Skateboarding New Zealand

Board Overview of the year from November 2022 to August 2023

Your SBNZ Governance Team

Board Chair
Sonia Griffin

Board Treasurer
Paul Newman

Board Secretary
Izy Mutu

Board Member
Amber Clyde

Board Member
Bowman Hansen

Board Member
Chris Curran

Board Member
Ed Leigh

Board Member
Junior Pene

Board Member
Simon Thorp

A voice for the
skateboarders of Aotearoa

Chairperson’s Message

It has been a real honour to serve as SBNZ’s Board Chair for almost a year now. We have been working under a new constitution with 9 members on the Board (previously there were 3), the increased number of board members has given the organisation a broader outlook and has allowed for wider viewpoints to be considered.

We are making good headway building the programmes and structures that will serve future generations of skateboarders from the grassroots to the highest level of performance. We are focused on maintaining and building a culture of inclusivity and respect where we can collaborate and innovate with the skateboard community of Aotearoa.

Our ‘wins’ this year have been contracting Ian Neely into the role of Pathway Development Manager, drafting our long-term strategy and undertaking contracts that will underpin our high performance frameworks for the future years.

— Sonia Griffin

SBNZ Board Chair

What have we acheived: Our ‘wins’ for 2022/23

This is a brief overview of the success we have achieved:

- We’ve secured a contracted role to deliver on the high performance strategy, and have begun to build performance frameworks to support our athletes, coaches and judges
- Nomination of Chris Curran into the World Skate - Skateboarding Coaching Commission
- Developing stronger relationships with key funding partners and securing key contracts
- Development of our long-term 10-year strategy. This will allow us to maintain growth in a strategic way, focusing on key areas of the organisation.
- Obtained recognition from Sport NZ that SBNZ is an independent NSO. This will increase our ability to apply for Charitable Trust Funding

Our focus for 2023/24: Next steps

- Finalise our 10-year strategy with key funding partners and our community
- Focus on contract delivery. We currently have 5 contracts we are delivering on, each one will assist the organisation to grow in different ways (page 14 has more about the contracts)
- Strengthen our ‘brand’ and build prospective corporate partnerships
- High Performance
    - Continued development and delivery of our High Performance programme
    - ‘Academy Training Squads’ are being developed: initially there will be 2 in Auckland and 1 in Christchurch.
    - Upcoming camps are being planned for Mangawhai, Christchurch and a girls-specific camp (location to be confirmed)
    - High Performance Advisory Panel is being developed and members are being recruited

What have we acheived: High Performance

We temporarily paused high performance from Nov 2022 to March 2023 to focus on contracting into the pathway development role, which proved crucial for executing our high performanc strategy and establishing the necessary frameworks to aid athletes and coaches. Ian Neely was contracted to Pathway Development Manager in April 2023 in a part-time capacity, bringing deep experience of high performance sport (yachting), he has executed the following to date:

- Developed a number of essential policy documents including working with Board Member, Junior Pene, to publish SBNZ's Olympic Selection Policy with endorsement from Skate NZ and NZOC
- Developed and refined the selection process for World Skate Events
- Refining the use of the HPSNZ Core Knowledge coaching programme
- High Performance programme plan is being developed and refined, including budgets for 2023/2024
- Preparations are underway for a National Squad camp which will take place in Gisborne prior to Nationals with athletes notified extending our partnership with Tairawhiti Adventure Trust
- We are developing a SBNZ complaints/concerns procedure along with an athlete voice to ensure athletes feel safe to express their concern, needs and desires (this will be launched at the next development camp in September 2023)
- Researched and developed a high performance coaching group (based on athlete feedback) and created coaching contracts
- Developing drug-free sport testing and education plans for 2023 and 2024

What have we acheived: Athlete achievements

Prior to extending our congratulations to the riders who have proudly represented New Zealand on the world stage, it's essential to recognise the unwavering dedication and commitment exhibited by these athletes in pursuit of excellence in their sport. Frequently, these occasions are entirely self-funded by the athletes themselves, underscoring the sacrifices they make, and we duly acknowledge this fact.

Male Street - Current WS Rankings

92 - Matt Markland

112 - Cato Dobbs

129 - Lenard Tejada

162 - James Huntley

206 - Jett De Haan

246 - Charlie Aubrey

Male Park - Current WS Rankings

84 - Jett De Haan

Downhill

Callum Mathieson, Neiden Mallad, Elliot Melling – competed in a number of European downhill racing events in Italy, Norway, Switzerland and Slovenia.

Note: We acknowledge this may not be the full list of downhill skaters who have competed internationally

The year past: Governance update

- The SBNZ Board has been effective and is working well together. We have two resignations from the board and both are moving to roles within SBNZ where their time and skills are better aligned.
    - David Read has stood down from Board Chair and the Board. He has been contracted to deliver a Participation Survey for SBNZ.
    - Junior Pene has stood down from the Board to join the High Performance Advisory Panel assisting our Pathway Development Manager in an advisory role.
- We are pleased to announce Paul Newman has joined the Board as Treasurer. Most will know Paul as Louis Newman's Dad but he's also a powerhouse when it comes to experience in financial governance and financial management in both government and private sectors. We are very pleased to have his expertise onboard.
- The Board has agreed to continue with 8 members for the remainder of their elected term.
- The Board meets on the first Monday of each month.

