

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION

MINUTES of the 59th ORDINARY CONGRESS held at LAS VEGAS (USA)

**from June 10 to June 14,
2024**

MINUTES OF THE 59th ORDINARY CONGRESS LAS VEGAS 2024

A. Congress

FIRST SESSION

Monday, June 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

President Mr. Jae Youl Kim in the Chair

1. Opening of Congress by the President

The President made the following remarks:

'Friends and colleagues, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the 59th Ordinary ISU Congress! We have 81 ISU Members from 65 countries joining us in person, and more online. It's great to see you all, including new ISU Members and new Presidents.

Let me also express my sincere gratitude to US Figure Skating for hosting us in Las Vegas, a city where the sports industry has been thriving in recent years. Thank you, President Auxier and everyone at USFSA for your gracious hospitality.

And a special acknowledgment to our esteemed ISU Honorary President, Mr. Jan Dijkema, and the Honorary members. Thank you for your continued contributions, which are invaluable to our community.

Now, I would like to introduce our team on the podium: First Vice President Speed Skating, Mr. Tron Espeli; Second Vice President Figure Skating, Mr. Benoit Lavoie; Speed Skating Council members; Ms. Suwanna Silpa-Archa, Mr. Sergio Anesi, Mr. Stoytcho Stoytchev, Mr. Albert Hazelhoff and Mr. Alexander Kibalko; Figure Skating Council members; Ms. Patricia St. Peter, Mr. Tatsuro Matsumura, Ms. Susanna Rahkamo, and Mr. György Elek (unfortunately, Ms. Maria Teresa Samaranch will only join us online); Vice Chair of the Athlete Commission, Mr. Douwe de Vries; ISU Legal Advisor, Mr. Michael Geistlinger; Chief of Finance and Administration, Mr. Jeremy Conrad-Pickles who joined us in February; and last but not least, the new ISU Director General, Mr. Colin Smith. Please give everyone a warm round of applause!!

As you know, Mr. Fredi Schmidt retired after an impressive 27 years of dedicated service. The Council went through a rigorous recruiting process over seven months, screening over 300 candidates. Finally, we were excited to recruit Mr. Smith who brings extensive experience and expertise in global sports.

I am truly excited to be here with you to talk about our future. Today, we will present the ISU Vision 2030. On Tuesday, we will discuss the proposals from you, the Council, and the Technical Committees. The Branch sessions are on Wednesday and Thursday, then we'll wrap up the Congress on Friday.

Before we proceed, I would like to ask everyone to rise for a minute of silence as we remember our friends who are no longer with us.

Thank you. Friends and colleagues, we have an important week ahead of us. Let's work with open minds and long-term perspectives, to shape our bright future together. With that, I declare the 59th Ordinary ISU Congress officially open.'

2. Verification that Congress has been duly convened according to the Constitution

The President referred to Circular Letter No. 626 dated July 27, 2023 that was sent to ISU Members and stated that consequently the Congress has been duly convened in accordance with the ISU Constitution, Article 30, paragraph 1). The Delegates agreed.

3. Election of a Secretary to record the minutes of Congress Meetings

The President proposed Becky Cairns as Secretary of the meeting and this was accepted.

4. i) Verification of the qualifications of representatives and of their right to vote through circulation of a list of representatives among Congress Delegates and subsequent confirmation by the Congress

The President confirmed that the list of ISU Member representatives had been circulated to all ISU Members in attendance. There were no comments or objections and the list was approved.

The following Delegates attended the Congress:

Andorra	Figure	Josep Garcia Gonzales, Monica Lopez Camara
Argentina	Figure Speed	Cecilia Belen Schinocca <i>Not present</i>
Armenia	Figure	Ararat Zakaryan
Australia	Figure Speed	Wendy Meik Margaret Blunden, Alison Throssell, Brett Throssell
Austria	Figure Speed	Christiane Moerth, Katharina Rauch Hermann Filipic, Hans Spohn
Azerbaijan		Kristen Fraser-Lukanin, Igor Lukanin
Belgium	Figure Speed	Annemie De Preter, Françoise De Rappard, Rita Zonnekeyn Corné Lepoeter
Bosnia & Herzegovina		<i>Not present</i>
Belarus		<i>Not present</i>
Brazil		Claudia Feital, Matheus Figueiredo
Bulgaria		Ivan Dinev, Evgenyia Radanova
Canada	Figure Speed	Debra Armstrong, Karen Butcher, Leanna Caron, Shae Zukiwsky Blair Carbert, Robert Dubreuil, Joe Morissette, Nicole Wilkinson
Chile	Figure	Katty Kauffman
China	Figure Speed	Cong Han Yan Li, Jiaqi Wei
Colombia	Speed	<i>Not present</i>
Croatia		<i>Not present</i>
Cyprus	Figure	Fernando Dinamarca Meneses, Takis Georgiou
Czech Rep.	Figure Speed	Karel Oubrecht, Stanislav Zidek Matej Krupka, Katerina Novotna
Denmark		Gert Lindenskov, Camilla Lyngsø, Christina Wassard Maas
Ecuador	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Egypt	Figure	Heba Guirgis
Spain		Daniel Delfa, Francisco Gonzalez, Carmen Nadeu, Laia Papell
Estonia		Maire Arm, Gunnar Kuura, Jana Kuura, Kristiina Siimsen
Finland	Figure Speed	Jouko Pitkänen, Tarja Ristanen Janne Hänninen, Vesa Rosendahl
France		Fabrice Blondel, Djamel Cheikh, Gwenaëlle Noury, Alexis Sodogas

Great Britain		Simon Briggs, Christopher Buchanan, Robin Cousins, Jon Eley, David Hartley, Margaret Worsfold
Georgia		Salome Chigogidze, Mariam Giorgobiani
Germany	Figure Speed	Kerstin Kimminus, Anja Rist, Andreas Wagner Christian Breuer, Christel Petzschke, Nadine Seidenglanz
Greece	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Hong Kong		Dan Chen, Tan Tan Yip
Hungary		Csaba Bálint, Orsolya Váradi
Indonesia		Suzan Herawaty, Yovita Bellina Lim
India		Rajan Bhardwaj, Natalie Falsgraf, Panwar Kartik, Nishta Painuli, Rahul Shrawan Pandirkar, Amitabh Sharma
Ireland		Yvonne Brett, Karen O'Sullivan
Iceland	Figure	Maria Fortescue, Thora Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, Svava Hrodny Jonsdottir
Israel		Boris Chait, Galit Chait Moracci
Italy		Andrea Gios, Kenan Gouadec, Paolo Pizzocari, Ippolito Sanfratello, Luigi Sartorato
Japan		Hidehito Ito, Mami Maeda, Chiharu Nozaki, Satoru Terao, Tomoko Doi (translator), Miki Hirai (translator)
Kazakhstan	Figure Speed	Nadezhda Paretskaya, Nadezhda Sadvakassova Olzhas Besbayev
Kyrgyz Republic	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Rep. Of Korea		Na Young Ahn, Jae Bong Choi, Yong Koo Choi, Hongsik Kim, Kyu Chan Lee, Hyeona Kim (translator), Changhoon Lee (translator)
Kuwait	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Latvia		Agita Abele, Olga Kovalkova, Raimo Reinsalu
Liechtenstein	Figure	Brigitte Jost, Patrik Kaiser
Lithuania	Figure Speed	Vytautas Jasutis Audrius Ogulevicius, Virginija Vilcinskaite-Oguleviciene
Luxembourg	Figure Speed	Jerry Hilgert, Jimmy Stryhn Meyer Heidi Backström
Morocco	Figure	Malik El Harim
Malaysia		<i>Not present</i>
Moldova	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Mexico	Figure	Ana Luisa Aguilar, Ricardo Olavarietta
Mongolia		<i>Not present</i>
Republic of North Macedonia	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Monaco	Figure	Albert Saadi

Netherlands		Herman de Haan, Remy de Wit, Jeroen Kraaij, Wilf O'Reilly, Jeroen Prins, Freek van der Wart
Norway		Mona Adolfsen, Håkon Dahl, Roar Eriksen, Christine Isaksen, Lise Røsto Jensen, Eivind Solberg
New Zealand	Figure Speed	Robyn Morris Kelvin Nicolle
Peru	Figure	Jorge Ormaeche
Philippines		Dyan Leah Cheng, Magdalena Guimba, Alexis Hernandez, Aurora Widwidan
Poland	Figure Speed	Jacek Tascher, Jakub Wójcik Rafal Grazawski, Konrad Niedzwiedzki, Rafal Tataruch
Portugal		Pedro Farromba, Pedro Flavio Martins
DPR Korea		<i>Not present</i>
Qatar	Speed	Rashid Alsulaiti
Romania		<i>Not present</i>
South Africa	Figure Speed	<i>Not present</i> <i>Not present</i>
Russia	Figure Speed	Julia Andreeva, Alexander Kogan, Sergey Sviridov Nikolay Gulyaev
Singapore		Alison Chan, Alicia Tan
Slovenia		Daria Gabrovsek Polajnar, Ivan Pfeifer
Serbia		Slobodan Delic, Vesna Rakovic
Switzerland		Diana Barbacci, Jan Caflich, Sandor Galambos
Slovak Rep.	Figure Speed	Jozef Bestandig Ivana Iliasova, Peter Javorsky
Sweden	Figure Speed	Peter Levin, Helena Rosén Andersson <i>Not present</i>
Thailand		Pakkad Chaiyawut, Uttawut Kangwantrakool, Sittichai Pratchayaratikun
Turkmenistan	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Chinese Taipei		Yen-Ying Lee, Ko-Man Ting
Türkiye		Kemalettin Aydin, Hayrettin Kadioglu, Daniel Köhler, Burhan Kurtulus, Orhan Sahin, Gamze Ucar (translator)
United Arab Emirates	Figure	<i>Not present</i>
Ukraine	Figure Speed	Yevgeny Martynov, Oleksandr Volkov <i>Not present</i>
USA	Figure Speed	Samuel Auxier, Amanda Evora Will, Troy Goldstein, Tracy Marek Mark Carleton, Jane Lute, Ted Morris, Susan Sandvig Shobe
Uzbekistan		Natalia Ponomareva
Vietnam		<i>Not present</i>

List of those present: Council, Technical Committees, Disciplinary Commission, Athletes Commission, Honorary Members, Director General, Legal Advisor, Sports Technical Director/Event Manager, Medical Commission, and Development Commission

1. Council

President:	Jae Youl Kim	Republic of Korea
1st Vice President:		
Speed Skating:	Tron Espeli	Norway
Vice President:		
Figure Skating:	Benoit Lavoie	Canada
Members:	Speed Skating:	Suwanna Silpa-Archa Thailand Sergio Anesi Italy Stoytcho G. Stoytchev Bulgaria Albert Hazelhoff Russia Alexander Kibalko Netherlands
	Figure Skating:	Patricia St. Peter USA Tatsuro Matsumura Japan Susanna Rahkamo Finland György Elek Hungary Maria Teresa Samaranch Spain (present online)

2. Technical Committees

Single & Pair Skating:	Chair:	Fabio Bianchetti	Italy
	Members:	Leena Laaksonen	Finland
		Yukiko Okabe	Japan
		Emilie Billow	Sweden
		Susan Lynch	Australia
		Cong Han	China
		Patrick Meier	Switzerland
Ice Dance:	Chair:	Shawn Rettstatt	USA
	Members:	Hilary Selby	Great Britain
		David Molina	France
		Ingrid Charlotte Wolter	Germany
		Kaitlyn Weaver	Canada
		Alper Uçar	Türkiye
Synchronized Skating:	Chair:	Philippe Maitrot	France
	Members:	Petra Tyrbo	Sweden
		Lois Long	USA
		Nina Bischoff	Switzerland
		Ida Hellström	Finland
Speed Skating:	Chair:	Nick Thometz	USA
	Members:	Hanjo Heideman	Netherlands
		Øystein Haugen	Norway
		Alexei Khatylev	Belarus
		Enrico Fabris	Italy
Short Track Speed Skating:	Chair:	Nathalie Lambert	Canada
	Members:	Reinier Oostheim	Netherlands
		So Hee Kim	Korea
		Christoph Milz	Germany
		Charlotte Upcott	Great Britain
		Wim de Deyne	Belgium

3. Disciplinary Commission

Chair:	Susan Petricevic	New Zealand
Members:	Allan Böhm	Slovak Republic
	Jean-François Monette	Canada
	Eugen Larasser	Germany
	Keith King	USA

4. Athletes Commission

Chair	Eric Radford	Canada
Vice Chair	Douwe de Vries	Netherlands
	Evan Bates	USA
	Nathalie Lindqvist	Sweden
	Viktor Knoch	Hungary

5. Honorary Members

Jan Dijkema	Netherlands
Alexander Lakernik	Russia
Tjasa Andréje-Prošenc	Slovenia
Myong-Hi Chang	Republic of Korea
Junko Hiramatsu	Japan
Volker Waldeck	Germany

6. Director General

Colin Smith	Great Britain
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7. Legal Advisor

Michael Geistlinger	Austria
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8. Sports Technical Director / Event Manager

Short Track Speed Skating	Hugo Herrnhof	Italy
Speed Skating	David Broere	Great Britain
Figure Skating	Wieland Lüders	Germany

9. Medical Commission

Chair:	Jane M. Moran	Canada
Members:	Joel C. Shobe	USA
	Ruben Ambartsumov	Ukraine

10. Development Commission

Coordinator:	Jildou Gemser	Netherlands
	Karn Luanpreda	Thailand

ii) **Electronic roll call of ISU Members to establish the presence of ISU Members and corresponding majorities.**

An electronic roll call was done. This resulted in a total number of 78 full ISU Members and 3 Provisional ISU Members present, corresponding to 108 votes.

5. **Election of two Scrutineers of the minutes of Congress Meetings**

The President proposed Suwanna Silpa-Archa (THA) and Susanna Rahkamo (FIN) as Scrutineers of the minutes of Congress meetings and they were accepted.

6. **Election of a Drafting Committee, consisting of at least three members, to draft the final text of the Proposals adopted concerning the Constitution, its Procedural Provisions and the General Regulations**

The President proposed, and the Congress elected, a Drafting Committee composed of Jae Youl Kim (KOR), Tron Espeli (NOR), Benoît Lavoie (CAN), Patricia St. Peter (USA), Michael Geistlinger (AUT), Colin Smith (GBR) and Becky Cairns (GBR).

7. **Approval of the Agenda**

The President referred to ISU Communication No. 2629, Agenda of the 59th Ordinary Congress, Las Vegas 2024 and to ISU Communication No. 2637, Urgent Matters.

The Congress accepted the Agenda as per ISU Communication No. 2629.

The President noted that Article 30, paragraph 5 of the Constitution states that to be considered by the Congress, Urgent Matters 'shall be certified as urgent business by a four-fifths majority of ISU Members present and voting'. For efficiency he proposed, and the Congress agreed, to consider the Urgent Matters in blocks. He clarified that a two-thirds majority corresponded to 75 votes.

The Congress unanimously accepted by a show of hands to certify the Urgent Matters proposed by the Council (Proposals 1, 6, 11, 19).

The Congress unanimously accepted by a show of hands to certify the Urgent Matters proposed by the Technical Committees (Proposals 12, 14, 16, 20, 21).

By an electronic vote with 81 votes against, the Congress voted not to certify the Urgent Matters proposed by Austria Speed (Proposals, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 15).

The Congress accepted by a show of hands (with 2 abstentions) to certify the Urgent Matters proposed by Great Britain (Proposal 18).

The Congress accepted by a show of hands (with 3 abstentions) to certify the Urgent Matters proposed by Israel Figure (Proposal 17).

The certified Urgent Matters were accepted to be included in the Congress Agenda.

8. Approval of the Minutes of the 58th ISU Congress in Phuket.

The minutes of the 58th Ordinary Congress held in Phuket, Thailand, from June 6-10, 2022 were approved unanimously.

9. Biennial report by the President

The President made the following report:

'We just watched a video of the highlights of the 2024 World Championships. Weren't they amazing? The emotions of our Skaters and the energy of the fans were truly exhilarating.

Since our last Congress, we've enjoyed two exceptional, back-to-normal seasons, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our host ISU Members: Armenia Figure, Austria Figure, Canada Figure and Speed, China Figure and Speed, Croatia, Czech Republic Figure, Finland Figure and Speed, France, Germany Speed, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan Speed, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania Figure, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland Figure and Speed, Switzerland, Thailand, Chinese Taipei, Türkiye, USA Figure and Speed. Please join me in giving them a big hand.

In Phuket, I promised a few things. Well today, I want to share the progress we've made so far - especially on a long-term strategy to grow our sport. Exactly two years ago, you gave me and the Council the mandate to bring changes and grow our sports and we started working right away. We worked with consultants to engage various stakeholders on how to do this. We conducted over one hundred one-on-one interviews. We also had many formal and informal brainstorming sessions with you, like the ISU Member Conferences at the Speed and Figure World Championships in 2023. And for the first time, the ISU launched an online Member survey, which had an amazing 84% response rate. It has been a very productive process and on behalf of the Council, I would like to thank you for your valuable input. You gave us many interesting insights. For example, one of the most frequent concerns was that Figure Skating has become too technical for casual fans to understand. We will come back to this point later.

We also did our best to connect with our Athletes. For the first time, we went to the Athletes' Forum this year to share our vision and hear directly from them. After all, they are the stars who drive our sport, and they represent the younger generation that we want to connect with. So it is important that we understand their perspectives.

To gain a broader perspective, we reached out to external partners. Media partners and sponsors helped us better understand market conditions. We talked to International Federations that are also going through evolution, and gained good insights through their experiences.

We listened to your ideas and those of external markets, and put them into the ISU Vision 2030: an Athlete-first, ISU Member-focused, and fan-centric long-term plan. This is not my vision or the Council's vision; it is our Vision, for our future. We introduced Vision 2030 at the online update meeting last year. Not everyone was there, so let me quickly go through it again.

So what is our Vision? We want to grow our sport, develop more and better Skaters, and increase our fan base worldwide. Our Vision is supported by five pillars: Growth, Opportunity, Innovation, Safeguarding, and Unity, or 'GO ISU'. I will explain each pillar. But before starting, I want to emphasize the strong foundation that will enable us to build our Vision. First, we all must be open to change, however uncomfortable. Today's generation has a very different lifestyle and attitude. I have four kids, and I have to try hard to understand them. I am sure you have

had similar experiences. But it is critical that we acknowledge the differences and try to get them to love what we love: Skating. Second, we must increase and enhance our capabilities so we can better serve you, our Skaters, and our fans. This means doing new things. That's why we recruited Mr. Colin Smith and Mr. Jeremy Conrad-Pickles. They complement the expertise we already have at the Secretariat. Third, we have to make the necessary investments if we want to see changes: we must be committed to investing in our future.

Now, let us go through each pillar. The first is Growth. We all know that fans are our sport's lifeline. We must attract a new, young generation of fans while serving our current ones better. There are three key initiatives to do this. First, to excite and attract global fans through better fan engagement. We are talking about upgrading TV production and improving event presentation. Second, to simplify the rules wherever possible. Many of you said that rules and decisions are unclear, especially in Figure Skating and this is a barrier to new fans. Third, to increase revenue so we can invest in our sport. We didn't waste any time. We have already tested and implemented some changes that didn't require a large budget or rule changes. With Mr. Smith on board, we have been able to achieve quite a bit this year. Let me give you some examples. Some of you who regularly host ISU Events tell us that it is becoming more and more challenging to sell competition tickets. In the past, organizing competitions was enough. Nowadays, you have to do extra work to bring fans to the competitions. You have to entertain the fans even when skating is not on. One feedback we got is that fans find ice breaks too many, too long, and too boring. They are not exciting, unless you're a big fan of Zambonis!

Our Skaters put in so much time and effort and sacrifice so much to compete at the top level. They deserve to skate in the full venue. Organizers also need to sell more tickets. One way to do this is to upgrade Event presentation, even during the ice breaks, to excite and entertain our fans. At the last Short Track World Championships in Rotterdam, we worked with the KNSB to provide more entertainment to the 10,000 spectators. During the ice breaks there was a DJ and lights so it felt like a big party and it was clear that the spectators were enjoying the show. We also tried a different way of introducing Skaters to build up excitement for the finals. The atmosphere was fantastic. By now, some of you may worry about races in the dark. Don't worry. When all Skaters entered the ice, the music was turned off and the lights turned on, so that Skaters and fans could focus.

We can't do this at every ISU Event yet, but eventually, we want all our key Events to look like this: Skaters competing in packed venues, fans enjoying every moment, and organizers earning more ticket sales revenue. How many of you have watched our Speed and Short Track competitions on YouTube? Well, some of you pointed out that watching competitions without any commentary was hard to follow and painfully boring. We heard you loud and clear and so last season, we added English commentary to a few of our online streams as a test. And the feedback was great. We still have some way to go, but we know what we have to do to deliver better experiences to the viewers. We need to make the decision to invest in this kind of initiative.

In Short Track, the Video Replay system is crucial for reviewing penalties. But our system had a bit of an issue because TVs and Referees sometimes used different sets of cameras. This meant they were sometimes looking at action from different angles, making different interpretations. This was a problem, but we fixed it last season. Now, Video Referees and broadcasters see the action from the same cameras, and the same angles. This makes it easier for TV commentators to understand Referee decisions. We will continue to improve the system so our fans have a clear understanding of the races and the decisions.

These are some of the steps we've taken so far. Together, these initiatives deliver a much richer experience for fans. During the forum, you will hear a lot more about our exciting plans.

The second pillar is Opportunity. Opportunity for development. To expand the global skating population, we must encourage skating at every level, starting from grassroots Skaters. This ensures a pipeline for future Skaters. Even if they don't become elite athletes, they will become fans and ambassadors of our sport.

Naturally, developing Skaters is our major focus. We have many excellent programs designed for brand-new Skaters, novice Skaters who want to advance, and elite Skaters aiming for the highest levels. Our programs have been highly effective. We are proud to tell you that 37 Skaters in the 2022 Beijing Olympics were beneficiaries of our development programs. I won't go into detail now, as you will receive a full update tomorrow. However, I do want to highlight our exciting new initiative, World Ice Skating Day.

World Ice Skating Day was launched in December 2022 to introduce skating to young kids. The first two editions were hugely successful. On December 3rd last year, 130 ice rinks in 53 countries (out of 82 countries) around the world participated in World Ice Skating Day. These included a natural ice rink 4,700 meters above sea level in India, eleven rinks across Mexico, the historic 'City Park Ice Rink' in Budapest, with 2000 participants, Łódź, Poland, and, in Stavanger, Jutta Leerdam, a Speed Skating superstar with 4.3M Instagram followers, spent time with young kids. How inspiring is that? Thank you all for making World Ice Skating Day such a success.

The third pillar is Innovation. We have to evolve to stay relevant and exciting. We are competing with so many forms of entertainment for people's eyeballs. We are just competing with other sports; we are also competing with Netflix, TikTok, Instagram, and many more. And fans' attention spans get shorter, so we need to be bold in innovating our core product - our sport. In the past two seasons, we continued to build on our related initiatives. For

example, we experimented with organizing the ISU Figure Skating Awards in conjunction with Art on Ice to celebrate Figure Skating. We launched the Crystal Globe to build excitement throughout the Short Track World Cup series.

At the Figure Skating ISU Member Conference in 2023, many of you pointed out that the Gala has lost its edge, and tickets are not selling. Some suggested getting the spectators involved – inviting them to vote on the most entertaining Skaters through the mobile app. Japan tried it first at its Grand Prix and the ISU worked with Skate Canada to include fan voting at the Montreal Worlds. It was a nice touch, and we will continue to discuss the Gala's role in Figure Skating.

One key priority of innovation is making our sport more attractive to the young generation. We want to encourage them to skate, watch competitions, follow their favorite Skaters, and become fans. Generally speaking, team events are attractive to youth. Last season, we introduced a mixed-gender relay in Speed Skating, a completely different format for Speed Skating. We still have some work to do, but we are very excited about its potential.

We all know that the young generation consumes content differently. So we need to use social media to reach them. The ISU Social Media Team has stepped up efforts to post exciting content, getting some good results. The ISU is working more closely with you and the IOC to promote our sports on social media. For example, the IOC created content for our Figure Skating Grand Prix Final in Beijing in 2023 and 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games. The IOC also uploaded video clips to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Olympic Winter Games. These posts reflect the history and rich heritage of our sport.

While trying to understand social media, we learned that the young generation is very interested in stories of athletes behind-the-scenes. They want to know what Skaters eat, how they train, what they wear, etc. One video about Skaters' skater guards got 7M views! So we decided to test some of these ideas. We still need to work on our social media. The good news is that we are making good progress. We will continue to engage with the young generation, understand them better, and turn them into our fans.

Music is essential to the magic of Figure Skating, but securing rights for social media is a big challenge. A single piece of music may be owned by up to 16 individuals and entities. Then there are geographic restrictions.

We're trying to help you clear your music rights. Unfortunately, there is no easy solution now. So far, the most promising solution we found is ClicknClear, a service platform that simplifies the process of securing music rights. It is far from being perfect, but we recommend ClicknClear unless you have already resolved your rights issues. Meanwhile, we will continue to look for a better solution to support the Skaters in this regard.

Figure Skating is the most unique sport that combines incredible athleticism with beautiful artistry, costumes, and music. Because of this complexity, it is very difficult to judge. There has been much talk about using AI and computer vision to assist judging. There is a huge potential, and we have been talking to several tech companies. We will continue to look for a way to use AI and computer vision, but it may take some time for technology to be ready at a reasonable cost. In the meantime, we will use technologies already available to support judging. In the past year, we have been working with Swiss Timing to upgrade the Video Replay System. With the new hardware and software, we will have better videos, a better user interface, and much faster data transfer speed. 67% faster. We already tested the new system at two competitions, and received much positive feedback from ISU Officials. The upgraded system will be introduced at ISU Events this coming season. It will assist the Officials significantly.

The fourth pillar is Safeguarding. We want to grow our sports while keeping them safe, clean, fair, and sustainable. We will not compromise on upholding the highest standards. Athletes are our greatest assets, and their physical and mental well-being is our top priority. Our Medical Commission and staff are working hard to ensure the physical safety of our Skaters. For example, we have an injury and illness surveillance program. We provide medical information to Skaters through seminars and webinars to enhance their understanding. We always look for ways to improve safety standards for padding, helmets, and suits in Short Track and Speed Skating.

It is also our responsibility to provide Skaters with a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment, free from discrimination, harassment, and abuse. Last Fall, we hired a full-time Safeguarding officer, Cristina Ibarra. She is responsible for the ISU Safeguarding Policy. We also collaborate with other organizations. For example, we work with UNICEF to create online education modules on safeguarding topics. We will have guest speakers to talk more on this important topic this afternoon.

The ISU has a zero-tolerance policy towards doping. We reinforce the ISU Anti-Doping Testing Program and intensify education and campaigns on clean sport, Pure as Ice. Our Anti-Doping Director, Christine Cardis, this week. Cristina Ibarra is also here this week. So please don't hesitate to reach out to Ms. Cardis and Ms. Ibarra if you have any questions or if we need any support.

We are all impacted by climate change, so following your directive, we designed a sustainability strategy. The strategy focuses on initiatives to measure and minimize our carbon footprint, conduct ice stewardship, and protect

the natural environment. We are also working with the International Ice Hockey Federation to find sustainable solutions to our ice rinks. Here's another example of collaboration. Last season, KNSB organized the World Championships in a sustainable temporary ice rink that used less water and energy. We supported KNSB in organizing a knowledge-sharing session with the ISU Members on site. By the way, we have submitted this case for the IOC Climate Action Award.

The last pillar is about Unity. Unity is a core theme for us. At the beginning of this journey, starting from Phuket, the Council made the commitment to being more open, more transparent, and more collaborative with all of you.

The latest independent IF Good Governance assessment showed that the ISU is one of the highest-performing Winter International Federations. We are making progress, and we will continue to make progress in good governance. For example, I promised to communicate with you even during non-Congress years. And we did. I hope our actions already spoke to you because actions are louder than words. Going forward, we will continue to engage you because our Vision 2030 can only be achieved if all of us in this room work together. By the way, we should not forget that communication is two-way. We sent out a new survey in February, but the response rate is currently at 57%, even after several reminders. We encourage you to complete it if you haven't yet because we want to hear from you. And believe me, we are listening.

So that is our Vision 2030 and some of the immediate actions we've taken in the last season. We've done a lot together – you, Officials, Office Holders, the Secretariat, and most importantly, our Skaters. We endured difficult times during the Covid period, and came out strong together in the last two seasons.

So let's celebrate what we have achieved together and give ourselves a big round of applause. What I have presented is just the beginning of what we can accomplish together. Later this morning, we will share more bold and ambitious plans for the coming years. I hope that you are as excited as the Council is about what's ahead.

Thank you.'

Hans Spohn, Austria Speed noted that the Biennial Report had focused on future plans and not mentioned any negative issues that had arisen over the last two years. He referred to issues in Short Track and statistics submitted by Austria Speed to the Council. He also asked about the ISU's liability for injuries caused by falls in Short Track.

Michael Geistlinger, Legal Advisor, responded that the statistics referred to by Mr. Spohn were linked to a Disciplinary Commission decision on a Statement of Complaint made by Austria Speed. The Disciplinary Commission decision concluded that none of the proposals or accusations were found to be justified. The Council respects the division of powers and the decision of the impartial, independent Disciplinary Commission and therefore did not comment on the presented statistics. He noted that Austria Speed had the opportunity to appeal the Disciplinary Commission to CAS, but had not chosen to do so.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, recommended that Austria Speed raise issues relating to Short Track in the Branch sessions of the Congress.

10. Report by the Chief of Finance

Jeremy Conrad Pickles, Chief of Finance and Administration gave the following report:

'Mr. President, Council members, Honorary Members, Delegates, ladies and gentlemen I am honoured to be standing before you today to present this Financial report to Congress. First, a few words to introduce myself. I joined the ISU at the beginning of February, having previously been the CFO in two summer international federations, aquatics and cycling. Prior to that I had also worked at the sports marketing agencies, IMG and Sportfive. I am delighted to have joined the Director General's team and look forward to bringing value to the ISU from my previous roles in sports and sports federations.

I want to begin this report by thanking Fredi Schmid the previous director general who retired at the end of 2023, Uli Linder, the long-standing Treasurer who stepped down at the end of May, and the accounting team in Lausanne who were responsible for producing the 2022 and 2023 accounts.

I am not going to dwell for too long on the previous two years since the 2022 audited financial statements have been available to members since the 8th of June 2023 and contain the usual level of detail concerning the results and variances to the budget or prior year. For 2023, the audited financial statements were published on the 27th of May 2024. The Management Report for each of the two years is published on the ISU website, alongside the audited financial statements.

2022 & 2023 Summarized Results

Millions Swiss Francs	2022 Budget (update Congress 2022)	2022 Actual	2023 Budget (Congress 2022)	2023 Actual
Revenues	32.9	35.5	36.4	35.9
Operating result	-9.1	-1.9	-5.9	-2.6
Financial result	4.1	-18.2	4.0	-8.6
Net result	-5.0	-19.1	-1.5	-3.6

- * Return to normal activities following Covid-19 pandemic
- * Better than expected revenues from the Olympic Winter Games 2022
- * 2023 USD media rights and sponsorship revenues lower than expected
- * Continued strengthening of Swiss Franc v US Dollar – driving revenues and costs downwards
- * 2022 increase in US & global interest rates – devaluing of bond portfolio

The 2022 and 2023 operating results were better than the budgets presented to you in 2022. However the net result in both years was worse as a result of the performance of the ISU's investment portfolio and the impact of the US Dollar–Swiss Franc exchange rate. Returning to the operating results, much of the improvement, especially in 2022, was the result of very prudent budgeting around the impact of COVID 19 and the war in Ukraine, notably on the ISU's ongoing contracts with broadcasters and sponsors. As it turned out, the resulting revenue reduction was less than was forecast in 2022. Conversely for 2023, the budget anticipated that sponsor revenues would return to pre-Covid levels and that was not the case – sponsorship sales were significantly below expectations. In both years the financial result was impacted in part by the performance of the markets and in part by the US Dollar to Swiss Franc exchange rate. In 2022, a significant part of the loss came from the valuation of the bonds at the end of the year, following a year in which interest rates started to rise significantly and the value of bonds held by the ISU therefore fell. This phenomenon continued to a lesser extent into 2023 and 2023 was further impacted by a significant fall of the US Dollar exchange rate towards the end of the year. The Council therefore chose to release 7.5 million Swiss Francs of financial and exchange reserves provision to the general reserve at the end of 2023. To date in 2024 the US Dollar has recovered some ground against the Swiss Franc and markets have stabilised. In 2025 the ISU will change its functional currency to the US Dollar and as a result the ISU investment portfolio will no longer be impacted by exchange rates.

That concludes the financial report for 2022 and 2023. I shall now pass back to the President and Director General for the external audit report.'

Jimmy Stryn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, requested an update on the court case against the European Union. The President indicated that this would be covered under the report of the Legal Advisor.

11. Report by the auditors with respect to the financial administration of the ISU since the last Congress, the approval thereof and the discharge of the Council, Director General, Treasurer and Directors with respect thereto

Jeremy Conrad Pickles, Chief of Finance and Administration said that the audit report for 2022 and 2023 had been published on the ISU website. The opinion given by the external auditors, BDO, was an unqualified opinion confirming that the financial statements of the ISU comply with Swiss law and with the ISU Constitution. The report also confirms the existence of the internal control system. The auditor in charge, Jurg Gehring, although not present in Las Vegas, was present online and was available to answer any questions from ISU Members.

