

Communication No. 2759**Decisions of the Council**

The ISU Council met on November 29, 2025, Online.

The following were among the decisions taken by the Council during the meeting:

1. Event Hosting Model: Transparent criteria-based Bidding and Strategic Allocation

The ISU Council reviewed the 2027–28 event bidding cycle, introducing a new structured and transparent evaluation process designed to support high-quality event delivery and long-term sport development.

The Council confirmed a group of hosting Member Federations for events with fully validated bids. Event locations will be announced at a later stage once hosting agreements have been finalized.

Confirmed hosting Member Federations for 2027–28 events so far include:**Figure Skating:**

- ISU Figure Skating Junior World Championships: *Lithuania*
- ISU Figure Skating European Championships: *Sweden*
- ISU Figure Skating Four Continents Championships: *Korea*

Short Track:

- ISU Short Track World Tour: *Canada, Poland, Netherlands, China*
- ISU Short Track Junior World Championships: *Canada*

Speed Skating:

- ISU Speed Skating World Cups: *China, Kazakhstan, Canada, USA, Norway, Netherlands*
- ISU Speed Skating European Championships: *Poland*
- ISU Speed Skating Allround & Sprint World Championships: *Netherlands*
- ISU Speed Skating Junior World Championships: *USA*

Synchronized Skating:

- ISU Synchronized Skating Junior World Championships: *Finland*

2. Combined World Championships

The ISU Council also reviewed the “Combined World Championships” proposition, a forward-looking event concept that unites all four ISU disciplines under one consolidated championship model. A preferred bidder has been identified, with development and feasibility work continuing into 2026.

Formal confirmation of the Combined World Championships concept is targeted for spring 2026.

3. ISU Centers of Excellence: Continuity and Strategic Development

The ISU Council approved the extension of the current ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE) program through the 2026/27 season, ensuring continuity while the Council concurrently undertakes a comprehensive review of the CoE concept to define the future framework for the 2027–2030 cycle.

Accordingly, the following Centers of Excellence will continue their development activities during the 2026/27 season:

Figure Skating Branch:

- Eissportzentrum, Oberstdorf (GER)
- IceLab, Bergamo (ITA)
- Ice Jar, Beijing (CHN)
- IWIS Training Center, Bangkok (THA)
- Skating School of Switzerland, Champéry (SUI)

Speed Skating Branch:

- Heerenveen (NED)
- Olympic Oval, Calgary (CAN)
- Utah Olympic Oval, Salt Lake City (USA)
- Ice Ribbon, Beijing (CHN)

4. Synchronized Skating: New “Synchro 9” Category and Rules Changes

The ISU Council approved the creation of a new Synchronized Skating category, “Synchro 9.”

This category introduces a revised competition format based on teams of nine skaters, a simplified judging structure, and an event presentation adapted to broadcast and audience requirements.

The Working Group informed the Council of discussions regarding the potential inclusion of the Synchro 9 category in future Olympic Winter Games.

In this context, Synchro 9 was submitted to the IOC for inclusion in the programme of the Dolomiti Valtellina 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

The application was approved, resulting in the first inclusion of Synchronized Skating in an Olympic event.

In addition, the ISU Council approved the following rule changes with immediate effect:

- Teams composed of 12 to 16 skaters are now eligible to compete at ISU Championships.
- Teams entered by organizing ISU Members will be granted automatic entry to ISU Championships without the requirement to meet minimum combined total element score thresholds.

These decisions aim to facilitate broader participation, support event organization, and align the development of Synchronized Skating with the objectives of the ISU Vision 2030.

5. Event Relocations: Supporting Member Federation Requests

The Council approved the relocation of two Short Track Junior events in 2026/27:

- ISU Short Track World Junior Championships 2027
- ISU Junior World Cup Short Track #3 (2026/27)

Both events will move from Almaty to Astana.

6. Elections: Council, Technical Committees (TCs), Audit, Risk & Investment Committee (AR&I), Disciplinary Commission (DC), Skating Integrity Unit (IU)

Date	Activity
On January 15, 2026	Publication of Election procedures & candidate requirements
By March 10, 2026	Submission of candidatures with all required documents
By April 10, 2026	Examination of Candidature Packages and conduct integrity checks
By May 10, 2026	Distribution of official list of candidates to ISU Members and publication on ISU website
June 12, 2026	ISU Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of President • Election of VPs • Election of Council members • Elections of TC Chairs and TC members • Election of members of AR&I Committee (nominated by Council) • Election of DC Chair and DC members • Election of IU Chair and two IU members (nominated by Council)

Athletes Committee Elections (AC)

Date	Activity
15 December, 2025 (extended to 17 th)	Submission of candidatures
31 December 2025	Voter registration (except SYS)
January 15-February 28, 2026	AC Elections except SyS
March 1-26, 2026	AC Elections SyS
By March 2, 2026	Announcement AC Elections results except for SyS
By March 28, 2026	Announcement AC Elections results for SyS
Before Congress	Election Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (must be from different Branches)

7. Next Council meeting

The next Council meeting will take place on January 13 2026 , Online

December 22, 2025

Jae Youl Kim, President

Colin Smith, Director General