



Registered Charity SC042584 Founded in 2011

INCLUSIVE SKATING

GIVING DISABLED SKATERS A SPORTING CHANCE...

Inclusive Skating is the national charity working to give disabled skaters a sporting chance in a supportive environment.



Disabled children need help to access sport because there are few opportunities. Exclusion is frequent... but we can solve it. Let me share Murrone's story with you. Murrone was invited to another skater's birthday party. She didn't know what to do as she had never been invited to a party before. In the car on the way home she said "I have got friends". She had the biggest smile on her face when she said this. She then said,

"On the ice I feel like a bird who has been let out it's cage"

Contents

A Message from the Founder- Margarita Sweeney-Baird	3
Inclusive Skating- Social Context	4
Who We Are	5
What We Do	6
Exciting News!	7
Impact Beyond The Medals... "I have got friends"	8
Walter Stewart's Words	8
A Skater's Perspective by Hannah & Jenny Lee	9
Classification and Technical Information	10
Make a Donation	11
Get in Touch	12





A Message from the Founder

Margarita Sweeney-Baird

Inclusive Skating was founded in 2010 and became a registered charity in 2011. The first Inclusive skating competition took place in 2012. It is the first of its kind with a unique combination of classification, accreditation and facilitation policies. A truly inclusive event where skaters with any form of disability are able to take part in a supportive environment. The event has led to the development of Inclusive Skating clubs and the growing community of Inclusive Skaters.

We classify all the skater's disabilities and convert them to a percentage. This provides as level a playing field as is possible. The privacy of the skater is also respected. No information on the disability is disclosed. Just the numerical value of the impairment compensation and the amount added to the skating score.

Many of our inclusive skaters are children. For them and their parents the stakes are particularly high. The full extent of the disability may not yet have manifested itself and the child may have very high and unique care needs.

The Inclusive Skating system keeps the care of the inclusive skater with the parents and carers at all times. We seek to provide a supportive environment for them to take part in sporting activities together and to support their care of the inclusive skaters. At clubs and at skating competitions the parents and carers are accredited to remain with the inclusive skater at all times. The skater's coach is there too and is also fully accredited.

Whilst the skater is taking part in skating competitions or events all necessary facilitation is permitted to ensure their happiness and wellbeing. This may take many forms. For example, a balance facilitator, frame or harness to assist a skater with an unsteady gait, a visual guide for the visually impaired, adjustments to the length of the program for those with heart issues... the list is endless...

These three key policies give inclusive skaters confidence and the warmest of welcomes to sporting participation.

Inclusive Skating - Social Context

Social Isolation

770,000 children in the UK live with disabilities

More than 500,000 children and adults live with a rare genetic disease

The majority of them are children

Many of the families of the disabled are disadvantaged too

36% of parents of disabled children report negative social attitudes in sport (Variety Report, 2017)



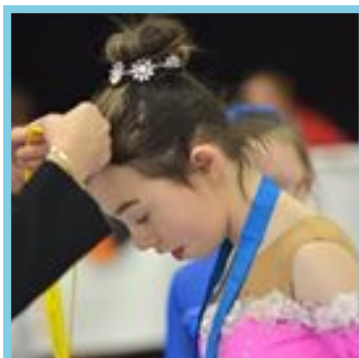
Paralympic Success

has not carried through to giving all disabled children access to sport

65% of Inclusive Skating competitors have a rare or genetic disease

Most of them are disadvantaged in sport because many rare and genetic conditions are not included in sports classification, e.g. cystic fibrosis

Inclusive Skaters, whatever the disability, want to dream of future success too!



Level Playing Field

Disabled children with a syndrome usually have to choose a disability for their sporting classification

So, they have to compete against others who may only have one disability

For children with syndromes and multiple disabilities this is not a level playing field

For many, it may just be too difficult to even try to overcome the disadvantage when all they do is come last no matter how hard they try!



Who We Are

Inclusive Skating is a registered charity. We are volunteer driven and primarily supported on a voluntary basis, with people giving their time and expertise generously. We have received some funding from the National Lottery, Sport for All Scotland for various projects, the National Ice Skating Association Charitable Trust, Special Olympics GB and Genetic Disorders UK and the Jeans for Genes Campaign.