There were no comments, questions, or objections to the report of the Auditors. The Report by the auditors with respect to the financial administration of the ISU since the last Congress was unanimously approved and the Council, Director General, Treasurer and Directors were discharged with respect thereto.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Report of the statutory auditor on the financial statements for the year 2022
- ISU Annual report 2022 (unaudited)



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To the Congress of

International Skating Union
Lausanne

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements 2022

(for the period from 01.01 to 31.12.2022)

June 2, 2023

STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Congress of International Skating Union, Lausanne

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of International Skating Union (the Association), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2022, and the income statement and the cash flows statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements comply with Swiss law and the Association's Constitution and General Regulations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Council for the Financial Statements

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the Association's Constitution and General Regulations, and for such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at EXPERTsuisse's website at: <https://www.expertsuisse.ch/en/audit-report-for-ordinary-audits>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with Art. 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Council.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

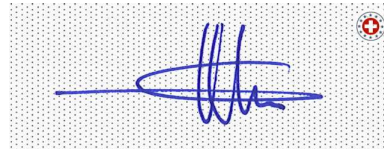
Lausanne, June 2, 2023

BDO Ltd



Jürg Gehring

Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in Charge



Grégoire Weber

Licensed Audit Expert

Enclosures:
Financial statements

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, LAUSANNE**BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2022**

<u>ASSETS</u>	2022	2021
	<u>Swiss Francs</u>	<u>Swiss Francs</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	9'989'790	17'345'133
Post / Bank - current accounts	-	-
Short Term Deposit	152'798	60'136
Other Debtors	10'654	8'351
Current Accounts ISU Members & Officers	1'479'689	1'707'436
Prepaid expenses/rights fees to be cashed/accrued interest	4'107'575	4'450'064
Total Current Assets	<u>15'740'506</u>	<u>23'571'120</u>
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>		
<u>Financial Assets</u>		
Financial Assets Portfolio	265'198'067	261'905'032
Total Financial Assets	<u>265'198'067</u>	<u>261'905'032</u>
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
ISU Offices House Schöneck, Davos	-	1
ISU Library	1	1
ISU Villa Olivier, Lausanne	4'625'000	4'725'000
Total Property and Equipment	<u>4'625'001</u>	<u>4'725'002</u>
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>269'823'068</u>	<u>266'630'034</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	285'563'574	290'201'154
<u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>		
<u>Short Term Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payables	1'768'345	2'402'813
Accrued expenses	2'793'699	6'266'496
Deferred income	18'370'972	2'034'882
Other short term liabilities	2'290'483	355'280
ISU C-Contributions Accrued Liabilities	4'248'283	3'980'663
Total Short Term Liabilities	<u>29'471'781</u>	<u>15'040'135</u>
<u>Long Term Liabilities</u>		
<u>Provisions and reserves</u>		
Reserve for legal risks	7'000'000	7'000'000
Reserve for currency exchange loss on bonds	4'000'000	4'000'000
Reserve for currency exchange loss on other financial positions	1'000'000	1'000'000
Reserve for Crisis Situations	2'500'000	2'500'000
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>14'500'000</u>	<u>14'500'000</u>
<u>Equity</u>		
Voluntary retained earnings	260'661'019	260'907'636
Loss for the year	(19'069'226)	(246'617)
Total Equity	<u>241'591'793</u>	<u>260'661'019</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	285'563'574	290'201'154

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, LAUSANNE**INCOME STATEMENT JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
	<u>Swiss Francs</u>	<u>Swiss Francs</u>
<u>A. OPERATING INCOMES</u>		
Televisions ISU Events (net)	19'135'122	15'062'448
Advertising ISU Events (net)	6'144'246	1'157'331
Various Incomes	374'993	497'418
Youth Olympic Games (YOG) Revenue	6'035	-
Total Incomes/Revenues (except OWG)	<u>25'660'396</u>	<u>16'717'197</u>
Olympic Winter Games (OWG) Revenue cashed	9'863'290	11'058'135
OWG Revenue allocation for the year	<u>9'863'290</u>	<u>11'058'135</u>
TOTAL OPERATING INCOMES	35'523'686	27'775'331
<u>B. OPERATING EXPENSES</u>		
1. Contribution for ISU Events & various other events including Prize Money		
Contributions to ISU Championships	9'928'760	5'715'409
Contributions to other ISU and various Events	2'844'097	3'912'822
Total ISU Contributions	12'772'857	9'628'231
Prize Money ISU Championships	2'137'774	1'192'161
Prize Money other ISU & Various Events	2'138'190	1'912'800
Total Prize Money (Championships & other ISU & Various Events)	4'275'964	3'104'961
Total Contributions incl. Prize Money	<u>17'048'821</u>	<u>12'733'192</u>
2. ISU Development Program		
a) Development Program Projects	1'148'358	1'064'898
Administration / Development Commission Office Expenses / Audit	147'327	163'172
Total Development Program Projects	1'295'686	1'228'070
b) Council projects	3'369'256	2'493'600
c) C-Contributions to ISU Members 2022	2'985'341	2'913'750
c) Extraordinary C-Contributions to ISU Members	-	1'862'919
Release expired C-Contributions / suspended Members	(9'834)	(121'690)
Total C-Contributions to ISU Members	2'975'507	4'654'979
Total ISU Development Program	<u>7'640'449</u>	<u>8'376'649</u>
Total Contributions to ISU Events & Development Program	24'689'270	21'109'842
3. Other Operating Expenses		
Conference/Congress expenses	1'014'692	6'340
Committee meetings	235'664	32'853
Council and other meetings	335'426	89'867
Office Holders Remuneration/secretarial allowances	847'338	870'986
Office Holders Travel/Meeting/OWG/Office&Various Expenses	1'365'702	932'376
Event Coordinators and external Consultants remuneration	183'871	196'150
Printed Matters	25'827	44'789
General Doping Control	639'270	715'412
Legal Services	210'084	129'412
Insurance Services	606'316	465'349
Education Material	3'921	-
IT/AI Projects (Judging System/Software/Databases)	568'765	343'671
Courses/Seminars/Examinations	436'568	96'936
Media/PR/Statistics/Website	1'560'989	1'223'038
Other expenses	49'595	57'982
Total ISU Other Operating Expenses	<u>8'084'029</u>	<u>5'205'162</u>

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, LAUSANNE**INCOME STATEMENT JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
	<u>Swiss Francs</u>	<u>Swiss Francs</u>
ISU Office building Lausanne		
Office transformation and improvements	959	-
Depreciation	100'000	100'000
Condominium Expenses	63'301	62'511
Total ISU Office building Lausanne	<u>164'260</u>	<u>162'511</u>
ISU Secretariat Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	4'312'863	3'647'621
General Costs (Electricity, cleaning, recruitment, subscriptions, various)	112'620	129'622
Office Material & furniture	9'711	40'641
IT equipment / services	56'227	53'865
Postage, Fax, Telephone	17'882	21'679
Office Insurance	3'972	2'325
Storage Rent Lausanne	3'000	3'000
Total ISU Secretariat Expenses	<u>4'516'275</u>	<u>3'898'754</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>37'453'833</u>	<u>30'376'268</u>
<u>C. OPERATING RESULT</u>	<u>(1'930'147)</u>	<u>(2'600'936)</u>
<u>D. FINANCIAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES</u>		
Investment interest incomes	5'379'988	5'575'534
Financial expenses (bank expenses and bonds sales/purchases costs)	(1'018'031)	(950'616)
Realized capital gains on bonds	433'393	1'978'698
Realized capital losses on bonds	(1'761'341)	(694'373)
Realized currency exchange gains	1'234'139	672'306
Realized currency exchange losses	(943'521)	(5'461'038)
Unrealized losses on Bonds	(21'557'584)	(989'438)
Unrealized gains on Bonds	-	2'259'345
TOTAL FINANCIAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES	<u>(18'232'957)</u>	<u>2'390'418</u>
<u>E. OTHER ITEMS</u>		
Release of / (allocation to) currency exchange loss on bonds reserve	-	-
Release of / (allocation to) reserve for crisis situation	-	-
Extraordinary results	1'309'178	(12'775)
Taxes/provision for taxes	(215'300)	(23'325)
TOTAL OTHER ITEMS	<u>1'093'878</u>	<u>(36'100)</u>
<u>F. (LOSS) / PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</u>	<u>(19'069'226)</u>	<u>(246'617)</u>

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, LAUSANNE**CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
	Swiss Francs	Swiss Francs
(Loss) / Profit for the year :	(19'069'226)	(246'617)
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	100'000	100'000
(Release of) / Allocation to currency exchange loss on bonds reserve	-	-
(Release of) / Allocation to reserve for crisis situations	-	-
Unrealized (gains)/losses on financial assets	21'557'584	(1'269'907)
Deferred income	16'336'091	(11'058'135)
Current assets - decrease / (increase) :		
Short term deposit	(92'662)	15'884
Other debtors	(2'304)	681
Current account ISU Members & Officers	227'747	246'345
Prepaid expenses	342'489	1'553'021
Short term liabilities - increase / (decrease)		
Accounts payables	(634'469)	1'672'524
Accrued expenses	(3'472'797)	2'925'431
Other short-term liabilities	1'935'203	299'596
ISU C-Contributions	267'620	114'934
Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	17'495'275	(5'646'243)
Net Disposal / (Acquisitions) of financial assets	(24'850'618)	10'412'420
Net cash generated from / (used in) investing activities	(24'850'618)	10'412'420
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(7'355'343)	4'766'177
Cash and cash equivalents on January 1st	17'345'133	12'578'956
Cash and cash equivalents on December 31st	9'989'790	17'345'133
NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(7'355'343)	4'766'177

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, Lausanne

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

GENERAL

The International Skating Union (herein called the "ISU"), founded in 1892, is the exclusive international sport federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering Figure Skating and Speed Skating Sports throughout the world. The ISU is composed of the individual national associations (herein called "ISU Members") which administer these Sports at the national level, and which recognize that all international matters are under the sole jurisdiction and control of the ISU.

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

These financial statements were prepared according to the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO 957-962). Where not prescribed by law, the significant accounting and valuation principles applied are described below.

Please note that all numbers are rounded. Therefore, some totals may show a difference of +/- 1.

ASSETS

The Assets are composed as follows:

	31.12.2022		31.12.2021	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Cash & cash equivalents	9'989'790	3.5	17'345'133	6.0
Short Term Deposit	152'798	0.1	60'136	0
Current Accounts ISU Members & Officers	1'479'689	0.5	1'707'436	0.6
Other debtors/Prepaid expenses/Rights fees to be cashed/accrued interest	4'118'229	1.4	4'458'415	1.5
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>				
Long Term financial assets	265'198'067	92.9	261'905'032	90.2
Properties and equipment	4'625'001	1.6	4'725'002	1.6
Total Assets	<u>285'563'574</u>	100	<u>290'201'154</u>	100

The bank accounts in foreign currencies have been converted at the closing currency exchange rates issued by the Swiss tax authorities as of December 31, 2022, and 2021 respectively.

The Current Accounts ISU Members and Officers are mostly related to ISU payments of ISU Championships contributions to ISU Members for ISU Championships to be held in 2023.

The "other debtors/prepaid expenses/rights fees to be cashed/accrued interest" amounting to CHF 4'118'229 (in comparison, in 2021 total CHF 4'458'415) are composed of the interest income on bonds accrued at year-end CHF 1'541'009 (2021: CHF 1'400'247), pending TV rights incomes related to 2022 to be cashed in 2023 (CHF 1'950'713), as well as various prepaid expenses (CHF 626'507).

The net book value of the ISU office property in Lausanne amounts to CHF 4'625'000 after a seventh-year depreciation of CHF 100'000 (2021: CHF 100'000).

The former ISU offices in Davos were sold during the 2022 exercise, which is reported as extraordinary income in the 2022 profit and loss statement. The ISU library remains presented in the balance sheet at the same value as the previous year, i.e., at CHF 1.

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, Lausanne

The **exchange rates** of the foreign currencies against the CHF (based on those of the tax authorities) were:

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	Variation %	2022 Average exchange rates	2021 Average exchange rates	Variation %
USD	0.92523	0.91114	+1.55%	0.95497	0.91431	+4.45%
EUR	0.98745	1.03615	-4.70%	1.00482	1.08101	-7.05%
GBP	1.11293	1.23410	-9.82%	1.17911	1.25747	-6.23%

The average interest rates, and the rates of the bonds showed the following average changes during 2022:

	Average Interest rates		2022	
	2022	2021	Variation points	Variation %
USD	2.07%	2.25%	USD -0.172	-7.7
EUR	1.38%	1.23%	EUR 0.152	+12.4
GBP	1.43%	1.28%	GBP 0.158	+12.4
CHF	0.44%	0.46%	CHF -0.022	-4.9

FINANCIAL ASSETS PORTFOLIO

The Financial Assets Portfolio (bonds and short-term fiduciary deposits) has increased by CHF 3'385'697 during the year, partly thanks to the IOC income relating to the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games (OWG) which was cashed during 2022 (CHF 26.2 million). On the other hand, the surge of inflation during 2022 and related higher interest rates but corresponding lower bond prices, resulted in unrealized and temporary book losses on bonds of CHF 21.6 million (see more detailed explanations under financial incomes and expenditures below).

The breakdown by currency, at market value, is as follows:

	31.12.2022		31.12.2021	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
USD	202'270'721	76	198'841'113	76
EUR	42'300'064	16	41'464'437	16
CHF	18'534'185	7	18'006'268	7
GBP	2'245'895	1	3'653'350	1
Market value	265'350'865	100	261'965'168	100
Short Term deposit	152'798		60'136	
Long Term financial assets	265'198'067		261'905'032	
Book value	265'350'865		261'965'168	

The bonds and short-term deposits are accounted for and presented in the balance sheet at their market value and without accrued future interest income in line with Swiss legal requirements and accounting standards.

The long-term financial assets portfolio also includes CHF 29.4 million of short-term deposits with maturity dates within a year that are subject to re-investment but are nevertheless presented in the non-current assets.

INTERNATIONAL SKATING UNION, Lausanne

LIABILITIES

The accounts payable correspond to current payable accounts with ISU Members and Officers, and other creditors which amount to CHF 1'768'345 as of December 31, 2022 (2021: CHF 2'402'813).

The accrued expenses as of December 31, 2022, amount to CHF 2'793'699 (2021: CHF 6'266'496). CHF 1'105'098 of this amount concerns a provision for current development project's initiatives granted by the Council to ISU Members and the remaining balance concerns unpaid 2022 expenses at year-end.

The deferred income of CHF 18'370'972 cashed as of 2022 year end relates mainly to the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games revenue and the long-standing practice of allocating this income throughout the four years of the Olympic cycle from 2022 to 2025, and for a smaller portion, to commercial right fees agreements in relation to the ongoing 2022/2023 skating season. Other short-term liabilities amounting to CHF 2'290'483 concern pending VAT (2021: CHF 355'280).

The ISU Development Program C-Contributions provision as of December 31, 2022, payable to ISU Members, amounts to CHF 4'248'283 (2021: CHF 3'980'663). CHF 3'185'340 concern contributions allocated during the year 2022 but paid during the first quarter of 2023. The balance refers to allocated contributions during the years 2018-2021 which have not been claimed by the related ISU Members and/or for which the ISU Members have not yet provided the required reports.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS / RESERVES

The provision for expenses related to legal cases as of December 31, 2022, amounts to CHF 7'000'000. This amount was deemed necessary and sufficient and remains unchanged compared to 2021.

Considering the substantial total amount of the Financial Asset Portfolio, the reserve for currency exchange loss on bonds was left unchanged at CHF 4'000'000, representing about 1.51 % of the bond portfolio. The reserve for currency exchange loss on other financial positions remained unchanged at CHF 1'000'000.

The reserve for crisis situations of CHF 2'500'000 is maintained at its current level justified by, in particular but not limited to, the potential detrimental consequences emanating from the War in Ukraine and in particular related reduced sponsorship and media rights income from Russia.

INCOME STATEMENT ANALYSIS

Comparison 2022 versus 2021

The loss for the year 2022 amounts to CHF -19'069'226 which, compared to the year 2021 (loss of CHF -246'617) represents an increased loss of CHF 18'822'609.

The Operating Result, i.e., an operating loss of CHF 1'930'147, compares with a 2021 operating loss of CHF 2'600'936, hence an improvement of CHF 670'789 which is explained in more detail as follows:

+ CHF 7.7 million higher operating income in 2022 than in 2021. The main reason being the fact that in 2021, 13 ISU Events were cancelled due to the pandemic. This resulted in a substantial reduction of the 2021 media rights and advertising rights incomes of CHF 8.9 million. On the other hand, the IOC income for the Beijing 2022 Olympic Winter Games that were negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, was lower than the 2018 PyeongChang Games. The reduction, equally spread over 4 years, accounts for an annual reduction of CHF 1.2 million.

- CHF 4.3 million higher ISU contributions and prize money paid by the ISU to the organizing ISU Members in 2022, namely CHF 12.7 million in 2021 versus CHF 17.0 million in 2022. This difference emanates mostly from the above-mentioned cancellations of 13 ISU Events in 2021.

+ CHF 0.7 million marginally lower Development Program expenditures in 2022 than in 2021.

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- CHF 2.8 million higher "Other Operating Expenses" partly due to the 2022 Congress finally held in Phuket after two consecutive years of postponement. In addition, in 2022 the Covid 19 related travel restrictions were gradually lifted in many countries and the ISU travel, meeting and seminars/courses activity picked up again resulting in higher expenses than in 2021.

- CHF 0.6 million higher ISU Secretariat expenses in 2022 compared to 2021 due to an increase in staff and the revision of employees' pension plan program.

The financial incomes and expenses account for CHF 20.6 million of the above-mentioned negative variance actuals 2022 vs 2021. The main reason for this substantial loss and corresponding variance with 2021 is the unrealized and temporary book loss on bonds as explained below in detail under "Financial Incomes and Expenses".

+ CHF 1.1 million extraordinary profit thanks to the sale of the former ISU offices in Davos in the course of 2022.

Comparison 2022 actuals versus 2022 budget (Budget as approved by ISU Members during the Phuket June 2022 Congress)

The loss for the year 2022 amounts to CHF -19'069'226 which, compared to the 2022 budget (loss of CHF 4'950'416) represents a negative variance actual versus budget of CHF 14'118'810.

The operating result of the year shows a loss of CHF 1'930'147 versus a budgeted loss of CHF 9'065'416 hence a positive variance actual vs budget of CHF 7'135'269. This variance is composed of

+ CHF 1.7 million higher TV rights, advertising rights and various income than budgeted.

+ CHF 0.9 million higher Olympic Winter Games income than budgeted.

+ CHF 1.6 million lower ISU Events and Championships contributions and prize money paid by the ISU to the organizing ISU Members than budgeted. Such underspending emanates from the fact that several provisions made in 2021 for a negative impact due to the pandemic were too high and therefore resulted in a positive correction in 2022.

+ CHF 1.1 million lower Development Program expenditures than budgeted. Please refer to the detailed explanations below under "Development Program".

+ CHF 1.5 million lower "Other Operating Expenses" mostly explained by the ISU activities remaining on a low level for most of the year due to the lingering pandemic during most of 2022.

+ CHF 0.3 million lower ISU Office building and Secretariat expenses than budgeted.

The actual 2022 financial incomes and expenses show a negative variance of CHF 22.3 million compared to the budget mainly due to book losses in the bond portfolio. The main share of those losses on bonds are unrealized and provisory book losses. Please refer to the comments under "Financial Incomes and Expenses" below.

Other Items (incomes) show a positive variance of CHF 1.1 million compared to the budget basically emanating from the not budgeted income thanks to the sale of the former ISU offices in Davos.

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Development Program

	<u>2022</u>
Payments made and promised for Development Projects:	CHF 1'148'358
Administration / Development Commission Office Expenses / Audit:	<u>CHF 147'327</u>
Total Development Projects	CHF 1'295'686
Council Projects including the ISU Junior World Cup Speed Skating, ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating, Junior Short Track Challenge competitions, eLearning initiatives, Centers of Excellence projects Worldwide seminars and additional support to Ukrainian Skaters	
Total Council Projects	CHF 3'369'256
ISU C-Contributions to ISU Members:	
Release of expired contributions 2017/suspended ISU Members	CHF -113'894
Currency exchange rates (gain)/loss on 2017-2021 contributions' provision	CHF 104'060
Contributions attributed in 2022	<u>CHF 2'985'341</u>
Total ISU Contributions	CHF 2'975'507
Total amount expensed for the Development Program during 2022	CHF 7'640'449

Compared to the 2022 Development Program budget, this represents an unused budget amount of CHF 1.1 million. In comparison to 2021, the financial support for accepted ISU Member Project applications remained stable in 2022, though there was certainly a lingering post-Covid effect, particularly outside Europe, with numbers of applications from Asia, North and South America and the rest of the world remaining very low. Regarding 2022 Council projects, four Worldwide Seminars were held, as opposed to only one in 2021. In addition, the Council approved extraordinary support for Ukrainian Skaters displaced by the war and living and training in countries outside Ukraine. The ISU continued to expand the eLearning platform and develop the ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE). The C-Contributions to ISU Members returned to their previous level after two years with exceptional contributions approved by the Council as additional support during the pandemic.

Since October 2016, a Development Program Director monitors the financial aspects of the Development Program, which are also reviewed by the Internal Controller. Furthermore, if necessary, the Council may mandate external audits of Development Program Projects.

FINANCIAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES

In accordance with the Swiss accounting standards, financial incomes and expenses are reported separately from the operating incomes and expenses.

The financial incomes and expenses resulted in a loss of CHF 18'232'957 for 2022 compared with a profit of CHF 2'390'418 for 2021 and compared with a 2022 budgeted profit of CHF 4'140'000.

The main development of the financial markets during 2022 was surging inflation and corresponding increasing interest rates on the one hand, but a weak bond market on the other hand. These declining bond rates also had a substantial impact on the overall value of the ISU bond portfolio. Since Swiss accounting regulations require that the financial statements show the situation based on the bond market prices as of December 31, 2022, this conservative valuation of the ISU bond portfolio at year end market prices and without allowing to accrue future interest income, resulted in a loss on bonds amounting to CHF 22.9 million. CHF 1.3 million of such loss represent realized losses due the swapping of very few bond positions with critical ratings (S&P-Moody's bond ratings dropping below the "investment grade" benchmark) against better rated and safer bonds. To note however that the main share or CHF 21.6 million of this 2022 loss on bonds remains an unrealized and temporary book loss since the ISU can hold the bonds to maturity and will recover the face value of the bonds and therefore avoid such loss. Furthermore, by gradually renewing its bond portfolio, the ISU will benefit from the higher interest rates. This is a gradual, time-delayed process showing a first positive impact in the form of higher investment interest income as of 2023. Based on this unrealized and temporary book loss situation, the ISU decided that no special reserve is necessary.

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The interest income from the bond portfolio amounted to CHF 5.4 million and decreased by CHF 0.2 million compared to 2021. The safekeeping and mandate fees charged by the banks amounting to CHF 1 million slightly increased by CHF 0.060 million compared to 2021 respectively to a similar percentage of the portfolio value.

The basically stable currency exchange rates between 2021 and 2022 resulted in a small currency exchange rate book profit in 2022 of CHF 0.3 million.

OTHER ITEMS

The tax authorities have granted the ISU a tax exemption regarding its income and capital taxes on a cantonal, communal and federal level. The only taxes applicable to the ISU relate to its real estate properties in Davos, sold in the course of 2022 for which additional taxes were accrued in relation to the transaction.

On December 31, 2022, the ISU has additionally paid a total amount of CHF 8'559 concerning charges relating to previous years that could not have been previously anticipated.

OTHER INFORMATION

ISU Secretariat Staffing

During 2022, the ISU Secretariat employed an average of 19 full-time employees, and 6 part-time employees (full-time equivalent of 23.225 vs 21.75 in 2021), which is the consequence of the creation and hiring of one new full-time position and an increase of five current part-time positions during the year. The "Salaries & Benefits" amount included in the Income Statement includes a provision for accrued overtime and holidays amounting to CHF 36'426. The provision recorded in the balance sheet is CHF 439'941 (2021: CHF 403'516).

ISU Event Managers and Consultants

Since the 2019/20 season, one Figure Skating Event Manager and two Assistant Figure Skating Event Managers were contracted. The ISU also has a consultancy agreement with a Figure Skating specialist who works on specific tasks assigned to him on a case-by-case basis. On the Speed Skating side, the ISU continues to contract one Short Track Speed Skating Event Director (also acting as Sports Director Speed Skating) who since the 2022/23 season is assisted by an Assistant Short Track Speed Skating Event Manager. Since the season 2020/2021 the Event Manager Speed Skating has been integrated as part of the Secretariat Staffing.

ISU Indemnity Policy

In line with the ISU Indemnity Policy (ISU Circular Letter No. 619) ISU Office Holders receive Office Expenses paid in an annual lumpsum. A limited number of Office Holders, depending on their function and subject to their ISU workload exceeding a reasonable level that can be expected from an elected or appointed volunteer Office Holder, receive Secretarial allowances or a fixed remuneration. During 2022 this applied to 13 Office Holders.

External Audit

The ISU accrued CHF 36'155 for the fees of BDO SA related to the audit of the financial statements 2022 (2021: CHF 36'635). Other audit-related and non-audit services were charged during 2022 by BDO SA for a total of CHF 11'793.

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Other information

To the extent that the corresponding recognition criteria were met at the balance sheet date, the decreasing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of the war in Ukraine on the ISU activity were taken into account in the financial statements of ISU. The Council and management of the ISU continue to monitor the events and take action as necessary. At the time of approval of these financial statements, it remains difficult to reliably assess the financial and economic consequences of the direct and indirect impact of the pandemic and the war in the Ukraine on the ISU activity and finances. Apart from the effects of a possible severe and prolonged recession, the ISU's ability to continue as a going concern cannot, from today's point of view, be regarded as threatened within the meaning of Art. 958a, para. 2 of the Swiss Code of Obligations.

Based on the volatility observable in the financial markets, the ISU anticipates continued volatility in equity or debt securities prices, foreign exchange rates, interest rates or other market prices after the reporting date that will significantly impact the measurement of assets and liabilities in future periods. In particular, the renewed inflation, higher interest rates and volatile bond markets (see also "Financial Incomes and Expenses" above) will have a continued impact on the ISU's equity in Swiss Francs.

As to currency exchange rate fluctuations, it must be noted that the ISU's activity, including the majority of its income, expenditures and financial assets, is mainly in US Dollars while the ISU books are kept in Swiss Francs. During periods of volatile currency exchange rates and in particular major US Dollar-Swiss Franc rate fluctuations, the corresponding impact on the ISU's equity in Swiss Franc has a relatively limited impact on the ISU activity, since the incomes, expenditures and financial assets remain mostly in US Dollars.

The impact on the fair value measurement of investment properties cannot be reasonably estimated to date.

The current assessments are based on the information currently available. Due to rapid developments, the actual impact on the financial reporting period 2022 may differ significantly from ISU expectations. Also, considering the above-mentioned circumstances surrounding the coronavirus, in 2019 the ISU created a reserve amounting to CHF 5 million "for crisis situations" out of which CHF 2.5 million remain in place at the end of 2022 (Refer to "Special Provisions / Reserves" above).

The ISU Council has approved the 2022 Financial Statements on May 26, 2023. The ISU Council, Director General, Treasurer and ISU Staff will continue to monitor developments and, in particular referring to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, will continue to take appropriate and timely measures.

Significant events after the balance sheet date

Due to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, followed by new sanctions announced by the U.S. and EU countries against Russia, the ISU has assessed the relevant risk factors relating to its activity, results of operations and financial condition in a holistic approach. The ISU has only limited business flows with Russian counterparties, service providers and with Russian banks. Also, considering the above-mentioned reserve for crisis situations, the ISU is therefore not seriously affected as of the date of the approval of these financial statements.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 (unaudited)

PREAMBLE

After the election of a new ISU President and ISU Council in June 2022, the ISU Council agreed upon the need to put together an overarching strategy and growth plan for the ISU going forward. With the help of external advisors, the "ISU Long-term Growth Roadmap" project focusing on growth opportunities and innovation, has been launched in July 2022.

Pending the conclusions of this project to be formalized during 2023, the ISU Council continued to focus on the previously identified priorities, namely

- Development
- Marketing and Promotion
- Good Governance.

ISU WORKFORCE

During 2022 the ISU Secretariat employed an average of 19 full-time employees and 6 part-time employees (between 40% and 80% - full-time equivalent of 23.23 employees vs 21.75 in 2021). In addition, the ISU contracted freelance personnel in the areas of event management, sports technical monitoring and media coverage as follows:

- 1 Figure Skating Sports Technical Director
- 1 Event Manager Figure Skating (full-time)
- 2 Assistant Event Managers Figure Skating (part-time)
- 1 Event Director Short Track also acting as Speed Skating Sports Technical Director
- 1 Assistant Event Manager Short Track (part-time)
- 1 Consultant with Figure Skating expertise (part-time)
- 1 Legal Counsel with Swiss Law experience (contracted on a case-by-case basis)
- 1 Freelancer for media services at ISU Figure Skating Events (part-time)
- 1 Freelancer for media services at ISU Speed Skating Events (part-time)
- 1 Freelancer for media services at ISU Short Track Events (part-time)
- 2 Freelancers for social media services for all disciplines
- 1 Photographer at every ISU Event (part-time)

The ISU furthermore relies on volunteer-based elected and/or appointed ISU Office Holders serving on the ISU Council (14), ISU Technical Committees (27), ISU Disciplinary Commission (5), ISU Legal Advisors (1), ISU Treasurer (1), ISU Medical Commission (7), ISU Development Commission (3), and ISU Athletes Commission (5).

SPORT/COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL SITUATION AND PROSPECTS

After the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the years 2020 and 2021, with many ISU Event cancellations as a consequence, the season 2022/23 could again been completed normally. On the other hand, the development, educational, and meeting activities only normalized slowly during 2022 resulting in substantially lower operating expenses than normal and budgeted.

While the slowing pandemic can be considered as a positive aspect, the War in Ukraine and the consequent ISU Council (and subsequently also ISU Congress) decision to apply protective measures by not allowing Competitors and Officials from the ISU Members of Russia and Belarus to participate in International Competitions, gradually had some negative consequences for the ISU. Besides the sporting aspect of the absence of top Skaters from those ISU Members, it also resulted in reduced advertising and media rights incomes especially from Russian sponsors and media partners. Considering the situation in Ukraine, it was decided to maintain the reserve of CHF 2'500'000 to sustain losses during crisis situations.

Despite the negative consequences due to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the commercial agreements currently in place represent a stable income situation for the coming three to four years. The incomes for both Branches were substantially higher in 2022 compared to 2021 since in 2021 the ISU Event cancellations and related rights fee reductions resulted in substantially reduced incomes.

The IOC incomes from the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing have been allocated equally over the period 2022 through 2025. Since the Beijing Games financial results were negatively affected by the Covid-19 counter-measures and absence of spectators, the IOC contribution to the 7 International Winter Sports Federation was consequently also lower than in 2018. In the case of the ISU, the reduction amounted to CHF 4.8 million or CHF 1.2 million per year.

Thanks to its long-standing conservative investment policy, the ISU has managed to secure substantial reserves in the form of investment grade rated bonds (see the Balance Sheet) that ensure a substantial and stable annual interest income independent from commercial partners' interests. The interest income in 2022 remained basically stable compared to the previous years.

However, the main development of the financial markets during 2022 was surging inflation and corresponding increasing interest rates on the one hand, but a weak bond market on the other hand. These declining bond rates also had a substantial impact on the overall value of the ISU bond portfolio. Since Swiss accounting regulations require that the financial statements show the situation based on the bond market prices as of December 31, 2022, this conservative valuation of the ISU bond portfolio at year end market prices, and without allowing to accrue future interest income, resulted in a loss on bonds amounting to CHF 22.9 million. About CHF 1.3 million of those losses on bonds represent realized losses caused by swaps that were made due to some bonds becoming underrated. However, the main share, or CHF 21.6 million of this 2022 loss on bonds, remains an unrealized and temporary book loss since the ISU may hold the bonds to maturity to recover the face value of the bonds and therefore avoid such loss.

Furthermore, by gradually renewing its bond portfolio, the ISU will benefit from the higher interest rates. This is a gradual, time-delayed process showing a first positive impact in the form of higher investment interest income as of 2023. Based on this unrealized and temporary book loss situation, the ISU decided that no new special reserve is necessary.

The basically stable currency exchange rates between 2021 and 2022 resulted in a small currency exchange rate book profit in 2022 of CHF 0.3 million. Considering the substantial total amount of the Financial Asset Portfolio, the reserve for currency exchange loss on bonds was left unchanged at CHF 4'000'000, representing about 1.51 % of the bond portfolio. The reserve for currency exchange loss on other financial positions remained unchanged at CHF 1'000'000.

To be noted, that the ISU Wealth Management Working Group was formed in February 2023 to explore and propose to the 2024 ISU Congress new investment strategies and related criteria to target better return on investment.

For detailed information on the ISU Reserves, please refer to the Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Financial Statements "Special Provisions/Reserves".

RISK EVALUATION

Risk related to the War in Ukraine

The sanctions against Russia and the absence of Russian Skaters in ISU Events resulted in basically no advertising and media rights fee incomes from Russia. The first substantial

negative impact of about CHF 1 million on the profit and loss statement will be noticed during 2023. The existing reserve of CHF 2.5 million for crisis situations will be partially dissolved to counter-balance this negative impact.

Risk of economic downturn, reduced audiences for ISU Events and related reduced ISU incomes

As extensively debated during the ongoing Long Term Growth Roadmap project, the ISU continually faces the risk and challenge of finding new ways to attract a larger, wider, and possibly younger global audience and continues to step up its efforts and budget in this area as well as its cooperation with its media and marketing partners and the ISU Members organizing ISU Events.

In parallel, the ISU must monitor and adapt to the global economic activity, trade and geopolitical tensions, and market trends. In this regard, the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, the War in Ukraine, surging inflation, high interest rates and consequently the signs of an economic downturn or even threat of recession, results in moderate expectations for economic growth in 2023. In this context, advertising and sponsorship spending on small to medium sports properties is expected to slow in several key markets in the years to come. Furthermore, the bulk of sports sponsoring investment continues to be concentrated on a few top sports/events. This trend, which is not benefiting smaller sports organizations and niche sports, has been confirmed in 2022 and is amplifying. There are also signs of saturation in the sports industry, compounded by growing competition from other entertainment formats. Advertising spending is clearly shifting away from TV broadcasters to social media/digital and the gaming industry, and there is an increased dominance by major tech firms (GAFAs) which capture the largest share of the advertising revenues. With Japan being the main market for the ISU, it must be noted that the afore-mentioned developments have unfortunately also accelerated in Japan. In addition, the retirement from competitive skating of the most popular Japanese Skater further compounded this issue

The above-mentioned situation and trends will have potential detrimental consequences for the ISU's commercial activities and some of the ISU's most valuable TV partners are already expressing their concerns about the recent decrease in their TV ratings

In the short term, the ISU continues to benefit from substantial media rights and advertising/sponsorship rights incomes thanks to existing contracts with its loyal commercial partners. The main partners for the media rights are Fuji TV, TV Asahi, JSports in Japan, Infront in Europe and some additional territories, SBS Korea, IceNetwork USA and Infront/CCTV China.

For the advertising rights, the ISU cooperates with IMG for the Figure Skating Championships and the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final and with House of Sports for the Speed Skating ISU Events. In the area of Short Track Speed Skating, the ISU decided that, starting with the season 2023/24, substantial advertising rights for the ISU World Cup Short Track shall remain with the organizing ISU Members resulting in only very limited incomes for the ISU. For ISU Short Track Championships, the ISU managed to conclude and will endeavor to conclude further advertising agreements with local and international counterparts with the related incomes however remaining limited compared to other sports.

In the medium and long term, the marketing possibilities for niche sports in a constantly changing, innovative, digitally driven, and increasingly competitive marketplace will call for new expertise and new solutions. To support future sponsorship and media activities, the ISU has to engage in the process of developing a marketing strategy which is more data driven and future proof. Given that the majority of ISU revenue is generated through broadcast and sponsorship rights, greater ownership of the ISU audience is essential in order to offer more value and insight to sponsors in the future. The ISU is seeking to grow its audience, increase fan engagement through personalized communication, and gain a deeper insight into the motivation of skating fans. While the demand for digital marketing opportunities among ISU

sponsors remains limited for the time being, the ISU is taking proactive steps with the objective of delivering more value to sponsors in the future. A key component of such a strategy is the development of a fan database, and of a reasonable level of marketing automation capability.

The main focus in the critical areas of Media/Communications/Public Relations and Marketing, which have also been widely addressed during the Long-Term Growth Roadmap project, remains as follows:

- Reviewing ISU Event formats in order to ensure compact and attractive ISU Events while at the same time allowing the broadest possible participation of ISU Members.
- Increasing the global viewing audience through TV and other online channels (OTT) and multiple carve-outs in the main ISU media rights agreements providing the ISU with opportunities to exploit selected media rights through its own platforms.
- The ISU's social media strategy has greatly improved and continues to evolve over the years and the coverage and growth persists. The ISU's #UpAgain campaign has won the "Best Specialist Campaign" and also won silver for "Best Use of Social Media" in the 2022 International Content Marketing Awards. The #SportOnSocial League Table ranks sports organizations based on their social media performance across various platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok. This result makes the ISU the 2nd biggest riser on the table and the highest ranked Winter International Federation.
- Improving event presentation, event promotion and fan engagement through extended cooperation with Organizing Committees and business partners, making available standardized design and branding materials to ISU Event organizers, on-site ISU media support and assigning ISU photographers to ISU Events.
- Maximizing media/television/marketing rights fee income through direct prospecting and negotiations with the commercial partners and/or through marketing agencies such as IMG, Infront, and House of Sports.
- Pursuing digital marketing and fan engagement initiatives. In 2019 the ISU decided to engage in the process of developing a more data-driven and future-proof marketing strategy. The ISU's objective is to grow audiences on its owned and earned platforms, with a focus on increasing fan engagement through personalized communication and gaining a deeper insight into ISU fans. These developments aim at enabling the ISU to propose new benefits and deliver additional value to ISU partners and sponsors. This is an ongoing process for the ISU to become digitally mature and build direct-to-consumers capabilities. The ISU will continue developing this activity and evaluate on a regular basis the level of investment and technology that is necessary for the ISU activity vs the return on investment.
- Exploring new promotion possibilities, including in new markets and by taking advantage of the proximity of Figure Skating to the show-business/music industry. The ISU Skating Awards evolved from a purely digital event to a hybrid one in 2023 with the third edition which was successfully conducted in conjunction with the Art on Ice show in February 2023 in Zurich.
- Launch of the official ISU results App in time for the season 2022/23 which includes live results from all ISU Sports.
- Conducting a UX audit of the ISU website to subsequently redevelop ISU.ORG based on input from stakeholders and users.

Risk of insufficient human resources/staffing

Mindful of the ISU's need and capability to continuously and swiftly innovate in an environment that is ever more dynamic and complex, the ISU Council agreed to cooperate with the consultancy company "Think Sport" based in Lausanne, which is supported by the local government (Canton de Vaud) and the International Olympic Committee and can therefore offer its consultancy services at extremely advantageous financial conditions to International Sport Federations based in Lausanne. Think Sport, through its Sports Foundry Project, performed an innovation audit for the ISU between November 2021 and May 2022. One of the Sports Foundry report conclusions points towards a *"problem related to time management with*

no time to think and prepare strategically – Always under delivery mode". Mindful of many new cost-generating challenges that International Sport Federations are confronted with (Good governance, sustainability, safeguarding etc.), of an upcoming critical transition period due to the retirement at the end of 2023 of the long-standing Director General, and of budgeting concerns, the ISU is striving to maintain an experienced and efficient workforce.

The Sports Foundry report and recommendation remain under review by the ISU Council in conjunction with the Long-Term Growth Roadmap project with conclusions to be reached during the year 2023.

Besides the critical ISU Secretariat staffing, the challenges and risks in the area of Event organization and management continue to increase due to higher demands from the public, media and related commercial partners. The training of a broader base of skilled individuals is increasingly important to maintain high quality ISU Events. Failing to do so might have detrimental consequences, especially related to the income to be secured through commercial agreements. Consequently, the ISU is continually striving to broaden and strengthen its Event management and marketing teams.

Risk of loss of credibility

Good governance and sustainability are of the utmost importance. The ISU, through its Working Groups which have been in place since 2017 and with the cooperation of expert partners continues to strive to improve in this area in order to protect the ISU's good reputation, credibility and integrity. In line with the principles of the ISU Code of Ethics, the focus is on improving awareness and education in the fight against discrimination, harassment/abuse, fraud/corruption and undue influencing. Other initiatives focus on avoiding conflicts of interest, favoring inclusion of all groups in the skating sports, increasing transparency and maximizing internal controls and data protection.

