

# INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

## Communication No. 1533

Lausanne, October 9, 2008

It is with profound regret and sorrow that we inform you of the death of our good friend  
and ISU Honorary President

### **Mr. Olaf Poulsen**

At the time of his passing he was ISU Honorary President, a role to which he was elected at the 48<sup>th</sup> Ordinary ISU Congress held in Boston USA, in 1994.

Mr. Olaf Poulsen died on 27 September 2008, in Oslo, Norway at the age of 88.

Born on 27 July 1920, Mr. Olaf Poulsen grew up in the neighborhood of Bislett stadium in Oslo. He was a talented young speed skater and also started a career within sports administration in his club Oslo Idrettslag as a teenager. He filled leading positions at club and regional level and played a key role in the organization of many successful ISU Speed Skating Championships at Bislett, before becoming a member of the board of the Norwegian Skating Association (Norges Skøyteforbund, NSF) in 1966. He was elected NSF Vice President in 1968 and President in 1969, a position he held until 1973.

He was an elected ISU Office Holder for the greater part of four decades, firstly as a Council Member between 1971 and 1977, as ISU Vice President from 1977 to 1980, and as ISU President from 1980 to 1994, before being named Honorary President in 1994. He was also a Member of the International Olympic Committee between 1992 and 1994.

Over the years Mr. Olaf Poulsen has received recognition for his valuable contribution to skating, including being honored with the Norwegian Skating Association's highest award, "Gullmerket".

He is survived by his two sons and their families.

The ISU pays tribute to Mr. Olaf Poulsen's devoted service to the ISU and the ice skating sports, and asks Members to remember him with affection.

Ottavio Cinquanta  
President

Fredi Schmid  
Director General