Our skaters are International! A major annual event has been held in Scotland since 2012. Additional events have been held in Canada, Iceland and the USA. In 2018 we go to Vail, Colorado. Competitors from Scotland, England, Ireland, Wales, Iceland, Finland, Canada, USA, Austria and Russia have participated in Inclusive Skating Events.

Inclusive Skaters like a challenge and goals to work for. Inclusive Skating provides classifiers and a classification system and event structure that includes all disabilities. We now have World Rankings and British Championships for Inclusive Skating.

Our volunteers work as a creative team with others to overcome challenges. The Inclusive Skating for Genes British Championships is a new disability specific event for skaters with genetic disorders. It was founded by Inclusive Skating because children with genetic disorders are particularly disadvantaged by current classification systems.

We work with many disability specific organisations. Inclusive Skating has developed Special Olympic Ice Skating and the first British Blind Sport National Championships in the UK. Following their successful participation in the 2016 Inclusive Skating event, 10 skaters were selected to go to the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria, in March 2017. Four came home with medals.... Two of them Gold!

Inclusive Skating is a member of the Sport and Recreation Alliance, the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland and is an Affiliated Association of the National Ice Skating Association of the UK. We are enrolled with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services for the purposes of Safeguarding checks.

What We Do

1

EVENTS

We create events that classify all the skater's disabilities

2

CLUBS

Inclusive Skating clubs welcome the family and carers too

3

COMMUNITY

Inclusive Skating volunteers make it all possible. They are often also disabled

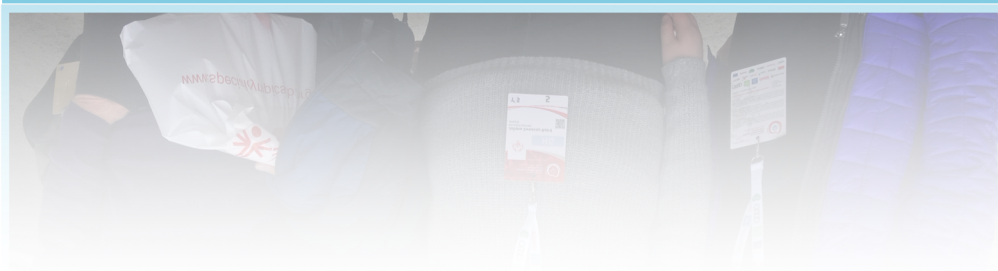
The development and operation of Inclusive Skating events is one of the most important activities of Inclusive Skating. The first Inclusive Skating event was held in 2012 and we hold an annual flagship event in Scotland. Inclusive Skating has been developing new events. The aim is to include as many opportunities as possible for all disabilities.

Our clubs are family and carer based. So all members of the family are invited to skate (this includes the able bodied too!). In 2012 the first pilot Impaired Skating Club was developed in Auchenharvie, Scotland. The first permanent club was established in 2013 at the Time Capsule in Coatbridge, Scotland. Our newest club is at Braehead, Renfrewshire, Glasgow. We also work with skaters at over 50 clubs all over Great Britain and many more across the world.

The Inclusive Skating programme welcomes skaters and volunteers to be part of the Inclusive Skating community. Here, we all work together as skaters, coaches, volunteers, judges and officials to create a fun, friendly and supportive environment for everyone. We have an on line community and communicate through the website and other social media.

Exciting News!

Inclusive Skating are delighted to announce that Torvill and Dean have agreed to become Inclusive Skating Ambassadors. The legendary duo, are back on Dancing on Ice as judges. They are considered by many to be the greatest ice dancers of all time. Inclusive Skating are delighted to welcome them as Global Ambassadors for Inclusive Skating.



Impact Beyond the Medals...

“I have got friends”

Murron was invited to another skaters birthday party. She didn't know what to do as she had never been invited to a party before. In the car on the way home she said "I have got friends". She had the biggest smile on her face when she said this. She then said,

"On the ice I feel like a bird who has been let out it's cage"

Walter Stewart's Words

“My Name is Walter Stewart and a few months ago I had the honour of judging the Inclusive Skating Championships at Braehead. I was a professional coach for many years so have a good level of knowledge as I trained many accomplished skaters, one of which was our Founder and Chair Margarita Sweeney-Baird. With our organisation, we work with a marking system which compensates the skater's impairment. This allows each individual to compete on a level playing field. I consider myself privileged to work with these amazing children and young adults.”



