

# ART NEWS FLASH – 6 NOVEMBER 2021

## 2022 Artistic Requirements

### Changes to Domestic Grades for 2022

Following much deliberation, and consultation with the NZAC, and taking on board feedback from our skating community, the Artistic Committee have agreed to change the domestic grades that have been “Area Only” (competed to Area Championship level only) to be “Regional Only” (competed to Regional Championship level only).

We hope that by making this change, it will encourage more regional competitions to be held with the focus on these “Regional Only” grades with all other grades being included at the discretion of each organising committee. Having a distinct focus on “Regional Only” grades would mean that organising committees’ can staff panels with less officials than are usually required for Area and National level grades (e.g. 1-2 judges instead of 3-5, and 1-2 TS’s instead of 3). This may also provide more opportunities for upskilling of new officials and progressing officials, and allow for further competitions for our newer skaters to attend throughout the year.

Entry level competitions will include: Club Competitions, Open Days, Area/Regional League Competitions and Regional Championships.

Higher level competitions will include: Area Championships, NZ Championships and International Events.

As part of the changes to the domestic grades, the Committee has also made changes to the domestic grades, endeavouring to create a cohesive competitive pathway for skaters of all ages and skill levels.

While it has been great to see such an increase in people taking up skating as a sport, it has led to some very large novice grades with a large range of ages. The Committee has decided on the addition of an “Adult 2” grade aimed at older teenagers and adults, and have the skill level of the “Adult 1” and “Adult 2” grades mirror the “Novice 1” and “Novice 2” grades.

There is also the addition of an “Intermediate” grade to follow on from Preliminary. Both Preliminary and Intermediate will have no restrictions on upper age, but the addition of the new grade has allowed for a more gradual increase in skill level from the “Regional Only” grades through to the NZ Championship grades. With these changes the progression for skaters would look like:

Under 15 years:

New Entrant - Novice 1 – Novice 2 – Preliminary

15 Years and Over:

Adult 1 – Adult 2 – Intermediate or Masters

Skaters would also have the option of moving out of these domestic pathways and into an International (Oceania or World Skate) grade as they progress and as their ages allow, or moving on to the “Open” (formerly Advanced) grade.

### **Advanced Grade Name Change**

Due to the frequency at which the “Advanced” grade has been mistaken with the “Advanced Masters” grade the decision has been made to change the name of the “Advanced” grade to “Open”.

### **Medal Test Requirements for NZ Championships Qualification**

For the past few years the medal test requirement to qualify for NZ Championships has been set at medal 1 for all grades in all disciplines. When these medal test requirements were added to the NZ Artistic Requirements it was also communicated that the medal test level for the grades would increase in future. This increase is going to be phased in over the next 2 years, with the final medal test requirements to be based on the skill level required for each grade. The first phase of this change to medal test requirements will come into effect as of 2022. The required medal tests are listed alongside each grade in the NZ Artistic Requirements.

The Artistic Committee has assessed the impact that raising the medal test requirements for NZ Champs qualification will have on existing skaters, and the majority of skaters who competed in the 2021 NZ Artistic Champs will not have to achieve further tests to compete again in 2022. However, the Committee would like to recognise that there have been many challenges with covid lockdowns and disruptions to training and regularly scheduled medal test opportunities in the past year, and some new skaters, or skaters moving between grades may find it challenging to gain the required medal tests for 2022. In light of these challenges, the Artistic Committee will consider individual extensions of when the required tests can be obtained leading up to NZ Championships, if they are unable to be obtained before closing of entries for the qualifying competition (Area Champs). Individual requests must be sent through to the Artistic Committee as soon as an issue is identified via your club secretary.

While the Committee will consider extensions and/or exemptions, we would like to encourage all clubs and committees who are organising medal tests to please work together with other clubs, regions and areas to ensure that all skaters have the chance to sit medal tests.

Please circulate this News Flash to all your club members.

Yours In Skating,

**Janine Price**

**NZFRS Artistic Roller Sports Committee Secretary**