under review. They included the Black Panthers Club Championships, Junior Blades Club Championships, Prima Vera Cup and Rising Stars Competition.



***** END *****