

Ben Shirley

Junior Solo Dance & Freeskating

About Myself

Skating has always been a big part of my life as my mum, aunt and my sister have all skated competitively. I first skated when I was about 4 years old, and I am grateful for how skating has given me the opportunities throughout my life to make new friendships, and it has allowed me to travel and gain experience nationally and internationally. This is my third world-level competition, and I am excited to build on my Solo Dance performance from last year, as well as compete in Free Skating for the first time. Since skating is a female dominated sport, especially in New Zealand, I am looking forward to meeting and facing more men. I am a first year student at Massey University studying towards a Bachelor of Accountancy. In 2023 I was nominated for roller skating in the Emerging Talent category at the Halberg Awards.

Recent Achievements

Figure World Cup 2023:

- 2nd Youth Men's Figures

Oceania 2024:

- 1st Junior Men's Solo Dance
- 3rd Junior Men's Free Skating
- 1st Junior Men's Figures

World Skate Games 2024:

- 16th Junior Men's Solo Dance

Taiwan Artistic Skating Open 2025:

- 1st Junior Men's Solo Dance
- 2nd Junior Men's Free Skating

NZ Nationals 2025:

- 1st Junior Men's Solo Dance
- 1st Junior Men's Free Skating
- 1st Junior Men's Figures

Other Commitments

In addition to skating, I play field hockey in the men's premier reserve division. In the past I've also done jazz, hip hop, and tap classes and competition dances at Red Star Dance. I am a coach at Learn to Skate Classes, and volunteer at club discos for the Manawatu Skating Club.