In area of safeguarding and protecting athletes, the ISU is partnering with the ISU Members in France, Hungary and the Netherlands, along with specialist organizations focused on preventing sexual harassment of athletes, and Lyon University, to work together on a project on this crucial topic. The aim is to research best practices within Europe and to develop athlete safeguarding protocols and education tools. Of course, these outcomes will also be relevant and available to sports outside Europe and beyond Ice Skating. The project group has been granted Erasmus+ funding by the European Union for a three-year project that started in March 2022. The ISU furthermore established an Athlete Safeguarding Policy in May 2022 and has recruited a Safeguarding Officer in order to reinforce its efforts in this area.

As to Environmental Sustainability, the ISU committed to the Sport for Nature Framework, an initiative in which the IOC is also involved, which aims to deliver transformative action for nature across sports by 2030 and beyond. The ISU also contracted an expert sustainability agency called THE SHIFT to help develop the ISU's sustainability strategy and action plans.

In the area of Anti-Doping, the ISU maintains a long-standing, high-profile Anti-Doping program thanks to an experienced Medical Commission supported by highly qualified and experienced Anti-Doping managers at the ISU Secretariat. In view of the growing calls for Anti-Doping monitoring by independent entities, the ISU is gradually increasing collaborations with independent bodies but on the condition that the quality, effectiveness and cost efficiency of the services will not be compromised.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The ISU continues to run its high-profile Development Program through its Development Commission and the Development team at the ISU Secretariat, supported by Project Groups for eLearning and Centers of Excellence and external expertise for eLearning.

Two new members of the Development Commission were appointed during 2022, following the election of the former Development Commission Coordinator to the ISU Council at the 2022 Congress. One new Commission member started in October 2022, with the other due to start in May 2023.

The number of development projects taking place during 2022 rebounded after the lower numbers during the pandemic period, though the numbers are still not yet back to pre-pandemic levels, particularly outside Europe. The Pair Skating, Novice and Junior Ice Dance, and Synchronized Skating Development Seminars took place in person once again after having been cancelled or held online in 2020 and 2021. All three ISU Junior Speed Skating World Cups were held, and the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating series, and Junior Short Track Challenge Series also took place as planned.

The ISU eLearning platform was renamed as the ISU eRink in November 2022 and in December 2022 was migrated to a more performing and futuristic platform. The available materials continued to grow with new courses being developed constantly as well as online training/educational possibilities to support the needs of ISU bodies (e.g., Frankfurt Seminar online hub and exams, Technical Committee online seminars, Officials' recertification learning exercises). In addition, there were virtual classrooms for interactive online courses for Figure Skating Coach education (Level 1-3) with 90 Coaches from around 20 ISU Members participating. ISU eRink is also active in organizing/supporting webinars in cooperation with external experts. Ninety courses (with more than 150 modules) were available for Skaters, Coaches, Officials and administrators at international, national, regional and club levels. In total, there were nearly 5500 registered users on the eRink by the end of 2022.

2022 saw the start of the first full four-year cycle of the ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE). There are now eleven CoEs (six from the Figure Skating Branch and five from the Speed Skating Branch) forming a network that aims to act as an important resource for the ISU and as development hubs, sharing their expertise and serving the ISU community. The CoEs met to review their overall strategy and program during dedicated workshops in 2022. A wide range of CoE activities took place in 2022, primarily focusing on talent development, coaching and preparation of Skaters for competitions and Coach and Officials education activities. In total, there were 49 international activities across all CoEs in 2022 from which 332 Skaters, 36 Coaches and 105 Officials from around 30 ISU Members (excluding CoE host countries) benefited.

The annual C Contribution was distributed to ISU Members in accordance with the criteria set out in Communication 2310.

The first World Ice Skating Day was held on December 4, 2022. The World Ice Skating Day is a festival dedicated to Ice Skating with simultaneous activities taking place all around the world to introduce Ice Skating to first time and beginner Skaters and to create a memorable experience that celebrates the spirit of Ice Skating. This inaugural edition was a great success with events organized in 47 countries and at 170 ice rinks worldwide, including the ISU CoEs. Activities included skating lessons for children and beginners, skating exhibitions, shows, music animations and fun games. The World Ice Skating Day will be held every year on the first Sunday of December.

The ISU will continue to monitor closely the Development Program's effectiveness and apply adjustments, if and when appropriate, with the focus on the following priorities:

- Expanding the ISU eRink content and use
- Consolidating the ISU Centers of Excellence network
- Consolidating the Coach Education Qualification Framework for Coaches in both Branches and providing eLearning tools to support this Framework
- Supporting the enhancement of the quality of ISU Officials by increasingly using eLearning tools

- Increasing the number of participating ISU Members, assessing and refining development projects and their results, and evaluating the impact of the Development Program
- Exploring the use of data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to assist Officials, Skaters, Coaches and improve media coverage
- Continuing the global World Ice Skating Day.

The ISU continued to evaluate a project focusing on the use of data analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The world of sports is abundant in quantifiable elements, making it ideal for the use of AI, and the ISU acknowledges that applications of AI are making inroads into the area of sports with a positive impact and growing capabilities.

The ISU, in cooperation with a specialized company, has concluded a “proof of concept” phase of the project for the possible development of artificial intelligence/technology options with the initial objectives of

- helping Figure Skating Officials to apply the rules correctly, and giving them the technical support to evaluate the performed elements in the fairest and most impartial way possible.
- offering Skaters and Coaches measurement and analysis tools to evaluate and improve their performance, as well as keep track of the work done and goals achieved.
- expanding the multi-media audience, allowing the sport to be enjoyed on different platforms and connecting the key players and their teams with the public and fans by presenting instantaneous statistics/graphics.

The proof of concept phase conclusions confirm that by applying the necessary cutting-edge technology and appropriate framework and methodology for measuring jump rotations, the above-mentioned objectives can be achieved. However, the conclusions also revealed that such project would require a substantial budget, not only for an implementation for ISU Figure Skating Events, but also use by the ISU Members. The ISU Council is therefore currently exploring whether more cost-effective solutions could be available.

EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS

The detrimental consequences of the War in Ukraine and two pending legal proceedings must be considered as exceptional events:

- The impact and detrimental consequences and outlook related to the War in Ukraine is outlined in the section “Commercial/economic/financial situation and prospects” and “Risk evaluation” above.
- As to the Pechstein case, on July 12, 2022 the German Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht) published a decision upholding the constitutional complaint of Ms. Claudia Pechstein challenging two decisions of the German Federal Court of Justice which had been issued in 2016. Ms. Pechstein had filed the constitutional complaint after the Federal Court of Justice (Bundesgerichtshof) had declared inadmissible her claim for damages filed against the ISU before German civil courts in 2013 because of an arbitration agreement in favor of the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Lausanne. The German Federal Constitutional Court held that when deciding the case in 2016, the Federal Court of Justice had not considered properly the significance of the right to publicity of the proceedings when balancing the interests and rights at stake. Therefore, the Federal Constitutional Court held that the Federal Court of Justice’s decision interfered with Ms. Pechstein’s constitutional rights under two provisions of the German Fundamental Law (Grundgesetz), lifted the latter’s decision, and submitted the case back to the Higher Regional Court Munich (Oberlandesgericht München) for further evaluation. The German Constitutional Court did not discuss in any way the validity of Ms. Pechstein’s doping ban in 2009, which has been confirmed

by CAS and the Swiss Federal Tribunal. Subsequently, the German second instance court (Oberlandesgericht Munich - OLG Munich) raised questions to the parties and the related proceedings are ongoing at the time of writing this report. The ISU continues to contest the substantial but unjustified damage claim by Ms. Pechstein with vigor and determination.

- By its judgment of December 16, 2020, the EU General Court upheld the 2017 decision of the EU Commission finding that the ISU Eligibility Rules in their 2016 and previous versions violated EU competition law. However, the EU General Court accepted the pre-authorization system of the ISU, i.e. the requirement that competitions organized by parties other than the ISU and/or its Members must be previously approved by the ISU Council. Most importantly, the EU General Court acknowledged that the fight against betting and the protection of the economic interests of the ISU are legitimate objectives of its pre-authorization system. The EU General Court further accepted that jurisdiction in appeals against ISU Council eligibility decisions is conferred upon CAS and partly annulled the Commission decision on that basis.

The ISU maintains that its Eligibility Rules have never been enforced with a view to preventing the organization of third-party ice-skating events and regrets that the judgement does not address the substantial evidence put forward by the ISU confirming this. The ISU lodged a partial appeal with the European Court of Justice (ECJ) against those parts of the decision of the EU General Court where it decided against the ISU. A decision is expected during the Spring of 2023.

Apart from its appeal to the ECJ, the ISU amended its eligibility rules (2018 version which remains the current version) in order to meet the objections of the EU Commission. The EU Commission indicated its satisfaction with the respective amendments, without however formally confirming that the current eligibility rules are in conformity with EU competition law.

OUTLOOK

In the short term, the existing commercial agreements in place and the sound financial situation should allow the ISU to continue its current activity, but some limited use of the ISU's financial reserves might be needed.

In the medium and long term beyond the year 2026, however, considering the developments described in the chapter "*Risk Evaluation – Risk of economic downturn, reduced audiences for ISU Events and related reduced ISU incomes*", maintaining the existing income level remains uncertain. Unless we reverse the trend in TV ratings, renewing TV contracts at the current level will be challenging. At the same time, finding new sources of income, including the acquisition of new sponsors, will require time and effort. In addition, expenditures will continue to rise as we strengthen our efforts in good governance, sustainability, and safeguarding athletes.

Taking into consideration the rapidly changing sports landscape as outlined in this report, the ISU must continue to seek ways to evolve our sports to remain attractive to our fans and commercial partners. To that end, the ISU is currently working on the Long-term Growth Roadmap to grow our sports. Implementation of the priorities that come out of the Roadmap will require investment in our products and human resources. In view of these developments, the ISU will need to revisit its financial policy to invest in strategic initiatives for the medium and long term. In case the financial situation would nevertheless deteriorate, the ISU would have to make critical choices and set clear priorities for the best possible continuation of the ISU activity beyond 2026.

**ANNUAL REPORT
&
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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Annual Report

2023 was a post-Olympic year with competition returning to its pre-Covid schedules. Elite World Championships took place in Saitama (JPN), Lake Placid (USA), Heerenveen (NED) and Seoul (KOR) for Figure Skating, Synchronised Skating, Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating respectively.

The final instalment was received from the IOC for the 2022 Winter Olympic games in Beijing (CHN) and as a result the ISU was able to confirm revenues of 9.9 million Swiss francs to be allocated in 2023 to 2025, in spite of the unfavorable USD-CHF exchange rate. This is higher than the original budgeted amounts for 2023 and 2024.

Although the World Figure Skating Championships took place in Japan, one of the ISU's key markets, our advertising revenues fell significantly below expectations and remain 20-30% below pre-Covid levels in Swiss franc terms. The weakness in Japanese markets can be attributed to the repercussions of the postponed summer Olympic Games and the Japanese and Global Economy.

ISU's event-related costs, when the exchange impact is excluded, remained largely in line with expectations. ISU headcount increased in 2023 from 25 to 30 as resource was strengthened in the areas of safeguarding, marketing, media and communications. This trend is set to continue as ISU seeks to deliver Vision 2030.

Aside from the advertising revenues mentioned above, the single biggest impact on the ISU's 2023 results was the continued weakening of the USD against the Swiss franc. In the past 25 years, the USD has lost almost half of its value against the Swiss franc and in the 2023, the USD having regained losses during the Covid crisis, the CHF strengthened by 7% by the middle of July, only to fall back in late September but the USD finished the year 9.5% weaker compared to the beginning of the year. The volatility impacted the ISU's revenues and costs throughout the year but the real impact came at the end of the year with the valuation of the ISU's USD investment portfolio generating Swiss franc losses in excess of 20 million CHF.

Almost all of ISU's revenues are USD denominated and a significant majority of its costs are likewise. It is for this reason, to reduce exposure to the USD/CHF volatility, that the Council has decided to change the ISU's functional currency to USD at the end of the current accounting period.

Further details and analysis can be found in the Financial Statements and the annexe to the Financial Statements dealing with actual to budget variances.

Finally, on 31 December 2023, Fredi Schmid, the ISU Director General, retired from his duties, having served the ISU for 27 years. The ISU Council thanks Mr Schmid for his invaluable work building the ISU into the organisation it is today and wish him well in his retirement.

The ISU Council
May 2024



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STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Congress of International Skating Union, Lausanne

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of International Skating Union (the Association), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statement of income and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements (pages 7 to 17) comply with Swiss law and the Association's Constitution and General Regulations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Swiss law and Swiss Standards on Auditing (SA-CH). Our responsibilities under those provisions and standards are further described in the "Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the requirements of the Swiss audit profession, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Council for the Financial Statements

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law and the Association's Constitution and General Regulations, and for such internal control as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.



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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Swiss law and SA-CH will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at EXPERTsuisse's website at: <https://www.expertsuisse.ch/en/audit-report-for-ordinary-audits>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with Art. 728a para. 1 item 3 CO and PS-CH 890, we confirm that an internal control system exists, which has been designed for the preparation of financial statements according to the instructions of the Council.

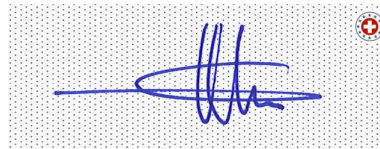
We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Lausanne, May 22, 2024

BDO Ltd



Jürg Gehring
Licensed Audit Expert
Auditor in Charge



Grégoire Weber
Licensed Audit Expert

Financial Statements

Income Statement – Swiss Francs

For the year ended 31 December	Note	2023	2022
A. OPERATING INCOME			
Broadcast revenue ISU Events		20 346 743	19 135 122
Advertising revenue ISU Events		4 946 186	6 144 246
Various Incomes		655 457	374 993
Youth Olympic Games Revenue		-	6 035
OWG Revenue allocation for the year		9 911 909	9 863 290
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		35 860 295	35 523 686
B. OPERATING EXPENSES			
ISU Contributions		13 879 776	12 772 857
Prize Money (ISU Events)		4 919 787	4 275 964
Contributions including Prize Money		18 799 563	17 048 821
2. ISU Development Program			
a) Development Program Projects		1 631 539	1 295 686
b) Council projects		2 802 966	3 369 256
c) Contributions to ISU Members		2 666 362	2 975 507
ISU Development Program	2	7 100 867	7 640 449
Contributions to ISU Events & Development Program		25 900 430	24 689 270
3. ISU Other Operating Expenses	3	7 279 216	8 084 029
4. ISU Office building Lausanne		160 495	164 260
5. ISU Secretariat Expenses	4	5 131 694	4 516 275
OPERATING EXPENSES		38 471 836	37 453 833
C. OPERATING RESULT		(2 611 541)	(1 930 147)
FINANCIAL INCOMES AND EXPENSES	5	(8 573 846)	(18 232 957)
E. OTHER ITEMS			
Extraordinary results		16 292	1 309 178
Taxes/provision for taxes		72 435	(215 300)
TOTAL OTHER ITEMS	6	88 727	1 093 878
F. LOSS FOR THE YEAR BEFORE RE-ALLOCATION		(11 096 661)	(19 069 226)
Release of reserves		7 500 000	-
G. LOSS FOR THE YEAR	1	(3 596 661)	(19 069 226)

Balance Sheet – Swiss Francs

As at December 31	Note	2023	2022
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	7	3 570 741	9 989 790
Short Term Deposit	11	81 209	152 798
Other Debtors	9	19 478	10 654
Deferred Event Contributions	8	1 825 556	1 479 689
Prepaid expenses & accrued income	9	4 562 651	4 107 575
Current Assets		10 059 635	15 740 506
Non-Current Assets			
Financial Assets	11	262 347 859	265 198 067
Property and Equipment	10	4 525 001	4 625 001
Non-Current Assets		266 872 860	269 823 068
TOTAL ASSETS		276 932 495	285 563 574
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Short Term Liabilities			
Accounts payable	12	1 348 299	1 768 345
Accrued expenses	13	2 459 058	2 793 699
Deferred income	14	22 730 732	18 370 972
Other short term liabilities		1 333 480	2 290 483
Accrued member contributions	15	4 065 794	4 248 283
Short Term Liabilities		31 937 363	29 471 781
Long Term Liabilities	16	7 000 000	14 500 000
Equity			
Voluntary retained earnings		241 591 793	260 661 019
Net loss for the year		(3 596 661)	(19 069 226)
Equity		237 995 132	241 591 793
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		276 932 495	285 563 574

Statement of Cash Flows – Swiss Francs

For the year ended 31 December	Note	2023	2022
RECONCILIATION OF NET LOSS TO OPERATING CASH FLOW			
Loss for the year		(3 596 661)	(19 069 226)
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets	10	100 000	100 000
Release of reserves	1	(7 500 000)	-
Unrealized losses on financial assets	5, 11	7 571 208	21 557 584
Movement in deferred income	14	4 359 760	16 336 091
Current assets - decrease / (increase) :			
Short term deposit	11	71 589	(92 662)
Other debtors		(8 823)	(2 304)
Deferred event contributions	8	(345 867)	227 747
Prepaid expenses	9	(455 076)	342 489
Short term liabilities - increase / (decrease)			
Accounts payables	12	(420 045)	(634 469)
Accrued expenses	13	(334 642)	(3 472 797)
Other short-term liabilities	14	(957 002)	1 935 203
Member Contributions	15	(182 489)	267 620
Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities		(1 698 049)	17 495 275
Net cash used in investing activities		(4 721 000)	(24 850 618)
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		(6 419 048)	(7 355 343)
Cash and cash equivalents on January 1st		9 989 790	17 345 133
Cash and cash equivalents on December 31st		3 570 741	9 989 790
		(6 419 048)	(7 355 343)

Notes to the Financial Statements

I. GENERAL

The International Skating Union (“ISU”), founded in 1892, is the exclusive international sport federation (IF) recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) administering Figure Skating and Speed Skating Sports throughout the world. The ISU is composed of the individual national associations (herein called “ISU Members”) which administer these Sports at the national level, and which recognize that all international matters are under the sole jurisdiction and control of the ISU.

II. GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

These financial statements were prepared according to the provisions of the Swiss Code of Obligations (CO 957-962). Where not prescribed by law, the significant accounting and valuation principles applied are described below. These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Please note that all numbers are rounded. Therefore, some totals may show a difference of +/- 1.

III. INCOME STATEMENT ANALYSIS

1. Comparison 2023 versus 2022

The loss for the year 2023 amounts to CHF -3 596 661 which represents an improvement of CHF 15 472 566, compared to 2022 (loss of CHF -19 069 226).

The Operating Loss of CHF 2 611 541, compares with an operating loss of CHF 1 930 147 in 2022, an increase of CHF 681 394 which is explained in more detail as follows:

- + CHF 0.3 million : higher operating income in 2023 than in 2022 as a result of the ISU World Team Trophy held in 2023, offset by a loss of media and advertising rights incomes post Covid-19 pandemic and also resulting from the absence of Russian skaters and the effects of unfavorable exchange rates.
- - CHF 1.7 million : higher ISU event contributions and prize money paid by the ISU to the organizing ISU Members in 2023 specially linked to absence of Final Classification Prize Money in 2022, as well as additional travel contributions to athletes increasing post-pandemic during 2023.
- + CHF 0.5 million : reduced Development Program expenditures in 2023 principally due CHF-USD exchange rates impacting C-Contribution reporting figures at 2023 year end, higher support for Ukrainian Skaters in 2022 than 2023, and optimization of Council initiatives and projects in 2023.
- + CHF 0.8 million : reduced “Other Operating Expenses” in 2023 compared to 2022 due to there being no Congress in 2023 and fewer seminars, courses and examinations in 2023, offset by increased legal, insurance and anti-doping costs in 2023.
- - CHF 0.6 million higher ISU Secretariat expenses in 2023 compared to 2022 due to increases in payroll costs and new hires.

The Financial loss of CHF -8.6 million in 2023 versus a loss of -18.2 million in 2022 was an improvement of CHF 9.7 million compared to 2022. Further clarification are given under the section referring to Financial Incomes and Expenses.

The extraordinary profit of CHF 1.3 million in 2022 as a result of the sale of the former ISU offices in Davos, Switzerland was not repeated in 2023.

As previously mentioned, the Council took the decision to release CHF 7.5 million of provisions to the income statement in 2023.

2. Development Program

a. Development Projects

CHF	2023	2022
Payments and commitments of Development Projects:	1 459 478	1 148 358
Development Commission Expenses:	172 061	147 327
Total Development Projects	1 631 539	1 295 686

b. Council Projects

CHF	2023	2022
Junior Grand Prix	2 049 341	1 850 968
Junior World Cup Speed Skating	173 267	164 028
UKR Support to Skaters	(5 107)	391 423
World-Wide Seminars	282 067	451 406
Short Track Junior Competitions	85 454	52 421
E-Learning	113 040	244 848
Centers of Excellence	104 624	214 162
Total Council Projects	2 802 687	3 369 256

c. ISU C-Contributions to ISU Members

CHF	2023	2022
Release of expired contributions	(15 140)	
Exchange difference on contributions provision	174	
Contributions attributed	2 642 699	
Total ISU C-Contributions	2 666 362	2 975 507

In 2023 the number of project applications rebounded from the pandemic period and the number of applications from Asia, South America and the rest of the World also increased again. In approving support for Projects, the budget for the two-year period 2022 and 2023 was taken into account and respected.

Three Worldwide Seminars were held in 2023: for Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating. The Junior Grand Prix, and Junior World Cup Speed Skating were held as usual and the Junior World Cup Short Track was held for the first time, replacing the previous Junior Short Track Challenge Series.

Additional materials and modules have been added to the eRink eLearning platform and the ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE) activities are ongoing and expanding.

The C Contribution was distributed as per the regular amount and procedure, though the USD/CHF exchange rate has led to a lower than budgeted total expenditure.

Since October 2016, a Development Program Director monitors the financial aspects of the Development Program, which are also reviewed by the Internal Controller. Furthermore, if necessary, the Council may mandate external audits of Development Program Projects.

3. Other Operating expenses

Other Operating Expenses break down as follows :

<i>Swiss francs</i>	2023	2022
Conference/Congress expenses	114 749	1 014 692
Committee meetings	340 467	235 664
Council and other meetings	500 645	335 426
Office Holders allowances	645 976	847 338
Office Holders travel & other expenses	914 016	1 365 702
External event & other consultants	360 410	183 871
Printed matter & materials	18 822	29 748
Anti-doping controls	808 626	639 270
Legal Services	527 088	210 084
Insurance	640 978	606 316
Judging, scoring, timing systems	526 074	568 765
Courses/seminars/training	230 994	436 568
Communications, PR & media	1 613 621	1 560 989
Other expenses	36 748	49 595
	7 279 216	8 084 029

4. Secretariat expenses

Secretariat expenses are made up as follows :

<i>Swiss Francs</i>	2023	2022
Salaries & Benefits	4 802 013	4 312 863
Office utilities	191 312	112 620
Office material & furniture	27 068	9 711
IT equipment / services	85 063	56 227
Communications	19 382	17 882
Office insurance & storage rental	6 856	6 972
	5 131 694	4 516 275

Employees at the ISU Lausanne office numbered as follows :

	2023	2022
Total employees at 31 December	30	25
Total FTEs (full-time equivalents) at 31 December	28.6	23.3
Average FTE's during the year	25.3	23.2

The ISU also employs one full-time employee in the Netherlands.

Salaries & Benefits includes a provision for accrued overtime and holidays amounting to CHF 30 335. The provision recorded in the balance sheet is CHF 470 277 (2022: CHF 439 941).

5. Financial Income & Expenses

The financial incomes and expenses resulted in a loss of CHF 8 573 846 for 2023 compared with a loss of CHF 18 232 957 for 2022 and compared with a 2023 budgeted profit of CHF 4 040 000.

While the bond markets and ISU bond portfolio partly recovered in 2023, the weak US Dollar at December 31, 2023 (-9.04 % compared to December 31, 2022) against the Swiss Franc resulted in a substantially lower Swiss Franc value of the ISU financial assets generating an exchange loss of approximately CHF -20.7 million at 2023 year end. Included in unrealized gains/losses are approximately 16 million of unrealized foreign exchange losses on the investment portfolio, offset by a reversal of unrealized valuation gains booked in 2022.

The interest income from the bond portfolio amounted to CHF 5.4 million in alignment with previous year 2022, same for the safekeeping and mandate fees charged by the banks amounting to CHF 1 million, assuming a stable percentage of the portfolio value.

Swiss Francs	2023	2022
Investment interest incomes	5 403 400	5 379 988
Investment management fees & transaction charges	(977 888)	(1 018 031)
Realized capital gains on bonds	907 854	433 393
Realized capital losses on bonds	(2 022 704)	(1 761 341)
Realized currency exchange gains	(314 166)	1 234 139
Realized currency exchange losses	(3 999 134)	(943 521)
Unrealized gains/losses on Bonds	(7 571 208)	(21 557 584)
	(8 573 846)	(18 232 957)

Further information on Financial Assets can be found in Note 11, below.

The foreign currency **exchange rates** against the swiss franc used for the closing balance sheet were:

	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	Change	Average exchange rates		Change
			%	2023	2022	%
USD	0.84162	0.92523	-9.04%	0.89880	0.95497	-5.88%
EUR	0.92970	0.98745	-5.85%	0.97165	1.00482	-3.30%
GBP	1.07288	1.11293	-3.60%	1.11706	1.1711	-5.26%

6. Other Items

The tax authorities have granted the ISU a tax exemption regarding its income and capital taxes on a cantonal, communal and federal level. The only taxes applicable to the ISU relate to its real estate property in Davos, sold in the course of 2022 for which additional taxes were accrued in relation to the transaction in late 2022 but partially released in 2023, together with the final and definitive tax assessment from the related tax authorities generating a refund and positive balance in favor of the ISU of CHF 72 435.

IV. ASSETS

The Assets are composed as follows:

	31.12.2023		31.12.2022	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Cash & cash equivalents	3 570 741	1.3	9 989 790	3.5
Short Term Deposit	81 209	0.0	152 798	0.1
Other debtors	19 478	0.0	10 654	0.0
Deferred event contributions	1 825 556	0.6	1 479 689	0.5
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	4 562 651	1.6	4 107 575	1.4
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>				
Long Term financial assets	262 347 859	94.8	265 198 067	92.9
Properties and equipment	4 525 001	1.6	4 625 001	1.6
	<u>276 932 495</u>	100	<u>285 563 574</u>	100

7. Current Bank Accounts

The bank accounts in foreign currencies have been converted at the closing currency exchange rates issued by the Swiss tax authorities as of December 31, 2023, and 2022 respectively.

8. Deferred Event Contributions

The Deferred Event Contributions relate to payment of ISU Championship contributions to ISU Members for events to be held in 2024.

9. Other Debtors and Prepaid Expenses & Accrued Income

Other Debtors and Prepaid expenses and accrued Income amounting respectively CHF 19'478 (2022: CHF 10'654) and CHF 4 562 651 (2022: CHF 4 107 574) are composed of the interest income on bonds accrued at year-end CHF 1 539 942 (2022: CHF 1 541 009), pending TV rights income related to 2023 to be invoiced in 2024 (2023: CHF 2 038 829; 2022: 1 950 713), prepaid expenses for the Youth Olympic Games 2024 of CHF 214 585 as well as various prepaid expenses (2023: CHF 788 773; 2022: CHF 626 507).

10. Fixed Assets

The net book value of the ISU office property in Lausanne amounts to CHF 4 525 000 (2022: 4 625 000). The property is amortised over 50 years.

11. Financial Assets

The Financial Assets Portfolio (bonds and short-term fiduciary deposits) has decreased by CHF 2 921 798 during the year as a result of the decline of the US Dollar against the Swiss Franc (- 9.04% between December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023), the ISU's investment portfolio being mostly denominated in USD. More information can be found in the "Income Statement Analysis" and "Financial Income and Expense" above.

The breakdown of the portfolio by currency, at market value, is as follows:

	31.12.2023		31.12.2022	
	CHF	%	CHF	%
USD	209 381 350	80	202 270 721	76
EUR	34 550 550	13	42 300 064	16
CHF	18 497 168	7	18 534 185	7
GBP	-	-	2 245 895	1
Market value	262 429 068	100	265 350 865	100
Short Term deposits	81 209		152 798	
Long Term financial assets	262 347 859		265 198 067	
Book value	262 429 068		265 350 865	

The bonds and short-term deposits are accounted for and presented in the balance sheet at their market value. The related accrued interests on bonds are reported separately for an amount of CHF 1 539 942 (2022: CHF 1 541 009) under the section "Prepaid expenses/accrued income".

The long-term financial assets portfolio also include CHF 41.5 million of obligations or other deposits with maturity dates within a year that are subject to re-investment and are therefore presented as non-current assets.

The average coupon rates of the bonds showed the following average changes during 2023:

	Average Interest rates		2023	
	2023	2022	Variation points	Variation %
USD	2.54%	2.07%	0.469	+22.6
EUR	1.42%	1.38%	0.041	+3.0
GBP	1.43%	1.43%	0.000	0.0
CHF	0.43%	0.44%	-0.005	-1.1

V. LIABILITIES

12. Accounts Payable

The accounts payable correspond to current payable accounts with ISU Members and Officers, and other creditors amounting to CHF 1 348 299 as of December 31, 2023 (2022: CHF 1 768 345).

13. Accrued expenses

The accrued expenses as of December 31, 2023 amount to CHF 2 459 058 (2022: CHF 2 793 699). CHF 1 116 438 of this amount concerns a provision for current development project initiatives granted by the Council to ISU Members and the remaining balance concerns unpaid 2023 expenses at year-end.

14. Deferred income

The deferred income of CHF 22 730 732 (2022: CHF 18 370 972) relates principally to the 2022 Beijing Olympic Winter Games revenue and the long-standing practice of allocating this income throughout

the four years of the Olympic cycle from 2022 to 2025, as well as 2024 Youth Olympic Games revenue and other event rights fees in relation to the ongoing 2023/2024 skating season. Other short-term liabilities amounting to CHF 1 333 480 concern pending VAT (2022: CHF 2 290 483).

15. Accrued Member Contributions

The ISU Development Program C-Contributions provision as of December 31, 2023, payable to ISU Members, amounts to CHF 4 065 794 (2022: CHF 4 248 283). CHF 2 642 699 concern contributions allocated during the year 2023 but paid during the first quarter of 2024. The balance refers to allocated contributions during the years 2019-2022 which have not been claimed by the related ISU Members and/or for which the ISU Members have not yet provided the required reports.

16. Reserves

Following the substantial financial book loss in 2023 due to the Swiss Franc - US Dollar rate on December 31, 2023 the Council decided to proceed with the release of CHF 4 000 000 of the reserve for currency exchange loss on bonds and CHF 1 000 000 of the reserve for loss on other financial positions.

In addition, the Council approved a full release of the CHF 2 500 000 reserve for crisis situations, as the ISU's revenues continued to be impacted by the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. More information can be found in "other information" on page 7 on the notes below.

The provision for expenses related to legal cases as of December 31, 2023, amounts to CHF 7 000 000. This amount was deemed necessary and sufficient and remains unchanged compared to 2022.

VI. OTHER INFORMATION

ISU Indemnity Policy

In line with the ISU Indemnity Policy, ISU Office Holders receive Office Expenses paid in an annual lumpsum. A limited number of Office Holders, depending on their function and subject to their ISU workload exceeding a reasonable level that can be expected from an elected or appointed volunteer

Office Holder, receive Secretarial allowances or a fixed remuneration. During 2022 this applied to 14 Office Holders.

External Audit

The ISU accrued CHF 33 936 for the fees of BDO SA related to the audit of the financial statements 2023 (2022: CHF 36 155). Other audit-related and non-audit services were charged during 2023 by BDO SA for a total of CHF 14 281 (2022: 11 793).

Other information

The global instability resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and conflict in the Middle East continue to have an impact of the ISU's business and competitions, notably due to the absence of Russian Figure Skaters.

Significant events & post-balance sheet matters

On 21 December 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union rendered two judgments relating to the application of EU competition law to sports federations in Cases C-124/21 P, International Skating Union ("ISU") and C-333/21, European Superleague Company ("ESL"). There is no financial impact of these judgments on the ISU and any regulatory implications had already been implemented by ISU.

On 30 January 2024, the Court for Arbitration in Sport (CAS) rendered its judgment in the case of the Russian athlete, Valieva. Following this judgment, the ISU announced its decision to re-award the

medals for the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. Appeals have been made against the CAS judgment in front of the Swiss Federal Court and against the ISU's decision concerning the re-awarding of medals in front of CAS. The Council and management consider that the legal provisions on the balance sheet are sufficient to cover the costs of defending these actions.

The following pages do not form part of the Audited Financial Statements

Annexe – Analysis of Variance to Budget

Comparison 2023 actuals versus 2023 budget (Budget as approved by ISU Members during the Phuket June 2022 Congress)

The loss for the year 2023 amounts to CHF -3 783 886 compared to the 2023 budgeted loss of CHF -1 898 000 representing a negative variance of CHF -1 885 886.

The operating result for the year shows a loss of CHF -2 943 704 versus a budgeted loss of CHF -5 913 000, a positive variance of CHF 2 969 296. This variance is composed of

- - CHF 1.5 million lower TV rights, advertising rights and various income than budgeted as per circumstances of the war in Ukraine and other unfavorable forex exchange rates.
- + CHF 0.9 million higher Olympic Winter Games income than budgeted.
- + CHF 2.0 million lower ISU Events and Championships contributions and prize money paid by the ISU to the organizing ISU Members than budgeted. Such underspending emanates from the fact that several provisions made for a negative impact due to the pandemic were finally and hopefully not used, as well as other initiatives were finally delayed or kept below budget, therefore resulted in a positive correction in 2023.
- + CHF 0.9 million lower Development Program expenditures than budgeted mainly linked to lower exchange rates affecting reporting figures on C-Contributions at year end and also optimization of Council initiatives and projects in 2023. For further details please refer to the explanations below under “Development Program”.
- + CHF 0.7 million lower “Other Operating Expenses mostly in relation with lower seminars, courses and examinations, some also held online, as well as AI and other projects being delayed.
- + CHF 0.01 million higher ISU Secretariat expenses than budgeted due to unbudgeted hires in the second part of the year.
- + CHF 0.3 million higher than budgeted net interest income.
- CHF 13.0 million financial book loss. The weak US Dollar at the closing date of December 31, 2023 (-9.04% compared to December 31, 2022) versus the Swiss Franc resulted in a substantially lower Swiss Franc value of the ISU financial assets mainly held in US Dollar bonds. Please also refer to the comments under “Financial Assets Portfolio” above and the comments under “Financial Incomes and Expenses” below.

+CHF 7.6 million not budgeted “Other Items” after release of the reserve for currency exchange loss on bonds and other financial positions, as well as the release of the reserve to sustain losses due to detrimental consequences emanating from the War in Ukraine and possible reductions on sponsorship and media rights income during crisis situations.

The morning session of the first day of Congress adjourned at 12.00 p.m.

SECOND SESSION
Monday, June 10, 2024, 1.30 p.m.
President Mr. Jae Youl Kim in the Chair

12. Workshops (held simultaneously divided by Branch from 4.45 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.)
Technical Rule amendments Speed Skating Branch (as per Art. 32, para 9.d)

Vice President Tron Espeli moderated discussions in the Speed Skating Branch. Speed Skating Technical Committee Chair Nick Thometz and Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee Chair Nathalie Lambert presented a Summary of Proposals received.

Technical Rule amendments Figure Skating Branch (as per Art. 33, para 9.d)

Vice President Benoît Lavoie moderated discussions in the Figure Skating Branch. Single & Pair Skating Technical Committee Chair Fabio Bianchetti, Ice Dance Technical Committee Chair Shawn Rettstatt and Synchronized Technical Committee Chair Philippe Maitrot presented a Summary of the Proposals received.

13. Forum
ISU Vision 2030
a) Growth and Innovation

The President and Director General made the following presentation:

ISU President, Jae Youl Kim:

'Earlier this morning, we explained our Vision and some steps that we took last season. In this Forum, we are excited to share Vision 2030 priorities that we want to undertake. But before we start, I want to share a video message from IOC President Bach.

Let me now begin by briefly describing our current status. We have an amazing sport with a rich heritage, and we continue to build upon our traditions. Last season, we had many breakthroughs to celebrate. In Synchro, we had Les Supremes winning three World's titles in a row. In Figure Skating, we have Ilia Malinin defying gravity. In Short Track, we had Denis Nikisha standing on the Worlds podium in a first for Kazakhstan. Finally in Speed Skating, we have Jordon Stolz, the first man in the world to win three distances in two consecutive World Championships. He is only 20. And we had many more outstanding accomplishments... too many to mention here.

So from a sporting perspective, we are in a great place to move forward. But we have challenges, largely because the media landscape is changing. Total sports viewership around the world is on a downward trend. Yet, the biggest professional sports, such as Premier League Football, are attracting larger audiences. This means Olympic sports are being watched less and less. What's more, sports viewership behaviors are changing, shifting from linear TV to on-demand streaming. For example, US adults watch more digital videos than free-to-air TV, and the UK is also moving in that direction.

