

# ISU Olympic Development Project 2018-2021 for single and ice dance coaches and skaters

Seminar 2020 – Year 3

May 18-23,

Finnish Sport Institute (Vierumäki), Finland

Info Letter (update 4.2.2020)

## Project Objectives

- Understanding and recognizing the current sport-specific requirements of the present Olympic level figure skating.
- Initiating a new development collaboration between Single Skating and Ice Dance.
- Recognizing new potential coaches and discovering a potential next generation of coaches, and strengthening their competencies towards the next Olympic Games. In order to be prepared for the upcoming change of generation among coaches, the transfer of knowledge from the current generation of coaches to the next one needs to be secured.
- Enabling a long-term, high-quality development process for the skaters in co-operation with their personal coaches, with the aim to elevate the skaters to the Olympic level. Raising Ice Dance couples from more countries to the international level.
- Identifying the areas that the coaches should focus on, in order for the individual skaters to successfully carry out the transition from Junior to Senior International Competitive Level.
- Encouraging an open dialogue among different nations and continents. Utilizing and increasing co-operation between various stakeholders.
- Supporting national projects in Europe, aiming at Olympic participation in 2022.

## Structure:

Four annual seminars to be held in May each year at Vierumäki, Finland; <https://vierumaki.fi/en/>

Parallel seminars for Single Skating and Ice Dance with joint and separate sessions.

The duration of each seminar is six days with 9-12 hours of daily classes for coaches and skaters.

## Curriculum:

The curriculum will be structured to advance the objectives of the project, i.e. to identify the areas that coaches must focus on, in order for the skaters to successfully make the transition from Junior to Senior International Competitive Level.

The lessons will be constructed to help coaches learn how to enhance the effects of training and the mental awareness of being a competitive skater, and how to implement these in their personal training environment.

Transferring knowledge between the current and new generation of coaches will be emphasized in the practical implementation of the seminars.

Questions and Answers Sessions and Workshops will explore the different challenges in the process of developing young skaters towards more mature performances with a better diversity in style and techniques.

### Outline:

#### 2018 - Seminar 1 - completed in May 2018:

- The participants recognize the features and contents of elite coaching and training operations, and will apply the operational models to their own work.
- Work towards adopting a new operational model and gaining a better understanding of elite coaching and training.
- Improving the technical competencies of athletes and coaches.

#### 2019 - Seminar 2 - completed in May 2019:

- Continuation of the main themes of 2018
- The influence of requirements on the training process
- Versatile Skater and Coach

#### 2020 - Seminar 3:

- Single skating;
  - Further development of technical elements and expertise.
  - Deeper focus on skating skills, interpretation and versatile skating.
  - Improvement of the repeatability of the elements as well as their incorporation into programs.
- Ice Dance;
  - Continued support to the development of couples in their respective levels.

#### 2021 - Seminar 4:

- Transition to the senior category is identified in the athletes
- Strengthening of diverse elite competencies of the skaters and coaches
- Components: interpretation, choreography
- Support network around the skaters and coaches

### Moderators for both Single Skating and Ice Dance Seminars 2020:



#### Massimo Scali (ITA)

Mr. Scali is a former competitive ice dancer. With partner Federica Faiella, he is the 2010 World bronze medalist, a two-time (2009–2010) European silver medalist. He's is now working as a coach and choreographer at the Arctic Edge in Canton, Michigan with Marina Zueva. He now works with Maia Shibutani / Alex Shibutani. Massimo moved to Oakland, CA and is currently coaching there.



**Maikki Uotila -Kraaz (FIN)**

Ms. Uotila-Kraaz is a former ice dancer. Uotila coached ice dancing at the BC Centre of Excellence. She has also worked as a dance instructor at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby. She received a Bachelor of Arts in dance from Sarah Lawrence College in New York. Previous years she has worked as a trainer on several development projects.

**Moderator for Ice Dance Seminar 2020:**



**Robbie Kaine, USA**

Robbie is a World and Olympic coach and his athletes have won medals at National and International Championships: most recently Kim Navarro & Brent Bommentre. Robbie received his Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has enjoyed coaching skaters of all ages and abilities since 1974. He is a member of the Professional Skaters Association (PSA) with a Master Rating in Dance and Free Dance. Robbie is qualified to coach all levels of Dance, Free Skating, and Moves in the Field.

**Elizabeth Coates (GBR)**

Ms. Coates is a British ice dancing coach and former competitor. Having begun her coaching career in England, Coates relocated to the United States in 1992. With former coaching partner Igor Shpilband, she was awarded the 1998 United States Olympic Committee "Coach of the Year" for Figure Skating. In 2000, Coates was awarded the "Coach of the Year" by the Professional Skaters Association (PSA). She has returned to England and currently works as a coach in London.

**Moderators for Single Skating Seminar 2020:**



**Alexander Vedenin (RUS)**

World and Olympic coach, two-time USSR champion, 15 years of experience as Head Coach of the USSR Single Skating National Team. Participant in 20 European Championships, 18 World Championships, and four Olympic Games. Mr. Vedenin has wide coach's and management experience, collected while working in different countries as well as participating in the ISU Development Programs.



### **Shanetta Folle**

Ms. Folle has worked as a coach and trainer in many different countries, and has collaborated in different development projects during the last decades. Her choreographies are well known and highly appreciated worldwide. She is currently working in Chigago.