A Skater's Perspective

by Hannah & Jenny Lee

Inclusive Skating for us means what it says, inclusion in skating activities. Which is something which we would find very difficult otherwise. As I (Hannah) have progressed within skating it means skating a longer program in abled bodied competition. Something I cannot do. With Inclusive Skating I can skate a shorter program without getting point deductions and perform elements which I can do well.

I (Jenny) am not at a high enough level to compete in abled bodied competitions, I am nearly there but with Inclusive Skating I can show what I can already do and get credit for beginner elements. I love to dance and perform off the ice, and thanks to Inclusive Skating I can perform on the ice!

We have also made lots of friends from up and down the country and from around the world! We have competed in the UK, Iceland and the USA. We keep in touch on social media but love the competitions as it is great to catch up in person! We also like to see how skaters have progressed year upon year and we love it when a skater has progressed so much they are able to move up a level.

Not only do we compete with Inclusive Skating but we also help with fundraising efforts, we go bag packing, bake cakes, hold raffles and make gifts to sell at our annual events. Without the funds we cannot hold events so we try to do our bit.

The best thing about Inclusive Skating is showing people what you CAN do! At the events everyone cheers and claps for everyone regardless of level or how well their program has gone. It is more of a celebration of everyone's achievements rather than a competition. The annual event we have in Glasgow is the highlight of our year!



Classification Information

Classification gives each skater an impairment compensation, depending on how their medical conditions affect the ability to learn, practice or participate in skating. Inclusive skaters have many types of disabilities, and many have more than one type of disability. Some conditions (such as mental illness) are included and provided with support but do not get impairment compensation. The Classification Handbook contains information on what impairments are classified. This can be found on the Inclusive Skating website, or using the following [link](#):

All information should be brought to classification (rather than being sent or posted). We will ask you to retain and keep a copy of all your own medical records and we will not retain any. We will keep a record of any impairment compensation that is to be added to your skating score and record the necessary facilitation. When completing your entry form and at the event always inform us about the current facilitation requirements and any updates on the skater's needs.

Technical Information

Inclusive Skating provides International, national and local competition in Figure Skating. There is a wide range of events to choose from within the competition structure. There are Free, Pair, Dance, Figure and Synchro events for duets, trios, quads, teams from 5 to 10 skaters and super teams with 11 to 16 skaters. These allow for the inclusion of skaters with all forms of disability and support needs, including those that use a harness, frame, balance facilitator or wheelchair. We aim to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate.

The Inclusive Skating Technical Handbook provides information on the events that are available, their operation, the technical elements, the scoring and the judging system. This handbook can be found on the Inclusive Skating website or using this [link](#):

Occasionally we also hold speed skating events too.

Make a Donation

At Inclusive Skating we are working hard to allow disabled skaters the chance to do the sport they love in a supportive environment. The Inclusive Skating programme gives many children, adults and families the opportunity to do so, but it would not be possible without the generosity of our many volunteers and your donations.

To allow the success of the programme, and the success of the skaters who are a part of it, scholarship funding for skaters and donations are very gratefully received.

Donate via [Virgin Money](#) or directly to the Inclusive Skating Charity Bank Account

Account Name: Inclusive Skating, Bank of Scotland, Bearsden Branch, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

Sort Code 80-05-57

Account Number : 06003867

BIC : BOFSGB21372

IBAN: GB93 BOFS 8005 5706 0038 67



We are delighted to announce that Inclusive Skating received a £5,000 award from Genetic Disorders UK and the Jeans for Genes Day in 2017.

Caroline Harding, the CEO of Genetic Disorders UK said: "We are delighted to be helping Inclusive Skating support all children with genetic disorders.

Get in Touch

If you wish to get in touch with any questions, or if you would like to join our team of Inclusive Skating volunteers, please contact us at:

margarita.msb@gmail.com

or send us a comment via the website:

<http://www.inclusiveskating.org/get-involved/contact-us>



We also welcome you to visit our website, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter @Inclusivesk8, to find everything you need to know about the Inclusive Skating programme:

<http://www.inclusiveskating.org>

Finally, follow the link to our [YouTube channel](#) to watch our skaters doing what they do best!

**We at Inclusive Skating extend a warm welcome to all,
and
we thank you for your ongoing support!**