

For immediate release

Leslie Blyth elected Chair of Sask Sport Inc.

Leslie Blyth was elected Chair of Sask Sport Inc.'s (Sask Sport) Board of Directors today at the sport federation's Annual General Meeting in Regina. Blyth joined the Board in 2016 after being nominated by the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA).

Blyth most recently served as the Vice Chair of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and chaired the Trust and Community Funding Committees. Blyth has been a strong supporter of soccer for almost 20 years. She has been a SSA board member since 1998, serving as President, Vice President and Past President and participating on many committees. During her time as President, she had the opportunity to chair several provincial competitions and serve as the provincial representative for the Canadian Soccer Association National Championships.

Blyth replaces outgoing Chair, Darren Wilcox, who remains on the Board as Past Chair. The other members elected to Sask Sport's Executive were:

Elan Ballantyne, Vice Chair, Saskatchewan Lotteries

Ballantyne served on the Lottery, Sport and Officials Advisory Committees in 2017-18. She was nominated to the Board by Golf Saskatchewan in 2017. She is a community consultant for the City of Saskatoon and the director of golf and basketball for EB Sports Academy. She has been actively involved with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Women's Basketball Foundation, serving as Chair of the Golf Tournament committee and as a member on the Annual Breakfast committee.

Al Dyer, Vice Chair, Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

Dyer was the Chair of the Sport Funding Committee in 2017-18 and served on the Trust, Community Funding and Paraspport Committees. He was nominated to the Board in 2017 by Special Olympics Saskatchewan, where he served as Chair of the Board and the Audit Committee. He is the organizer of the North Female Hockey Program. Dyer has been involved in several major events: 2015 Special Olympic Canada Summer Games (mission staff), 2014 Saskatchewan Winter Games (Chair) and 2013 Special Olympics Canada National Games (mission staff).

Kenric Exner, Secretary Treasurer

In 2017-18, Exner served on the Administration Centre Advisory Committee, Provincial KidSport Committee and Indigenous Sport Leadership Council. He was nominated to the Board in 2017 by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association and has spent several years coaching. Over the years, he has organized and instructed various youth private hockey schools and specialized goalie clinics for the Saskatchewan Hockey Association. Exner played minor hockey in Regina with the Pat Canadians and went on to play in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League, Western Hockey League, American Hockey League, East Coast Hockey League, Australian Hockey League and in the Allan Cup.

Dale Reed, Vice Chair, Sport

Reed served on the Lottery, Sport and Canadian Sport Centre Saskatchewan Management Committees in 2017-18. He was nominated to the Board in 2017 by Gymnastics Saskatchewan where he was an active board member as the Chair, and serving on the Nomination, Strategic Planning and Ends Policy Committees. He has also served two terms on the Gymnastics Canada Board of Directors. Reed is the Referee-in-Chief for the Regina Community Basketball Association and is responsible for recruiting, training, mentoring, evaluating officials and providing advice to the Board of Directors.

New members elected to the Board include:

Jessie Buydens, Saskatoon, Football Saskatchewan

Buydens is currently the President of the Wild Oats Rugby Club in Saskatoon. She served as the President of the Saskatoon Valkyries from 2010-2014 and the North Saskatchewan Rugby Union from 2009-2015. She recently retired from playing rugby and has coached the Wild Oats junior girl's program for 18 years. During her time playing football, she was a member of the Saskatoon Valkyries and also Team Canada—where she earned a silver medal at the 2013 World Championships. She is also a former member of the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Track and Field Team, and is a two-time National Powerlifting Champion (2014 & 2015).

Carol Chernishenko, Zehner, Synchro Saskatchewan

Chernishenko has been an active member in the Saskatchewan synchronized swimming community for nearly 20 years. She served as the Vice President, Sport Development in 2012 and the Vice President, Finance and Administration for Synchro Saskatchewan, and she is a synchronized swimming provincial-level judge and national-level referee. She was awarded Volunteer of the Year by Synchro Saskatchewan in 2007 and 2017, as well by Sask Sport in 2014. Synchro Canada awarded her Grassroots Official of the Year in 2016. She is currently a member of two Sask Sport committees, including the Sport Funding and the Officials Advisory Committees, and also a member of the Synchro Saskatchewan High Performance and Rules Committee.

Angella Pinay, Sakimay First Nation, Saskatchewan Soccer Association

Pinay previously served on the Sask Sport Board from 2011-14 and is currently a member of the Indigenous Sport Leadership Council. She has also served on the board for the Saskatchewan Soccer Association and Saskatchewan Volleyball Association. She competed in volleyball at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in 1993, 1995, 2002 and 2006. Pinay, who has degrees in physical education and education, has coached club volleyball, basketball, badminton and track in Alberta and Saskatchewan. She also served as a coach for Team Saskatchewan at the 2008 NAIG.

Josh Shankowsky, Regina, Saskatchewan Games Council

Shankowsky is a Partner with MNP's Taxation Services Group in Regina, delivering comprehensive taxation services and ongoing business advice. He is designated a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA, CA) and has a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Regina.

Murray Stroeder, Moose Jaw, CURLSASK

Stroeder has spent the past three years on the board of CURLSASK and the past four years on the board of Curl Moose Jaw. He has coached high school curling in Anaheim and Humboldt and has officiated many curling events, including three provincial play downs. Stroeder has enjoyed a successful curling career at the competitive and club level, curling in cash spiels and three different levels of provincial play downs. He has also been the ice coordinator for the Moose Jaw Figure Skating Club for eight years. Stroeder has also served on many boards in Moose Jaw including minor hockey, little league baseball, figure skating and the Hillcrest Golf Club.

Other board members returning this year are: Misty Alexandre, nominated to the Board in 2016 by the Saskatchewan Hockey Association; and Todd Hollinger, 2016, University of Regina.

Sask Sport would like to thank the following board members whose terms are completed this year: Dave Boan, Water Polo Saskatchewan; Cathy Gale, Softball Saskatchewan; Patti Sandison-Cattell, Skate Canada; and Tavia Laliberte, Rivers West District for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

-30-

For more information or a copy of Sask Sport's 2017-18 Annual Report, contact Leah Laxdal at (306) 975-0871 or llaxdal@sasksport.sk.ca.