The ISU is not immune to these changes. It is becoming harder to find skating on linear TV channels in many countries. And when skating IS on air, fewer fans are watching. These are the real TV ratings from two of our key media partners. You can see the sliding trend over the past ten years. Moreover, many of you who host ISU Events tell us that it is getting difficult to sell tickets. Many of you expressed concern about empty seats at our World Cups, Gran Prix, and even Championships. This is a big issue for all of us because we generate revenue through media contracts, sponsorships, and ticket sales. And ISU revenue has stagnated and is expected to go down unless we take bold measures to improve our content. I know this because we have been negotiating with our current commercial partners to renew contracts. They want to pay us less once current contracts expire in 2026 and 2027.

We still have our moments. In March this year, NBC in the US showed the Figure Skating World Championships live on free-to-air TV (during the college basketball tournament dubbed March Madness).

Ratings were great. 1.6M viewers watched live our superstar Ilia Malinin writing history, and we were the #3 watched sport during the evening time slot, only behind two basketball games. An incredible success. But, guess how many of those viewers were under 34 years old? Only 38,000, or 2.4%. Let's be very open. Our fan base is aging. Unless we attract new, younger audiences who will be watching our sport 20 or 30 years from now after we've retired? This thought keeps me up at night. I am sure you have the same concerns.

We want to remain THE winter sport even when our grandkids are our age. That's why it's critical to implement Vision 2030. We must expand our fan base to include a younger generation of fans. We must get more people to watch our sports. As our revenue has stagnated, we have been controlling costs to minimize our loss. But this

cannot be a long-term solution. Sport is our content. If we spend less, we can't expect our content to become more attractive. We must start the virtuous cycle I've been talking about since my election. We must invest in our sport to make our content more attractive to our fans. With more fans watching our sports, we can get more sponsorships and better media contracts. This means more revenue.

And we can do so much with more income. We can reward our incredible skaters better with higher prize money, invest more in development programs, and provide more services to you. These investments will drive the growth of our sports and ultimately, make our content more attractive. That completes the whole cycle.

With Vision 2030, we can reverse the revenue trend. We will all benefit from it. So what specific actions do we need to take? In this Forum, we will discuss the eight bolder priorities that cut across our GO ISU pillars. These priorities are needed to execute our greater vision. We will go over five of them in the morning and cover the rest in the afternoon.

Thanks to the great work of our predecessors, we have a strong portfolio with 4 unique sports. We're planning many initiatives that apply to all disciplines, such as boosting digital engagement. At the same time, we carefully considered how to highlight the different disciplines. Let's start with our first two priorities. First, improving way we present our sport. Second, boosting our digital engagements.

We already kick-started on these areas, but there's so much more we can do.'

Director General, Colin Smith:

'We have amazing performances on the ice and we want to make sure we showcase these sporting performances to the level they deserve. Event delivery is basically experience delivery business. We want people to become absorbed in the experience and if not already, become engaged fans of our sport. So how are we going to do it?

We will start this process already for the next season but we will continue to evolve and develop year on year. Key areas that we will focus on:

- Athlete showcasing – they are the stars of the show. We need to help them want to also help us. (interviews, hashtags, off ice interaction)
- Stadium dressing
- Fan zones – sponsor activation. Food and drinks / merchandise.
- Continual MC. Curating a show with in-break entertainment and spectator interaction
- Modern award ceremonies. Light shows, music, graphics and infotainment

So we want to revamp the presentation of each discipline but how we do it needs to reflect the personality and flair of each of them and of each specific location that the event is taking part in. Each event should have global consistency with a local flair. We are aware that for many of you hosting events has become a burden, and in some cases, even a financial risk.

Some of you are experienced in event management, and some of you, less so. Quite simply, hosts of our events should not be losing money. So we are building in house expertise to work with you, the members, on a few key areas.

- 1) Cost optimization – centralized services when relevant (ticketing, hospitality, accreditation)
- 2) Revenue optimization
- 3) Best practices

We want to work with you from planning to delivery and debrief, and take the key learnings from each of you into future event. This will not happen overnight – we will start next year and focus on key priorities while we look to develop further areas in future seasons. What is absolutely fundamental is that the full arenas are key. Broadcasting empty seats to the world is no good for anyone.

That covers in-venue, but we also need to look after the audiences at home. The most cost-efficient way currently is for broadcast production to be carried out locally. Cost efficient, yes, but it can lead to inconsistencies. It's important that we limit those inconsistencies, at least for the core of our sport, as much as possible, using production guidelines, director guidance, story telling narratives, and packages of magazine-style programs and highlights.

We want to update all TV graphics across all ISU sports to create a modern look & feel and consistency. What are graphics for? They are part of the story telling. We need to provide key information, context, and a hook to engage fans. This process follows a three-step approach: evolve TV graphics from the past to the ones used last season to brand-new graphics as of 2025/26 season. If we can make it happen earlier, we will not hesitate to do so.

We have heard about, and we have experienced ourselves, the importance of social media. We have made great strides but we want and need to take it further. However, digital engagement goes beyond social media. At the end of last year, we carried out an RFP, and we have engaged the company LBA as a strategic brand and digital agency to help us build the new robust digital strategy. The first step is to look at our website. We currently have one site for all purposes. It is always difficult to be able to communicate with a different tone of voice on one website,

when we are talking about wide ranging topics from Anti-Doping and competition matters to profiles on athletes and what they would like to eat for breakfast. The current website is difficult to navigate. Going forward we need to be able to get every visitor to the information they are looking for quickly and efficiently, creating a pleasurable user experience. Ultimately, we want our digital hub to become the go-to for all things figure skating related, with all relevant material at the user's fingertips. So we are splitting our website content into two separate sites. One will be for organizational and more corporate needs (isu.org) and the other will be fan-facing, with engaging content (isu-skating.com). This fan facing page will serve as a hub for centralized content, making it the go-to for all things ice skating related. It will feature elements that

- A) Engage fans new to the sport, giving them a reason to stay and explore;
- B) Inform more informed fans with dedicated events and results pages;
- C) Direct all users to watch Events live, to grow the spectator population

Importantly, it will reflect the beauty and personality of the sport and each discipline with a modernized look and feel.

We will also redevelop the ISU app. Launched two years ago, it has been a very useful source of information. However, we want to take it further. The app should serve as a digital companion for fans. And the way for us to gather more data and insight into the behavior of the fans: what they like and what they don't like in order for us to better service them.

But we cannot do it all alone. In the digital world, the more content and data analysis we have on skating and Skaters, the better we can serve fans and attract new audiences. We have spoken to some of you who are already working on developing digital databases and We want to work together with you and our Skaters to build a comprehensive digital ecosystem. The recent athletes survey confirmed that the Skaters want a greater access to their own content. It is our aim that from next season, we will be able to provide each Skater with access to their own personalized library.

There are three key aspects of working together:

- 1) We need to collect data.
- 2) We need to aggregate this data safely.
- 3) We then need to use this data effectively – there is no point in having data if we don't use it or know how best to use it. The effective use of data gathered is incredibly important.

Together we will be much more effective.

E-sports appeal to the youth. We have all seen Zwift's success in cycling. E-skating games can elevate and transform fan engagement by giving fans the opportunity to experience skating at a deeper level, building community, and encouraging participation. The ISU wants to explore what we can develop for skating. We don't have the answers yet. But we do feel that we need to explore the area of e-sports further. So if any of you have any ideas or been approached with regards to e-sports, please let us know.

When it comes to our core product, when we benchmarked other International Federations, we learned over and over that the biggest win comes from evolving and innovating core products, our sports. The first step is to create a sense of anticipation each year. Winter is a magical time and we collectively need to own it. When winter approaches each year, that means skating season is starting. We need to build this narrative. Part of this narrative is to create structure and build consistent storytelling to engage our fans, season to season. A lot of work has gone in to simplifying calendars but more can be done. We need to review our calendars to leverage growth and development opportunities, taking into account Skaters' well-being and welfare, and to create greater fan engagement

We want to create a new short track product called the Short Track World Tour starting from next season. This will be a dynamic series of events across the globe designed to maximize the potential of Short Track sport, giving justice to its dynamic, explosive and competitive nature. It is an innovative new product that is taking the existing World Cups to create a single innovative product to create a season, build rivalry and craft a story. We currently have the same Skaters skating the same distances in same uniforms and team identities. There is little differentiation between World Cups and Championships. In order to improve the storytelling, we want to create a greater differentiation between the seasons by creating this Short Track World Tour, and thus, maintaining the Championships as the pinnacle of the season. The current Short Track World Tour consists of these 6 World Cups, but in the future, this could be expanded to other events including a Nations Cup style event. This has been put forward by several ISU Members and should certainly be explored.

The Short Track World Tour will feature a new dynamic modern logo design that will be reflected consistently across all venue design and branding but will be adaptable and flexible to recognize and promote our host cities. Thank you to all our Short Track Members for their collaboration in this process. We have received a lot of positive feedback. We understand the timeline is ambitious. However, it's important to proceed with next season. We fully understand there are some logistical and cost challenges. We will continue to work with you, the Members, to ensure we are all ready for the next season.

With regards to the uniforms, we have heard you and your concerns. And therefore, there will be three options for the next season: i) a full rebrand of uniform, ii) an adaption of current uniform through the use of heat transfers as you currently use now for your sponsor logos, or iii) if neither of those is possible, you can skate next season in your existing suits. To be clear, this is not beneficial for the Tour. It is not what we want to achieve, and should be avoided if at all possible. The Tour only works if all parties collaborate together to achieve a successful result. If we are successful, everyone's slots will increase in value. ISU Members will retain fully their existing rights. There is no exclusive uniform provider ensuring that research and development can continue and there will be competition in the market to drive pricing.

I am delighted to share a preview of the approved uniforms for Belgium and France and thank the Belgian and French federations for their collaboration during this process.

Moving on to Speed Skating. The history and tradition of Speed Skating tradition is outdoors and during the ISU Member Conferences, many of you have expressed the desire to go back to these traditions and pay homage to our roots by bringing at least some of our Events outdoor. We will explore an outdoor event – starting with one World Cup in an outdoor rink. We will not stop there. We will also explore a grand event at the end of the season – an “Outdoor Classic.” Many Skaters including the current younger Skaters spoke with such enthusiasm about having such outdoor event. We will explore organizing an Outdoor Classic in an all-round format, also with a mass participation component, potentially as a year-end festival. Such an event will add variety to the portfolio, provide development opportunities, boost tourism for the hosts and provide a new fan experience. We already have expressions of interest from iconic outdoor skating locations such as Medeo, Kazakhstan.

We will also explore the possibility of a Wild Ice Series on natural ice. The beauty of Figure Skating in a natural environment is second to none. These pictures are breathtaking, and we have seen them go viral so often on digital media. We want to explore how we can capture this.'

ISU President, Jae Youl Kim:

'Figure Skating is truly special. It is the most beautiful and sophisticated sport, which brings unique challenges when it comes to judging and scoring. Over the years, we've made changes to achieve fairness and objectivity - as we should have. But in the process, we also lost something. Our sport has become too complicated for average fans. Even recently retired Skaters tell us that they can't follow the judging and scoring anymore. This is a big barrier for new fans. We spoke to many of you, and most of you said the same thing – we need to simplify and clarify our rules and decisions. We need to make Figure Skating easier to understand, while respecting our tradition and heritage. We all recognize the need to improve the event format, judging, and scoring to make Figure Skating more accessible. But there are many different opinions on how to achieve this. We don't have a solution now, but we promise to work on it. We need to find a long-term solution for the good of the whole sport. This will require open minds and a long-term perspective from everyone in this room.

Meanwhile, we will continue to look for cutting-edge technologies to support Figure Skating. As mentioned in the biennial report, we are exploring ways to use AI and computer vision to support judging. In fact, we are in discussions with the IOC to explore joint solutions. We are also looking at other interesting technologies, including analytical tools to assist Judges and motion capture technology to assist Skaters. At the same time, we want to create simple videos to explain our rules and scoring systems. These videos can be used in-venue, on TV, online, and on apps to help fans understand our sport better. We will also work on the TV graphics to explain scoring more intuitively.

Sports documentaries are a powerful way to connect with fans. Many of you tell us that we should have our version of “Formula One Drive to Survive” to highlight our sports and skaters. Even Skaters say this. Actually, one of our commercial partners tried to create an Figure Skating documentary two seasons ago. We tried to help, but it fell through. Our young Skaters were not ready to open up about what goes on behind the scenes, like their training sessions, personal stories and challenges - the things that viewers are most interested in. But we will try again. We are in talks with an even bigger partner for a documentary series for the Olympic Season, leading up to the Milano-Cortina Olympics. We really want to make this work. So we need your help to convince Skaters to sign up for it.

We discussed many initiatives that require long-term commitment and investment. But the investment will not pay back immediately. So where do we get the money to invest?

Fortunately, we have 260M CHF under our management. Until now, we have been very conservative with our investment, putting all our money in bonds. This produced lower returns, which was fine when we didn't need to make a big investment in our sports. As I promised at the Phuket Congress, the ISU set up the Wealth Management Working Group to find new investment strategies to earn more money. The Working Group defined an alternative strategy with a qualified advisory firm. The new approach will help us manage risk while diversifying our investments for higher returns. The expected annual return will more than double.

What does this mean? Our income from investment is projected to increase from about 4M CHF this year to 10M in 2026. The annual income from investment will continue to grow. This is one immediate action we can take to prepare ourselves for the future. We need to consider other ways to generate more income, for all of us.'

Director General, Colin Smith:

'We want to create compelling new propositions for partners and sponsors to generate revenue for the ISU, ISU Members and Skaters to grow the sport. We have longstanding partnerships. As with any relationship, these partnerships evolve. Most of ISU's commercial contracts end in 2026/27. We bring new expertise to the ISU Secretariat to negotiate and renew contracts or come up with new commercial models should that be appropriate. Broadcasting is of significant importance. The landscape is changing. More rights holders turn to streaming platforms and OTT is, for example, also a space we are looking at. Furthermore, we want to enhance and differentiate sponsor packages and have a tired approach to sponsorship deals with greater exposure, including more touchpoints across digital, on and off ice. The focus is also on attracting new types of partners related to, for example, municipality, tourism and hospitality.

This upcoming season is therefore crucial – it will serve as the evidence that we are changing the way we present our sport and that are open to new sponsorship and broadcast opportunities. It is critical that we achieve this in order to be ready with the new commercial model that will best serves the needs of the ISU, ISU Members, and Skaters for the next Olympic cycle.

Figure Skating is the most unique sport in the world combining athleticism, beautiful artistry, music, and costumes. We are proud of our heritage and traditions, and have maintained the sport's purity to the best of our ability. Name one other sport where the athletes are in full camera focus for their entire performance and they have no branding or company recognition on their costumes. You probably can't. And we don't even give the chance to our skaters to negotiate for their costumes to be free, let alone sourcing sponsorships. As an example, we have pictures of two beautiful skaters from different eras – Michelle Kwan and Nathan Chen. It's not immediately obvious what connects these two pictures, but in fact, the renowned fashion designer, Vera Wang, designed both of their costumes. Why shouldn't we give you – the ISU Members and athletes – an opportunity to work with potential sponsors / fashion companies who want exposure and association with our beautiful sport and athletes? We are proposing a rule change to enable you and Skaters to benefit from the real estate on Skater costumes. We will propose opening up one manufacturer logo in a way that is discreet, yet powerful for partners, and does not distract from the beauty of the sport.

Our field of play has also stayed traditional and has not changed much in the last half a century. Most other sports have turned to the flexibility of digital LED signage or indeed virtual advertising to further enhance their delivery of their sport and harness commercial opportunities. We would like to explore the implementation of the digital LED signage at next season at potentially Grand Prix final and World Championships (subject to venue design and feasibility). This will allow greater engagement, more flexibility for our sponsors, and we will ensure that this does not detract or indeed distract in any way the Skaters during their performances. The Kiss and Cry is another key area where cameras are focused and we are not maximizing potential opportunities to showcase our hosts, our host cities, our sponsors, or indeed our Skaters through hashtags, for example.'

b) Safeguarding, Development, and Unity

ISU President, Jae Youl Kim said that while keeping a focus on growth, the ISU would not make any compromises in keeping our sport safe, clean, fair, and sustainable. Safeguarding is a difficult topic that requires much more attention. It also covers a wide range of topics. To understand it better, the ISU had invited special guest speakers. The first guest was Ms. Kirsty Burrows, head of the Safe Sport Unit at the IOC, to provide an overview of safeguarding topics.

Kirsty Burrows gave a presentation on the IOC's activity in the area of safeguarding, which is one of the IOC's strategic priorities, and is included in the Olympic Agenda 2020+5. Safeguarding and mental health are linked and it was necessary to take a public health approach to what are endemic societal issues. Notably, the level of interpersonal violence and mental health issues suffered by elite athletes is similar to that of the general population. The IOC has an athlete-led approach and has conducted research among athletes on their experiences. Research had also been conducted on the qualities of successful coaches, which have shown that respect and conscientiousness and providing a positive environment for athletes were a winning combination. The IOC had also has a Mental Health Action Plan and provides tools through the Athlete 365 platform, as well as support during the Olympic Games, including a helpline and 'Mind Zone' available to participating athletes. She noted that cyber abuse was an increasing problem and the IOC was using prevention tools to scan and detect online abuse, which affects athletes, their support personnel and officials.

ISU President, Jae Youl Kim introduced Miss Gracie Gold, a Figure Skating athlete who competed in the 2014 Olympics, where she won the bronze medal. She has also won multiple medals in the Grand Prix and twice won the US national championships. She is also the author of the recent New York Times bestseller, "Out of Shape Worthless Loser". In her book, she shares her very personal journey that began as the "Golden Girl" of the 2014 Olympics to entering a treatment facility for mental health issues. Gracie has become a leading voice for athlete safety and mental health. She was at the ISU Congress not only to share her story, but to encourage everyone to begin the conversation regarding athlete mental health.

Barbara Reichert, USFSA Senior Communications Advisor, conducted the interview with Gracie Gold. Gracie Gold emphasized that Olympic athletes are not superheroes, but human beings and that mental health issues can affect any one at any time, even when from the outside they seem at their most successful. She spoke of the pressures to perform at the highest level and to appear perfect and that she had initially not recognized her own behaviours as symptoms of mental health issues. She had eventually sought treatment, which had been enormously beneficial for her. She said that mental health is as important as physical health and advised young athletes to reach out if they are experiencing difficulties. Education and resources about mental health, eating disorders and other matters should be available to all.

Evan Bates, Athletes Commission member, thanked Gracie Gold for her openness and honesty and said she was an incredible role model for athletes. He acknowledged the efforts of the IOC and said that while the onus is on adults to protect children, athletes can also help each other.

Jae Youl Kim thanked Gracie Gold for sharing her personal story and passing her message to the ISU and young athletes. He affirmed the ISU's commitment to paying attention to mental health as well as physical health.

Kirsty Burrows said that the IOC was working to create safe, fair and respectful sports environments with all involved being proactive to prevent and address safeguarding issues. She outlined the forms of harassment and abuse that are seen in sport and noted that these can intersect with doping. Unfortunately, abuses happen in all sports, at all levels, and in all countries, though it had been shown that both male and female elite athletes are at higher risk. Research had shown that young people are more likely to report abuses to their family or their club and only 23% of reports come through a helpline. When reports are made, the response is crucial, and those reporting must feel supported. There is no magic bullet in safeguarding and the more prevention measures are taken simultaneously, the more the risks are reduced. Risk assessments, safer recruitment, education, Codes of Conduct, mandatory reporting, increasing numbers of Safeguarding officers all contribute to reducing risks. The IOC had committed USD 10 million to strengthening regional Safeguarding efforts by piloting regional hubs, creating an International Safe Sport Task Force and an International Safe Sport Framework and supporting tools.

Jae Youl Kim thanked Kirsty Burrows for giving the ISU Members a better understanding of Safeguarding matters and the IOC's efforts to create a healthy sports environment. He went on to make the following remarks.

'I feel even greater responsibility for what we, as adults and as governing bodies, must do to protect and support young athletes. We must have a proper understanding, robust policies, and support systems in place. We recognize that this requires additional resources, adding to the many initiatives you have to undertake going forward. Therefore, we propose increasing the annual C Contribution by 20%. We propose earmarking this additional funding for specific initiatives. For the next two seasons, we want to focus on safeguarding, and we expect three things from you:

- First, adopt safeguarding policies and procedures,
- Second, take training, either through Safeguarding eLearning modules on the ISU eRink or through your NOC,
- Third, increase awareness of Safeguarding matters within your federation, among Skaters, Coaches, Officials, and staff members.

As emphasized in the biennial report, we are committed to keep our sports clean, so we will continue to reinforce testing, educating, and campaigning. In addition, we will collaborate with other entities. For example, ISU joined ITA's REVEAL platform, which enables anyone to anonymously and confidentially report suspicions about doping. Let's work on keeping our sport clean and fair.

We already introduced our sustainability strategy. Moving forward, we will focus on the execution of the strategy and do all we can to fulfill our commitments to preserve our nature. Next month, we will announce Sustainable Guidelines for Events, which should be helpful to event organizers.

Central to our mission is growing skating participation and supporting talented skaters throughout the world. As shown this morning, we have a variety of development programs. We will continue to advance these programs to support you and your skaters better. We will also evaluate each program to ensure our funds are used effectively.

Some programs are particularly effective in developing smaller ISU Members. One of them is the Visiting ISU Coach program, introduced under my predecessor. The ISU sends a Coach to an ISU Member for a week or two to train young Skaters and Coaches. Visiting ISU Coaches sometimes help set up the whole training structure. Last season, six young skaters from Indonesia, Poland, and Vietnam who benefited from the Visiting Coach Program competed in figure JGP. We expect to see more tangible results in the coming years. Because it supports smaller ISU Members directly and immediately, we plan to double down and expand the program.

We also want to reinforce the ISU Road to Ice Program, which supports inline skaters in transitioning to Speed Skating. At the Youth Olympic Games this January, I met four young Speed Skaters from Portugal. They were still inline skaters, but had taken part in our Road to Ice Program, and they were competing at the Youth Olympics. Perhaps one day, they can even be Olympic Champions. After all, two Olympic Champions, Erin Jackson and Bart Swings, went through the same program.

We want to support your efforts to expand the skating population. Switzerland has an interesting program called Speedy Cup. In essence, this is about inviting kids to experience our sport and fall in love with it. We will explore if we can expand this concept as part of the Road to Ice Program and roll it out in other parts of the world.

Given the effectiveness of the Visiting Coach and Road to Ice programs, we would like to invest an additional 600k CHF per year in them. This means increasing the development project budget from 1.6M CHF to 2.2M per year.

We have discussed many exciting changes. We want to advance these priorities while upholding the highest standards of good governance. We will continue to make progress in good governance practices. In fact, we expect to see another significant increase in our score this September. And we will continue with related efforts. For example, before the end of this year, we will establish Ethical Guidelines for the ISU Elections for 2026 and beyond.

The ISU was founded on July 23, 1892. We are the second oldest international federation in the world. It's incredible that we are still going strong, thanks to the work of our predecessors. But our Constitution is 132 years old and has had 58 amendments over the years. The result is a bloated, difficult, and inconsistent constitution that is not suited for the rapidly changing today's world. To give some examples, our Constitution even specifies job titles and responsibilities of the secretariat staff down to the regional assistant event managers, and we are unable to execute the new Wealth Management strategy despite being ready three months ago because of how the Constitution is written. We would like to modernize the Constitution to make it more clear, consistent and enable us to be more agile in today's world.

As we've done with our other efforts, we will tackle this in a very transparent and collaborative way. Upon your approval, the Council will set up a Drafting Committee and search for a competent law firm with experience in modernizing other IF's Constitutions. We will also set up a small Member Consultation Group to work closely with the Drafting Committee. Moreover, the Drafting Committee will engage you on various occasions, including Member Conferences and webinars. Proposals that you made related to governance will be considered during the process. You will have the opportunity to express your views before voting on the new Constitution at the Extraordinary Congress in 2025. The modernization of the Constitution will be our process. I assure you that good governance will always be a core value of our Constitution.

This concludes the eight key priorities of Vision 2030 that we want to undertake. I hope you are excited about our Vision 2030. To make this Vision a reality, I want to stress the three key requirements once again. First, we must be open and willing to change and work toward the same objectives. Second, we must acquire new capabilities to stay competitive. And finally, we must make meaningful investments to drive the changes we desire. If you look around this room, you see a diverse group of people, from different backgrounds, nationalities, geographies, and more. But we have one thing in common. We all love skating, and we all want the best for the future generations of skaters. That is why we have to implement our Vision 2030 now. We are in the same boat. And as long as we sail in the same direction, we will make our Vision 2030 a reality. So let's embark on the journey together, towards our brighter future, our Vision 2030. Together, we can go further!

14. A budget for the year of the Congress and the forthcoming two-year period as submitted by the Council and the approval thereof

The Congress gave a round of applause for Uli Linder, recently-retired ISU Treasurer for his service to the ISU.

The Chief of Finance and Administration, Jeremy Conrad-Pickles made the following presentation:

'You have now heard the President and the Director General outline the many initiatives that the ISU will undertake in order to achieve Vision 2030. The ISU Members received prior to Congress a budget narrative as well as the detailed income statement breakdown for 2025 and 2026, and an updated budget for 2024. I will give an overview of some of the items which are included in the budgets that you have already seen. I will run through some of the initiatives and investments, categorising them as follows.

First, I will talk about revenue drivers, notably leveraging ISU assets and reinvigorating ISU commercial revenues and will then cover some of the items related to opportunity and safeguarding. I will then take us quickly through further growth and innovation, related to event presentation and delivery, our products and our interactions with fans through social media and other channels. The final section will focus on innovation and unity as we seek to reform our Constitution, improve collaboration with our stakeholders and implement better tools in order to administer the Federation more efficiently.

It is, of course, important to note that transformation takes time and the fruit of some of the initiatives that we propose to undertake over the next two to three years will only be seen anything between four and eight years down the line. Furthermore, the budgets as presented include all the elements of what is a very ambitious program. There will inevitably be some delays and a certain number of things we are unable to do – which will have the effect of slowing down or reducing the planned expenditure.

3. Budget overview

Swiss Francs - Millions	2022	2023	2024	2024	2025	2026
	Actual	Actual	Budget (Jun-22)	Budget (May-24)	Budget	Budget
Olympic movement	9.9	9.9	9.2	10.1	9.9	9.9
Media rights	19.1	20.3	18.2	17.4	19.6	17.4
Sponsorship rights	6.1	4.9	7.9	4.9	5.8	6.3
Other revenues	1.7	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total Revenues	36.8	35.8	35.5	32.7	35.6	33.5
Event Costs	21.6	23.4	26.5	27.2	28.1	29.1
Sports development	5.6	4.8	5.4	6.1	6.9	6.9
Sports governance	3.7	3.2	4.1	4.7	4.0	4.6
Communications & marketing	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.1
Other direct expenses	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Secretariat & office expenses	5.1	5.4	5.6	6.9	8.3	8.6
Total Costs	37.5	38.5	43.3	47.3	49.3	51.1
Operating result	- 0.7	- 2.7	- 7.8	- 14.6	- 13.7	- 17.2
Net investment & financial	- 18.2	- 8.4	4.0	4.4	7.4	10.4
Net result before allocations	- 18.9	- 11.1	- 3.8	- 10.2	- 6.3	- 6.8

2024

- * Reduced revenues – USD/CHF & sponsors
- * Increased Development & Congress cost
- * Event upgrade cost
- * Vision 2030 delivery resources

2025 & 2026

- * Continued event& resource investment
- * Ready to deliver revenue growth on renewals
- * Realising returns on investments

You can see on the slide, as already communicated, the last three columns showing first the updated budget for 2024 and then the proposed budgets for 2025 and 2026. You may have noticed that we are presenting certain line items slightly differently. Event costs combines prize money, event contributions and third party costs such as timing or scoring services which have previously been shown under “other operating costs”. In contributions, we have included contributions to Junior Events which were previously included in Development as Council Projects. For that reason, Sports Development is reduced since it includes only C contributions and Development projects. Sports governance costs includes the cost of Congress, Council Meetings, other Committee meetings as well as remuneration of officials and Anti-Doping costs.

The changes to 2024 relate to three main factors. First, the anticipated revenues, which were budgeted in 2022, will not be achieved as a result of sponsor revenues being well below pre-Covid levels and the deterioration of the US dollar to Swiss franc exchange rate. Second, we are increasing our expenditure on development and we face increased costs for this Congress. Third, 2024 also includes the initial costs relating to the upgrade of our Events and delivery of Vision 2030, which will require additional resources for 2025 and 2026, during which time there will be continued investment in Events and resources so that we will be ready, beyond 2026, to deliver growth in revenues, audiences and engagement on social platforms. Finally, you'll see a gradual increase in the investment returns as we rebalance our portfolios to achieve long term growth.

We will inevitably pass through a period of significant deficits in order to set the Federation’s course for the next decade and generate sustainable income growth. That is why you see significant operating losses and a net loss after the investment returns. We expect this situation to reverse in 2029 when we anticipate the operating result to start improving to such an extent it will be covered by investment returns.

The first area of focus relates to growing our revenues, both those from our invested assets and the commercial revenues associated with ISU events. As the President mentioned earlier, the ISU has always maintained an extremely conservative investment strategy which, when first implemented, made sense since bonds could generate in excess of 7% per annum coupon. However, over the past 20 years, those returns have diminished year by year until in 2020, the assets were barely earning 3%. A simulation of the ISU portfolio using standard benchmarking indicates that had the ISU invested 10 years ago in a balanced portfolio, an additional 275 million Swiss francs would have been available to the Federation over the period. The Council will be asking Congress to approve a wording change to the Constitution under Proposal 4, in order to facilitate the change of investment strategy.

The second key growth area relates to our commercial revenues. The existing agency deals will come to an end following the Milan Cortina Olympic Winter Games and one of our key objectives is to ensure that any new deal with an agency is delivering real growth and innovation. In addition to revenue growth which will come later on in the cycle, from 2027 onwards, we expect to see some faster growth from the implementation of the ISU Short Track World Tour. I believe that we have nonetheless remained realistic, even prudent, in our projections of these revenues.

Safeguarding is a key pillar of the GOISU Vision 2030 strategy and we shall provide an immediate assistance to help ISU Members implement their safeguarding strategy. This will come in the form of a 20% increase to the C Contribution. As well as this assistance to all ISU Members, we are increasing the budgets associated with the Visiting ISU Coach program and with annual seminars across the disciplines. We know that these are two of the most impactful areas of development expenditure. In total the initiatives above will add more than 1 million Swiss francs to the annual development budgets. For Athletes, we have also planned increased prize money contributions in the coming years.

As well as challenging our sales agencies in the next contract renewals – or even taking a more direct involvement in the sales process – revenue growth comes through an improvement of our product and this is where a significant part of the new expenditure will take place. Improving, innovating and engaging. The President and Director General have already presented the many innovations to you and I shall not go through them again here. The reform of the Constitution will help us to improve governance from top to bottom and give us the agility to react and adapt as situations, challenges and opportunities arise. We will also be working to upgrade technology platforms, be they our financial ERP system, collaborative platforms for our ISU Members or sports-related systems linked to our competitions and results. All of these will put us in a position over the long term to manage the organisation in the most efficient way possible and also provide improved tools to our ISU Members.

All of the initiatives which have been outlined by the President and the Director General and which I have touched upon above require the necessary human resources to deliver them. That is why a restructuring of the Secretariat is underway and we shall be complementing the great talent we already have with new skills and competencies. Finally we shall also be looking for new premises in Lausanne to accommodate headcount growth but also to provide a modern, open and collaborative workspace for staff.

5. Overview and recap
Invest in 2024-2026 to relaunch
growth for the next 3 Olympic cycles

Swiss Francs – millions	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
Olympic movement	11.1	11.3	11.1	9.9	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.3	10.3
Media rights	21.4	8.5	15.1	19.1	20.3	17.4	19.6	17.4	20.4	18.5	21.2
Sponsorship rights	6.2	3.6	1.2	6.1	4.9	4.9	5.8	6.3	8.3	9.3	10.3
Other revenues	0.9	2.2	0.5	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total revenues	39.6	25.6	27.8	36.8	35.9	32.7	35.6	33.9	39.3	38.3	42.1
Event contributions	18.5	11.0	11.7	14.8	16.2	17.2	17.4	17.0	18.3	17.8	19.2
Prize money	4.9	3.0	3.1	4.3	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.5
Other event costs	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.4	2.4	5.3	5.8	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.5
	25.2	16.0	16.7	21.6	23.5	27.2	28.1	29.1	30.7	30.5	32.2
Sports development	5.9	6.5	6.3	5.6	4.8	6.2	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.6	8.0
Sports governance	2.9	1.9	1.9	3.7	3.2	4.7	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.4
Communications & marketing	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Other direct expenses	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
	10.3	9.6	9.4	10.9	9.7	13.2	12.9	13.4	14.1	14.7	15.4
Secretariat & office expenses	3.7	3.9	4.2	5.1	5.4	6.9	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2
Total costs	39.1	29.5	30.3	37.5	38.5	47.3	49.3	51.1	53.6	54.2	56.9
Operating result	0.5	-3.9	-2.6	-0.7	-2.7	-14.6	-13.7	-17.2	-14.3	-15.9	-14.7
Net investment & financial	7.4	-8.3	2.4	-18.2	-8.4	4.4	7.4	10.4	11.5	13.6	15.7
Net result before allocations	7.9	-12.2	-0.2	-18.9	-11.1	-10.2	-6.3	-6.8	-2.8	-2.2	1.0

So, returning to an overview of the budget, you will appreciate, I hope, why our costs are increasing first to 47 million Swiss francs and up to as much as 51 million in 2026 and 57 million in 2029. However, as you can also see, we expect after 2026 to start reducing the operating deficit and combined with an increase in financial returns we expect to achieve a surplus before the Olympic Winter Games in France in 2030. I shall be putting this chart back on the screen before we take questions and vote on the 2024 to 2026 budgets.

Before we do so, I wanted to quickly present the same numbers expressed in U.S. dollars and also on a season by season basis.

6. US Dollar Overview

Invest in 2024-2026 to relaunch growth for the next 3 Olympic cycles

US Dollars – millions	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
Olympic movement	11.1	12.0	12.1	10.3	11.0	11.6	11.3	11.3	11.8	11.8	11.8
Media rights	21.6	9.1	16.5	20.0	22.6	20.0	22.5	20.0	23.4	21.2	24.3
Sponsorship rights	6.3	3.8	1.3	6.4	5.5	5.6	6.6	7.2	9.5	10.6	11.8
Other revenues	0.9	2.4	0.5	1.8	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total revenues	39.9	27.3	30.4	38.6	39.9	37.6	40.8	38.9	45.0	44.0	48.3
Event contributions	18.6	11.7	12.8	15.5	18.0	19.7	19.9	19.5	20.9	20.4	22.0
Prize money	4.9	3.2	3.4	4.5	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.7	6.0	6.0	6.3
Other event costs	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.6	2.6	6.1	6.6	8.2	8.3	8.5	8.7
	25.3	17.0	18.3	22.6	26.1	31.2	32.2	33.3	35.2	34.9	36.9
Sports development	6.0	6.9	6.9	5.8	5.3	7.0	7.9	7.9	8.3	8.7	9.1
Sports governance	3.0	2.0	2.1	3.9	3.5	5.4	4.6	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.1
Communications & marketing	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.8	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
Other direct expenses	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0
	10.4	10.3	10.3	11.4	10.8	15.1	14.8	15.4	16.1	16.9	17.7
Secretariat & office expenses	3.7	4.2	4.6	5.3	6.0	7.9	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.6
Total costs	39.4	31.5	33.2	39.3	42.9	54.2	56.5	58.6	61.4	62.1	65.2
Operating result	0.5	-4.2	-2.8	-0.7	-3.0	-16.7	-15.7	-19.7	-16.4	-18.2	-16.9
Net investment & financial	7.5	-8.8	2.6	-19.1	-9.4	5.0	8.5	11.9	13.2	15.6	18.0
Net result before allocations	8.0	-13.0	-0.2	-19.8	-12.4	-11.6	-7.2	-7.8	-3.2	-2.6	1.1

When results are presented at the 2026 Congress, they will be expressed in US dollars and with a changed financial year end. The numbers presented here are a restatement in US dollars of past results at the respective average exchange rate for each year and the budgets and projections in US dollars.

Looking at the numbers in US dollars allows us to see revenue trends in the currency in which they are contracted and will remove any 'lumpiness' resulting from exchange movements.

6. Season by season (USD)

Estimated results

US Dollars – millions	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
Olympic movement	10.5	11.5	11.6	11.6	11.8	13.0
Media rights	20.8	20.0	23.0	20.3	24.0	23.0
Sponsorship rights	7.2	6.5	7.6	9.3	10.6	11.5
Other revenues	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total revenues	38.9	38.3	42.5	41.5	46.7	47.8
Total event Costs	31.1	31.9	34.1	34.1	36.1	35.9
Sports development	6.9	7.7	8.0	8.3	8.7	9.0
Sports governance	4.6	5.3	5.1	5.6	5.9	6.0
Communications & marketing	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Other direct expenses	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	13.8	15.5	15.4	16.2	16.9	17.4
Secretariat & office expenses	7.8	9.3	9.8	10.1	10.3	10.4
Total costs	52.7	56.7	59.3	60.3	63.3	63.8
Operating result	-13.8	-18.3	-16.8	-18.9	-16.6	-15.9
Net investment & financial	5.6	8.5	11.3	13.7	15.3	17.4
Net result before allocations	-8.2	-9.9	-5.5	-5.2	-1.2	1.5

The Council will propose as Urgent Proposal Number 1 that the Congress will approve the change to the ISU's financial year end. Most winter sports organisations, including US Figure Skating, have their financial year end in May, June or July so that they can have a full picture of their sporting season.

