



An exciting new project has been announced.

The Global Project for Impaired Skaters is a programme, based in the UK, which aims to allow all skaters with an impairment to compete in competitions and events on an equal basis.

The idea is that skaters at different levels of impairment and non-impairment will all be scored on the same basis on the IJS and then the impaired skaters compensated according to their level of impairment.

The AMA's "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment", 6th Edition, known as the Rondinelli Scale, will be the basis for the compensation scores. This is already used for this purpose by the ISAI in Ireland.

The programme is looking to raise the awareness of coaches of the issues and rewards to be found in working with impaired athletes.

Later this year (hopefully September), a one day seminar for coaches is planned at Lea Valley with the help of Alan Seabrook.

This will cover:

- the role of coaches in impaired skating,
- setting up an impaired skating programme at your rink (with the support of SPICE from Slough),
- national impaired skating contacts,
- competition levels,
- the classification process,
- how the results system will work,
- the role of the facilitator in an impaired skating competition,
- videos and online competition,
- the pilot international competition,
- the Special Olympics and preparation for the British Special O Championships.

It will be supported by the head coach Philippa Cooper-Lewis, international and Special O World judge Christiane Moerth and medical and other impaired skating experts.

We will be seeking to get accreditation for it through NISA/BITA and we are planning to make nominal charges or even no charge if we can get some sponsorship.

Please contact us if you are interested in attending.

For further information go to www.impairedskating.org