



For Immediate Release  
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**PLANNED SKATING FANS' PROTEST GROWS  
AS SKATEFAIR GATHERS INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT  
Former ISU Official to Address Fans at World Championships Protest  
in Washington, DC; Protest Date Now Friday, March 28 5:30 PM**

Washington, DC. Skatefans for Accountability and ISU Reform (Skatefair) announced today that Sally-Anne Stapleford, OBE, former chair of the International Skating Union Figure Skating Technical Committee, will address the protest planned for Friday, March 28 at 5:30 PM, during the World Figure Skating Championship in Washington, DC. Ms. Stapleford, whose career with the ISU spanned 14 years, who served as an international judge and referee for 30 years, and who was an outspoken opponent of corruption during the Salt Lake City Olympics, lost her re-election for the Technical Committee chairmanship and many refereeing and seminar moderating assignments in the aftermath of the pairs and ice dance scandal. Skatefair has also invited Olympic-eligible and elite ineligible skaters to address the protest, as well as ISU President Ottavio Cinquanta.

"I am thrilled to see the fans organizing," said U.S. Figure Skating Association International Committee chair and international referee Jon Jackson, a Skatefair supporter. "The protests in Washington may well be the spark that ignites a revolution against corruption, deal-making, and anonymous judging."

Founded spontaneously only six weeks ago as a public organization to oppose the International Skating Union's leadership and decisions, Skatefair now numbers hundreds of supporters, and has piqued the interest of the international skating community. The organization:

- Opposes current and planned anonymous judging systems that are not accountable to skaters or to the public;
- Calls for lifetime bans on judges and officials who corrupt competition results;
- Demands that the ISU leadership relinquish its autocratic stranglehold on a sport whose credibility has been badly damaged by a culture of deal-making.

Skatefair takes no position on the results of particular competitions; nor does it represent any particular national interest. In the words of its mission statement, Skatefair's goal is a fair and accountable system for skaters from all countries, as well as for all judges and officials.

The Skatefair website, [www.skatefair.org](http://www.skatefair.org), went live on February 12. As with all the organization's work, the website is the product of dozens of hours of volunteer labor. The organization, by tacit acceptance of its members, has no president or board of directors; many individuals serve or contribute to the committees that are expanding the reach and strength of the organization. A retired Navy journalist in California sent money to buy protest materials; a CPA in Seattle founded the Finance committee and is now coming to Washington for the protest. A civil rights attorney in New York assists with protest logistics, while a military wife in Norfolk whose husband was recently deployed to the Persian Gulf contributes her technical and writing skills to the website. A Presbyterian minister in California helps with public relations; a D.C. communications specialist originally from Chechnya translates to Russian; a Boston statistician with a Harvard doctorate analyzes the proposed Code of Points judging system. Many Skatefair members will meet each other in person for the first time in Washington, D.C.

Throughout the week of the World Championships, Skatefair will reach out to other skating fans attending the event. Fact sheets, a petition, a brochure and pins and banners will be available to attendees. Attendance at the event is expected to be high, and Skatefair expects to bring together those who care about the integrity of the sport and wish to make a difference for all skaters to compete in a fair environment.

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