Furthermore all of the ISU commercial agreements start on the 1st of July of each year and end on the 30th of June. So it is for transparency and ease of reading that we plan to switch to a June financial year end, helping the understanding of our ISU Members by providing a full financial picture of the sporting season. As you can see in the bottom right hand corner, we expect to achieve a net surplus in season 2029/30.

5. Budget Approval

Invest in 2024-2026 to relaunch growth for the next 3 Olympic cycles

Swiss Francs – millions	2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2027 Projection	2028 Projection	2029 Projection
Olympic movement	9.9	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.9	10.3	10.3	10.3
Media rights	19.1	20.3	17.4	19.6	17.4	20.4	18.5	21.2
Sponsorship rights	6.1	4.9	4.9	5.8	6.3	8.3	9.3	10.3
Other revenues	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Total revenues	36.8	35.9	32.8	35.6	33.9	39.3	38.3	42.1
Event contributions	14.8	16.2	17.2	17.4	17.0	18.3	17.8	19.2
Prize money	4.3	4.9	4.7	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.5
Other event costs	2.4	2.4	5.3	5.8	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.5
	21.6	23.5	27.2	28.1	29.1	30.7	30.5	32.2
Sports development	5.6	4.8	6.1	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.6	8.0
Sports governance	3.7	3.2	4.7	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.4
Communication & marketing	0.9	0.9	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2
Other direct expenses	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
	10.9	9.7	13.2	12.9	13.4	14.1	14.7	15.4
Secretariat & office expenses	5.1	5.4	6.9	8.3	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.2
Total costs	37.5	38.5	47.3	49.3	51.1	53.6	54.2	56.9
Operating result	-0.7	-2.7	-14.5	-13.7	-17.2	-14.3	-15.9	-14.7
Net investment & financial	-18.2	-8.4	4.4	7.4	10.4	11.5	13.6	15.7
Net result before allocation	-18.9	-11.1	-10.1	-6.3	-6.8	-2.8	-2.2	1.0

Congress approval :

- ⊛ 2024 updated budget
- ⊛ 2025 budget
- ⊛ 2026 budget

Subject to adjustment for branch meeting decisions

Returning back to summary slide, I shall handover to the President, who will take any questions before we move to a vote on the budgets. Thank you for your attention.

Hans Spohn, Austria Speed, was of the view that the investment strategy is risky. He also asked how the budget could be approved before Proposal 4 had been approved.

Jeremy Conrad Pickles, Chief of Finance and Administration, said that for any investment, return is related to risk, but the Wealth Management Group were experts and there had been a rigorous process to select Cambridge Associates. The Council was comfortable with the strategy. If there is no change, the ISU's assets are not working for the ISU.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, proposed to go ahead with the vote on the budget. If Proposal 4 were not accepted, this would be dealt with on the Friday of the Congress.

Debra Armstrong, Canada Figure, asked if the investments will only be in US dollars.

Jeremy Conrad Pickles, Chief of Finance and Administration, said that currently three-quarters of the ISU's investments are in US dollars, and the remainder in Swiss Francs. For the future, they will all be in US dollars, but the financial advisors may invest in other currencies in order to hedge risks.

Miki Hirai, Japan, noted the budget for LED boards, and asked what the projected income increases are from the LED boards and whether these were a priority, given a lack of sponsors. Japan felt the ISU should invest more in AI to assist judging.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, said the ISU was bound by current contracts and is working to deliver content for current sponsors. There was potential, however, to use the LED boards in current contracts. For the future, advertising can be segmented by athlete and nationality, to be flexible and dynamic. There was a budget for developing AI tools and he agreed this was essential. Initial discussions had shown that the solutions are very expensive and no ISU Member could implement them on their own. The ISU was exploring options that could be used by ISU Members as well as the ISU and it was necessary to invest to start the process.

The presented 2024 updated budget, 2025 budget, and 2026 budget were overwhelmingly **approved** by a show of hands, with one vote against and two abstentions.

The afternoon session of the first day of Congress adjourned at 5.00 p.m.

THIRD SESSION
Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 9.00 a.m.
President Mr. Jae Youl Kim in the Chair

15. Biennial report by the Coordinator of the Development Commission.

The Development Commission Coordinator, Jildou Gemser, made the following report:

'In this presentation we aim to show an overview of what has happened in the field of Development since the Congress two years ago in Phuket.

My name is Jildou Gemser, coordinator of the Development Commission. The core people behind the execution of the development Program of the ISU are my colleagues of the ISU Development Commission, the ISU Development Program staff at the ISU Office in Lausanne, and the ISU eLearning Operations team who are working remotely.

Our target audiences are Skaters, Coaches, Officials and administrators at the club, regional, national and international level. Naturally, developing Skaters is our major focus. We have many great programs that respond to the needs of those learning to skate to advanced Skaters, trying to reach the upper levels and all in between. In addition, we include those who support them in their journey.

25% of Skaters competing in ISU Events in the last 2023/24 season have received some form of support from ISU Development. Looking at the Development Program support for Skaters, we see a nice number of Skaters who have reached top 10 results in events; 46,2% of Junior Skaters with Scholarships competed in ISU Championships. A total of 37 Skaters who were supported by our program participated in the Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, whereas 55 supported Skaters participated this year in the Youth Olympic Winter Games in Gangwon!

Let's take a trip around the world! As you can see, the total reach of the ISU Development Projects is that we are directly serving 61 ISU Members in all continents. We strive to distribute resources equitably, ensuring that every ISU Member has the opportunity to participate and contribute to the sport's growth.

Our Visiting ISU Coach program offers a highly educated and experienced Coach providing their expertise and time through mentoring, support and assistance to those ISU Members who need it. Following Colombia's request for a Visiting ISU Coach for Speed Skating, Calgary CoE provided a Spanish-speaking Coach with expertise in the transition from inline to ice. Several participants of this camp will now proceed on ice in one of the ISU Centers of Excellence.

Experience shows that with a well-founded vision and solid program it is possible to transition from inline skating to ice. Within just three years, Portuguese Skaters were not only participating in International Competitions but also achieving success at the junior level with participation in Junior World Cups, the Youth Olympic Winter Games this year and Junior World Championships - an incredible transformation that underscores the potential within our sport.

Centers of Excellence play a vital role in providing expertise to Skaters and Coaches with access to top-tier training facilities, coaching staff, and support services, raising the standard of skating worldwide. They serve as physical hubs for international collaboration, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among ISU Members, for example by hosting projects targeted at specific needs. In the Center of Excellence Ice Lab in Bergamo, former Skater Carolina Kostner inspired in the role of Coach during an ISU Development Seminar for Skaters. The ISU Center of Excellence in Oberstdorf hosted Ice Dance Tryouts that provide an opportunity to assess the compatibility between Skaters helping to match Skaters with potential partners who complement each other. Last year, several Junior Pairs found each other through these tryouts and have been competing very well this season. The ISU Center of Excellence in Bangkok is hosting Figure Skating projects and seminars for all disciplines within the Figure Skating Branch: from Singles to Pairs to Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating in collaboration with well-known coaches and ISU Technical Committees.

Our Junior Scholarship program aims to provide the necessary resources to give adequate opportunities for Skaters to develop and reach world class level and we know that they appreciate this support.

ISU Members can apply for projects like regional skating camps. We would like to share an example of a project called: ISU Regional Development Figure Skating Camp – Africa and the Middle East that Ice Skate Egypt has organized for the region in collaboration with the ISU Center of Excellence Ice Lab in Bergamo. 34 Skaters were participating in this inspiring camp and gave very positive testimonials about their participation.

It's important for Skaters to have opportunities to compete and the Development Program supports development competitions, for example, the South East Asian Short Track Speed Skating in the Philippines, the region where we are stimulating the start of a SEA-Series for Short Track. This was discussed with the region during the last ISU Congress in Phuket and now is becoming a reality.

eLearning is a cornerstone of our educational efforts. Through eRink, we're able to democratize access to education, ensuring that resources are available to everyone, regardless of their location or background. You might have seen the banners where you can find the information about our ISU eLearning Platform called eRink. The place where you go to digitally learn about skating, with more than 100 courses for all roles and levels. Through eRink, we are covering more ISU Members and potential ISU Members than we reach with other projects. This worldwide reach means that we are having an impact that goes beyond our user numbers. For example, Coaches who went through an educational module, use the gained knowledge within their training and in this way have an impact on the Skaters and colleagues they work with. The newest course we recently launched on eRink is Music in Sports, developed to assist Skaters and Coaches to make sure the licenses they need for the use of the music for their routines are covered.

In Latin America, Peru organized a project for a Judges Training Program in collaboration with Members from North America, using ISU eRink. During this project 19 officials from 5 countries were trained, amongst them new judges who transitioned from roller skating in Chile. In the 2023 Latin American Interclub Regional Championships, there was a full panel of Latin Officials! We also now have the first international Judge in South America who is certified by the ISU!

As you have seen, ISU Development has global impact, and there is more to come! This concludes the report of the Development Commission. Participation is open to all ISU Members. Don't hesitate to ask questions or seek guidance. Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for Skating worldwide.'

16. Report of the decisions of the Disciplinary Commission during the period since the last Congress.

Ms. Susan Petricevic, Chair of the Disciplinary Commission made the following report:

'Dear Mr. President, dear Council Members, dear Delegates, dear Skating Family,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Report of the ISU Disciplinary Commission.

First I would like to tell you a bit about the Disciplinary Commission, or DC. The Disciplinary Commission is an Independent Body within the ISU. The Members are elected by Congress, and we report directly to Congress and are independent of the other ISU Bodies. That is why you are hearing from me directly now.

The DC is a first-instance authority to hear and decide cases involving allegations of disciplinary, doping or ethical offences. Cases are decided by a panel of 2 Members of the DC and the Chair, independently and on the merits of the case. Appeals can be made to the CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport). DC decisions are published on the ISU website and are final.

The DC is comprised of five Members. Two are elected from Figure Skating, two from Speed Skating, and the Chair can be from either. I am from Figure Skating. We are governed by the DC Rules of Procedure and sign Statements of Independence from each Panel Member to parties in a case as it commences.

Under the ISU Constitution, we are required to be trained in law, from different countries and experienced in ice skating. This is extremely important, for reasons I will touch upon in this Report. As Lawyers, we are also all bound by our professional obligations.

DC Members qualifications

Figure

Dr. Allan Bohm, Lawyer, Slovakia, ISU Judge and Referee Single, Pairs and Ice Dance, Figure Skater

Mr. Eugen Larasser, Lawyer, Germany, ISU Data Operator, Technical Specialist

Ms. Sue Petricevic, Lawyer, New Zealand, ISU Judge Singles and Pairs.

Speed

Mr. Jean-Francoise Monette, Notary Public, Canada, Olympian and World Teams, Short Track

Dr. Keith King, Lawyer, USA, National Short Track Champion

Cases overview

The Disciplinary Commission has received 9 cases since the last Congress. Six of these cases were admissible, and Decisions rendered, and three of the cases were dismissed as inadmissible.

Three cases came from Figure Skating, five from Speed Skating and one from Congress 2022 itself. Six of the cases concerned Violations of Rules and/or breaches of the Code of Ethics. One concerned a Figure Skating Judge, and National Bias. One case was dismissed completely, as the Complaint was found to be entirely without merit.

Two cases involved allegations of doping, but both are pending at the time of this Report.

During this period we also updated the Disciplinary Commission Rules of Procedure, which set out how we deal with Complaints made to us. This includes issuing a Statement of Independence from each proposed Disciplinary Commission Panel Member, which is sent to the Parties for review before a case commences.

But I am sure you are much more interested in what we have been doing since last Congress, so I will turn to the cases we have dealt with.

Cases Received

Case	Name	Country	Branch	Violation	Decision	Appeal to CAS
2022-02	ISU v Choi	Korea	Speed	Code of Ethics	One year exclusion- all ISU activities.	No
2022-03	ISU v Gochov	Turkmenistan	Federation	Code of Ethics	One year exclusion, all ISU activities, Congress 2024	No
2023	Chinese Short Track fans	China	Speed	-	Inadmissible- anonymous, jurisdiction	NA
2023	Parent of national skater	China	Figure	-	Inadmissible- investigation, jurisdiction	NA
2023	KSU	Korea	Speed	-	Inadmissible, investigation.	NA
2023-01	Filipic and OESV v Lambert	Austria	Speed	No disciplinary or ethical violations. Zero false starts rule testing/implementation	Complaint dismissed, no merit. Final Decision.	No
2023-02	Pending		Figure	Doping	Pending	-
2023-03	ISU v Williams	USA	Figure	Rules Violation, National Bias, Code of Ethics.	Warning – judging	No
2024-01	Pending		Speed	Doping	Pending	-

Inadmissible Complaints

I mentioned that three cases were inadmissible.

The first was from an anonymous group of Short Track fans watching an event, the second from the parent of a Skater regarding interactions at their local rink, and the third was a request for investigation of behavior at a different event. Since these complaints were either filed by anonymous persons, requested investigations or were outside the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Commission (national matters), we could not deal with them. They were therefore dismissed as inadmissible. Where appropriate, they were referred to other ISU bodies.

Admissible Complaints

We received 6 admissible complaints this period, as follows.

Breaches of the Code of Ethics

In four cases we ruled on a breach of the Code of Ethics, some also associated with violations of Rules.

Case 2022-02, ISU v CHOI

This case involved an active ISU Referee who participated as Assistant Short Track Team Leader for Korea at the Winter Olympic Games and Junior World Championships.

At the Olympics Press Conference, he and his delegation protested the decisions and calls of the Referee impacting his Team in the 1000 m semi-final event. He posted criticism of the Referee and decisions on his Facebook page.

The Referee was found to have breached the ISU Code of Ethics. He disqualified himself from being impartial, and had not acted to maintain the respect of his peers as a Referee, acting in a manner which could damage the reputation of the ISU or ISU sports. He was excluded from all ISU activities for one (1) year.

Case 2022-03 ISU v Gochov

The next case concerned events that occurred at Congress 2022, in Phuket. You will remember that in 2022 we were in the middle of a COVID-19 pandemic. Strict rules were in place regarding testing, travel and quarantine. Testing centres and quarantine facilities were on site during Congress and strict safety procedures set by the ISU. Mr Gochov was part of the Turkmenistan delegation at the 58th ISU Congress in Phuket.

While there, he tested positive for COVID-19 and was shifted to the isolation area of the hotel and informed again of the quarantine requirements. However, staff noticed that he stopped ordering meals and could not be contacted. This was because, CCTV revealed, he had left the hotel by taxi, travelled to the airport and flown out. No explanation was given.

Since he was a delegate at Congress, he was attending an ISU event or activity, and was subject to the ISU Code of Ethics. The Disciplinary Commission found him to be in breach of the Code of Ethics due to his behaviour, disregard for the ISU rules and placing others in danger. He was excluded from all ISU activities for one year, and banned from attending this current Congress.

The next case we dealt with concerned allegations against the Chair of the ISU Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee.

Case 2023-01, Filipic and OESV (Austrian Speed Skating Association) v Lambert

The Complainants Mr. Filipic and Austrian Speed filed against Ms. Lambert, in person. At the time, Mr. Filipic was an ISU Competitors Steward and General Secretary of the Austrian Speed Skating Association ÖESV.

This complaint related to the testing procedures and implementation of the “Zero-False-Starts”-Rule. The Complainants had opposed the introduction of this Rule at Congress 2022, where it was adopted by an overwhelming majority of delegates. Following its testing and implementation, the Complainants made allegations of rule violations and breaches of the Code of Ethics by Ms. Lambert.

The ISU President and Director General had signed off a Communication confirming that, after successful testing, the new Rule would be applied for all remaining ISU Events.

Mr. Filipic responded with his view on potential effects and consequences of the guidelines from the Alleged Offender, Ms. Lambert, in her function as Chair of the TC. He sent letters to the ISU President, ISU Vice President Speed Skating, an ISU Representative, STSS TC Members, and the Sports Director Speed Skating. This included 18 “open questions” to the Alleged Offender, but he declined an offer for a direct video call discussion.

The Complainants then wrote to the ISU Council requesting detailed information about the process, testing and communications. They asked Council to “to immediately annul” Communication No. 2532 and their implementation decision. They alleged Ms Lambert had influenced, manipulated and falsified information regarding the testing and outcomes, acted with gross negligence of ISU Rules, endangering speed skating as an Olympic discipline, lacked compliance with general sporting rules, safety and fairness, went beyond her competence/ jurisdiction, caused inevitable damage to the ISU's reputation and interfered with duties of other Officials as a Representative of the Technical Committee. They alleged she had violated the ISU Statutes, Constitution, ISU Communication 2510 and the ISU Code of Ethics, and asked for her suspension and disciplinary sanctions against her.

In response, Ms Lambert produced communications and evidence detailing the implementation and integrity of the testing of the “Zero-False-Starts”-procedure. These showed prior extensive discussions and decisions of her Committee, of Ad Hoc Working Groups, and of teams with the ISU Office Holders that she considered were misunderstood by the Complainants.

The Disciplinary Commission carefully reviewed each of the complaints made by Mr. Filipic and the OESV, and the hundreds of pages of submission filed by both Parties, including over 50 exhibits. To give you an idea, this was at least 60 hours of legal time.

It was obvious to the Disciplinary Commission that Ms. Lambert had been singled out as an individual in the allegations, when a large consultation group (including the Complainants) had participated in establishing the procedure and principles.

The Disciplinary Commission rendered its Decision, which you can read in full on the ISU website. We found no violations of the ISU Rules or Statutes, nor breaches of the Code of Ethics by Ms. Lambert in the testing and implementation process. The Complaint was dismissed in its entirety, with costs to be paid by the Complainants.

Exceptionally, the Disciplinary Commission, noted that the Complaint itself was of concern. It was full of unfounded speculation and allegations, and in some parts, incorrect facts. The detailed response and evidence demonstrated the correctness of the testing and implementation process of the new rule.

The Complaint appeared to be an attempt to use the Disciplinary Commission to circumvent regular procedure, and Congress, and undermine the Zero-False-Starts-Procedure which, together with the programmed testing procedure, was decided by ISU Congress with a clear majority of votes.

A right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (the CAS) was available to the Complainants. No appeal was made. The Disciplinary Commission's Decision is final, and this matter is at an end.

Doping Cases

We have received two doping cases this period - both pending for different reasons. Because these cases are pending, I will not name them in this Report.

Case 2023-02 - Pending

In this case, a prohibited substance has been found in a Skater's blood. The Skater has provided an explanation for this and investigations are ongoing in another jurisdiction.

Case 2024-01- Pending

Case 2024-01 involves an allegation of blood doping, due to variations in levels in a Skater's biological passport. This case is also pending due to new information at the time of preparing this Report.

Figure Skating Judging and National Bias

Now I turn to another of the most complicated types of cases we receive. These are cases about the evaluations of Figure Skating Judges. It is the question of how far the marks of one Judge can deviate from the marks of the other Judges and if there is a deliberate preference for the Skaters of their own country, known as "National Bias".

According to the "field of play doctrine", the decisions of Referees and Judges may not be changed or overturned by a panel. To overturn a field of play decision, there must be evidence, which generally must be direct evidence or of bad faith. In other words, there must be some evidence of preference for, or prejudice against, a particular Skater. It is not sufficient if a Judge only deviates in their marks from the marks of the other Judges, it is rather necessary that they deliberately mark the Skater from their country too high and/or their competitors too low.

Case 2023-03 ISU v Williams

This case was about the marking of an experienced ISU Judge, from the USA, at the World Figure Skating Championships 2023, Women's event. In marking the Free Programs he showed a clear tendency to set a difference in points between the three USA competitors and their direct competitors. This was identified by the OAC (Officials Assessment Commission) and the ISU Singles and Pairs Technical Committee, and a complaint made to the DC.

In most other such cases, the Judge has first been issued with a warning by the ISU Technical Committee, so put on Notice. That had not happened in this case.

We found part of this case proven, in that he had overmarked the USA skaters in relation to their direct competitors. By his marking, the Alleged Offender disregarded his duty not to show bias for or against any competitor and to be always completely impartial and neutral. Since he had not received a warning before, we resolved this case by issuing a warning to Mr. Williams about his judging.

Cases in which a Judge is accused of National Bias require careful consideration. The Disciplinary Commission cannot overrule a Judge's opinion without proof of deliberate favoritism on the part of the Judge. For this we rely on the reports of the Referee and the OAC. Above all, we ask the OAC to make a clear statement in its report of whether or not the Judge's assessment is to be regarded as a National Bias.

To then evaluate whether the marking is deliberate favoritism of one's own Skater requires a great deal of experience in Figure Skating. Therefore, it is obligatory that the members of the Disciplinary Commission must have experience in Figure Skating, preferably as a Judge or as a member of the Technical Panel. This is a necessary skill to evaluate the evidence from the OAC, Judge and Referee thoroughly and fairly. We do not just rubber stamp any Complaint, are independent and act to maintain the integrity of our sport.

Publication and Finality

I will show you where to find the DC Decisions on the ISU website.

According to Communication 2551, and Article 14, cases are terminated including when a Panel issues its final decision on merits. This gives finality to the case.

Acknowledgments

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues in the Disciplinary Commission for all the hours put in over this period: Allan Böhm and Eugen Larasser from Figure Skating and Jean-Francois Monette and Keith King from Speed Skating.

Thank you for your attention.'

17. Report by the Legal Advisor

The report of the Legal Advisor was published on the ISU Extranet prior to the Congress. Michael Geistlinger made the following additional remarks.

'Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me shortly to highlight three elements of my written report that you have already received electronically.

Ice Derby

On December 21, 2023, the European Court of Justice gave an end to the so-called Ice Derby case. The ISU was unlucky that its case was dealt with by the court together with the European Superligue case in Football. This might be the decisive reason why the court did not follow the opinion of the Advocate General Rantos and decided against the ISU. Apart from the fact of having been defeated, which for a federation of sports people is certainly not a nice experience, the ISU did what had to be done under EU law already in 2018. Thus, the version of rule 102 paragraphs 1 – 3 and 7, rule 103 as well as the Communication on Open International Competitions 2171, all as adopted in 2018, anticipated a decision in favor of the European Commission. At that time we had to agree to the requirements brought forward by the European Commission in order to avoid the imposition of sanctions.

Thus, the system in place, is the following: the ISU has jurisdiction throughout the world over all forms of international Figure and Speed Skating on ice and on synthetic polymeric ice surfaces whether performed using ice skating blades or substitutes simulating such blades. The ISU defends this its jurisdiction by means of the eligibility rules. A person is eligible if she/he/they take part only in International Competitions that are sanctioned by the ISU, conducted by ISU recognized and approved Officials and conducted under ISU Regulations. The Regulations allow for novelties, but they must have been approved by the Council. This is the ISU's pre-authorization system. Communication 2171 rules on all details an ISU Member or third-party organizer must follow in order to achieve such authorization. A person who participates in an International Competition not having been authorized by the ISU Council, may be declared by the Council ineligible after a procedure respecting fair trial and legitimate objectives. As a consequence of such procedure sanctions for Skaters ranging from a warning to Ineligibility for a period of up to two years may be imposed. For Officials the sanctions may reach to Ineligibility for a period up to fifteen years in the worst case.

Therefore, if an ISU Member wants to organize an International Competition together with a third-party organizer or you become aware that a third-party organizer wants to organize an International Competition in ISU sports, please do not forget to submit, or have submitted, an application respecting the requirements of Communication 2171 to the ISU Office not later than six months before the planned start of such International Competition.

Olympic Figure Skating Team Event Beijing 2022

On June 12, 2024, the hearing in the consolidated three Russian cases against the ISU before CAS will take place at 0.30 – approximately 10 a.m. Las Vegas time. The ISU is optimistic that its deduction of the competitive results of Ms. Valieva from the final team's result and the logical consequence of a re-ranking of the results of the Olympic Figure Skating Team Event in Beijing 2022, which fell in this sanction period, was done properly. CAS had imposed a period of Ineligibility on Ms. Valieva, but left the implementation of its award to the ISU. The ISU Council found that the points achieved by Ms. Valieva for her team are "competitive results of Ms. Valieva" earned by her team and must, therefore, be deducted from the final result of the ROC team. This led to a re-ranking: 1. USA, 2. Japan, 3. ROC. The Russian appellants hold as main argument that the points in question are not results to be disqualified, because fall under consequences for a team and are not to be considered "competitive results of Ms. Valieva". They request CAS to rule that team ROC shall stay with gold, team USA with silver, and team Japan with bronze.

In the separate Canadian procedure the Canadian appellants (Skaters of the Canadian Olympic Figure Skating Team, the Canadian Olympic Committee and Skate Canada) request CAS to rule that USA shall get the gold medal, Japan silver and Canada bronze. The Canadian appellants basically argue that the ISU Council should have recalculated all points as if Ms. Valieva had not participated at all at the Olympic Team Event. The ISU opposes that this system is not part of the applicable rules and would lead to sanctioning the ROC team, which did not happen by the CAS award. In this procedure the hearing is envisaged, but not yet determined, for July 22, 2024. Irrespective of that late date, also here the expectation is that a decision on the operative part of the award by CAS shall be taken before the start of the Paris Olympic Games.

Please, allow me to use this occasion to remind you that the ISU is responsible towards WADA for its sports on the international and the national level. Thus, the ISU must review all Anti-Doping decisions concerning its sports, be it from its Members themselves or a national Anti-Doping agency that had been delegated by them for Anti-Doping under national law. The ISU is committed to equal treatment of all Skaters. It acts in the interests of those that competed honestly and makes sure that those that use doping are dealt with equally irrespective of their nationality.

Pechstein

In view of the hearing before the second instance court in Munich, scheduled for October 24, 2024, it can be stated that the ISU and Ms. Pechstein are slowly approaching a moment when a German court will decide on the subject matter of this case: were the ISU and CAS right, based on the evidence available at that time, in finding that Ms. Pechstein was doped. Ms. Pechstein could have involved CAS when she held that she had new evidence. Instead of doing so, she started proceedings under German law before German courts. For the ISU this has fundamentally changed the significance of the case. The ISU cannot accept that a court of another country shall rule on whether the ISU, confirmed by CAS and the Swiss Federal Tribunal, did right or wrong. The ISU is based in Switzerland and in the interests of equal treatment of all its Skaters throughout the world has chosen CAS and Swiss law to apply. Unless Ms. Pechstein will stop the case herself, the ISU will, therefore, make sure that at the end of the day, the case will end in Switzerland.'

Hans Spohn, Austria Speed, raised the matter of two accidents that had occurred during Short Track competitions and asked whether the ISU could be held liable in such cases. He was concerned about the integrity of the ISU and asked what steps had been taken to reduce the risks in Short Track.

Michael Geistlinger, Legal Advisor, said that any International Federation or other organization could be sued but the ISU attempts to minimize the risks of liability, for example, by imposing stringent criteria for padding, helmets, and other safety equipment. As in all sports, field of play decisions are open to protest, but are ultimately final and this is in the nature of sport. The ISU of course has liability insurance.

Jae Youl Kim, ISU President, stressed that the safety of Skaters is the ISU's highest priority.

18. Questions and objections and Appeals, if any against decisions of the Council, the Director General, the Sports Directors and Technical Committees during the period since the last Congress, not otherwise acted upon by the Disciplinary Commission including approval of ISU Communications requiring continued validity in line with Article 28, paragraph 3.

Jae Youl Kim indicated that an updated list of Communications requiring continued validity had been distributed to the Delegates. This updated list included additional Communications that had not yet been included in the Congress Agenda, Communication 2629. The relevant Communications are listed below. Communications informing about Decisions of the ISU Disciplinary Commission and/or the Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS), are not listed but remain valid. The Communications "Decisions of the Council" including routine decisions such as allotments of ISU Events, ISU Membership issues, Appointments, World Record homologations and other information/statistics are not listed but remain valid. If any decision taken at the 2022 Congress would result in any of the below mentioned Communications to become obsolete or incomplete, such Communication would have to be updated as soon as possible after the 2022 Congress.

Communications requiring continued validity:

No. 1628	Declaration for Competitors and Officials entering ISU Events
No. 1776	Guidelines for Short Track Speed Skating Regional Courses and Seminars for Officials
No. 1898	Evaluation of Officials Performance in Short Track Speed Skating
No. 2026	ISU Samples Long-Term Storage and Reanalyze Policy
No. 2096	Officials' remuneration for ISU Events
No. 2171	Open International Competitions
No. 2261	ISU World Standings for Synchronized Skating. ISU Season's World Ranking
No. 2267	On Ice Medical Emergencies Protocol
No. 2310	ISU Development Program
No. 2344	ISU Anti-Doping Rules compiled in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Code 2021
No. 2357	Figure Skating Judge Reappointment Online Learning Exercises
No. 2366	ISU Anti-Doping Procedures to the ISU Anti-Doping Rules compiled in accordance with The World Anti-Doping Code 2021
No. 2404	Personalized Helmets in Short Track Speed Skating
No. 2419	ISU Members list
No. 2427	ISU Athletes Commission Elections
No. 2441	ISU Centers of Excellence (CoE) Guidelines
No. 2469	ISU Council Decision – War in Ukraine-Protective Measures
No. 2478	ISU Code of Ethics
No. 2479	ISU Athlete Safeguarding Policy
No. 2508	Uniform/Racing Suits/Clothing
No. 2516	Prize Money for ISU Championships
No. 2526	Rule 109, Citizenship/Residence Requirements and Clearance Procedure

No. 2549	Communication to Users, Manufacturers, Distributors and Resellers of Helmets for Speed Skating & Short Track
No. 2550	ISU World Standings Single Pair Skating and Ice Dance
No. 2551	ISU Disciplinary Commission – Rules of Procedure
No. 2568	Status of Skaters subject to a period of ineligibility following an Anti-Doping Rule violation
No. 2571	List of Officials Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating (valid until issuing of new Communication in August 2024)
No. 2576	Figure Skating - Use of papers/documents by Figure Skating Judges during competitions
No. 2583	Rules of Procedure for Officials Assessment Commission – Evaluation of Judging – Assessments for the Figure Skating Branch
No. 2584	Mass Start and Team races at ISU Speed Skating Events: Safety Measures, promotion initiatives and organization of races
No. 2588	List of Officials for Single & Pair Skating, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating (valid until issuing of new Communication in August 2024)
No. 2589	ISU Code of Ethics – Requirements for acting ISU Officials - Invitation of ISU Office Holders and ISU Officials to attend Skating Competitions as Guests
No. 2595	ISU Transgender Policy
No. 2614	Challenger Series in Figure Skating Season 2024/25
No. 2615	Challenger Series in Synchronized Skating Season 2024/25
No. 2616	Obligations of Members and Forms
No. 2618	Figure Skating Frankfurt Seminar 2024 and Forms
No. 2620	SP Judges & Referees Seminars 2024 and Seminar Participation Form
No. 2621	ID Judges & Referees Seminars 2024 and Seminar Participation Forms
No. 2622	SYS Online Seminars 2024 and Application Form
No. 2623	SP Levels and GOE Season 2024/25
No. 2624	SP Novice Competitions 2024/25
No. 2625	ID Novice Communication Final 2024/25
No. 2626	Short Track Speed Skating Padding, Measures to increase Safety for Skaters
No. 2627	Short Track Referees' Seminar 2024
No. 2628	Online Video Seminars for Short Track Starters & Competitors Stewards 2024
No. 2630	Ice Dance requirements for Technical Rules 2024/25
No. 2631	SYS Guidelines for International Novice Competitions 2024/25
No. 2632	SYS requirements for 2024/25 for officials
No. 2633	Announcement of release of new FS Score software and info sessions
No. 2635	Synchronized Skating Well Balanced Program for the season 2024/25
No. 2636	Protection Equipment in Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating 2024
No. 2638	International Competitions FS & SYS 2024-25
No. 2639	SYS Difficulty Groups of Elements 2024-2025

Jae Youl Kim said that no appeals had been received since the last Congress and asked if there were other objections or comments. No further objections or comments were made and the Congress **accepted** the listed Communications as having continued validity.

19. Approval of Motions concerning amendments to the Constitution and its Procedural Provisions and General Regulations specifically designated and summarized in the Agenda as “Drafting Matters” and approval of these “Drafting Matter” Motions and/or referral of certain of those Motions identified as such for debate and vote. The following Motions labeled as DRAFTING MATTERS have been identified: 46.

There were no objections to the identified Drafting Matter and the Congress accepted the Drafting Matter Motion as indicated.

20. Motions concerning amendments to the Constitution and its Procedural Provisions.

Proposal No. 1. made by the Council

Resolution to empower the ISU Council to undertake preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU and to submit it for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

Jae Youl Kim, ISU President, reiterated the reasons for the new Constitution Framework, namely clarity, simplicity, consistency, and the creation of agility for operational flexibility in a rapidly changing sports environment. He emphasized that the review would take into consideration the views of all ISU Members. ISU Members could nominate experienced persons for inclusion in the ISU Member Consultation Group, and all ISU Members would have opportunities during the coming year to comment on and contribute to the process.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, fully agreed with the objectives and proposed that the ISU Member Consultation Group be appointed by the Congress, not the Council on the Friday of the Congress. He was glad to hear that the Extraordinary Congress would be hybrid as it was important for ISU Members to be present if possible.

The resolution was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 1 abstention.

Proposal No. 2 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 3, paragraph 4 and 5 (new) to introduce new integrity-related requirements.

Council Recommendation: The Council did not support the proposed amendments. Article 3, paragraphs 1 and 2 define the objectives and activities of the ISU in line with the Swiss requirements for associations based in Switzerland. Article 3, paragraph 3 intends to safeguard the ISU against political interference. The proposal wanted to add elements that are self-evident and are covered by Article 7, paragraph 7 and the ISU Code of Ethics, and deals with details that are too specific for inclusion in a Constitution. Besides, the reasoning indicated that the proposal intends to overrule the decision of the ISU Disciplinary Commission in the case 2590/2023.

Hermann Filipic, Austria Speed, said that the integrity and credibility of ISU sports are so important that references to integrity should be included in the Constitution. He noted that threats to sport, such as manipulation of competitions and betting, are growing and the ISU should have zero tolerance of these. He requested a vote on the proposal.

The resolution was **rejected**, with 19 votes in favor and 52 votes against.

Proposal No. 3 made by **CANADA, Speed**

Article 4, paragraph 1 to introduce regular review of the ISU Regulations and governance structures.

Council Recommendation: The Council in principle agreed with the proposal, but preferred instead to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Blair Carbert from Canada Speed, who was pleased that the Proposal 1 Resolution had been approved.

Urgent Proposal No. 1 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 5, paragraph 1 to amend the financial year to July 1 to June 30 from July 1, 2025.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands.

Proposal No. 4 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 5, paragraph 3 to add a reference to revenues and the investment and management of the ISU's financial assets.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 1 vote against.

Proposal No. 5 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 7 paragraph 7) amend and add new sub-paragraphs i) and j) to add ISU Officials and require impartiality and documentation of reasons for decisions.

Council Recommendation: The Council did not support the proposal to include ISU Officials in Article 7 of the ISU Constitution and to specify their reporting obligations, as laid down by subparagraph j) of the proposal, because the obligations of the ISU Officials, considering their specific role and tasks, are extensively dealt with in the Special Regulations for the ISU disciplines. Conflict of interest matters are dealt with by Rule 121 of the ISU General Regulations and the ethical elements of subparagraphs i) and j) are covered by the ISU Code of Ethics.

The resolution was **rejected** by an obvious show of hands with 2 votes in favor.

Proposal No. 6 made by **LUXEMBOURG, Figure**

Constitution, Article 9, paragraph 1, b) and c) to delete specific date references.

Council Recommendation: The Council in principle agreed with the proposal but preferred instead to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, said that he would refer the changes indicated in the proposal to the Drafting Committee for the new Constitution, however, he requested a vote on the proposal.

The resolution was **rejected**, with 56 votes in favor, 26 votes against and 14 abstentions.

Proposal No. 7 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 9, paragraphs 1e) and 2a) to clarify that an Extraordinary Congress shall usually be held virtually and enable an Ordinary or Extraordinary Congress to be held in hybrid (in person and online) format, with remote voting permitted for those attending online.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, felt that all Ordinary Congresses should be in person, and an Extraordinary Congress could be virtual.

Jae Youl Kim, ISU President, noted that there was generally higher in-person participation at election Congresses, and a hybrid option could allow higher participation levels at non-election Congresses too.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 3 votes against.

Proposal No. 8 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 10, paragraph 1 to allow the Council to decide if a Congress shall be held in person or in a hybrid format.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 1 vote against.

Proposal No. 9 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 13, paragraph 1.a) to clarify term limits.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, said that Luxembourg Figure had made a proposal on the same Article and requested that this proposal be given priority and dealt with first.