The year past: Event review

- SBNZ 2022 Skateboard Park and Street Nationals, was held in conjunction with Tairawhiti Adventure Trust in November 2022 with over 100 athletes competing.
- The 2022 and 2023 Bowlzilla National Bowl Championship were held in October 2022 and March 2023 respectively.
- SBNZ 2023 Secondary School Street Nationals will be held in partnership with New Zealand Sport Collective, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, East Skate Club and SonSk8 in Auckland later this week. This is the first time a Secondary School National event has been held in Aotearoa. We look forward to building on this event for next year.
- SBNZ 2023 Park, Street and Vert Nationals competition will be held in conjunction with Tairawhiti Adventure Trust in Gisborne from 28 September to 1 October, 2023. We are pleased to welcome Vert into the competition for 2023.
- 2024 / 2025 Nationals location is not confirmed at this stage. If you would like to host a nationals in your region then reach out to our team.

What are our: Challenges and risks (and how we can fix them)

- Athlete Support. In the foreseeable future, self-funding will continue to be a reality for athletes on high-performance pathways. This is similar in many other emerging sports, including skateboarding. SBNZ is committed to ensuring athletes are equipped to meet the physical, psychological and financial challenges they face as they pursue their goals. We will continue to support athletes through insurance, entry fees, advocacy and access to opportunities. In the coming months, coaching support will ramp up and enable athletes to refine their competitive strategies and capabilities.Through the governmental and commercial partnerships we are strengthening and developing, we aim to materialise funding opportunities that have a real impact on individuals as they hit performance targets.
- Focus on high performance. Our focus over the past six months has been with a singular lens on high performance as we began delivering on contracts, resourced a Pathway Development Manager and built out policies and frameworks. With Ian taking the reins on HP we can shift our thinking to building our community networks, such as:
    - Understanding our skateboarding community – we will work with Sport New Zealand to survey our community to understand how we can better advocate for our community.
    - Build relationships with our existing event community - learn how we can better support, align processes and improve the consistency and quality of the athlete-event experience

What are our: Challenges and risks (and how we can fix them)

- Communication. We know we can do better when it comes to communicating with our community. Over the next six months we are revitalising our website and social pages to communicate more effectively.
- Incorporated Societies Act. Changes to the Act will force SBNZ to review it’s current consitution that it runs under. Sport New Zealand are developing guidance for sporting organisations that will help us navigage these changes and we expect this to occur over the next few months. We will also reach out to our community partners to see if they are aware of the changes and offer assistance.

Review: Financials April 2022 - March 2023

Skateboarding New Zealand remains in a good financial position. We have undertaken a number of contracts in 2022/23 which resulted in a far higher revenue for the organisation (up $70k from 2022), however this money is ringfenced to contract delivery (and not able to be spent outside of contract agreements). Our discretionary revenue is down due to media contracts not being available. Our aim for 2023/24 is to progress our corporate strategy and look to making the organisation less reliant on funding partners and increase financial stability. Significant spends during the 2022/23 year include:

June 2022 – $35,000

The attendance at this event was funded by SBNZ. athletes and a support staff member attended the World Skate street event in Rome. Costs comprise of international travel, accommodation, food and staff costs.

November 2022 - $23,000

This was a contract with NZOC for the delivery of a National Development Camp. This was held in Gisborne and was attended by 17 park and street athletes, coaches and included travel (both international and national, accommodation, food and coaching costs.

Please note: our financial year is from 01 April -31 March. The financials reflect this period of time, whereas the report covers from the time of change of governance in November 2022 - August 2023.

The year ahead: Delivering on contracts

We have a number of contracts with our funding partners that we are currently delivering or will be undertaking in the next few months:

HPSNZ funding

This contract is in partnership with HPSNZ and is targeted towards developing high performance pathways for athletes and coaches. This contract is underway under the guidance of Ian Neely and the SBNZ Board.

Development of a National Sports System

This contact is in partnership with New Zealand Olympic Committee. This fund is targeted towards developing a high-performance coaching and judging structures and athlete development and support strategy. This contact is underway under the guidance of Ian Neely and the SBNZ Board.

Development of a Corporate Strategy

This contract is in partnership with Sport New Zealand and is targeted towards developing a corporate strategy for SBNZ. Identifying funding opportunities and partnerships has been difficult; this strategy will provide the Board some direction in this space. We have engaged Paul Gunn to complete the work for SBNZ.

Skateboarding Community Survey

This contract is in partnership with Sport New Zealand. We aim to gain a better understanding of our skateboarding community, this will us to design and develop future programmes that are more targeted to skateboarding as a recreational, sporting and creative outlet. We have engaged David Read to complete this work.

SBNZ Strategy 2024-2034

This has been funded by SBNZ and delivered by David Read and the SBNZ Board. Developing the strategy has been in SBNZ's pipeline since early 2022. This important block of work will set our organisation's priorities for the next 10 years.

Closing remarks: Our gratitude goes to...

- We continue to be grateful for the support and guidance provide from our partners at HPSNZ and SNZ. Katherine Oberlin-Brown has played a significant role in helping guide the organisation to deliver a contracted role. Craig McFarlane and Fran McEwan at SNZ and Tara Pryor at the New Zealand Olympic Committee for their continued support. To all our funding partners we extend our gratitude and thanks.
- A special thanks to David Read, our co-Chair from November 2022 to July 2023 and board/committee member for the past 3 years. We thank him for his tireless contribution to the organisation and are pleased to have his continued expertise in leading key projects for the organisation. Also to Junior Pene, who is also stepping down from the board to undertake another role within the organisation, again thank you for your contribution to the Board.
- A special thanks to Tairawhiti Adventure Trust who we worked with in 2022 and 2023 to deliver the SBNZ Nationals.
- Thanks to Shelley Diewald, a researcher at AUT, for your contribution to the organisation.
- And finally, thank you to our community who continue to engage, support and provide feedback (both positive and critical) – we appreciate you all.

Thanks!