

# Opening Ceremony Script

Ladies & Gentlemen, welcome to Braehead and the opening ceremony for the British Inclusive Skating and International Paralympic Championships 2019.

Would you please welcome onto the ice our skaters, facilitators, coaches and carers.

Ladies & Gentlemen, please welcome our Opening Ceremony Official Party.

Once in position:

Ladies & gentlemen, please be upstanding for the National Anthem of Great Britain

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Margarita Sweeney-Baird, Founder and Chair of Inclusive Skating to say a few words of welcome.

Inclusive Skating held the first pilot event in 2012 and in the space of just 8 years this event has now grown into a British Championship with nearly 60 skaters and many more skaters across the world. The first year we held the event Juliana was meant to be a flower girl and we were rather low on numbers so Juliana was asked to be a skater. Now look where we are with skaters coming from Sweden and there's skaters from across the world.

This year marks the final stage of our development of our Paralympic Classes. These are based on the facilitation and safety requirements for Inclusive Skaters. We hope to be running many major events with hundreds of skaters and these classes will help us to ensure that events can run whilst we meet the facilitation and safety requirements during the event. These classes also give us an opportunity to provide additional events with partner organisations. This we have successfully done in the past with Genetic Disorders UK, British Blind Sport and Special Olympics.

This year, we also have the Honour of Welcoming Karen Courtland Kelly, President of the World Figure Sport Organisation from the USA as our Honorary judge. Karen has been doing an amazing job to protect the legacy of figures and so much more. The art of figure skating was being lost and

Karen has been helping to bring it back. So, the spirit of inclusion is spreading even into figures.

To the Charity Trustees, past and present, and the volunteers who make this event happen we are simply in your debt. By your efforts and hard work you have taken the time to make this all possible. We simply could not hold this event without you. Thank you so much for everything that you do and for joining as a member of Inclusive skating.

To the Intu Braehead Curling rink and staff, we are so grateful that you give us this ice regularly every year. This allows us to plan and develop more opportunities for Inclusive Skaters. This year we added a Figure Workshop, or two or three to the program as a result. Thank you for the ice, your supportive staff and the wonderful welcome.

We are also grateful to our funders and supporters. Once again we have been awarded £2,000 funding by Foundation Scotland for this event. Thank you. We have also been given fundraising support from a wide variety of donors and fundraising efforts. Walter Stewart, did the Kilt-walk. As a result of these fundraising efforts we have now been able to establish the 'back office' systems to create a true membership organisation with annual insurance and many new benefits that will soon be coming your way. We recognise that many of you are rather isolated in your home rinks. So please join the charity membership and take part in our many future activities. We will be developing online events and they will be run through an app. Our clubs will also be able to obtain a free website as part of their package and many more support operations. An online shop will be live shortly too... yes, there will be more gilets available in the future with the Inclusive Skating logo and members will get discounts.

Can I also thank everyone for voting in the People's Project. If we are successful in obtaining this funding this will provide our members with a development support and resources for our clubs. So please encourage everyone that you know to vote for us.

Can we now ask our representatives to come forward to say the oaths on behalf of the Inclusive Skating community.

Good luck and good skating!

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Karen Courtland Kelly, The Senior Judge on the Official Panel to give the oath on behalf of the Officials.

**“In the name of all judges and officials, I promise that we shall officiate in these Inclusive Skating Championships and International Event with complete impartiality, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the spirit of sportsmanship.”**

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Christina Molloy, to give the oath on behalf of the Coaches.

### **Coaches' Oath**

**“In the name of all coaches and in the spirit of sportsmanship, I promise that we will act professionally, respect others, and ensure a positive experience for all. I promise to provide**

quality sports and training opportunities in a safe environment for all athletes.”

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Sophie Ravenscroft to give the oath on behalf of all the athletes.

### **Athletes’ Oath**

“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt. Let me try to do my best.”

End:

Ladies & gentlemen, I would now like to invite Courtney O’Connor, who was the very first Inclusive Skater for Inclusive Skating to declare the British Inclusive Skating International Paralympic Championships 2019 open.

Courtney to Open

“I now declare the British Inclusive Skating Championships 2019 and International event officially open.”

Could I now ask the music to play once again, while the Skaters, coaches, facilitators and carers to leave the ice.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, could I ask you to put your hands together for our skaters, facilitators and carers as they leave the ice.

We will now have a resurface and practice will commence shortly.