Patricia St Peter, Council member Figure Skating, said that the Council proposal should be considered first. She referred to the decisions of 2010, 2012 and 2014 Congresses, and particularly the decision by the 2014 Dublin Congress to reject Proposal 17, which proposed that the two-year 2016-18 period would not count as an election term. Those who ran for office at the 2016 Congress therefore knew and accepted that their term would last two years instead of the usual four.

Susan Sandvig-Shobe, USA Speed, noted that this is a drafting matter as Article 13 was not clearly drafted after the 2014 Congress and it would be frustrating and incorrect if the 2014 vote for term limits was not respected. It had been clear to everyone in 2016 that the next term of office would be a short one.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, felt it had been an incorrect decision to change the election terms in 2012. However, it was more coherent to start the term limits from 2018 with only four-year terms. He referred to the Luxembourg Figure Proposal 10 which would simplify the Constitution, instead of adding more complications.

The proposal was **accepted** with 68 votes in favor, 20 votes against and 3 abstentions.

Proposal No. 10 made by **LUXEMBOURG, Figure**

Article 13, paragraph 1 a) to clarify that term limits shall be counted from 2018 onwards.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor and referred instead to its own Proposal 9.

Jimmy Stryhn Meyer, Luxembourg Figure, requested a vote on this Proposal.

The proposal was **rejected** by an obvious show of hands.

Proposal No. 11 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 13, paragraph 1.b) to reorder paragraphs within Article 13.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by the ISU Council.

Proposal No. 12 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 13, paragraphs 2-6 to require candidate for election to give a statement of their vision and objectives if elected.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by the ISU Council.

Proposal No. 13 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Article 13, paragraph 3, to amend the calculation of the maximum age prior to election to the age as of July 1 of the calendar year of election.

Council Recommendation: The Council, instead of continuing a policy of numerous isolated amendments to the present ISU Constitution, preferred to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025. In addition, the Council was not in favor of the proposal because for elections and all related aspects the beginning of an election term shall be decisive. This goes, in particular, for an age limit.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Canada Figure.

Proposal No. 14 made by **USA, Speed**

Article 13, paragraph 3 to amend the maximum age for election to office to seventy.

Council Recommendation: The Council saw the advantage of the proposal in harmonizing, in principle but not in full, the age limit for elections with the Olympic Charter. In view of the differences that remain, the Council preferred, however, to have the issue settled in the framework of a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by USA Speed.

Proposal No. 15 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 16, paragraph 1 to specify that the Chair of the Athletes Commission is a member of the Council.

Eric Radford, Athletes Commission Chair, shared his perspective as Chair of the Athletes Commission over the previous two years, noting that the current structure did not allow for maximum working efficiency. The Athlete Commission member of the Council gets a broad perspective on ISU matters, which makes the work of the Athletes Commission more efficient, and therefore it was imperative that the Athletes Commission Chair be a member of the Council.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 2 votes against.

Proposal No. 16 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 16, paragraph 2 f) to create an Officials Assessment Commission for Short Track Speed Skating.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor. The Council referred to the system of education and evaluation that is already in place for Short Track Speed Skating Officials. In addition, the Council did not agree that there is a lack of transparency of Officials' decisions; at ISU Events these decisions are explicitly explained and supported by video footage. In Short Track Speed Skating the decisions of ISU Officials are reached through a team effort. This is somewhat different from Figure Skating where the individual decisions of the Judges are aggregated to a result. The analogy to the OAC of Figure Skating was therefore not evident. Finally, no budget was presented for this proposal, as required by Article 30, paragraph 2.c) of the Constitution.

Hermann Filipic, Austria Speed, noted that there was a proposal to the 2018 Congress for an OAC for Short Track, following the 2018 Olympic Winter Games, and the Council was also not in favor that time saying that Figure Skating judging was more subjective than Short Track. It was not true that Short Track decisions are reached through a team effort as officials make their observations to the Referee, who makes the decision. He said that all modern Olympic sports have an assessment commission and all ISU disciplines should be treated the same. An OAC would not only review decisions and make sanctions, but make recommendations to Technical Committees for improvements. This would be important for the development of the sport. An independent, outside view of officiating was needed to ensure that spectators see clear and understandable judging and officiating.

Tron Espeli, Vice President Speed Skating, said he understood the intention of the proposal, and the reference to the 2018 Congress, however, a lot had changed since 2018, and there is now a thorough procedure, with opportunities to review decisions, plus improved education, and this path of improvement would continue.

Herman de Haan, the Netherlands, asked Austria Speed to withdraw the proposal.

The proposal was **rejected** with 25 votes in favor and the majority against.

Proposal No. 17 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 17, paragraph 1 to include in the Functions of the Council investing and managing the ISU's assets in accordance with agreed investment guidelines.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 18 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 17 paragraph 1. x) to require the Council to reply to ISU Member inquiries within three weeks.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor of the proposal, because it referred to a provision which is dealing with the functions and not with the obligations of the Council. In addition, the proposal was too specific for a constitutional rule and would not cover all reporting issues. The Council, instead of continuing a policy of numerous isolated amendments to the present ISU Constitution, preferred to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

The proposal was **rejected** by an obvious show of hands with 2 votes in favor.

Proposal No. 19 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Article 20, paragraph 1 to allow the Council to appoint a member of a Technical Committee who is not a Skater or Coach but who has experience that complements the work of the Technical Committee.

Council Recommendation: The Council acknowledged the concerns behind this proposal, understanding that it may be challenging to fill the two appointed positions with an athlete and a Coach in accordance with the current criteria for the composition of the Committee (including the requirement that members shall be from different countries). Referring to the Council's recommendation for a complete review of the Constitution, the composition and eligibility criteria for the Technical Committees and other ISU Bodies should be addressed in this process. In the meantime, and if necessary in order to reduce the risk of vacancies in appointed positions in the time period until the 2026 Congress, the Council could support a rule adjustment, as an amended version of the above proposal, allowing that one of the appointed positions could exceptionally be filled by a person with specific qualifications that are obviously relevant to the tasks of the Committee and that would complement the experience and expertise available to the Committee through the elected members and the appointed member (Coach or Athlete).

Tron Espeli, Vice President Speed Skating, said that this proposal related to the competence of the Technical Committees, composed of elected members and an appointed Skater and appointed Coach. Experience had shown that there were long-lasting vacancies for some Technical Committees as it was not easy to identify and confirm competent, available candidates, and this made the work of those Technical Committees very demanding and difficult. The Council proposed to amend the Rule in drafting to allow that one of the appointed positions could exceptionally be filled by a person with specific qualifications that are obviously relevant to the tasks of the Committee and that would complement the experience and expertise available to the Committee through the elected members and the appointed member (Coach or Athlete).

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 2 votes against and 1 abstention, on the understanding that the respective amendments would be made in drafting.

Proposal No. 20 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Article 20, paragraph 2 to regulate the appointment of the Skater or Coach to each Technical Committee.

Council Recommendation: The Council referred to its recommendation on Proposal 19. The Council could support an amended version of the proposal, maintaining as a priority that the two appointed members should be an Athlete and a Coach, in accordance with the current eligibility criteria, but allowing in the exceptional case of lasting vacancy in one of the appointed positions that this position could be filled by a person with relevant background and specific qualifications for the tasks of the TC concerned.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 1 abstention.

The morning session of the second day of Congress adjourned at 12.10 p.m.

FOURTH SESSION
Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 1.45 p.m.
President Mr. Jae Youl Kim in the Chair

Proposal No. 21 made by **UNITED STATES, Figure**

Article 20, paragraphs 1 and 2 to create an additional Technical Committee for Pair Skating.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor of this proposal. Adding a full new Technical Committee for the discipline of Pair Skating within the operations of the ISU would have a direct and significant financial impact on its expenses. There was no budget included with this proposal, as is required, to give an indication of the financial increase needed for this addition.

The discipline of Pair Skating is already represented and all matters related to preparation, monitoring, and maintenance of the Technical rules, assessment, seminars, education, examination, and appointment of Officials for the discipline of Pair Skating are already included in the functions of the Single and Pair Skating Technical Committee (S&PTC). The S&PTC includes 5 elected positions and 2 additional appointed positions, amounting to 7 members in charge of 2 disciplines. The need for specific expertise in Pair Skating, or any other area, can be taken into account by the Council when considering the two appointed positions. The number of members of the S&PTC is already bigger than any other Technical Committee. With this proposal the number would be increased to 12 members for 2 disciplines to cover the same amount of work. This goes against any principle of good governance and efficiency.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by USA Figure, on condition that the matter be considered during the review of the ISU Constitutional Framework.

Proposal No. 22 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 20 paragraph 2 b) to require candidates for election to the Speed Skating Branch Technical Committees to be on the ISU list of Officials for the respective discipline and have a minimum of one Olympic cycle of officiating experience.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor, since this proposal would severely restrict the availability of candidates for these Technical Committees, as the pool of candidates would be reduced to 50 individuals, not all of whom would be willing and available to stand for election. It is not necessarily the case that the eligibility criteria used for Figure Skating are the most appropriate for other disciplines. Moreover, the scope of the tasks of the Technical Committees concerned makes it valuable and highly preferable also to include members with different backgrounds, and not just seasoned ISU Officials.

Hermann Filipic, Austria Speed, said that the best educated and trained Officials should be on the Technical Committees. Austria Speed had made Urgent Proposal 13 to extend the numbers of Officials for Short Track and Speed Skating in order to overcome the issues raised by the Council about an insufficient number of Officials. However, this Proposal 13 had not been accepted onto the Congress Agenda. If it had been accepted, every ISU Member could have had Officials on the list.

Tron Espeli, Vice President Speed Skating, said that all ISU Members could educate and propose Officials. Officials on Technical Committees have to withdraw from officiating to prevent conflicts of interest and in addition, Technical Committees benefit from other experience than officiating. The Council understands the reasons for the proposal but cannot recommend to accept it.

Hermann Filipic, Austria Speed, noted that in Figure Skating there were no limits to the number of Officials but that that the restricted number of ISU Officials on the lists for Speed Skating and Short Track mean that some big countries have three or four Officials on the list, while many other countries have none. For the future Austria Speed wanted this to be open to all ISU Members, so that anyone who fulfills the requirements can be on the list.

Susan Sandvig-Shobe, USA Speed, remarked that Technical Committees need vision and experience from other perspectives than just Officials and all ISU Members can make nominations for Technical Committees.

The proposal was **rejected** by an obvious show of hands with 5 votes in favor and 8 abstentions.

Proposal No. 23 made by **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Article 20, paragraph 2, to require candidates for election to the Speed Skating Branch Technical Committees to be on the ISU list of Officials for the respective discipline.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor for the reasons given in the recommendation on Proposal 22 above from Austria on the same Article.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Republic of Korea, respecting the outcome of the vote on Proposal 22.

Proposal No. 24 made by **USA, Speed**

Article 20, paragraph 2 to add an appointed Official to each Technical Committee and align age requirements between Technical Committees.

Council Recommendation: The Council preferred to have the issue of a uniform age limit settled in the framework of a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025. In addition, the Council referred to its comments to Proposal 14 above (USA Speed Article 13 paragraph 3). It seemed strange to apply age limits in the same way for Officials and elected Office Holders. The Officials have a term of one season, which may be prolonged year-by-year without other limitations than the upper age limit. Elected Office Holders have a term of one election period (normally 4 years). Moreover, to align Speed Technical Committees with Figure Technical Committees is not straightforward, since Figure Skating has eligibility requirements for the Technical Committees linking the Technical Committee members to the function of ISU Official.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by USA Speed.

Proposal No. 25 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Article 20, paragraph 2. c) to define a season as July 1-June 30.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor of the proposal for reasons of consistency with Rule 109, paragraph 4 of the ISU General Regulations.

Karen Butcher, Canada Figure, said that the season dates should be amended for clarity and consistency and to align with the ISU financial year, as accepted under Urgent Proposal 1.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with one abstention.

Proposal No. 26 made by **NORWAY**

Article 20, paragraph 2.d) to impose a three-term limit for Coaches appointed to Technical Committees.

Mona Adolfsen, Norway, said that for consistency, there should be the same term limits for Skater and Coach members of Technical Committees as for elected members.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor of the proposal for the reasons given.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 27 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Article 20, paragraph 3, Functions of the Technical Committees to require the Figure Skating Branch Technical Committees to publish updated Technical Requirements before April 15 for each upcoming season.

Council Recommendation: The Council, instead of continuing a policy of numerous isolated amendments to the present ISU Constitution, preferred to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025. The concerns and needs of Skaters and Coaches shall be taken into account in this review, considering the difficulties of establishing a specific date such as April 15 every year given that every two years an ISU Congress takes place in June with several new proposals and it is only after the Congress that the ISU can officially confirm new Technical Rules that will take effect for the new season.

Karen Butcher, Canada Figure, noting the Council's objection to the date of April 15, proposed an amendment of the date to May 31.

Fabio Bianchetti, Single and Pair Skating Technical Committee Chair, supported the proposal and the amended date of May 31.

It was accepted by an obvious show of hands to amend the proposal with the date of May 31 replacing April 15.

The amended proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with one vote against.

Proposal No. 28 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 21 to allow the Vice Chair of the Athletes Commission to attend Council meetings in the case of unavailability of the Chair of the Athletes Commission.

Eric Radford, Athletes Commission Chair, said that the proposal had been made based on experience. To ensure an efficient flow of information, it was important always to have Athletes Commission representation on the Council,

but with the potential demands of an ongoing competitive career, work and family, having flexibility would allow the Athletes Commission to do its work in the best way possible.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 29 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 21, paragraph 3.h) to require that Athletes Commission members shall not act as Team Officials in ISU Events, Olympic Winter Games and the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

Council Recommendation: The Council accepted the relevance of this proposal to the Chair of the Athletes Commission, who is also a member of the Council, but is not in favor of extending the proposal to the other members of the Athletes Commission, because the issue of conflict of interests is special with regard to the Athletes Commission. In the ideal case all members of the Athletes Commission are active Skaters. They are then necessarily a member of a Team. The proposal would, thus, create a difference as to conflict of interests for those Skaters that are still active and those that have finished their career and have become a team official. Since all members of the Athletes Commission are subject to the ISU Code of Ethics (including Article 11, paragraph 3), they are bound to act impartially within the remit of the Athletes Commission even if belonging to a team.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Austria Speed, noting that the Legal Advisor had confirmed that Rule 121 covers this point already.

Urgent Proposal No. 6 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 23 to allow former ISU Referees, Technical Controllers and Judges to be part of the OAC and to define national bias.

The amended proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with three votes against and one abstention.

Proposal No. 30 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 23, paragraph b) to create an Officials Assessment Commission for Short Track Speed Skating.

Council Recommendation: Referring also to the recommendation on the proposal from Austria Speed for amendment of Article 16, the Council was not in favor. Moreover, there was an inconsistency between the two proposals, as the proposal under Article 16 assumes that the proposed OAC shall be appointed by the President. The proposed OAC has a similar composition as the ISU team of officials at an ISU Event, where the appointments aim at a wide spread of nationalities, so it is not evident that the OAC would have different qualities from a panel appointed for a given Competition. Assuming that members of the OAC cannot themselves officiate at ISU Events, the criteria for composition of the OAC would significantly limit the availability of highly skilled Officials for ISU Events. The mandate of the proposed body is rather unclear, for example item b) in the task description indicates that ISU Members can use the OAC as a kind of appeals commission for Officials' decisions, and hence for race results. Finally, the budget implications of the proposal have not been addressed.

The proposal was **rejected** as a result of the rejection of Proposal 16 and was also withdrawn by Austria Speed.

Proposal No. 31 made by **AUSTRIA, Speed**

Article 25 paragraph 3) to require that Disciplinary Commission members may not act as an ISU Official.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor of the proposal and considered that the current rule was sufficient for guaranteeing the independence of the Chair and members of the ISU Disciplinary Commission.

Hermann Filipic, Austria Speed, said that members of the Disciplinary Commission should not officiate due to the possibility that there may be cases against their fellow Officials. The Disciplinary Commission should be completely independent.

Susan Petricevic, Disciplinary Commission Chair, said that controls were already in place, including the fact that the Disciplinary Commission members are subject to the Referee and OAC like any other Official. It was important to be well informed about Figure Skating rules and their implementation.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Austria Speed, anticipating that this matter would be considered during the review of the Constitution.

Proposal No. 32 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 34, paragraph 3 to amend in line with Article 17.1b).

The proposal was **withdrawn** by the ISU Council.

Proposal No. 33 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 34, paragraph 6 to allow an urgent Council meeting to be called with 48 hours notice.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 34 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Article 39, paragraph 3.c) to amend the Speed Skating Branch list of disciplines.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

21. Motions concerning amendments to the General Regulations.

Proposal No. 35 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 100 paragraph 3 c), to allow the World Cup Short Track to be called the World Tour Short Track and authorize the Council to establish related announcement, branding and marketing.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, referred to the launch of the Short Track World Tour and said that the proposed new wording of the Rule would provide the flexibility to allow the World Tour to be implemented, as part of the ISU Vision 2030.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 36 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 102, paragraph 1. a) ii) to define a season as July 1-June 30.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor of the proposal for reasons of consistency with Rule 109, paragraph 4 of the ISU General Regulations.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Urgent Proposal No. 11 made by ISU Council

Rule 102, paragraph 6, to allow markings on competition costumes for Figure Skating.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, said that the proposal would allow manufacturers markings for Figure Skating, which would provide opportunities for Skaters and ISU Members.

Tarja Ristanen, Finland Figure, was not against the proposal but asked for clarification about the term 'manufacturer logo' and whether this was the creator of the costume, and also of 'authorized', namely who would do the authorization and under what process.

Colin Smith, ISU Director General, said that the 'manufacturer logo' referred to the manufacturer of the item, such as a costume or skates, and this would not include sponsor logos. The approval process would be the same as the current one for Speed Skating and Short Track.

The amended proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with one vote against and two abstentions.

Proposal No. 37 made by **THE NETHERLANDS**

Rule 102, paragraph 6.a), to allow markings on skating boots.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in principle in favor, but submitted an Urgent Matter Proposal, that could incorporate this amendment.

The proposal was postponed for discussion on the Friday session of the Congress.
At the Friday session of the Congress, the proposal was **withdrawn** by the Netherlands.

Proposal No. 38 made by **THE NETHERLANDS**

Rule 102, paragraph 6.b.i) to allow the same trademark on helmets as on the cap of racing suits for Speed Skating.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor for the reasons given.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 39 made by **USA, Speed**

Rule 102 paragraph 6.b) i. to set a 30-day notice period for the ISU to inform ISU Members of a sponsor agreement that affects markings on the front part of helmets.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor, acknowledging the reasons given for the proposal.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

Proposal No. 40 made by **USA, Speed**

Rule 104, paragraph 13 to make it no longer mandatory for ISU Members to publish Skaters' results on their website.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor of replacing 'shall' by 'may', as an ISU Member's website should include a minimum of information on the competition activity of the ISU Member. However, the specifications for Speed Skating after 'The minimum information shall include the results of the National Championships' could be deleted.

Susan Sandvig-Shobe, USA Speed, agreed with the Council's proposal to retain 'shall' and delete everything after the reference to National Championships.

It was accepted by an obvious show of hands to amend the proposal to maintain the mandatory publication of results, but delete the specifications for Speed Skating after 'The minimum information shall include the results of the National Championships'.

The amended proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 10 votes against and 4 abstentions.

Proposal No. 41 made by **REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Rule 107, paragraph 1, ISU Championships to introduce a World Short Track Team Championships.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor. Referring to its own proposal for amendment of Rule 100, the Council felt that the urgent priority for Short Track Speed Skating was to increase the interest and reputation of the existing ISU Events, including team competition elements, rather than establishing new ISU Championships. Furthermore, the indicated budget for implementation, without evidence of potential related TV rights and advertising incomes, would require a significant addition to the overall ISU budget. An additional and related consideration was the place of such a separate Championships in the overall season calendar.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Republic of Korea.

Proposal No. 42 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Rule 107, paragraph 4. a) and b) to include a reference to the ISU World Cup Speed Skating and Short Track for Juniors.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor for the reasons given.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 43 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Rule 108, paragraph 2. c) to clarify the ages of the Junior D category as 11 and 12 years old.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor for the reasons given.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 3 votes against and 1 abstention.

Proposal No. 44 made by **USA, Speed**

Rule 108 paragraph 2.c) to rename the Junior age categories as U18, U16 etc..

Council Recommendation: The Council was not against but felt that the current terminology for junior age categories A, B, C, D is well established and understood.

Susan Sandvig-Shobe, USA Speed, said that most international sports call these categories U18, U16 etc. The aim of the proposal was to simplify and make the categories more understandable, also for those outside the sport.

Mona Adolfsen, Norway, supported the proposal as it is important to make the skating sports understandable, also for those outside the sport.

Joe Morissette, Canada Speed, noted that an U18 category would not include 18 year olds and was therefore not a correct name for the category.

The proposal was **rejected** by an obvious show of hands with 44 votes in favor, 28 votes against and 7 abstentions.

Proposal No. 45 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 108, paragraph 3, and 4 to amend Junior age limits in line with recommendations of Working Group on Junior age limits.

Tomoko Doi, Japan, asked for a clarification of the reason for the proposed maximum seven-year age gap between a Woman and Man Skater in Pair Skating and Ice Dance.

Benoît Lavoie, Vice President Figure Skating, said that for Safeguarding reasons, it was felt that there should be a limit on the age gap between very young and older Skaters.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 3 votes against and 2 abstentions.

Proposal No. 46 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 108, paragraph 2, 3 and 4 drafting to delete references to previous seasons.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands, noting that the category C age definition under paragraph 2.c) would be amended following the acceptance of Proposal 43.

Proposal No. 47 made by **UNITED STATES, Figure**

Rule 108, paragraph 3, to reduce the minimum Senior age limit for Pair Skating to sixteen.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor as the age increases were overwhelmingly accepted after extensive discussion at the 2022 Congress. It was also a matter of the reputation and image of the ISU in the sporting and wider world. Finally, the Council also referred to its own proposal for amendment of Rule 108, paragraphs 3 and 4, and the reasons given by the Working Group on Age Harmonization Categories Junior and Below shown there.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by USA Figure.

Proposal No. 48 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 108, 3. b) to set the maximum Junior age limit for both Men and Women in Ice Dance to twenty-one.

Council Recommendation: The Council agreed in principle with the proposal to aim for gender equity but, with the Medical Commission, would favor at this time its own Proposal 45, particularly in regards to safeguarding and the 7-year maximum age gap between partners, and the differences in the growth development of boys and girls.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Canada Figure.

Proposal No. 49 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 108, 3. b) to set the maximum Junior age limit for both Men and Women in Pair Skating to twenty-three.

Council Recommendation: The Council agreed in principle with the proposal to aim for gender equity but, with the Medical Commission, would favor at this time its own Proposal 45 for the development of the Pair Skating discipline in the future, particularly in regards to safeguarding and the 7-year maximum age gap between partners, and the differences in the growth development of boys and girls.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Canada Figure, with the request that gender equity be considered when considering age limits in the future.

Proposal No. 50 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 109 paragraph 2. c) & 3 to make it mandatory for ISU Members to agree to release Skaters upon request to represent another ISU Member.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor because the proposal would interfere with the authority and competence of the ISU Members. The rule as currently in force respects the authority of the ISU Members and, at the same time, provides for avoiding arbitrariness.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Canada Figure, with the request that the requirements for Clearance procedures be considered as part of the review of the ISU Constitutional Framework.

Proposal No. 51 made by **AUSTRIA, Figure**

Rule 109, paragraph 2.d) to allow up to 50% of a Synchronized Skating Team to be from another ISU Member.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor of this proposal. The Synchronized Skating Technical Committee discussed the increase of international Skaters in a Team. To get an objective perspective, the Technical Committee proceeded with a survey amongst several ISU Members that have teams competing internationally at the ISU junior and senior levels. Answers to the Survey came from Coaches (96%). Currently,

25% of a Team (not including alternate Skaters) is allowed to be from another nationality. To the question, should the number be changed? 40% answered 'yes', 40% answered 'no' and 20% did not want to answer or did not know. To the question, if such a change would be proposed at the ISU Congress 2024, how many Skaters from another nationality should be allowed on an ISU Member Synchronized Team. The answers were: 20% (1/3 of the team), 28% (1/2 of the team) and 44% (1/4 of the team.) The findings of the survey therefore do not support a need for a significant change by increasing the ratio of international Skaters on Synchronized Skating Teams.

Christiane Moerth, Austria Figure, proposed an amendment clarifying that the proposal intended that up to 50% of a Synchronized Skating Team could be from different ISU Members 'subject to Member federation requirements'. She said that this was necessary because of the freedom that individuals have to live in different countries, and many Clearance Certificates had to be requested for Skaters with passports of other countries. This change would help smaller ISU Members to develop Synchronized Skating.

The amendment was accepted by a simple majority with 50 votes in favor.

The proposal was **rejected** 41 votes in favor, 36 votes against and 9 abstentions.

Proposal No. 52 made by **FINLAND, Figure**

Rule 115 Entries to specify the procedure for notification of withdrawal of competition entries.

Council Recommendation: The Council was not in favor as this level of detail is not required or appropriate to include in the General Regulations but could rather be included in Event announcements or Event Memoranda.

The proposal was **withdrawn** by Finland Figure.

Proposal No. 53 made by **SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Rule 121, paragraph 1.b) to include a reference to the Junior World Cup in Short Track Speed Skating.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor for the reasons given.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 54 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 121 para 3. f) to include Sport Technical Directors and Development Commission members.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands

Proposal No. 55 made by **AUSTRIA, Figure**

Rule 121, paragraph 3.l) to mandate that persons with a position (e.g. President, General Secretary) in an ISU Member federation may not officiate as a Judge at ISU Events, OWG, and YOG, during their period of service.

Council Recommendation: The Council agreed with the principle of the proposed rule. However, because it relates to Conflicts of Interest, it was the Council's position that the principle of the proposed rule should be incorporated in and made part of the provisions of Article 11 Conflicts of Interest of the ISU Code of Ethics. The Council further agreed that in the future, absent the existence of "extraordinary circumstances" as defined in Article 17, para.1q of the ISU Constitution, any changes to the ISU Code of Ethics that could impact the current ISU competition season will not be put into effect until the start of the next competition season.

Christiane Moerth, Austria Figure, said that such an important topic should be included in the Rules, not just the Code of Ethics.

The proposal was **rejected** with 56 votes in favor, 21 votes against and 12 abstentions.

Proposal No. 56 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Rule 123, paragraph 3 to amend the permitted time to submit protests in Speed Skating and Short Track to 15 minutes after the last race of a distance and for Figure Skating to 30 minutes after the end of the respective segment.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor for the reasons given.

The proposal was **approved** by a show of hands with 8 votes against and 2 abstentions.

Proposal No. 57 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 128, paragraphs 6 & 7, to delete the reference to organizing the Four Continents Short Track Championships around the same time as the European Championships and to delete the reference to hoisting the ISU flag.

The proposal was **approved** by a show of hands with 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

Proposal No. 58 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 133 to update the titles for Short Track to be consistent with Speed Skating.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

Proposal No. 59 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 134, paragraph 1, to define the number of medals awarded for Team events.

The proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with 1 abstention. It was noted that 'heats' would be amended to 'qualifying rounds' in drafting.

Proposal No. 60 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 134, paragraph 3. b) to delete the paragraph which is now obsolete.

The proposal was **approved** by a show of hands with 2 abstentions.

Proposal No. 61 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 134, paragraph 3. c) to streamline victory ceremonies.

The proposal was **approved** by a show of hands with 5 votes against and 2 abstentions.

Proposal No. 62 made by **SPEED SKATING & SHORT TRACK SPEED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

Rule 134, paragraph 3. a) and c), to allow more flexibility in the integration of medal presentations in the schedule of Championships.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in favor of the amendments to paragraph a). However, for the other proposed amendments, the Council, instead of continuing a policy of numerous isolated amendments to the present ISU Constitution and General Regulations, preferred to have a thorough review of the ISU Constitution and General Regulations instead and, therefore, asked for the approval of its Resolution to undertake the preparation of a new Constitutional framework of the ISU to be submitted for discussion and adoption by an Extraordinary ISU Congress in 2025.

Nathalie Lambert, Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee Chair, said that the Technical Committee requested a vote only on the amendment to paragraph a).

It was accepted by an obvious show of hands to amend the proposal to include only the proposed amendments to paragraph a).

The amended proposal was **accepted** by an obvious show of hands, with one vote against.

Proposal No. 63 made by **THE NETHERLANDS**

Rule 134, paragraph 3.c) to give more flexibility for medal ceremonies.

Council Recommendation: The Council was in principle in favor of giving more flexibility for the award ceremony procedures but referred to its recommendation on the Speed Skating and Short Track Technical Committee Proposal 62.

The proposal was **approved** with 69 votes in favor, 2 votes against and 3 abstentions.

Proposal No. 64 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 134, paragraph 3.d) to amend to reflect current practice.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted** by a show of hands.

The afternoon session of the second first day of Congress adjourned at 3.15 p.m.

B. Branch of Special Representatives for Speed Skating

FIRST SESSION

Wednesday, June 12, 2024 (third day), 9:00 a.m.

Vice President Tron Espeli as the Chair

1. Opening of the meeting by the Vice President

The Vice President Tron Espeli opened the meeting of the Speed Skating Branch, welcomed all Delegates of all present ISU Members, introduced the Honorary members, members of the present Council, Development Commission, Medical Commission, Athletes Commission, Disciplinary Commission and the Speed Skating Sports Director. He asked the Chairs of the Technical Committees both Speed Skating and Short Track to introduce the members of their Committees.

No objections or questions regarding the standardized agenda were raised.

2. Election of a secretary to record the minutes of the meetings of the Branch

The Vice President proposed Brett Throssell (AUS Speed), to record the minutes. The ISU Members agreed unanimously.

3. Verification of the qualifications of the Speed Skating representatives and of their right to vote

This agenda item was addressed at the plenary session and the same delegates were present at this meeting. No objections were raised regarding the presence of the delegates and their qualifications and right to vote were duly verified.

The Vice President conducted a roll call.

Forty (40) ISU Members were present and eleven (11) ISU Members were not present (Colombia, Georgia, India, Israel, Latvia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Russia, Sweden, Chinese Taipei, Uzbekistan). With a total of 40 votes, the two-thirds majority was twenty-seven (27) votes, and a simple majority was twenty-one (21) votes.

There were no objections.

4. Election of two scrutineers of the minutes

The Vice President proposed Yvonne Brett (Ireland Speed) and Christian Breuer (Germany), who were accepted unanimously.

5. Election of a drafting committee, consisting of at least three members, to draft the final text of proposals adopted concerning the Speed Skating Regulations and election of a similar drafting committee for the Short Track Speed Skating Regulations

The Vice President proposed the following candidates for the Drafting Committees:

Speed Skating

Nick Thometz

Oystein Haugen

Hanjo Heideman

Fabrice Prahin

Short Track Speed Skating

Nathalie Lambert

Reinier Oostheim

Wim de Deyne

Cristel Garcia

The candidates were unanimously accepted.

6. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved.

7. Report by the Vice President on the Speed Skating activities of the past two years

'Dear Delegates, Honorary Members, ISU Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Biennial report at the 58th ISU Ordinary Congress in Phuket two years ago inevitably had to focus on the pandemic period, which in an almost miraculous way ended on a happy note with very successful Olympic Winter Games, despite being held under extremely demanding circumstances and constraints in Beijing.

The Congress in Phuket gave also a reminder that the pandemic was not yet over. This situation was reflected in the planning for the season 2022/23 with a cautious approach, including several back-to-back Events to better cope with potential pandemic issues. Fortunately, our skating communities and the world of international sports gradually returned to "business as usual", and the season could be completed without major disruptions.

The work on a long-term ISU calendar for Speed Skating and for Short Track Speed Skating had started during the Olympic season in a close collaboration with hosting Members. A long-awaited multi-annual season calendar, extending into the next Olympic cycle, was announced after the ISU Council meeting in March 2023. This has made the season preparations for skaters and teams easier and given the hosting Members and their organizing committees better possibilities for a proactive Event planning. One of the important outcomes of this planning was that in the season 2023/24 skaters were welcomed back to Beijing for World Cup competitions in Speed Skating as well as in Short Track to experience the Olympic venues in front of an enthusiastic crowd. This coming season Beijing will again be hosting World Cups in both disciplines, in addition to the World Championships Short Track. This gives our sports a great exposure in the important Chinese market.

Other Olympic skating venues also had a revival last season. The skating competitions of the Winter Youth Olympic Games, Gangwon 2024, were held in the venues built for the 2018 PyeongChang Games and gave the young participating Skaters unforgettable Olympic memories. It is regrettable that these excellent venues have not been available for skating competitions in the meantime, and that no future use is planned – in a situation where Korea's speedskating hub, the Taenung Ice rink in Seoul, is closing down and the venue currently used for ISU Short Track Competitions in Korea is getting outdated. Luckily, the venue situation is developing positively in some other countries. During the last Congress period two new indoor speed skating venues hosted their first ISU Events - in Québec City, Canada and Hachinohe City, Japan, and in the coming season there will be a World Cup competition held in the new indoor track in the famous winter sport resort Zakopane, Poland.

Unfortunately, the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Winter Games 2026 in Milano-Cortina, MiCo, did not find a solution with a permanent indoor venue for the speed skating competitions. This is obviously a lost opportunity for the further development of speed skating both in the Olympic host country Italy and in the neighbouring countries, where no such venue exists. The Olympic Speed Skating competitions in 2026 will instead take place in a temporary venue inside two exhibition halls in the Milano Trade Fair complex. The venue construction and track installation for this unique concept are faced with tight timelines, and ISU is collaborating closely with MiCo to ensure that the project can be completed in time for the planned Test event, a Junior World Cup competition at the end of November 2025. For Short Track (and Figure Skating) the Olympic competitions will be held at the Milano Ice Skating Arena, Assago, which hosted the 2018 World Figure Skating Championships. As required by ISU this venue will now be equipped with a permanent ice sheet, and a World Cup / World Tour Short Track Competition is confirmed to be held as an Olympic Test event in February 2025.

The exposure at the Olympic Winter Games remains essential for the status and future of our sports. For the 2026 Olympic Winter Games ISU succeeded to avoid any further major reduction in the participation quotas determined by the International Olympic Committee. Short Track remains with a quota of 112 athletes, while the quota for Speed Skating was reduced from 166 in Beijing to 164 in Milano. ISU also retained all its Olympic medal events (9 for Short Track, 14 for Speed Skating).

Both sports demonstrated an impressive global dimension at the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, each with Olympic Champions from three different continents. As we approach the next Olympic Games, it is good to see that the international reach of our sports continues to grow. Some numbers to illustrate this: In the last Congress period 42 Countries participated in the World Cup Short Track, and 16 of those countries had skaters on the podium either at World Cups or at ISU (senior) Championships. For Speed Skating, 11 countries were awarded medals in individual events at the World (senior) Championships last season, and 17 countries had Skaters among the top 6 in those Championships. These nice numbers would hardly have been achieved without the support from the ISU Development Program, as illustrated in the presentation given by the Chair of the Development Commission, Jildou Gemser, earlier during this Congress.

In line with the ISU Vision 2030 important initiatives have been launched and progress made to make our sports more attractive:

In Short Track the 2022 ISU Congress introduced the Crystal Globe trophy and the concept of a Season Champion based on results in the Short Track World Cup circuit. It was implemented in the 2022/23 season and further elaborated last season, and has helped to make the World Cup circuit more visible and to keep attention throughout the season. The presentation of our main Events, both at the venue and for the TV audience, continues to be

improved, thanks to the dedicated leadership of the ISU Event Director Hugo Herrnhof and a close cooperation with TV partners and the Organizing Committees of the hosting Members. This has laid the foundation for the idea of creating a Short Track World Tour as a rebranding and enhancement of the Short Track World Cup circuit, to gain more attention from fans and sponsors, as you have been informed about in more detail during this Congress.

The successful launching of the Junior World Cup Short Track last season is another key to keep the sport growing.

The attraction of Short Track is linked to the speed, the explosive and equilibristic movements and the tight battle between Skaters on a small track. Short Track has been through a remarkable and very dynamic development during its +30 years as an Olympic sport. This creates challenges both for ensuring an adequate development of the racing rules and for the officials in assessing complex race situations. In addition to ongoing refinements of the Video Review System and related procedures, large efforts go into tools and activities to support the education and training of officials, all with the aim of consistent enforcement of rules, based on well-explainable decisions. I want to complement the Short Track Technical Committee for their dedicated and comprehensive work towards these aims, as outlined in the introduction by the Technical Committee Chair Nathalie Lambert in our workshop on Monday.

Another important and related focus area is the protection of the health safety of the athletes. Speed Skating has the same challenge, reinforced by the introduction of new events like mass start and relay races, which means that rules and measures can be based on a common ground between the two sports. During the last Congress period regulations on safety enhancing equipment (i.e. helmets, racing suits, eyewear) and measures (safety padding) have been updated and the issues continue to be closely monitored.

Also Speed Skating is moving forward in the presentation of the Events. As before, the Championships held at Thialf, Heerenveen, sets a kind of “Gold standard”, but several other venues and organizers have delivered a much-improved sport production, attracted more spectators and created greater fan engagement than in the past, thanks also to the closer collaboration between the Organizing Committees and ISU Event Manager David Broere.

The new Mixed Relay event in Speed Skating has fascinated both skaters and spectators, and the Speed Skating Technical Committee proposes for the Congress to include the event in the programs of ISU Championships. The strategy of the Technical Committee is the same as for previous innovations like Team Pursuit and Mass Start: To expose the event to new generations of Skaters by including it in Junior Competitions, before introducing it at senior level. For Team Pursuit and Mass start this ultimately led to the events being accepted as part of the Olympic program. This is an interesting outlook for Mixed Relay, since mixed gender events currently is strongly encouraged by the IOC.

Speed Skating has seen a superstar emerging after the 2022 Olympic Games. The USA teenager Jordan Stolz won a unique triple-gold in the three shortest Olympic distances at the World Championships in Heerenveen 2023, and he copied this amazing achievement in Calgary this year, only to go on winning the classic World Allround title in Inzell some weeks later. His continued success should greatly increase the visibility of Speed Skating in USA and could unlock new market and media opportunities.

Like Short Track, as exemplified by the “World Tour” concept, Speed Skating needs to look for new ways to present the sport to new audiences and new generations of athletes, and to improve the “Speed Skating season” product. ISU is committed to work closely with key Members and stakeholders to develop new event formats and other innovations that can be introduced in the next Olympic cycle after Milano/Cortina 2026.

One element of the current season calendar, both for Speed Skating and for Short Track is already being reconsidered: The ISU Four Continents Championships that were introduced by a decision at the ISU Congress in 2018, has proven to be very difficult to fit into the season calendar, mainly because it requires trans-continental travel for a large share of the potential participants. Various models have been tried out, but the problems persist: Low participation, especially of World Class athletes, high Event costs and low revenue opportunities. Four Continents Championships for Speed Skating and for Short Track have been allotted up to and including 2027. The Council has decided not to make further allotments of these Championships, but in the meantime work with Members concerned to identify other initiatives that can better promote and stimulate the sport in the respective regions.

Let me end my report by addressing a special thanks to the 11 ISU Members, their Organizing Committees and volunteers, that hosted ISU Events in the Congress period, and to all the ISU Officials who took on the responsibility – as a voluntary task – to ensure that the Competitions were implemented in accordance with the principle of fair play.

I am grateful for the good and friendly cooperation with the ISU colleagues introduced at the opening of this branch meeting, and with all of you who are here as representatives of ISU Members. I wish all of us a constructive meeting with good and forward-looking discussions and decisions on behalf of our sports.

Thank you for your attention!

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) thanked the Vice President for his report and brought up issues of safety in ISU Short Track competitions, especially at the recent ISU Events the Junior World Championships and World Championships with injuries including broken bones and twisted ankles. He worried about body contact during racing, especially amongst the women, whom he viewed as more at risk. In addition, he questioned how these incidents may affect our insurance costs

Tron Espeli thanked Hermann Filipic for his concern and reassured the meeting that everyone here is fully concerned with the risks of the sports and the measures we can take to reduce it. The Vice President also said that we have to be honest that we can never eliminate the risks but the incidents he described are thoroughly reviewed by the ISU Medical Commission. He also asked Mr. Hugo Herrnhof if he had more to contribute to the matter.

Hugo Herrnhof (ISU) spoke to the meeting about the number of incidents in ISU Events. In all the Events of the season's 2329 races, there were 959 falls and 17 medical interventions on the ice. He felt the percentage of medical interventions was not extremely high but pretty low. The ISU Medical Commission is also tracking data: there have been about 40 concussions and other injuries. It is true that Short Track has the risk of injuries, but given the total number of races the percentage is not extremely high. Herman Filipic made a comment on broken bones and twisted ankles, but Hugo Herrnhof stressed that these injuries are not always related to contact and there is a need to analyse what is happening as sometimes athletes fall on their own, the blade gets caught in the ice and causing the rotation and results in broken bones, broken tibia and twisted ankles. It is the highest goal of the ISU to monitor these situations continuously and obviously to do the utmost to bring safety to a higher standard, control the equipment and actions that can possibly be done and keep the safety of the athletes at the highest level.

Tron Espeli thanked Hugo Herrnhof and asked if there were any more interventions on this important topic. He thanked Hugo Herrnhof for bringing our attention to it in a more dedicated way than he could do in his brief report.

8. Approval of Motions concerning amendments to the Special Regulations Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating specifically designated and summarized in the Agenda as "Drafting Matters" and approval of these "Drafting Matter" Motions and/or referral of certain of those Motions identified as such for debate and vote.

The following Motions labelled as DRAFTING MATTERS have been identified: 128 & 137.

Tron Espeli asked the meeting if there were any objections to deal with these proposals as Drafting Matters. There were no objections.

9. Motions concerning amendments to the Special Regulations Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating.

Tron Espeli explained to the meeting the procedure for dealing with the following proposals.

Proposal No. 65. made by Speed Skating Technical Committee
Rule 200, paragraph 1

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) clarified that Mixed Relay have been competed at the Junior World Cups and Senior World Cups; this is just adding Mixed Relay to the International competitions.

Nadine Seidenglanz (Germany Speed) explained that in general, Germany is in favour of this proposal but would like to express their concern about the development of this format. Firstly, not to compare with the mixed relay in Short Track because the fastest time is qualified and not quarter-finals and half finals and there were some strange races last season and she proposed we have another look at this format and develop it further because at the moment we don't have really fair races. The second point is the safety issue, which has already been expressed by the Netherlands.

Remy de Wit (Netherlands) stressed they want to emphasise again they are not against the mixed relay but feel there needs to be more discussion amongst the Coaches, Athletes, ISU Members and the Technical Committee to make the format safer. Also, they wanted to mention it is not comparable with Short Track, the rules are different, and the sports are different.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) said that in regards to safety, he had been directly involved with the Coaches meeting at the end of the season and this topic was discussed. The Technical Committee are aware but think they are making it as safe as possible by the format that has been implemented, and that it is more a matter of the teams learning how to do the event, which only comes with practice and more events and will work itself out over time once they get more experience doing the event. They were also looking at the format of the event which will be explained in the Communication, looking at a more random type of draw, and looking at the possibility of how the heats would be set up.

Tron Espeli explained that this proposal was identifying this event in the Special Regulations of Speed Skating. He understood that Germany and the Netherlands were not against that, and that there were no objections to identifying this as an event belonging to the Speed Skating competition program.

The proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 66. made by **NETHERLANDS**
Rule 201, paragraph 1

Remy de Wit (Netherlands) outlined the importance of the Allround and Sprint combination to the heritage and history of the Sport. Considering the Vision 2030, the Netherlands wanted to withdraw this proposal with a lot of trust in the ISU in the future.

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 67. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 201: To introduce new paragraph 1.2.e) and renumber previous e) and subsequent subparagraphs

Tron Espeli explained that Proposal 67 and 69 were linked and would be discussed together but voted on separately.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained this is a proposal to add Mixed Relay to the World and European Championship as of season 2026/27.

Tron Espeli indicated that the concerns that were expressed will have two seasons to mature. This means the format of the competition may change when it gets to the Championships in 2026/27.

Proposal 67 was **accepted**.
Voting Proposal 67: Yes 38, No 0, Abstain 2

Proposal 69 was **accepted**.
Voting Proposal 69: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 68. made by **NETHERLANDS**
Rule 201, paragraph 1.2, Rule 201, paragraph 2.2, Rule 201, paragraph 4.1 (World Championships, European Championships and World Junior Championships)

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) said that the Netherlands would like to return to a double 500m event where the athletes have 2 chances at the 500m distance skating in both lanes. They had amended our original proposal so that the fastest time wins, not the combined times. They had consulted with athletes and Coaches, who are in favour of this change, and they felt it would raise the level of the event, and it would be easy to incorporate the extra race on the schedule.

Tron Espeli explained the 2 x 500 m was introduced in 1996 and used in the first Olympics in 1998 and stayed until 2014. There was a continuous debate that it was the best format as the lane selection in other distances was also a factor. That was the main reason it was returned to the present format. It would also be unusual in Olympic Events for an athlete to have two chances, and for the best one to count, whereas other sports have combined results, such as ski jumping. It could also not be implemented for the 2026 Olympics, as the schedule has been confirmed.

Roar Erikson (Norway) said that Norway was not in favour of this proposal and wanted one race to decide the result and preferred to leave it as it is.

Hans Spohn (Austria Speed) said that Austria was not in favour of this as they would want the Championship and Olympic formats to be the same.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) said that the Technical Committee took this proposal to the Coaches in March 2024 at the World Championships, and they were not in favour.

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) said that the main focus of this proposal was for the athletes, who really liked the proposal.

Tron Espeli explained that this would be the third format change for the 500m race, the sport's simplest event. He asked the Netherlands whether they wanted to withdraw the proposal or put it to a vote.

The amendment that the proposal was changed from a combined time to the fastest time of the 2 races.

The amendment to proposal 68 was **unanimously passed**.

The amended proposal was **rejected**.
Voting on the amended proposal 68: Yes 5

Proposal 72 was linked to Proposal 67 and voting was therefore called at this time.

Proposal 72 was **rejected**.
Voting: Yes 1, No 19, Abstain 20

Proposal No. 69. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 201

The proposal was previously **accepted** along with Proposal 67

Proposal No. 70. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 201: To introduce new paragraph 4.1.e) and delete subsequent subparagraphs: Add Mixed Relay and remove Allround combination:

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) outlined that this proposal was to include the Mixed Relay in the Junior World Championships and remove the Allround competition as it is very difficult to include in the Single Distance Competition. He had received feedback that it is difficult to follow and it does not seem to have the same importance as the Single Distances so the Technical Committee recommendation is to go with a purely Single Distance World Championships.

Roar Erikson (Norway) wanted to keep the Allround competition in the Championships it was at the first Championship in 1972, and we should keep to it and challenge the ISU to find a way to make it relevant in the competition.

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) wanted to support Norway. The Netherlands was not in favour of removing the Allround competition from the Championships, which in the long term would not benefit the development of younger Skaters.

Hans Spohn (Austria Speed) suggested splitting the proposal as no one is against Team Relay, but it is not thought be a good idea to remove the Allround combination from the competition.

Tron Espeli explained there would be some budgetary implications to keep both events in the program and asked the meeting if they wanted to split the proposal.

The amendment to vote on Proposal 70 as two proposals was passed unanimously

Voting Rule 201 para 4.1.e include Mixed Relay
The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 37, No 0, Abstain 3

Voting to remove Allround element
The proposal was **rejected**.
Voting; Yes 0, No 40, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 71. made by **NETHERLANDS**
Rule 201, paragraph 4.1 (World Junior Championships)

The proposal was **withdrawn**.

URGENT PROPOSAL 12 made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 208, paragraphs 2.2.2 & 2.3.2

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained that this proposal was to help ISU Members earn quota spots in the World Single Distance Championships and the World Allround and Sprint when they are in the same year.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 38, No 0, Abstain 2

Proposal No. 72. made by **NETHERLANDS**
Rule 202, paragraph 1 (Olympic Games)

The proposal was **rejected**.
Voting: Yes 1, No 19, Abstain 20

Proposal No. 73. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 208, paragraph 2.4.1

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained that this was to keep the entry process for the European Championships the same as the Four Continents, with the details in an annual Communication rather than the Rule Book.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 38, No 1, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 74. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 208, paragraph 2.4.2

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained that this was similar to Proposal 73, the qualification process for Europeans that would be detailed in a Communication.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 75. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 208, paragraph 2.6.1

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained that since the Allround competition was not removed in Proposal 70, he would amend this proposal to keep the Allround competition and just add the part about the Mixed Relay.

The amendment to the proposal was accepted.

Hans Spohn (Austria Speed) clarified that a deleted sentence in the Rule needs to stay.

Tron Espeli agreed that the sentence should stay, and the only amendment in the Rule would be the part of the table that refers to Team races.

The proposal was **accepted** as amended.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 76. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 210, paragraphs 1.c), 1.i) and 1.j)

Tron Espeli explained that this proposal adds the Youth Winter Olympic Games to the Rule.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 77. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 216, paragraph 1.f)

Tron Espeli told the meeting this has a similar content to previous proposal.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 78. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 216: To amend paragraph 2.e)

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) explained this Proposal adds a Yellow Card to the Rule.

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) talked about 'kicking out' and felt that kicking out is not really existing in Short Track and he hoped in Speed skating kicking out will not be used like in Short Track.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 79. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 219

Tron Espeli explained that this has to do with the function of the Track Judges.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 80. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 220

Tron Espeli explained it was a similar issue and an operational matter.

Alexander Kibalko explained that the Rule is not the appropriate place for this detail and is more an operational matter that will be solved with the future Constitutional review.

Matej Krupka (Czech Speed) asked that the Officials ring the bell for the Skaters behind the pack for the intermediate and final sprints.

Tron Espeli agreed it was a relevant comment. This is also an example of something that is an operational issue.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 81. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 222: To add new paragraph 1.c) and renumber current paragraphs 1.c) and 1 d)

Tron Espeli explained to the meeting that this Proposal deals with recognising World Records for Mixed Relay from Season 2024/25.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 82. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 222, paragraph 2.i)

Tron Espeli told the meeting this Proposal deals with Doping control with World records for Mixed Relay.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 83. made by **NETHERLANDS**
Rule 223, paragraph 3

Tron Espeli explained that this Proposal states that the World Cup Communication must be published before May 1 prior to the Season. He also asked that this could be taken as a recommendation to the ISU that the Communication be published earlier.

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) asked that this be amended to start Season 25/26 and that it is important to have this information earlier so that ISU Members can arrange their annual program.

Tron Espeli said there are some concerns that all the information required for the Communication may not be available by May 1 each year. The implication with this rule is that it might require a second Communication for the information not available in the first Communication.

Blair Carbert (Canada Speed) brought up the issues of the Rule changes at Congress that may affect the running of competitions and therefore the Communication.

Christian Breuer (Germany Speed) suggested that NED just needs the dates and venues of the competitions, and the rest of the information required to run the competitions could be released later.

Tron Espeli suggested that the ISU take all these wishes and requests on board and find a way to incorporate the key points in the best possible way without getting stuck with Regulations that cannot be fulfilled. He asked the NED to withdraw the Proposal considering the previous discussions.

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) said that if information can be provided earlier, they would withdraw the Proposal.

The proposal was **withdrawn**.
Proposal No. 84. made by **Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 224, paragraphs 1.a) and 1.b)

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) said that the proposal deals with the Mass Start and Relay and putting the ISU Member abbreviation on the lower leg of the racing suit, as it would seem to be better to get

the change made on all suits following what has been done in Short Track. The Technical Committee thought this is a good way to go forward in Speed Skating.

Susan Sandvig Shobe (USA Speed) requested that this start Season 2025/26 as USA had already ordered suits for next season.

Joe Morrisette (Canada Speed) concurred with USA. Their suit orders were already in for this season and it was a little late to make that type of change.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) would be comfortable for the suit change to start in Season 2025/26.

Susan Sandvig Shobe (USA Speed) said that they are in agreement with the suit change in 2025/26 but with the white gloves to start Season 2024/25.

Tron Espeli said the Drafting Committee would take note that there is a green light for the gloves and a delayed enforcement of the country code on the lower leg until Season 2025/26.

The proposal was **accepted**, as amended.

Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 85. made by **NETHERLANDS**

Rule 224, paragraph 1.a)

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) said the SSTC was not in favour of the proposal as there is a Communication 2638, which deals with helmets and safety equipment.

Freek van der Wart (Netherlands) wanted to remove this from the Rule Book and leave the description of the helmet in the Communication.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) said the SSTC could accept this proposal from the NED.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 115. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**

Short Track Speed Skating Special Regulations and Technical Rules: To restructure Index and Rules presentation

Tron Espeli explained that the proposal was to restructure the Short Track Rule Book to make it more presentable and structured. Some Rules may move from Technical Rules to Special Regulations but not the other way around.

The proposal was **accepted**.

Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Tron Espeli thanked the STTC and Fabrice Prahin for their work on this Proposal.

Proposal No. 116. made by **AUSTRIA Speed**

Rule 280, paragraph 6.d)

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) stated that this proposal was for transparency reasons that all the decisions of all the Referees be recorded with a time stamp. This information should be kept secret during the competition and published in the protocol.

Susan Sandvig Shobe (USA Speed) believed that the Officials act as a team and should make a decision as a team and had trouble understanding this proposal under the notion of transparency.

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) did not feel the existing situation is a team decision with the Referee having the final decision.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) explained the process the Officials use to communicate their decisions during at Short Track competition for individual and relay races.

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) wanted the decisions of the Assistant Referees recorded and published, not just the Referee.

Tron Espeli pointed out to the Austria Speed Representative that they have exhausted their right of reply.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) pointed out that it makes no sense to keep the decisions secret because the decisions of the Referee are reported to the audience after every race, so everybody is aware of the number of penalties awarded.

Brett Throssell (Australia Speed) pointed out that it would be unfair to judge the Assistant Referees decisions against the final decision as the Referee has access to the Video Replay which the Assistants do not.

Hugo Herrnhof (ISU) confirmed what Nathalie Lambert had reported about the communication process of the Referees recording their decision.

The proposal was **rejected**.
Voting: Yes 1, No 31, Abstain 8

Proposal No. 117. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 281, paragraph 1

Tron Espeli explained that Proposals 117, 120, and 123 have the same recommendation and should be discussed together.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) explained this would allow more flexibility in the structure of Short Track Events creating a more balanced program and also allowing Medal presentation on the ice during the competition and not at the end.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 118. made by **KOREA**
Rule 281, paragraph 5.a)

Changhoon Lee (Korea), KSU would like to reinstate the Overall Champion Title at the Short Track World Championships.

Tron Espeli explained the history of the removal of the World Championships Title at the Congress 2022. He asked the meeting not to accept this Proposal.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) also explained that Points and tie-breaker Rules have been removed from the Rule Book.

The proposal was **rejected**.
Voting: Yes 2, No 37, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 119. made by **KOREA**
Rule 282

The proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 120. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 283, paragraph 1

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 121. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
D. Olympic Winter Games & Winter Youth Olympic Games Rule 284 Paragraph 1

Tron Espeli explained that this is to identify the Youth Winter Olympic Games in Rule Book. He highlighted that Proposal 121 and Proposal 122 were similar.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 122. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 284:

Tron Espeli explained that this is similar to Proposal 121.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 123. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 285, paragraph 1

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 124. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 285, paragraph 2.b) and c)

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) explained that the proposal is to use the World Ranking for the Europeans and 4 Continents Relay classification.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 125. made by **KOREA**
Rule 285, paragraph 5.a)

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 126. made by **ISU COUNCIL**
Rule 286 paragraph 1 b) new

Tron Espeli explained that this involves the branding of the new Short Track World Tour.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 127. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 286, paragraph 1

Tron Espeli explained that Proposals 127 and 129 are linked because they refer to identifying the Junior World Cup in Rule Book.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 128. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 286, paragraph 7

The proposal was **accepted** as a Drafting Matter.

Proposal No. 129. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 286, paragraph 10.a)

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 130. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 286, paragraph 11

Tron Espeli explained this Proposal is identifying the Crystal Globe in the Rule Book.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 131. made by **ISU COUNCIL**
Rule 288, paragraph 2

Tron Espeli recommended the meeting to accept the proposal.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 132. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 289, paragraph 1.c), d) and e)

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said this proposal clarifies the requirements for International Short Track Officials.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 133. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 289, paragraph 5.a)

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said that this is similar to the previous proposal and allows the STTC to reissue the List on an annual basis, enabling them to not select Officials who are not performing or have availability issues without having an official demotion.

Corne Lepoeter (Belgium Speed) asked if this will include the Youth Winter Olympic Games.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) answered that it would.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 134. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 289, paragraph 6.a) and b)

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said the English test would be extended to the Starters.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Urgent Proposal No. 16 made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 289, paragraph 7

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) explained this is about the appointment of Officials to Junior World Cups.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 135. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 289, paragraph 7.a)

The proposal was **withdrawn** as it was covered under Urgent Proposal 16.

Proposal No. 136. made by **USA Speed**
Rule 289, paragraph 7.a)

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 137. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 290

The proposal was **accepted** as a Drafting Matter.

Proposal No. 138. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 290 paragraph 1:

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) explained that the Video Replay system at Junior World Cups is a more basic system, and a second Video Referee may not be required.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 139. made by **USA Speed**
Rule 290, paragraph 1.a)

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 140. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 290, paragraph 3

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said this is an amendment to the original Proposal.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 1, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 141. made by **KOREA**
Rule 290, paragraph 3

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 142. made by **AUSTRIA Speed**
Rule 290, paragraph 5.h)

Alison Throssell (Australia Speed) said that Australia was not in favour of the proposal.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) pointed out that if a Skater fell because of an incident with a Track Steward they could not be advanced.

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) said that this proposal only dealt with infringement situations where there must be a penalty when a Skater is advanced.

The proposal was **rejected**.
Voting: Yes 1, No 33, Abstain 6

Proposal No. 143. made by **USA Speed**
Rule 290, paragraph 5.i)

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 144. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 290 paragraph 6.a):

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said that this allows the Referee to decide on the order of finish in a race.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 145. made by **USA Speed**
Rule 290, paragraph 8

The proposal was **withdrawn**

Proposal No. 146. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 290: Add new paragraph 20 and 21

Tron Espeli explained that the proposal deals with the inclusion of Apprentice and Senior Officials into the Rule Book.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said that the Apprentice Official program has been extremely successful in transiting International and W Officials into ISU Officials.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 147. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 291 paragraph 1.a)

Tron Espeli supported the inclusion of the Youth Winter Olympic Games.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 148. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 291, paragraph 1:

Tron Espeli said this would include eyewear protection in the Rules.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

Proposal No. 149. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 291, paragraph 7:

Tron Espeli explained that this proposal deals with transponders.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) said that the change is to reduce the possibility of penalties caused by Skaters not wearing transponders.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 39, No 0, Abstain 1

Proposal No. 150. made by **Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committee**
Rule 292, paragraph 1.a)

Tron Espeli explained this proposal is to regulate the Youth Winter Olympic Games and Junior World Cups like ISU Events.

The proposal was **accepted**.
Voting: Yes 40, No 0, Abstain 0

10. Reports by the Chair of the Speed Skating and Short Track Speed Skating Technical Committees concerning proposed amendments to the Technical Rules for Speed Skating and for Short Track Speed Skating.

Tron Espeli spoke to the meeting about the discussions on the Technical Rules for Speed Skating and Short Track that had happened previously during the Workshop on Monday.

Nick Thometz (Speed Skating Technical Committee) reported to the meeting that there were no amendments to the Technical Rules on Monday.

Nathalie Lambert (Short Track Technical Committee) reported that there was one amendment to Technical Rule. Proposal 169 was changed to 'Only racing incidents that are not in line with the principles of the general Racing rule as specified in Rule 297 para 2 a) may result in sanctions'.

Tron Espeli thanked all the participants for the good work in the Workshop on Monday

11. Presentation by ISU Members of objections to proposed Technical Rule changes and subsequent vote upon such objections

Tron Espeli asked the meeting to vote on Proposals on the Technical Rules for Speed Skating 86 to 114.

There were no objections and the proposals were **accepted**.

Tron Espeli asked the Meeting to vote on Proposals on Technical Rules for Short Track 151 to 175.

Hermann Filipic (Austria Speed) wanted to have their objections to the Proposals to Rule 297 noted and minuted.

Hans Spohn (Austria Speed) objected to Proposal 175, stating that it had not been presented or formatted properly to the meeting, and this led to a lack of information to ISU Members who were not present. He wanted to have a meeting with the ISU Legal Adviser to explain his issues.

Tron Espeli pointed out that the Drafting Committee is available to confirm and correct the format or editorial issues of the proposals. The Vice President asked AUT Speed if they wanted a vote to not include Proposal 175 in the new Technical Rules?

Wilf O'Reilly (Netherlands) commented that NED does not have any objections to the proposals and supports the comments of the Vice President about the Drafting Committee and the Legal Advisers. He also wanted to express his concerns about how this meeting is currently being conducted under the Code of Ethics of the ISU.

Tron Espeli confirmed that since there had been no request to put the Short Track Technical Rules to a vote, this item would be closed and the proposals for the Short Track Technical Rules have been **accepted**.

12. Presentation of a status report by each Technical Committee on the existing four-year plan for the ISU for the period since the 2022 Congress

Tron Espeli stated the status reports were circulated along with the other Congress reports to all ISU Members prior to meeting and asked if there are any questions. With no questions from the meeting, these reports were accepted without objections.

13. Various.

Tron Espeli referred to his Biannual report about the Four Continent Championships and wished to ensure that the Meeting understands that the Council will stop any future allotment of these Championships.

Kenji Takai (International Masters Speed Skating Committee) wanted to thank the ISU for its support of Masters Skating. He asked all ISU Members to organise Masters Skating competitions and encouraged everyone to continue skating.

14. Closing of the Branch meeting by the Vice President.

The meeting was closed by Vice President at 2.46 p.m.

C. Branch of Special Representatives for Figure Skating

FIRST SESSION

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – 09:00

Vice President Benoît Lavoie in the Chair

1. Opening of the Meeting by the Vice President

Vice President Benoît Lavoie welcomed honored guests, ISU Members and all delegates to the 2024 Congress of the ISU and reminded participants that we would be following the rules stated in the Opening of Congress by President Kim.

2. Election of a secretary to record the minutes of the meetings of the Branch.

Vice President Benoît Lavoie reported that the ISU Council has appointed Lois Long from USA to record the minutes of the meetings of the Figure Skating Branch and asked the Assembly to approve her appointment.

This appointment was unanimously approved.

3. Verification of the qualifications of the Figure Skating representatives and of their right to vote

Vice President Benoît Lavoie asked to conduct an electronic roll call and verify the Delegates in attendance and to test the voting machines at the same time. A roll call using the voting machines was conducted with the following results:

58 voting ISU Members present. Two-Thirds Majority: 39. Simple Majority: 30.

4. Election of two (2) scrutineers of the Minutes

Vice President Benoît Lavoie recommended to the Assembly that Alison Chan, Singapore, and Lise Røsto Jensen, Norway, be nominated to serve as scrutineers of the Minutes for the Figure Skating Branch Session.

These appointments were unanimously approved.

5. Election of a drafting committee, consisting of at least three (3) members, to draft the final text of the proposals adopted concerning Single and Pair Skating Regulations, and election of a similar drafting committee for Ice Dance Regulations and Synchronized Skating Regulations

Vice President Benoît Lavoie reported that the ISU Council has appointed the following drafting committees:

Figure Skating:	Fabio Bianchetti Leena Laaksonen Yukiko Okabe Patricia Mayor
Ice Dance:	Shawn Rettstatt Hilary Selby David Molina Samia Belila Schmidt
Synchronized Skating:	Philippe Maitrot Lois Long Frederic Laurent

The drafting committees were approved unanimously.

6. Approval of the Agenda

According to the Constitution, the formal agenda for the Figure Skating Section Meeting Procedure can be found in Section VII, Part D, Article 33 on pages 74-75 of the Constitution and General Regulations 2022.

The agenda was discussed during the Figure Skating Branch Workshop. Vice President Benoît Lavoie asked for any comments. As there were none, the agenda was approved.

7. Report of the Vice President on the Figure Skating activities of the past four years

Figure Skating activities 2022-2024

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to present my Vice President report for Figure Skating to you members attending here today and also to those attending the 2024 Congress virtually.

Two years ago, with the conclusion of the meeting in Phuket and changes in leadership, it became evident to me, that the newly elected ISU Council had a strong desire to not only talk about the future but to act and move forward in a timely fashion. In other words, it was time to "Walk the Talk".

Under the leadership of newly elected ISU President, Jae Youl Kim, Figure Skating and the ISU in general underwent a rigorous exercise that included defining our identity and position as a sport. This serious initiative challenged some of our historical thinking regarding many aspects from the macro to the more typical, such as how we introduce Officials at events, the length of such events, and so on.

While this initiative was at times difficult given it challenged many of our beliefs, by doing so, we identified critical areas that needed to be addressed because, like many other sports, Figure Skating has experienced new realities that we needed to better appreciate as already discussed earlier this week.

For Figure Skating, specific critical areas were identified and working groups were established. While each specific group was tasked with a specific area, our goal has always been and remains to strive for excellence through action and engagement with stakeholders. The constituency of the working groups included several federation representatives – many of you are in the room with us today – as well as external experts. Each working group deliberated on their predefined task and made recommendations to Council.

At this point I'd like to thank all of you who were part of the five Working Groups. Your engagement and efficient work certainly contributed to the progress made.

While the time dedicated to each of the areas of focus was significant, I'd like to summarize for all of you the outcomes of each of these groups.

1. Working Group One was focused on the harmonization of ages for Junior level and below. This group was tasked with reviewing the current age categories for Junior Skaters and below as per Rule 108 and related ISU Communications. The objective of this group was to identify an approach or concept that would be consistent across ISU disciplines related to age and once identified, to prepare the related rule amendments and/or updating of ISU Communications for decision of 2024 Congress.

As work progressed, two important factors became evident:

First, the recognition of the benefit of having changed the minimum age for Senior Skaters and the need for a consistent approach in all disciplines; and

Second, the recognition of the significant differences in the physical, mental, and emotional development of male vs female Skaters competing in the Junior categories.

Because it is so critical and important that Skaters can progress and gain maturity according to, and in respect of, their development stages, a recommendation to increase the number of Pairs competing at the Junior level (e.g. Junior Grand Prix and others) arose.

What was interesting prior to the finalization of their recommendation to Council, the working group also undertook extensive coach consultations at various ISU Championships in addition to obtaining feedback from the ISU's Medical Commission.

Thanks to this process, a very good example, It was passed with proposal 45.

2. Working Group Two was focused on evaluating the benefits and challenges of dividing the tasks of Judges, namely evaluation of a split panel approach whereby half the Judges would evaluate Program Components and the other half would evaluate GOEs.

The specific objectives of this working group were to assess if through a split panel approach, if the accuracy of judging GOEs and Components could be improved.

A shadow panel who was split to either Program Components or GOEs was established at three different events, namely Europeans, Junior World's and a Challenger event with the results compared to the results of the official panel.

While the findings may have been impacted by the fact that Judges only recently transitioned from judging five components to three, it was not possible to identify a definitive improvement in the quality of judging. That said, Judges who participated in the shadow panels provided feedback that the process of evaluating only PCs in the split panel helped to increase their knowledge and understanding of the three components.

Based on the test and feedback obtained, the working group therefore concluded that no proposal would be forthcoming regarding split panel at this time. The working group felt strongly that continuing the journey of deepening the competency of Officials as it relates to judging Components should be the focus, and the value of a split panel could be re-examined after the 2024 Congress and by 2026 if needed.

3. The 3rd Working Group was focused on the qualification system for Figure Skating at the Olympic Winter Games (OWG).

With a target implementation date of the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, the working group reviewed the current Figure Skating Olympic Qualification System and analyzed an alternative Qualification Method that was based on results of International Competitions.

Based on discussions to date, it appears that the structure of having only one qualifying event in the Fall of the season of the Olympic Winter Games continues to make sense. In other words, like the way we do it today. In addition, less than 20% of athletes end up qualifying through this process. Additional recommendations may still arise from this working group.

4. The 4th Working Group focused on the use of computer vision in Figure Skating.

The objective of this group was to develop a tool that would support the Technical Panel to consistently measure the total number of rotations in the air thus improving the accuracy and consistency of technical calls. Given the importance of fairness and integrity of outcomes in any judged sport, improving the technical accuracy of calls is important for the future of the sport. With this in mind, the ISU contracted a technology partner Sportlogiq to explore the possibility of delivering a computer vision based system that could passively measure the number of rotations in the air on jumps. With completion of the preliminary phase, the results proved to be promising and Sportlogiq, in cooperation with the Working Group, successfully completed the proof-of-concept phase.

At this stage the project is on hold, and we are looking at how we will address our future technical needs with the judging system, using Artificial intelligence and given the costs associated with the next stage of the project.

Nevertheless, in regards of technology the ISU was focused on identifying methods to improve the video quality used by the technical panel. Together with the ISU's IT company SWISS Timing, testing on an improved video system was done at various Spring Figure Skating competitions. The final tools will be ready for deployment at events this season.

And last but not least, Working Group Five was focused on the implementation of Solo Ice Dance competitions.

With significant engagement and cooperation with the Ice Dance Technical Committee, I would like to highlight that this concept originated from you, the ISU Members. So, thank you for getting this initiative to the stage it is at today.

For those of you who were not aware, Solo Ice Dance is an opportunity for Skaters to develop Ice Dance skills without a partner, allowing for the sport of Figure Skating to grow. Solo Ice Dance also serves as a developmental tool for the discipline of Ice Dance and is an approach that can assist developing nations in growing their athlete base.

As you can appreciate, overall, several activities and projects have been undertaken helping to advance our sport.

On the technical aspect of Figure Skating we are presenting some new initiatives.

It is important to remember that even if changes are putting us out of our comfort zone sometimes, we carefully look at the well-being of our Skaters and also by creating an opportunity to develop and make progress with our product.

At this time, I would like to also recognize the work of the Development Commission where many good projects have been accepted but what I am quite impressed by is the collaboration of many developing nations and their ideas for projects that have a longer term measurement of impact.

As to regular business, seminars and training of Officials continue to take place throughout the world whether face-to-face live or virtually. And next year the Frankfurt seminar will celebrate its 20th edition. While this seminar has grown over the years, thanks to modernization, the focus of Frankfurt has changed to one that primarily evaluates technical Officials and new international Officials, hence bringing improved standardization.

With respect to the promotion of skating, two relatively new initiatives have proven to be successful in raising interest and awareness of our ice sports. The first is World Ice Skating Day and the second the ISU Skating Awards.

As many of you here know, the ISU Skating Awards has delivered a broader view of skating where fans have been exposed to the different facets of skating through participation in voting and in broadly recognizing the outstanding achievements of not only athletes, but also choreographers, and coaches. For the past two seasons, the awards were integrated into the famous Art on Ice show in Switzerland which delivered top entertainment with a unique blend of professional artists and top elite athletes performing at their best for the occasion.

Finally on a personal note I cannot thank you enough for all the discussions we had one on one or in groups. When I was elected to this position, I was not really sure what to expect, but I took it with great honor having the chance to share this passion that we all have for Figure Skating, knowing that together -YES - we can make a difference for our sport, but importantly for all the athletes.

I have always been a firm believer of teamwork. Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success. I will end by a quote from Norman Shidle (author of several books on communication and business):

“A group becomes a team when each member is sure enough of themselves and their contribution, to praise the skills of others.”

Thank you.

Benoît Lavoie asked if there were any comments or questions. Jeroen Prins, NED Figure, asked for clarification regarding the computer vision activity being on hold, stating that the video system needs improvement. Vice President Benoît Lavoie agreed with the needs of the current video system, replying that the budget needs are significant and require direction from Council.

8. Approval of Motions concerning amendments to the Special Regulations Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance as well as Synchronized Skating specifically designated and summarized in the Agenda as “Drafting Matters” and approval of these “Drafting Matter” Motions and/or referral of certain of those Motions identified as such for debate and vote

Vice President Benoît Lavoie discussed nine (9) Proposals labelled as Drafting Matters and recommended they be approve as noted. These were presented in the Figure Skating Workshop on Monday, June 10.

Proposal No. 184. ISU Council

Proposal No. 187. ISU Council

Proposal No. 189. ISU Council

Proposal No. 192. Canada, Figure

Proposal No. 195. Canada, Figure

Proposal No. 196. Canada, Figure

Proposal No. 198. Canada, Figure

Proposal No. 215. Canada, Figure

Proposal No. 274. Canada, Figure

Maria Fortescue, ISL Figure, inquired as to how items labelled as Drafting might impact other proposals. Mr. Lavoie indicated that Drafting Matters do not change rules, only edit for consistency.

9. Motions concerning Amendments to the Special Regulations Single & Pair Skating and Ice Dance as well as Synchronized Skating

Vice President Benoît Lavoie asked to change the agenda as needed. The agenda will start with Proposal 176. Any amendment will be discussed when the associated proposal is addressed

The procedure regarding Motions concerning Amendments to the Special Regulations:

Benoît Lavoie reminded Delegates that approval in each case requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority and will be determined by the Chair by electronic vote using the tablets.

The electronic system was tested to count the ISU Members present with the following results:

58 members present. Two-Thirds is 39. Simple Majority is 30.

Although this was successful, the electronic system did not prove to be dependable for voting, therefore hand counting was utilized for the remainder of the Congress. Hand votes were conducted using the Red card = NO, Green card = YES, or White card = ABSTAIN.

URGENT PROPOSALS

The Urgent Proposals, as published in ISU Communication No. 2637, were inserted into the agenda as follows:

Urgent Proposal No. 17 made by **ISRAEL, Figure**

Rule 378, paragraph 5.e) – inserted after proposal #188

Urgent Proposal No. 18 made by **GREAT BRITAIN**

Rule 378, paragraph 5.e) – inserted after proposal #188

Urgent Proposal No. 19 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 515, paragraphs 4 and 5 – inserted after proposal #230

Urgent Proposal No. 20 made by **ICE DANCE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Rule 707 – inserted after proposal #252

Urgent Proposal No. 21 made by **SYNCHRONIZED SKATING TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Rule 970 – inserted after proposal #288

A. SPECIAL REGULATIONS SINGLE & PAIR SKATING and ICE DANCE

Proposal No. 176 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 343: Music. To add new paragraph for rotation of music for official practices.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 177 made by **JAPAN**

Rule 344 paragraph 3: To decrease the time limit for events from 11.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

Wieland Luders, ISU Event Manager Figure Skating, spoke against this proposal indicating the following: it would extend the competition by adding one day; the live television time slot would be affected by local time differences; it would affect timing for the Olympic Winter Games and could also have economical consequences.

Miki Hirai (translator), JPN, spoke in favor due to fatigue of the Organizing Committee and volunteers.

The Proposal was unanimously **rejected**.

Proposal No. 178 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 350 and Rule 838: Call to the start. To simplify requirements for announcing competitors.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 179 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committees**

Rule 351 paragraph 2 and Rule 839 paragraph 2. To be deleted as rule is no longer required.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 180 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committees**

Rule 353 paragraph 1.m) and Rule 843, paragraph 1. ⌘) (Note: para L for Synchronized Skating). To remove Program Component factors from the regulations and distribute in an ISU Communication.

Fabio Bianchetti, Chair Single & Pair Technical Committee, spoke in favor explaining the objective of this proposal.

Wieland Luders, ISU Event Manager Figure Skating, spoke against stating there would be no tracking of prior athlete scores showing trends.

Fabio Bianchetti replied that current regulations limit flexibility of the Scale of Values.

Jeroen Prins, NED, spoke in favor stating it would allow calibration of the scores every year.

The Proposal was **rejected**.

(Vote: Yes 32, No 17, Abstain 2, as 2/3 = 39)

Proposal No. 181 made by **GERMANY Figure**

Rule No. 353, 1.n, Violation: Tempo. To add deduction for adjusting the original tempo of music.

Kerstin Kimminus, GER Figure, explained the objective and in support of this proposal.

The Proposal was unanimously **rejected**.

Proposal No. 182 made by **NETHERLANDS – AMENDED**

Rule 353, paragraph 1.n), Violation: Falls. To apply fall deductions directly to the element and reduce the base value of such element by 50%.

Jeroen Prins, NED, explained the objective and in support of this proposal.

Wieland Lüders, ISU Event Manager Figure Skating, Sam Auxier, USA Figure and Tomoko Doi, JPN, as well as Fabio Bianchetti, spoke against the proposal.

The Proposal was unanimously **rejected**.

Proposal No. 183 made by **UNITED STATES, Figure**

Rule 353: ISU Judging System - determination and publication of results. To require the program time clock be used to confirm timing of Dance lifts.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 184 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 376: Schedule/duration of Championships.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 185 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 378: Entries ISU Championships, paragraph 1. To change the date of entries from twenty-one to twenty-eight days.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 186 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 378: Entries ISU Championships, paragraph 5. c) ii). To correct wording from Total Element Score to Minimum Combined Total Element Score.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 187 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 378: Entries ISU Championships, paragraph 5. d) iv).

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 188 made by **AUSTRIA, Figure**

Rule 378, paragraphs 2-5: Entries ISU Championships Single & Pair Skating & Ice Dance. To eliminate requirement for conducting Qualifying Rounds at ISU Championships.

Katharina Rauch, AUT Figure, described the rationale for proposal, stating qualifying rounds cause additional costs requiring athletes, Judges, Officials must all arrive days earlier.

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, spoke in support indicating qualifying rounds place a huge burden on organizers.

Wieland Luders, ISU Event Manager Figure Skating, agreed stating he does not support qualifying rounds due to the costs and time required.

Karel Oubrecht, CZE Figure, spoke in favor of this proposal.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Urgent Proposal No. 17 made by **ISRAEL Figure**

Rule 378, paragraph 5.e): Advancement from Championship Round Short Program to Free Skating for Pair Skating.

The Proposal was **invalid** due to consequence of accepted Proposal No. 188.

Urgent Proposal No. 18 made by **GREAT BRITAIN**

Rule 378, paragraph 5.e): Advancement from Championship Round Short Program to Free Skating for Pair Skating.

The Proposal was **invalid** due to consequence of accepted Proposal No. 188.

Proposal No. 189 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 381, paragraph 3: ISU Event Manager and Regional Assistant Event Managers.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 190 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 402, paragraph 1. j): Panels of Judges for the Olympic Winter Games. To clarify required activity includes service as Judge or Referee.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 191 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rules ~~410~~ 411 – 416: Process for nomination and appointment of Officials. To align dates for service and seminar requirements.

Amended to correct Rule reference.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 192 made by **CANADA Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 410, paragraph 13: Process for nomination and appointment of Officials.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 193 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 411 paragraph 9. a) & b): General requirements for nomination and appointment of Officials. To add Pair activity requirements for reappointment.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 194 made by **CANADA Figure** Rules 412 – 416 paragraphs 1a, 2a, 3a, & 4a: Age. To align dates for age requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 195 made by **CANADA Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 412, paragraph 1. b) i), and 3.b) i), Rule 414, paragraph 1. b) i), Rule 415, paragraph 3. b) i): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment. To align dates for service requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 196 made by **CANADA Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule ~~412~~ 421, paragraph 1: Appointments of Officials to ISU Championships.

Amended to correct rule reference.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 197 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee – AMENDED**

Rule 412 paragraphs 1 d), 2 c), 3 d), 4 c) and Rule 902 paragraphs 1 d), 2 c), 3 d), 4 c): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Referees. To clarify seminar requirements.

Amended for continuity of end of season June 30, starting of new season July 1st.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 198 made by **CANADA Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 412, paragraph 3. c) ii): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Referees.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 199 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee – AMENDED**

Rule 413 paragraph 1 a) and Rule 903 paragraph 1 a): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of

Judges. To revise the minimum age for appointment to twenty-one.

Lise Røsto Jensen, NOR, spoke against this proposal and was concerned that the age of twenty-one is too young and inexperienced for an Official. She submitted a proposed amendment to leave the age of first appointment at twenty-four.

Shawn Rettstatt, Ice Dance Technical Committee, opposed the amendment, stating that it is not the age of the Official, but the maturity. Maturity is assessed during exams.

A vote was taken to accept the amended Proposal.

Amendment presented by NOR to keep the minimum age at twenty-four was **accepted**.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 200 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee – AMENDED**

Rule 413 paragraphs 1 c), 2 c), 3 d) and 4 c) and Rule 903 paragraphs 1 d), 2 c), 3 d) and 4 c):

Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Judges. To clarify seminar requirements for appointment and to give four-year validity to in-person seminar attendance.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 201 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 413, paragraph 3 c): Service requirements for first appointment ISU Judge. To align service requirements for ISU Judge with that of ISU Referee and to align calendar dates.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 202 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rules 414, paragraph 2. b); Rule 415, paragraphs 2. b), 4. b): Service for re-appointment as Technical Controller, Technical Specialist, Data & Replay Operator. To clarify and align service requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 203 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 414, paragraph 3. b) ii): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Controllers.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** in favor of Proposal 207.

Proposal No. 204 made by **JAPAN**

Rule 414 paragraph 3: Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Controllers.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** in favor of Proposal 207.

Proposal No. 205 made by **NETHERLANDS**

Rule 414, paragraph 3. b): Special requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Controllers. To delete requirement that an ISU Technical Controller must be on the list of ISU Judges, but maintain requirement that an International Technical Controller must be at least an International Judge.

Jeroen Prins, NED spoke in favor of the proposal.

Emilie Billow, S&PTC, and Shawn Rettstatt, IDTC also supported the proposal.

Petra Tyrbo, SYSTC, proposed that it be valid for Synchronized Skating as well.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**. To include Synchronized Skating Rule 904 for harmonization.

Proposal No. 206 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 414 paragraph 3 and Rule 904 paragraph 3: Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Controller. To clarify eligibility requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 207 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 414 paragraph 3 b) ii) and Rule 904 paragraph 3 b) ii): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of ISU Technical Controller. To revise requirements for inclusion in annual ISU Communications from four years to two years.

Troy Goldstein, USA Figure, spoke against the proposal.

The Proposal was **rejected**.

(Vote: Yes 21, No 28, Abstain 5, as 2/3 = 39)

Proposal No. 208 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 414 paragraph 1.d), 2. c), 3.d) and e) and 4.c) and Rule 904 paragraph 1.d), 2. c), 3. d) and e) and 4. c): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Controllers. To clarify requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 209 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 415, paragraph 1. a): Age for first appointment to International Technical Specialist. To have consistent minimum and maximum ages for first appointment regardless of role and discipline.

The proposal was amended to reflect the decision on Proposal 199.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 210 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 415 paragraphs 1.d), 2.c, 3.d and 4.c) and Rule 905 paragraph 1. d), 2.c, 3.d) and 4.c): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Specialists. To align and clarify appointment requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 211 made by **JAPAN**

Rule 415 paragraph 3: Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Specialists.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 212 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 415 paragraph 3 and Rule 905 paragraph 3: Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Specialists. To clarify requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 213 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 415 paragraph 3.b) i) and Rule 905 paragraph 3.b) i): Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Technical Specialists. To reduce requirements for Single and Pair activity Technical Specialists to two years.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 214 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee –**

AMENDED Rule 417 and Rule 907: ISU Seminars for Officials. To clarify requirements and to give four (4) year validity to in-person seminars.

The reference chart was amended for clarity.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 215 made by **CANADA, Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rule 420 6 a) & b): Appointment of Officials.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 216 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 430, paragraph 1 and 3 and Rule 920, paragraph 1 and 3: Duties and powers of the Referee. To delete requirement for Referees and Technical Controllers to participate in victory ceremonies.

The Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 61.

Proposal No. 217 made by **JAPAN**

Rule 430 General f): General and specific duties and powers. To allow the use of electronic tablets on the Officials panel to access technical data.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**. To also include Synchronized Skating Rule 920.

Proposal No. 218 made by **UNITED STATES, Figure**

Rule 430: General and specific duties and powers. To require the clock on the screen to be used to confirm timing requirements.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 219 made by **FINLAND, Figure**

Rule 430, paragraph 1: Duties and powers of the Referee. To define participation requirements for Victory Ceremony at ISU Events.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 61.

Proposal No. 220 made by **FINLAND, Figure**

Rule 430, paragraph 3: Duties and powers of the Technical Controller. To define participation requirements for victory ceremonies at ISU Events.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 61.

Proposal No. 221 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 440 paragraph 2 d) and Rule 930, paragraph 2.d): Evaluation of service by Officials. To include national bias in identified errors.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 222 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 440 paragraph 2 e) and Rule 930, paragraph 2.e). Evaluation of service by Officials. To clarify errors to include indicated or first case of identified national bias.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 223 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 440 paragraph 4 d) and Rule 930, paragraph 3. d): Evaluation of service by Officials. To revise Letter of Criticism to Letter of Warning.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 224 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 440 paragraph 6 a) & b) and Rule 930, paragraph 5. a) & b): Evaluation of service by Officials. To include national bias and requirement for issuance of Letter of Warning.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 225 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 440 paragraph 10 paragraph a), b), c): and Rule 930, paragraph 9. a), b), c): Evaluation of service by Officials. To clarify that violations include any violation of the Duties of Officials.

Mami Maeda, JPN, spoke in favor of this proposal.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Vice President Benoit Lavoie made a request to proceed to the Special Regulations Synchronized Skating in order to address all Special Regulations at one time.

This was **approved**.

E. SPECIAL REGULATIONS SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Proposal No. 256 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 800 paragraph 2: Discipline and content of Synchronized Skating. Removal of unnecessary rule reference.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 257 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 800, paragraph 2. a): Discipline and content of Synchronized Skating. To allow Senior and Senior Elite 12 to be combined into one category at International competitions.

Ida Hellström, Athlete member Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, spoke in favor of this proposal saying it helps organizers and Skaters when lack of entries result in the event being cancelled. Cancelled events also affect Judges' ability to acquire much-needed activity.

Chris Buchanan, GBR, voiced concern for the potential loss of World Ranking Points for Senior Teams. Jouko Pitkanen, FIN Figure, spoke in favor of this proposal.

Nathalie Lindqvist, Athletes Commission, spoke in favor of this proposal as it benefits the Skaters.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 258 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 800, paragraph 2. h): Discipline and content of Synchronized Skating. Removal of unnecessary rule.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 259 made by **UNITED STATES, Figure**

Rule 800, add new paragraph 5: Discipline and content of Synchronized Skating. To add a virtual synchronized challenger competition.

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, explained the rationale for this proposal in that the ability of North America to successfully host an international Synchronized Skating competition has not been successful due to lack of entries. He withdrew the proposal with the understanding that further testing would be done working with Skate Canada, USA Figure and the Synchronized Skating Technical Committee.

The Proposal was **withdrawn**.

Proposal No. 260 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 816, paragraph 1. b): Competition personnel. To clarify requirements for timekeepers.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 261 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 830, paragraph 4: Competition schedule. To delete requirements for utilization of practice ice.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** in favor of Proposal No. 262.

Proposal No. 262 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 830, paragraph 4. Competition schedule. Harmonization with other disciplines.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 263 made by **CANADA, Figure**

Rule 830 paragraph 5: Competition schedule. To clarify duration of practice requirements.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** in favor of Proposal No. 264.

Proposal No. 264 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 830, paragraph 5: Competition schedule. To clarify duration of practice requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 265 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 834: Program content sheet. To clarify requirements for contents on Program Content Sheets.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 266 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 838, paragraph 3: Call to the Start. To define manner in which Teams are to be announced.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 267 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 843, paragraph 1. b): ISU Judging System scoring systems. To clarify Scale of Values communicated in an annual ISU Communication.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 268 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 843, paragraph 1. m): ISU Judging System scoring systems. To delete Ice Pattern/Coverage requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 269 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 858: Comments to the public. To delete statement as it is included in Duties of Officials.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 270 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 867: Participation in Championships. Harmonization with other disciplines.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 271 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee – AMENDED**

Rule 868: Entries in ISU Synchronized Skating Championships. To require a minimum Combined Total Element Score for entry into ISU Synchronized Championships.

Ida Hellström, Athlete member Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, spoke in favor of this proposal.

Chris Buchanan, GBR, spoke in favor of this proposal.

Philippe Maitrot, Chair Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, spoke to amend this proposal to be consistent with the other disciplines.

The amendment was **accepted**.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 272 made by **CANADA Figure – AMENDED**

Rules ~~900~~ **901** – 906: Nomination and appointment of Officials. To align dates for consistency.

Amended to correct Rule reference.

The amended Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 191.

Proposal No. 273 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rules 902-906, paragraphs 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a: Nomination and appointment of Officials. To align dates for consistency.

The Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 194.

Proposal No. 274 made by **CANADA, Figure**

DRAFTING MATTER

Rules 902, paragraph 1. b) i), paragraph 3. b) i), 904, paragraph 1. b) i), and 905, paragraph 3. b) i)

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 275 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 903: Specific requirements for nomination and appointment of Judges. To reduce the minimum age to twenty-one and the maximum age to sixty for first appointment to International Judge.

Chris Buchanan, GBR, spoke in opposition of this proposal requesting to keep the minimum age at twenty-four, saying that more experience is required for international officials.

The Proposal was amended to maintain the current minimum age at twenty-four based on the consequence of accepted Proposal No. 199.

The amended Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 276 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 903, paragraph 3. c): Service requirements for first appointment ISU Judge. To align service requirements for ISU Judge with that of ISU Referee and align calendar dates.

The Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 201.

Proposal No. 277 made by **CANADA Figure**

Service requirements for re-appointment as Technical Controller, Technical Specialist, Data & Replay Operator, Synchronized Skating Judge and Referee.

Rule 902, paragraph 2. b), 4 b); Rule 903, paragraph 2. b), 4. b); Rule 904, paragraph 2. b), 4. b);

Rule 904, paragraph 2. b); 4. b); Rule 905, paragraph 2. b), 4. b): To clarify and align service requirements for re-appointment as Technical Controller, Technical Specialist, Data & Replay Operator.

The Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 202.

Proposal No. 278 made by **CANADA Figure**

Rule 903, paragraph 1. a); Rule 905, paragraph 1. a); Rule 906, paragraph 1. a): Age for first appointment of International Judge, Technical Specialist and Data and Replay Operator. To have consistent ages for first appointment regardless of role and discipline.

The Proposal was **automatically accepted** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No. 209.

Proposal No. 279 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 910: Appointment of Officials to competitions. Harmonization of age requirements.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 280 made by **FINLAND Figure**

Rule 920, paragraph 1.w: Duties and powers of the Referee. Participation in victory ceremonies.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No 61.

Proposal No. 281 made by **FINLAND Figure**

Rule 920, paragraph 3.k: Duties and powers of the Technical Controller. Participation in victory ceremonies.

The Proposal was **withdrawn** as a consequence of accepted Proposal No 61.

Proposal No. 282 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 921: Meetings at Competitions for Referees and Judges. Drafting to renumber paragraphs.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 283 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 930: Evaluation of service by Officials. Harmonization with other FS disciplines.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Proposal No. 284 made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**

Rule 930, paragraph 9. a): Evaluation of service by Officials. Harmonization with other FS disciplines.

The Proposal was unanimously **accepted**.

Vice President Benoît Lavoie concluded the General Regulations for Singles & Pairs, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating.

B. TECHNICAL RULES SINGLE & PAIR SKATING / ICE DANCE GENERAL TECHNICAL RULES IN SINGLES & PAIR SKATING AND ICE DANCE

Vice President Benoît Lavoie stated that Technical Rules and amendments were reviewed during the Figure Skating Workshop on Monday and asked the Technical Committee Chairs for any amendments or comments.

Fabio Bianchetti, Chair Single & Pair Technical Committee, reported amendments for Proposals No. 234, 235, 241, 245, 246, and Urgent Proposal No. 19.

Shawn Rettstatt, Chair Ice Dance Technical Committee, reported no amendments.

Philippe Maitrot, Chair Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, reported no amendments. He clarified that Synchronized Skating should be included in Urgent Proposal No. 19.

Miki Hirai (translator), JPN, asked for clarification regarding the review of the proposals.

Benoît Lavoie discussed the process for approving the technical proposals as a package. Objections for a specific Proposal to be removed would be voted upon but not discussed as they were reviewed during the Workshop on Monday. A fifty percent (50%) majority vote is required to remove a proposal from the package.

Vice President Benoît Lavoie stated that **Proposals No. 226 – 233**, including **Urgent Proposal No. 19**, would be approved as a package and asked for any objections.

Objections were received for Proposals No. 227, 230, and 232, and are documented below.

Proposal No. 227 made by **Single & Pair, Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating Technical Committee** Rule 504 paragraph 3.a) and Rule 954 paragraph 2.a): Marking of Short Program/Rhythm Dance and Free Skating/Free Dance. To revise and re-order items for consideration within the Program Components.

Objection by Japan

Miki Hirai (translator), JPN, asked for clarification of the voting process.
Benoit Lavoie briefly reviewed the process for clarification.
Miki Harai (translator), JPN, made an objection asking this proposal be removed from the package.

The objection was unanimously **rejected**. The proposal remained in the package.

Proposal No. 230 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 513, paragraph 2: Draws for starting orders. To define the order for Free Skating as the reverse order of placements in the Short Program/Original Dance.

Objection by Belgium

Françoise De Rappard, BEL, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

The objection was unanimously **rejected**. The proposal remained in the package.

Proposal No. 232 made by **ISU COUNCIL**

Rule 521, paragraph 6, new j): Draws for Judges. To include a provision for the Judges for the ISU Championships qualifying rounds.

Objection by Austria

Katarina Rauch, AUT Figure, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

The objection was unanimously **accepted**. The Proposal was removed from the package.

C. TECHNICAL RULES SINGLE & PAIR SKATING

Vice President Benoit Lavoie stated that without any objections, **Proposals No. 234 – 246** Technical Rules for Single & Pair Skating would be approved as a package.

Objections were received for Proposals No. 239, 240, 241 and 245, and are documented below.

Proposal No. 239 made by **Single & Pair Technical Committee**

Rule 612: Free Skating Singles. To revise content of the Well-Balanced Program Requirements to reduce the number of jump elements by one jump and to include a choreographic spin element.

Objection by USA

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

Eric Radford, Chair Athletes Commission, spoke in favor of this proposal as this was made considering the progression of our sport in support of Vision 2030, which supports the development of the athletes. It allows athletes to be creative, adding interest to the program and potentially developing a signature move.

Karen O'Sullivan, IRL, requested clarification on the governance procedure for isolating proposals from the package without a vote to approve the remaining proposals in the package.

Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Advisor, responded with a detailed explanation of the ISU Constitution addressing this process stating decisions of the Technical Rules are the responsibility of Technical Committees and presented as proposals to Congress. Congress votes to remove proposals, not vote on the other remaining proposals in the package. The Technical Committees have been nominated and selected to perform this function.

Discussions continued from several ISU Members seeking clarification on the voting procedures.

Eric Radford, Chair Athletes Commission, restated support for new elements providing the athletes an opportunity to show new things and allows time for interesting transitions. Other changes during an Olympic cycle are not ideal but makes things easier for the athletes and won't take high-level Skaters much time to adjust.

Evgeny Martynov, UKR, spoke against the proposal and was worried the changes would ruin the marketing possibilities for the sport.

Cong Han, STPC Athlete, spoke in favor of the proposal and mentioned it would be good for the sport.

Igor Lukanin, ARM, spoke against the proposal.

Troy Goldstein, USA, spoke against the proposal, especially for the Pair discipline.

Simon Briggs, GBR, said that it was not the best timing to implement such big changes in a year of the Olympic qualification.

Boris Chait, ISR, spoke against the proposal, and stated the technical difficulties in a program are important, the fans want something different.

Fabio Bianchetti, STPC, indicated the programs will be more interesting with these changes, and the goal is to give the Skaters an opportunity to be more interesting and innovative.

Benoît Lavoie summarized the conversations, acknowledging comments made and restated that the session would proceed to the vote. Voting would be for each objection individually. The vote covered proposals 234 through 246. There were four objections to this package.

Benoît Lavoie called for the vote on the objection to Proposal 239. The objection was **rejected**. The proposal remained in the package. (Vote: Yes 26, No 27, Abstain 0. As 50% = 30)

Proposal No. 240 made by Single & Pair Technical Committee

Rule 612: Remarks Jump Combinations and Jump Sequences. To revise the definition of jump combinations and jump sequences to limit the number of times a Eulert (half-loop) may be used in jump combinations and jump sequences.

Objection by USA

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

The objection was **rejected**. The proposal **stayed** in the package. (Vote: Yes 14, No 38, Abstain 0. As 50% = 30)

Karen O'Sullivan, IRL, voiced concern over the number of lacking votes on Proposal No. 239, indicating some were missing, which was followed by additional comments from other ISU Members.

Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Counsel, stated the ISU cannot control if an ISU Member leaves the room. Votes are based on the number of people in the room.

Troy Goldstein, USA Figure, suggested a manual count of ISU Members' voting cards.

Karen O'Sullivan, IRL, requested a secret ballot to be taken. Additional comments were made by ISU Members voicing concern and confusion with the results.

Benoît Lavoie posed the question to the Congress to **vote on proceeding with a secret ballot**.

A vote was taken and the majority **voted to proceed** with a secret ballot.

Karen O'Sullivan, IRL, stated this would also apply to rule Proposal No. 245.

Benoît Lavoie closed the session to prepare for the secret vote to be conducted on Thursday, June 13, at 9:00 am.

C. TECHNICAL RULES SINGLE & PAIR SKATING

SECOND SESSION

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 09:00

Vice President Benoît Lavoie in the Chair

Vice President Benoît Lavoie opened the meeting on Thursday, June 13 at 9:00 AM. He thanked USA Figure Skating for hosting a fun evening. Benoît Lavoie described the process for proceeding with voting using scrutineers and voting using a secret ballot. He asked for scrutineers; Eugen Larasser, Disciplinary Commission, plus two ISU Members to identify a scrutineer. Troy Goldstein, USA Figure, and Mona Adolfsen, NOR, volunteered.

Benoît Lavoie recapped the previous day and described in detail the voting procedures for today's meeting.

Karen O'Sullivan, IRL, indicated the request for a secret ballot for Proposals No. 241 and 245 is no longer needed as the process presented satisfied the request for transparency. She withdrew the request for a secret ballot.

Mr. Lavoie conducted a manual roll call of the members present:
58 voting ISU Members present. Two-Thirds is 39, Simple Majority is 30.

Fabio Bianchetti, Chair Singles & Pair Skating Technical Committee, presented an amendment to the proposals affecting Well Balanced Program requirements to be implemented after the Winter Olympic Games for season 2026/27. This amendment is for Proposals No. 234 to 246, with the exception of Proposals No. 236 and 237, which would be effective immediately.

Debra Armstrong, CAN Figure, questioned the ability to amend a previous decision and also the legal authority to determine timing.

Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Counsel, responded referencing the ISU Constitution proceedings.

Karen Butcher, CAN Figure, stated yesterday's proposal implemented the change immediately. This would be a new proposal and asked for clarification.

Additional comments were made regarding amendments to previously voted on proposals.

Michael Geistlinger ISU Legal Counsel, responded to concerns stating this could be considered a motion from the floor.

After considerable discussion, Benoît Lavoie summarized ISU Members' concerns and suggested proceeding with the remaining items in the package, reminding ISU Members that Technical Rules are accepted by the Vice President and ISU Council and presented to the Congress to accept or reject. The only discussions are on the objections. Two objections remain to be vote on to determine if the objection is approved or rejected.

Proposal No. 241 made by Single & Pair Technical Committee – AMENDED

Rule 612: Repetitions: To include one choreographic spin in the free program, to reduce one jump element to balance better the programs to give more time for choreography to the skaters; and to limit the repetition of the same type of jump.

Objection by Japan.

Miki Hirai (translator), JPN, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

The objection was **rejected**. The Proposal remained in the package.
(Vote: Yes 16, No 41, Abstain 1. As 50% = 30)

Proposal No. 245 made by Single & Pair Technical Committee – AMENDED

Rule 621: Free Skating Pairs. To clarify that additional element or elements exceeding the prescribed numbers will not be counted in the result of a pair. Only the first attempt (or allowed number of attempts) of an element will be taken into account to encourage the creativity and to have more entertaining programs.

Objection by USA.

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, objected asking this proposal be removed from the package.

Several ISU Members raised concerns regarding the impact of these changes on the direction of our sport and concern for the audience appeal of jumps versus spins or additional choreography.

Sam Auxier, USA Figure, spoke to the reduction of the number of jumps, stating the audience was enjoying the jumps, not the spins and choreography. Senior Skaters should do more jumps than Junior and Novice who have six jumps.

Yevgeny Martynov, UKR, spoke in support of the objection stating we forgot to ask the audience what they want to see and that to make this sport financially sustainable, fewer jumps reduces interest and reduces money.

Cong Han, CHN Figure, stated his support of the Single & Pair Technical Committee proposal to reduce the number of jumps.

Igor Lukanin, AZE, questioned what we are trying to do, increase the audience? State the jump over a choreo element should be the choice of the athlete.

Troy Goldstein, USA Figure, protested the timing of this proposal during an Olympic cycle to remove a Pair Lift, shifting two elements from the Technical Panel to the Judges panel. He was concerned about the effect of the timing. He asked to postpone the timing of implementation.

Simon Briggs, GBR, spoke in support of Troy Goldstein stating Lifts add technical content. Teams can do them, even in an Olympic cycle. He supports the objection of Proposal 245.

Boris Chait, ISR, ISU stated the goal of Faster Stronger Higher. At the last World Championships, one Skater made the event exciting, Ilia Malinin because of his jumps.

Fabio Bianchetti, Chair Singles & Pair Skating Technical Committee, spoke to the proposal stating one jump is not important. The first few jumps are interesting and the last jump is easiest, just for points. A Choreo element adds interest. The aim is to make the programs more interesting, and he suggested an amendment to this proposal.

Several ISU Members questioned the procedures governing changes or amendments.

Alexander Lakernik, Honorary Vice President, RUS, stated a vote must be taken on the amendment.

Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Counsel, restated the regulations covering these actions, addressing the authority of the Technical Committees.

Benoît Lavoie responded that there is no vote required for the amendment the Technical Committee made. He called for the vote on the objection to Proposal No. 245.

The objection was **withdrawn**.

Benoît Lavoie asked to move to the technical packages for Ice Dance and Synchronized Skating in order to complete the work, and return to the proposed amendment to delay implementation of Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating until after the Olympic Winter Games cycle.

D. TECHNICAL RULES ICE DANCE

Vice President Benoît Lavoie explained that **Proposals No 247 – 255** – Technical Rules for Ice Dance would be taken as a group and one vote. The proposals were reviewed during the Figure Skating Workshop on Monday where Shawn Rettstatt, Chair Ice Dance Technical Committee, provided a brief summary of the proposals in this block.

There was one Urgent Proposal included in this package: **Urgent Proposal No. 20** made by the **Ice Dance Technical Committee**, inserted after Proposal No. 288. The complete text of Urgent Proposal No. 20 can be found in ISU Communication No. 2637. There were no comments or amendments.

Objection by Finland

Tarja Ristanen FIN, objected asking for **Proposal No. 247**. Rule 704 para 8.b) be removed from the package.

Shawn Rettstatt responded to the objection stating the rationale for the change.

A vote was taken to remove Proposal No. 247 from the package.

(Vote: Yes 1, No 56, Abstain 1. As 50% = 30)

The objection was unanimously **rejected**. The proposal remained in the package.

The Ice Dance Technical proposals were unanimously **accepted**.

F. TECHNICAL RULES SYNCHRONIZED SKATING

Vice President Benoît Lavoie explained that **Proposals No 285 – 297** – Technical Rules for Synchronized Skating would be taken as a group and one vote. The proposals were reviewed during the Figure Skating Workshop on Monday. Mr. Lavoie asked if there were any proposals for additional discussions.

Philippe Maitrot, Chair Synchronized Skating Technical Committee, stated that one Urgent Proposal was included in this package: **Urgent Proposal No. 21** made by **Synchronized Skating Technical Committee**, was inserted after Proposal No. 288. The complete text of Urgent Proposal No. 21 can be found in ISU Communication No. 2637.

There were no additional comments or amendments. There were no objections to the proposals.

The Proposals were unanimously **accepted**.

Benoît Lavoie asked Michael Geistlinger, Legal Advisor, to provide clarification to Article 16.e). Michael Geistlinger reminded the Congress that the responsibility of the Vice President is to monitor the work and activities of the Technical Committees, including their administration of the Technical Rules. If a proposed change is in conflict with ISU policy, the Vice President has the duty to inform the Council, allowing a Council evaluation and decision.

Benoît Lavoie closed the session to review guidance from ISU Council and discuss voting procedures for the remainder of the Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating.

The morning session of the adjourned at 11.10 a.m.

C. TECHNICAL RULES SINGLE & PAIR SKATING

THIRD SESSION

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 1.00 p.m.
Vice President Benoît Lavoie in the Chair

Vice President Benoît Lavoie reconvened the session at 1.00 p.m. and requested a count of voting ISU Members in attendance.

58 Members in attendance. Two-thirds is 39, Simple Majority is 30.

Benoît Lavoie reviewed the meeting with the ISU Council and referred to ISU Constitution, Article 16 regarding motions. The ISU Council made a decision to delay implementation until season 2026/27 for Proposals 234 through 246, except Proposals 236, 237 and 243 to be effective immediately.

“Under the authority granted pursuant to ISU Constitution 2022 Article 16, 3 e), the Council makes the following decision subject to the agreement of the Figure Skating Branch of the Congress by simple majority:

To delay the implementation date of the “package” of Technical Rules, specifically Technical Rule Proposals 234 through 246 until the season 2026/2027. However, the implementation date of Technical Rule Proposals 236, 237 and 243 is effective immediately after this Congress 2024.

The Figure Skating Branch of the Congress will now be asked to vote on the decision of the Council which will require a simple majority.

For clarification purposes, if the Figure Skating Branch of the Congress votes in favor by simple majority, the effective dates of Technical Rule Proposals 234 through 246, with the exception of Technical Rule Proposals 236, 237 and 243, will be the 2026/27 season.

If the Figure Skating Branch of the Congress votes against the Council’s decision by simple majority, the implementation of Technical Rule Proposals 234 through 246 would be effective immediately after this Congress 2024.”

Michael Geistlinger, ISU Legal Advisor, restated the authority defined in the ISU Constitution covering these actions and reminded Members that a simple majority is required to approve the Council’s recommendations.

Benoît Lavoie restated the question and called for the vote.
(Vote: Yes 31, No 25, Abstain 1. As 50% is 30)

The motion to **delay implementation** for Proposal Nos. 234 through 246, except proposals 236 and 237, until season 2026-27 was **accepted**.

Benoît Lavoie announced the Technical Rules Single & Pair Skating have been completed and moved to Agenda Item 12.

12. Presentation of a status report by each Technical Committee on the existing four-year plan for the ISU for the period since the 2022 Congress

Vice President Benoît Lavoie stated that reports were distributed electronically in the materials for Congress. No additional remarks were made by the Singles & Pairs, Ice Dance, or Synchronized Skating Technical Committees.

There were no additional comments.

13. Various

There were no additional comments.

14. Closing of the Branch meeting by the Vice President

Vice President Benoît Lavoie thanked all ISU Members and Delegates for their support in reaching consensus on several proposals and their contributions and work this week.

The Figure Skating Branch Session was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

FIFTH SESSION
Friday, June 14, 2024, 9.00 a.m.
President Mr. Jae Youl Kim in the Chair

Jae Youl Kim informed the Congress of the sad news of the passing away of ISU Honorary Member Roland Maillard. The Congress observed a minute's silence to honor his memory.

22. Election of an auditing company to serve until the next Congress.

Jae Youl Kim proposed that Swiss auditing company BDO, with which the ISU had had very good cooperation over the years, be re-elected as auditing company until the next Congress.

The Congress unanimously elected BDO as auditing company to serve until the next Congress.

23. Motions concerning amendments to the General Regulations referred to the Figure Skating and Speed Skating Branches.

Tron Espeli reported that he had informed the Speed Skating session of the decision of the Council regarding the Four Continents Speed Skating Championships and the Four Continents Short Track Championships that had been introduced after the 2018 Championships. Experience had shown that it was very difficult to integrate the Four Continents Championships into Season Calendars and the Council had decided to discontinue allotments beyond the already allotted Championships, up to and including 2027. The Council had committed to consider alternative and more effective ways to promote Speed Skating and Short Track in the Four Continents regions. No objections or questions had been raised by the Speed Skating session.

24. Ratification of the actions and decisions of the Council, the Director General, the Directors and the Technical Committees.

The Congress unanimously ratified the actions and decisions of the Council, the Director General, the Directors and Technical Committees taken since the 2022 Congress.

25. Presentation of a status report on the existing four-year plan for the ISU for the period since the 2022 Congress.

The Congress acknowledged having received the status report on the four year plan 2022-2026 that had been sent to ISU Members and made available on the ISU Extranet. There were no comments or questions.

26. Election of Honorary Members.

Jae Youl Kim indicated that the Council had decided that the next election of Honorary Members would take place at the Congress 2026.

27. Various including all other matters which, in accordance with the Constitution or the Regulations, are required to be dealt with by Congress.

Jae Youl Kim referred to the approval of Proposal 1 to modernize the ISU Constitution and General Regulations. When considering the budget, the Council had anticipated an online Extraordinary Congress 2025, however, a number of ISU Members had indicated that they wished to attend in person and therefore a budget of CHF 250'000 for a hybrid format was proposed.

An additional budget of CHF 250'000 to organize a hybrid in-person/online Extraordinary Congress 2025 was **accepted** unanimously.

Jae Youl Kim proposed that the Extraordinary Congress 2025 would have an abbreviated agenda: Article 31 to 33 and Article 30, paragraphs 2-6 would not apply and the agenda would be restricted to only the new Constitution and General Regulations.

The Congress unanimously **accepted** this proposal for the agenda of the Extraordinary Congress 2025.

28. Closing of Congress by the President

The President made the following remarks.

'Thank you all for your constructive engagement, which made this Congress a great success. Your enthusiasm for our Vision 2030 and the eight priorities is greatly appreciated. And your overwhelming support for budget proposals and rule changes will enable us to move forward.

Over the next two years, we will:

1. Innovate and evolve our sports to encourage more skating and attract more fans to enjoy our sports. We had a heated discussion on Figure Skating – which reflects our desire to innovate Figure Skating. As I mentioned during the Forum, we will pay extra attention to Figure Skating, with a longer-term perspective. Please speak to us.
2. Enrich fan experience by upgrading Event and TV presentations, as well as digital engagement.
3. Diversify revenue sources to be able to invest in sports.
4. Prepare to modernize our Constitutions and General Regulations to be fit for a rapidly changing world.

I have learned a lot and I'm already excited about the next Congress to share the progress we will make together. By the way, did you enjoy the guest speakers? If you have any suggestions for improving our time together during the Congress, please let us know. Some suggested we could shorten it by 1 or 2 days. What do you think? We are always listening.

We will continue to be more open, transparent, and collaborative. Because it will take all of us to realize Vision 2030 – because 'Together, we can go further!'

This concludes our Congress.

Have a wonderful summer everyone, and see you this upcoming season.'

The 59th Ordinary Congress of the International Skating Union was closed on June 14, 2024 at 9:40 a.m.

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